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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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4

PUBLIC MEETING

5

6

VOLUME I

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9

TELECONFERENCE

10

March 3, 2021

11

9:15 a.m.

12

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14

15

MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17

Raymond Oney, Chair

18

Thomas Alstrom

19

John Andrew

20

Richard Slats

21

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26

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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0002

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

2

3 (Teleconference - 3/3/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MS. PATTON: As the Council wishes, we  
8 can begin the meeting. Currently Ray Oney, as our  
9 Council member, who has the current seat of Secretary,  
10 if you would like to initiate the meeting, Ray, if  
11 that's okay with you and then we'll proceed from there.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, real good. Thank  
14 you, Eva. Good morning, everyone. I'll go ahead and  
15 fill in as interim Chair for this meeting. As you  
16 heard we only got four members that are voting members.  
17 So we'll go ahead and go through the agenda.

18

19 First one on the agenda is we have the  
20 invocation. If I could call one of our members to go  
21 ahead and do the invocation.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Acting  
24 Chairman Ray, we should ask maybe Rich Slats to do the  
25 invocation.

26

27 Quyana.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
30 Andrew. Richard, if you're available would you mind  
31 doing the invocation.

32

33 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I don't know if Richard  
36 was on, if you're there Richard would you mind.

37

38 MR. SLATS: Can you guys hear me,  
39 hello?

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hello, I can hear you,  
42 John.

43

44 MR. SLATS: Okay, this is Richard.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, go ahead, Richard  
47 -- sorry.

48

49 (Invocation)

50

0003

1 MR. SLATS: I'd like to ask everyone to  
2 say, if we can, to say the Lords Prayer as taught us  
3 to.

4  
5 (Lords Prayer)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
8 Richard.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Richard. Maybe  
11 I'll just interject here real quickly. Just for a  
12 reminder for everyone who's joined us on  
13 teleconference, please make sure your phones are muted  
14 so we don't have interference from the background  
15 noise. So unless you're speaking, please mute your  
16 phones. You need to push the mute button or star six  
17 will also work to mute phones. And if you wish to  
18 speak then just push star six again.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And just a  
23 friendly reminder, especially for all our agency folks,  
24 too, if you get an incoming call please disconnect from  
25 the teleconference and that way we don't get put on  
26 muzak, which we can't override. So if you have an  
27 incoming call please disconnect from the teleconference  
28 and call back in later.

29  
30 And just one friendly reminder for  
31 everyone, too, since we're on teleconference, to please  
32 state your name when speaking so that we can identify  
33 folks for the record.

34  
35 Thank you so much, Ray.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.  
38 I could go ahead and call the meeting to order. The  
39 time now is 9:15 a.m., we could go ahead and do a roll  
40 call.

41  
42 John Andrew.

43  
44 MR. ANDREW: Here.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard Slats.

47  
48 MR. SLATS: Here.

49  
50

0004

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas Alstrom.

2

3 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, good morning. I'm  
4 here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, good morning,  
7 Tommy. And, Ray Oney, here. We do have four present  
8 for a quorum.

9

10 Next on the agenda is welcome and  
11 introductions. If we could go ahead and start the  
12 welcome and the introductions of agencies.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Who's all  
17 participating.

18

19 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

22

23 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord,  
24 I just called in.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, James.

27

28 MR. LANDLORD: Good morning.

29

30 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, good morning. This  
31 is Catherine Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage  
32 Fisheries Association.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning,  
35 Catherine.

36

37 MS. MONCRIEFF: Good morning.

38

39 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with  
40 OSM. Good morning.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Pippa.

43

44 MS. ESQUIBLE: Good morning. This is  
45 Janessa Esquible with ONC in Bethel.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning Janessa.

48

49 MR. GRAHAM: This is Cory Graham with

50

0005

1 Office of Subsistence Management.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Cory.

4

5 MR. LIND: Orville Lind with Office of  
6 Subsistence Management.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Morning, Orville.

9

10 MR. GUSSE: Good morning. Walker Gusse  
11 with the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Walker.

14

15 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is  
16 Holly Carroll, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon  
17 River Subsistence Fishery Manager.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Holly.

20

21 MR. CHYTHLOOK: This is John Chythlook  
22 with Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, John.

25

26 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is  
27 Frank Harris with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
28 Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Frank.

31

32 MR. JONES: Patrick Jones with Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Morning, Patrick.

36

37 MR. SMITH: Nicholas Smith, Alaska  
38 Department of Fish and Game.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Can you state your name  
41 again there was a runover.

42

43 MR. SMITH: Nicholas Smith, Alaska  
44 Department of Fish and Game.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, good morning,  
47 Nicholas.

48

49 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi. Anchorage

50

0006

1 Field Office, BLM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Bruce.

4

5 MR. LARSON: Good morning. This

6 is.....

7

8 MR. DECOSSAS: Gary DeCossas.

9

10 MR. LARSON: .....Sean Larson with the

11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

12

13 REPORTER: Could you say that again,  
14 please.

15

16 MR. LARSON: Yeah, this is Sean Larson  
17 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Good  
18 morning.

19

20 REPORTER: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Morning, Sean.

23

24 MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary DeCossas,  
25 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Gary.

28

29 MS. JONES: Paige Jones, AVCP, Natural  
30 Resources.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

33

34 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
35 This is Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and  
36 Game here in Fairbanks, Yukon Area Fall Season Manager.  
37 Good to be here, thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Jeff.

40

41 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is  
42 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
43 also up here in Fairbanks, Acting Summer Season Manager  
44 for Yukon River. Thanks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Deena.

47

48 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Ray. Jennifer Hooper,  
49 AVCP.

50

0007

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Jennifer.

2

3 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is  
4 Serena Fitka.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Good morning, Ben Gray.  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Say that again. You  
10 were runover, can you say your name again.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Ben Gray, Department of Fish  
13 and Game.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

16

17 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is  
18 Serena Fitka with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
19 Association.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Serena.

22

23 MR. MOSES: Good morning. This is  
24 Aaron Moses with Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Aaron.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30

31 REPORTER: Okay, this is the reporter,  
32 Tina. If we could all take a second and look at our  
33 phones and make sure they're muted, unless you're  
34 directly speaking to the Council. And after you  
35 identify yourselves, if you could put yourself back on  
36 mute we'd appreciate it.

37

38 Go ahead, Ray.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Tina.  
41 If there's anyone else that needs to introduce  
42 themselves at this time.

43

44 MS. TRAINOR: Yes, hi, good morning. My  
45 name is Alida Trainor. I am the Acting Regional  
46 Program Manager for the Subsistence Division at Fish  
47 and Game.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Alida.

50

0008

1 MR. MCDEVITT: Good morning, this is  
2 Chris McDevitt with Subsistence Division, Fairbanks,  
3 Fish and Game.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Chris.  
6

7 MS. MILLION: Good morning. This is  
8 Bonnie Million, Field Manager with the Bureau of Land  
9 Management, Anchorage Field Office.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Bonnie.  
12

13 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim  
14 Jochum, Subsistence Program Analyst with the National  
15 Park Service Regional Office.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Say your name again,  
18 please.

19  
20 MS. JOCHUM: Kim Jochum, J-O-C-H-U-M.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.  
23

24 MS. JOCHUM: Thank you.  
25

26 MS. GLEASON: Good morning. This is  
27 Christy Gleason with Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
28 in Fairbanks.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Christy.  
31

32 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning. This is  
33 Mary Peltola from the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish  
34 Commission.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Mary.  
37

38 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning.  
39

40 MS. FLOREY: Hi. This is Victoria  
41 Florey. I'm a Subsistence Program Analyst at the  
42 National Park Service.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Victoria.  
45

46 MS. SCHOMOYI: Hi. This is Terese  
47 Schomogyi with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish  
48 Commission.

49  
50



0009

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Terese.

2

3 MS. LOWERY: Good morning. This is  
4 Danielle Lowery with ONC.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Danielle.

7

8 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning. This is  
9 Dillon Patterson with the National Park Service  
10 Regional Office.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Dillon.

13

14 MS. RUSSELL: Hi. Good morning. This  
15 is Katy Russell with ONC in Bethel.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Katy. Do  
18 we have anyone else that haven't announced themselves  
19 yet.

20

21 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
22 Council members. This is Glenn Chen from the BIA.  
23 Always a pleasure to join your meeting.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: My name is Jack Reakoff.  
28 I live in the Upper Koyukuk, Western Interior, public  
29 member.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Jack.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Good morning.

34

35 MR. ALSTROM: Good morning.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is that you, Bill?

38

39 MR. ALSTROM: Anybody on?

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Bill.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Mike Williams, Akiak  
44 Native Community.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Mike.

47

48 MR. OWEN: Moses Owen, Akiak Native  
49 Community.

50

0010

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Moses.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning, Ray. This  
4 is Vince Mathews with Fish and Wildlife Service out of  
5 Fairbanks.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good to hear you Vince,  
8 good morning.

9

10 MR. IVAN: Ivan M. Ivan, Akiak Native  
11 Community.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning from  
14 Akiak.

15

16 MR. EPCHOOK: Good morning, Chariton  
17 Epchook with Kwethluk, Inc.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, good morning.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Robert Williams, Akiak  
22 Native Community.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning. Okay, is  
25 there anyone else that haven't announced themselves.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Say that again. I  
30 didn't get your name.

31

32 MR. KLAUSNER: Sorry. This is Hans  
33 Klausner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

36

37 MR. ALSTROM: Good morning, am I on?

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, William, I hear  
40 you.

41

42 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, this is Bill  
43 Alstrom. I'm with the mid, lower Yukon Fish RAC, just  
44 listening in.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you,  
47 Bill.

48

49 MR. PETE: Stanley Pete, Nunam Iqua.

50

0011

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Stan.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Hi, good morning, Mr.

4 Chair. It's Alissa Nadine Rogers. I'll be listening

5 in today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, good

6 morning, Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Alissa.

9 Good to hear you. Okay, one last call for anyone that

10 hasn't announced themselves for this YKRAC meeting.

11

12 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, hearing none --

15 oh, go ahead. Go ahead.

16

17 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. This is

18 Melissa Johnson with Bering Sea Elders Group.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Melissa.

21

22 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hello.

25

26 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard.

27 Phillip Peter called in and -- before we called this

28 meeting to order -- he said that he was at the hospital

29 and that he would call in. So, you know, I'd like him

30 to be recognized.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you,

33 Richard.

34

35 MR. SLATS: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's no

38 one else we could go ahead and go down to the next line

39 item agenda, which is review and adopt the agenda.

40

41 6. Election of Officers.

42

43 7. Review and Approve previous meeting

44 minutes.

45

46 8. Reports. Public and tribal comment

47 on nonagenda items.

48

49 Old Business.

50

0012

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Yes, hi, thank you, Mr.  
6 Chair, Mr. Secretary. We have just a couple updates to  
7 the agenda that was originally published in your  
8 meeting books. One of those is under old business. We  
9 have moved the National Park Service Individual C&T  
10 update to old business rather than under the agency  
11 reports so that'll be a brief update on the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board's action on that request from the  
13 Park Service.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

16

17 MS. PATTON: And there is an update,  
18 too, for -- under new business, the call for Federal  
19 wildlife proposals. Just an update for the Council and  
20 everyone participating so the plan was to discuss that  
21 call for proposals and then have all relevant wildlife  
22 updates at that time so the Council has the latest  
23 wildlife data and information to consider for any  
24 proposals if the Council wishes to do so. So we'll  
25 have all those wildlife updates at that time on the  
26 agenda.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And moving on, under  
33 agency reports, and also 13 future meeting dates, and  
34 closing comments. I believe we have two other items  
35 that need to be included in the agenda which is the  
36 report from -- relating to the -- the heat stress  
37 report, I believe, is that included in the agenda?

38

39 MS. PATTON: Yes. Correct. So the  
40 Council was interested to get that report, we do have  
41 someone from USGS who is able to provide that report.  
42 So that's on the updated agenda after the Yukon River  
43 pre-season salmon outlook for reports on Yukon River.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -  
46 participants not muted)

47

48 MS. PATTON: Just a reminder to  
49 everyone on teleconference, if you can please mute your

50

0013

1 phones. Thank you.

2

3 And we do have one additional report  
4 that the Council has requested and that is the North  
5 Pacific Fisheries Management Council for a Bering Sea  
6 bycatch update so we'll have Diana Stramm on towards  
7 the end of the meeting there, prior to the OSM report.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. I  
12 believe that's our agenda for today.

13

14 Is there a motion on the floor to  
15 accept the agenda.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, John Andrew,  
22 Kwethluk. For the record I'd like to move that we  
23 approve the agenda with additions.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion  
26 on the floor by John Andrew from Kwethluk to accept the  
27 agenda with additions. Do I hear a second.

28

29 MR. ALSTROM: I second it. Thomas.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas seconds the  
32 motion. All in favor say aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
41 carries. We're down to reports. We have Council  
42 member reports if someone wants to give their report  
43 from their respective village.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and members of  
46 the Council.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

49

50

0014

1 MS. PATTON: We do have, for this  
2 meeting, so every year in the winter election of  
3 officers takes place and I do have an update to provide  
4 for the Council and for everyone participating on the  
5 current status of the RAC appointments.

6  
7 So as the Council is aware, the  
8 Secretary of the Interior did not complete making  
9 Regional Advisory Council appointments so we have  
10 numerous seats that have expired and applicants who are  
11 still -- have pending appointments for vacant seats as  
12 well. So for the purposes of this meeting we have only  
13 four current seated Council members who will be voting  
14 members. Bob Aloysius will be retiring from the  
15 Council and we do want to recognize him at this meeting  
16 and I know the Council discussed a letter of  
17 appreciation and a plaque for him. We have invited all  
18 of the previously seated Council members with pending  
19 appointments to participate in this meeting. Their  
20 feedback and engagement with their communities and  
21 providing information for the Council in discussion is  
22 very much welcomed and I know the current seated  
23 Council members were also eager to hear from each of  
24 them for their community reports as well.

25  
26 So for this meeting we do have just  
27 four seated voting Council members present.

28  
29 And I'll provide a little bit more  
30 background on the 2020 RAC appointments as well. So  
31 the annual appointment process is very complex and  
32 takes about 15 months to complete, as all of you area  
33 aware, it's a long process from application to  
34 appointment. It begins in September of each year when  
35 the Federal Subsistence Board announces the open  
36 application period for Council membership and during a  
37 six month application period the Program conducts an  
38 extensive statewide recruitment effort, which there is  
39 one going on right now. We're still pending  
40 appointments from last year but we are in a new cycle  
41 as well seeking applications for all 10 of the Federal  
42 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. And the  
43 application period for '21/22 is open now through March  
44 12th. So the Program distributes, you know, about  
45 2,000 applications through Alaska via mail, and email  
46 to individuals and agencies and organizations, and,  
47 additionally the Program conducts wide-ranging outreach  
48 through a variety of media outlets such as newspaper,  
49 local radio, internet, FaceBook and public conferences.  
50

0015

1 Of course this year we're all challenged being able to  
2 meet in person and to gather. But last year's 2020  
3 applications resulted in 74 applications to fill 62  
4 vacant or expiring seats. And the InterAgency  
5 Nominations Panel conducts interviews and then the  
6 Federal Subsistence Board reviews the applications and  
7 forwards their recommendations to the Secretary of  
8 Interior and Agriculture. And ultimately it's the  
9 Secretary of Interior that makes the final  
10 appointments. And those recommendations were forwarded  
11 last year on September 4th of 2020.

12  
13 So on January 15th of 2021, OSM  
14 received copies of RAC appointment letters signed by  
15 the former Secretary of the Interior. The original  
16 appointment letters were sent by regular post and  
17 applicants whose appointments were approved should have  
18 received their letters by now. However, there were only  
19 a few Councils that did receive full appointments.  
20 Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, and Seward Penn. The  
21 remaining of the 10 Councils only received partial  
22 appointments, Eastern Interior, Northwest Arctic, North  
23 Slope and Southcentral, and then three Regional  
24 Advisory Councils did not receive any appointments at  
25 all and that was Western Interior, Southeast Alaska,  
26 and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional  
27 Advisory Councils. As a result there are still 35  
28 vacant seats. To remedy this situation, OSM has been  
29 working with the Department of Interior to get pending  
30 appointments from 2020 appointed this year and so it's  
31 hopeful that those appointments will be made later this  
32 year.

33  
34 So that is what led to the circumstance  
35 that we're in right now with, unfortunately, only four  
36 seated Council members voting for the purposes of this  
37 meeting.

38  
39 What we would like to do for election  
40 of officers would be to elect an interim Chair and Vice  
41 Chair for this meeting, and then the Council can have  
42 an election of officers in the fall meeting time as  
43 well when we anticipate that appointments will have  
44 been made with a full Council at that time.

45  
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva,  
49 for the update. At this time we'll go ahead and call  
50

0016

1 for nominations for the Chair.

2

3 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. For the  
6 nominations of the Chair I think our designated Federal  
7 officer needs to do this one.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, John. So  
10 as the designated Federal officer I can call the  
11 nominations for Chair and then once we have a Chair  
12 elected, the Chair can resume management of the  
13 meeting.

14

15 So at this time we'd like to open  
16 nominations for an interim Chair for this meeting.

17

18 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew. I  
19 move that we nominate Ray Oney for interim Chair.  
20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Any other nominations from  
23 the Council for interim Chair.

24

25 MR. SLATS: Move to close, Mr. Chair.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Okay. And all those in  
28 favor of electing Ray Oney for interim Chair please say  
29 aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MS. PATTON: All opposed, same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 MS. PATTON: Motion passes. Thank you,  
38 Mr. Chair. Appreciate your work, Ray, thank you very  
39 much.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. And  
42 now is the time for the call for nominations for Vice  
43 Chair.

44

45 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, this is  
46 Richard.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

49

50



0017

1 MR. SLATS: For the record I nominate  
2 Carl Maxie for your Vice Chair for this meeting.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Mr. Slats,  
5 correction, I think it has to be the people that are  
6 currently serving, which would be only four of us,  
7 that's my understanding.

8  
9 MR. SLATS: Oh, okay. Okay, I  
10 apologize. Move to rescind my nomination.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So noted.

13  
14 MS. PATTON: So again our.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

17  
18 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Richard.

21  
22 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, this is John Andrew,  
23 I nominate Thomas Alstrom. Thank you.

24  
25 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, I second John  
26 Andrew's motion.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Is  
29 there any more nominations.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there any more  
34 nominations for Vice Chair.

35  
36 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
37 close nominations for Vice President [sic] -- this is  
38 Richard. I move to close nominations and ask for  
39 unanimous consent.

40  
41 I request unanimous consent.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. So Thomas  
44 you are the Vice Chair for this meeting.

45  
46 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, thank you very much.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you.  
49 Moving on, down to review and approve previous minutes  
50

0018

1 -- meeting minutes of October 6th and 7th, 2020.

2

3 REPORTER: Ray, I think you have to do  
4 Secretary.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

9

10 MS. PATTON: As the Council wishes, if  
11 you would like to elect a Secretary for the purposes of  
12 this meeting you're welcome to do so or the Council can  
13 elect to defer that to the fall meeting, however the  
14 Council wishes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, we'll leave that  
17 up to the Council. What is your wish.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: I nominate Richard Slats  
24 for the interim Secretary for this meeting. Thank you.

25

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Motion on the  
28 floor for John to elect Richard Slats as Secretary.

29

30 MR. ALSTROM: I'll second that. This  
31 is Thomas.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Seconded by  
34 Thomas. Any other nominations.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair, I move that we  
39 close the nominations.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, John Andrew moves  
42 to close the nominations and do a unanimous consent for  
43 Richard Slats to be the Secretary for this meeting.

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Congratulations  
48 Richard.

49

50

0019

1 MR. SLATS: Thank you. I'll pull my  
2 notebook out and I'll take notes for the rest of this  
3 meeting.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If there's  
6 nothing else we'll go down to review and approve  
7 previous meeting minutes.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
10 Council. You'll find your meeting minutes beginning on  
11 Page 5 of your meeting books.

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted)

17  
18  
19 MS. PATTON: And just a reminder to  
20 everyone on teleconference please keep your phones  
21 muted if you're not speaking. Thank you.

22  
23 (Pause)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Is there a  
26 motion on the floor to accept the meeting minutes of  
27 October 6 and 7, 2020.

28  
29 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom.  
30 I make a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes  
31 of October 6 and 7 of 2020.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: There's a motion on the  
34 floor by Thomas Alstrom to accept the meeting minutes  
35 of October 6 and 7, 2020. Is there a second.

36  
37 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by John Andrew.  
40 All in favor say aye.

41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

45  
46 (No opposing votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
49 carries. Thank you.

50

0020

1                   Moving on to reports. We have Council  
2 member reports. Maybe at this time we'll go ahead and  
3 give the ex-members a chance to comment on their  
4 respective areas. So go ahead and give your report,  
5 Council members.

6  
7                   (No comments)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone want to start  
10 off.

11  
12                  (No comments)

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I'll go  
15 ahead and call on Richard if you want to give a report.

16  
17                  MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
18 do a Council Member's report.

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Richard, go  
21 ahead.

22  
23                  MR. SLATS: Okay. Yeah, since this  
24 thing started this has been kind of -- for in our  
25 community there's been a lot of, you know, like a  
26 lockdown and we've been doing that it seems like  
27 forever. I got my second dose of Moderna the other day  
28 and I was really iffy yesterday wondering if I was  
29 going to be okay to sit through this meeting but I  
30 guess I'm okay today.

31  
32                  Since our last meeting, you know, like  
33 we're getting a lot of these teleconferencing meetings  
34 with all of those people or, you know, some of the  
35 other organizations and initiatives that I'm involved  
36 with.

37  
38                  And since this past fall the weather's  
39 been very iffy as it has been -- we had a delayed  
40 freeze-up, and then we rely on whitefish in our small  
41 rivers from those two rivers -- from those two rivers  
42 south of us. And there's been pike fishing since  
43 there's been snow on the ground which makes it easier  
44 for us to travel to the fishing spots.

45  
46                  And then food sovereignty, food  
47 security has been brought to the forefront so there is  
48 -- you know, like there is this need to go out and, you  
49 know, catch our resources from our area while we can,  
50

0021

1 when we can and that's been -- the food security's been  
2 brought to the forefront. And the need to be  
3 independent from the Western bought food because.....

4

5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted)

7

8 MR. SLATS: .....where we get our  
9 Western bought food, they're also seeing a lot of these  
10 storms so the farms down in the south are -- like the  
11 state's are burning up and things like this, so the  
12 climate change is having an adverse effect on  
13 everybody's homelands. So there's been a transition  
14 for deliver and store our resources during these times,  
15 when we can and as much as we can.

16

17 Like I'm saying that since this thing  
18 started, climate change has been of a national concern  
19 now. The south side has been getting all of our  
20 weather and to this day they're still seeing a lot of  
21 the storms that we're accustomed to.

22

23 Here in my hometown we got our snow  
24 back this winter. We've seen ptarmigans. And the snow  
25 is making it easier for us to travel on snowmachine to  
26 hunt and fish under ice -- fishing under ice and ice  
27 fishing and hunting. So the snow is welcome.

28

29 Been talking with a couple of our  
30 elders, we've been getting late runs and so when the  
31 runs are late we don't know what the weather -- just  
32 how the summers are going to be so we have to go  
33 elsewhere to try to get the fish. And at this day and  
34 age we talk to our elders for advice and their advice  
35 has been a commodity. So this is where our local and  
36 traditional knowledge should be made a priority from  
37 the get-go. We need to let these -- our elders know  
38 that they need to be known and advised -- and we should  
39 be taking advice from them.

40

41 In our next village when the runs are  
42 either low or light, people -- my village and their own  
43 village they have to go elsewhere to find fish. For us  
44 it's (indiscernible). So we have to find fish wherever  
45 they are because the Bay is warming up. It's warmed up  
46 so there's -- and there's also this mention about the  
47 fish are swimming deeper, you know, like swimming  
48 deeper where it's more cooler, so there's that need to  
49 understand that the size of our fishing gear needs to

50

0022

1 be so that we can get some of the fish that are  
2 swimming deeper to be known that there is that because  
3 of -- and because of the climate change, the melting  
4 permafrost is settling the tundra. Where there were  
5 blackberry picking soil it is now set to be lowland  
6 marsh and storm surges -- so the tundra soil is getting  
7 like, you know, going lower. And because we're getting  
8 snow this year I just hope that -- it's always been  
9 that when we have snow we get more -- snow brings more  
10 berries in the summer.

11  
12 My people had to pull their blackfish  
13 traps earlier this year because they just going away  
14 and usually they'll go -- we keep our blackfish traps  
15 out longer.

16  
17 And then in spring seal hunting on the  
18 Coast when the ice flow, it prevents anyone from out  
19 here in the Coast for spring seal hunting because it's  
20 hard to get out on the ocean, on to the sea when  
21 there's ice flow and it's dangerous when the ice flows.  
22 So we can't get out in the river through all of that  
23 ice flow. So that needs to be understood by people  
24 that where there was one permanent ice there is no  
25 permanent ice to head out and then drop our boats on  
26 the -- at the edge of the ice and then head out, these  
27 are all ice flows, which makes it dangerous for the  
28 people.

29  
30 And that is what I had, Mr. Chairman.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard.

33 Anyone else.

34  
35 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, this is  
36 Thomas. I'd like to also do a Council member's report.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Thomas.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas. Maybe  
41 just quickly before you begin, I would like to remind  
42 everyone to mute your phone so if you're not speaking,  
43 you can find that little microphone symbol on your cell  
44 phone and push that to mute or star six. It does sound  
45 like we have a lot of crackling and popping that might  
46 be somebody's open cell phone line.

47  
48 REPORTER: Excuse me. So this is the  
49 reporter. If everybody could take one second and check  
50

0023

1 their phone and see if they're on mute because that  
2 popping sound is overriding the recording and I want to  
3 be sure that we can pick up the Council members while  
4 they're giving their reports. So if everybody could  
5 take one second, please check your phone, make sure  
6 you're on mute would be appreciated. And, Eva, if I  
7 need to call the operator we'll have to take a few  
8 minutes to do that, although I think it may have just  
9 cleared up.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Ray, go ahead.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina. Go  
16 ahead, Tommy, you wanted to give your report.

17

18 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, Ray. Thomas Alstrom  
19 here from Alakanuk. I'll just go ahead and give a  
20 short report.

21

22 A lot like Richard there, I just  
23 received my Moderna vaccine a week ago and I'm still in  
24 the phases of trying to recover. I thought I was good  
25 for a few days and then now a sore throat popped out of  
26 nowhere. But anyway I'd like to touch bases on the  
27 black/whitefish and the Bering cisco.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -  
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MR. ALSTROM: We usually have our  
33 family here -- down here in Alakanuk, we usually have a  
34 I believe it's a 3.5 inch mesh -- whitefish net  
35 underneath the ice right out here on the Alakanuk  
36 Slough and we put one out every year, the same, I  
37 believe it's about 20 to 30 feet in length and I  
38 believe it's a 3.5 inch mesh to target the smaller (In  
39 Native) and (In Native) the Bering cisco and the broad  
40 whitefish but this year compared to the previous five  
41 to 10 years that we've been putting a whitefish net  
42 out, for some reason this year during the whole months  
43 of -- ever since we put a net in, once the ice got  
44 thick enough in November, December, January, February  
45 all the way up until this month we haven't really seen  
46 much fish compared to those previous years. When we  
47 check it, we usually check it at least once or twice a  
48 week and we average about six to 10 fish, you know,  
49 every check, but now since the low numbers of whitefish

50

0024

1 that we've been catching we moved to start checking the  
2 net at least once every week and now that we're  
3 checking the net once every week we're only averaging  
4 one to nothing so -- and we've been setting that net  
5 out in the same area for the last how many years and  
6 for some reason this year it's not doing as good as the  
7 previous years. Well we still have the net out and I  
8 was looking forward to checking it yesterday before the  
9 meeting but I some things came up and haven't gotten to  
10 it.

11  
12 So -- but other than that, this past  
13 October right before the ice -- October of 2020, right  
14 before the ice freezed up I had went down to the  
15 coastline along one of them creeks, BeeGees, they call  
16 it BeeGees, it's a creek by -- I put out several little  
17 small nets on the outer side, on the main Casey's  
18 Channel, and then I went further in and I also put a  
19 smaller net inside of the creek and I had some nets on  
20 the outside, on the main channel and I left it in  
21 overnight and I went to go check it and this happened  
22 right before the ice came. I didn't catch one fish on  
23 the outside in the main channel, however, you know,  
24 maybe about a half mile in the creek my 5.5 inch net  
25 caught about -- I'd like to say about 25 or 26 sheefish  
26 -- the sheefish from overnight so I had to pull -- and  
27 at the same time I was checking my net and -- checking  
28 the net cleaning it in order to pull it -- I usually  
29 check the net first before I -- you know, clean the net  
30 first before I pull it into my boat, when I was still  
31 pulling the -- cleaning the net I was still catching  
32 sheefish at the same time so I had to pull my net, you  
33 know, over, you know, that was one overnight. Anyway  
34 that brought all the fish back and I believe I still  
35 have some sheefish leftover. So we've been kind of  
36 surviving off of them sheefish in replacement over the  
37 low numbers of black/whitefish and then catching that  
38 we've been not catching on our net right down here on  
39 the Alakanuk Creek. So the sheefish that I caught this  
40 pat fall kind of made up for that.

41  
42 So another few more weeks I'll be  
43 putting out a blackfish trap. I usually try to do it,  
44 you know, during the (In Native) season so that we're  
45 able to -- so that I could have blackfish for --  
46 because them pike like to go after the blackfish so I  
47 usually try to go out and get some blackfish during the  
48 (In Native) season and with (In Native) season right  
49 around the corner, I mean that's about the best time to  
50



0025

1 put out a blackfish trap.

2

3 Other than that, there's a lot of moose  
4 around the village. I did see, you know, more rabbits  
5 this year than the previous years. The previous 10  
6 years out here in Alakanuk I haven't really been seeing  
7 much of any rabbits out here, you know, along the tree  
8 lines, although this year there is, you know, rabbit --  
9 beginning to be rabbit tracks and, you know, rabbits in  
10 the trees and I think we are getting rabbits and so I  
11 think they're recovering from the wet fall storms that  
12 we've been having. Because usually right before the --  
13 they say the rabbits usually die off when there's a  
14 cold wet flood during the fall right before.....

15

16 (Teleconference interference -  
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MR. ALSTROM: .....so -- but other than  
20 that that's it for my report there.

21

22 Thank you, Ray. Thank you, Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Thomas.

25

26 John.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: Thank you. This is John  
29 Andrew at Kwethluk. The previous two speakers have  
30 covered a lot of the issues that I have seen over here  
31 in my village area.

32

33 Starting from this past summer.....

34

35 (Teleconference interference -  
36 participants not muted)

37

38 MR. ANDREW: .....have an open season  
39 out there for drifting for salmon, some day -- first  
40 few openings we hardly catch any salmon as far as  
41 chinook and the reds and chums were very rare on the  
42 Kuskokwim. When I talk about fishing over here I'm  
43 thinking about our neighbors over here, south of the  
44 Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, and Kwethluk and some of the  
45 people come from Bethel to fish right by the Y, most of  
46 the time they just barely get enough for their  
47 families. But I think on the (indiscernible) one they  
48 did good on small -- mostly small -- this past summer  
49 our chinook were mostly small jacks. Hardly anything

50

0026

1 over 20 pounds unless you using a 6 inch. Because my  
2 preference when I go out I always 5 and a quarter or  
3 5.5, I barely use a 6, I just set my 6 inch if they  
4 wanted to use it. Like I said it's been hard winter  
5 already -- already some families are saying they're out  
6 of all their fish and dry fish and some of them are  
7 saying they're out of salmonberries.....

8  
9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11  
12 MR. ANDREW: .....and wild blueberries  
13 and cranberries that they picked for the winter. And  
14 even with the whitefish nets on the lakes off main  
15 stem, they didn't do too well in the -- and one thing  
16 we noticed that the whitefish also were pretty small,  
17 especially the humpback whitefish. I tried going after  
18 Bering cisco and I only got like half of buckets of  
19 Bering cisco (indiscernible - background noise  
20 overbearing speaker) my fish camp site is  
21 (indiscernible) on that day I tried to go whitefishing  
22 for that day and I think I ended up with like 17 reds  
23 and all the -- the other half of bucket was only a few  
24 Bering cisco.

25  
26 And most hunters, moose hunters over  
27 here, they did good but they share with our families  
28 and if they do go out again they take some young men  
29 who -- people that -- families that don't have their  
30 own way of getting -- going out there -- the ones that  
31 don't have no boat and motors, we try to help out the  
32 community especially -- really hard winter for us. And  
33 this was the year I never got to -- I never got to  
34 setnet under the ice in the winter and the people that  
35 do, they tell me that they're not doing too well under  
36 the icefishing right.....

37  
38 (Teleconference interference -  
39 participants not muted)

40  
41 MR. ANDREW: And on trapping, hardly  
42 any commer -- there was hardly any commercial trapping,  
43 I think the drawback from that is there's no money in  
44 the furs anymore, only a few do trap for beaver for  
45 their families for a table meat.

46  
47 And the other plus sign for all is we  
48 got some snow, they're seeing ptarmigan coming back to  
49 our area. And like Thomas said this is the first time  
50

0027

1 we hardly see any -- or not even see tracks of rabbits  
2 in the willows, in the trees. Hardly any hares.

3  
4 On blackfish trapping they had a fairly  
5 short season because the water level was really low and  
6 when we finally had freeze-up where there's lots of  
7 moose but we're not allowed to hunt them and our local  
8 dog mushers are having a hard time keeping up with  
9 their dog food. Especially since they couldn't get  
10 enough chums this summer and people that -- mushers  
11 have recreation dog teams, families get together and  
12 try to help out their dog mushers that -- they took  
13 pretty hard hit ever since last summer.

14  
15 And the other thing is this pandemic  
16 and all our villages there's hardly any intertravel,  
17 village travel, even to Bethel only, people that go for  
18 essential needs or medical -- for medical situations.

19  
20 (In Native)

21  
22 I could say some more but I think I --  
23 I think Richard and Thomas did a good job of covering  
24 for some of them.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, John.

29  
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John. Mr.  
31 Chair, this is Eva. I just want to interject here to  
32 make sure we have everyone mute their phones. So we've  
33 got someone blowing their nose.....

34  
35 REPORTER: And coughing.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: .....so just please check,  
38 including Council members. I know you're unmuting  
39 phones frequently to speak. Just take a look --  
40 everyone online take a look at your phone, cell phone,  
41 you can hit that little speaker button to mute or push  
42 star six.

43  
44 REPORTER: Thank you. I would  
45 appreciate that while we're listening to Council  
46 members because I'm not able to pick up their entire  
47 testimony with the interruptions. So if everybody  
48 could take a second push star six or the mute button on  
49 their phone, please.

50

0028

1 MS. PATTON: There still sounds like we  
2 have a lot of shuffling going on and coughing and  
3 blowing noses in the background.

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted)

7  
8 IDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: Good grief,  
9 guys, mute your phone.

10  
11 REPORTER: So somebody may have their  
12 phone like in their pocket or walking around, if you  
13 could please -- if you're listening to the meeting and  
14 you can hear this background noise, could you please be  
15 respectful of the speakers, mute your phone.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. To  
18 continue with our reports I'm going to give my report.  
19 Again, Ray Oney for the record. You pretty much heard  
20 everything that's going around from Thomas, John and  
21 Richard.

22  
23 As you heard we had a lot of lockdowns  
24 here, too. But all in all right now we are on Code  
25 Yellow, we have our school back in session doing half a  
26 day schooling so the kids are really excited about  
27 that. I think we were kind of concerned about the kids  
28 not, you know, being able to intermingle with one  
29 another because of this pandemic that we're dealing  
30 with and very happy to announce that the school is back  
31 on Code Yellow doing half a day school so I'm sure the  
32 kids are all excited about that and so is the parents.

33  
34 As far as my community. You've already  
35 heard from Thomas, we're experiencing a lot of the  
36 lockdowns too. This year we usually have annual  
37 potlatches, usually toward the end of February is when  
38 we have annual potlatch but this year was way kind of  
39 eery to not hear any drums or hear any announcements on  
40 the radio regarding to practice night so it's kind of  
41 eerie feeling to not hear that. And I'm sure it's --  
42 this time of the year, you know, we do have a lot of  
43 activities from dog races to potlatches but very, very  
44 eerie this year because of the pandemic.

45  
46 Even last fall break up we had -- we  
47 had freeze-up late October, early November, it froze  
48 for a little while and then we had a big storm and kind  
49 of opened up the river, I don't know how far up the  
50

0029

1 river the ice was broken. To my understanding, I  
2 think, it might have been as far up as Grayling and  
3 surprised to hear people that were out boating, you  
4 know, in November and we had a bunch of young people  
5 that were able to go out into the ocean there to get  
6 seal so they were fortunate enough to get a few seals.

7  
8 But as far as the storm, I think, I've  
9 seen a lot of north wind pretty much all winter it  
10 seemed like storm after storm, wonder what it's going  
11 to do for this coming spring as far as seeing what the  
12 outcome is going to be for the salmon to return.  
13 Hopefully. Hopefully that's what we will be able to  
14 see.

15  
16 I do have an under ice net and  
17 subsistence net that I set out every year but like you  
18 heard from the rest of the Council members it's been  
19 very slow. Usually about this time of the year is when  
20 we get a bunch of sheefish but this year I'm hoping  
21 that they're late and hopefully it'll pick up later.

22  
23 As far as people that are -- very few  
24 people that are trapping, there are people that are out  
25 trapping for themselves, and this year we had a lot of  
26 snow, a lot of snow so hopefully it'll be a good  
27 breakup.

28  
29 And also I noticed our freights been --  
30 we hardly get any freight nowadays. I put in some  
31 orders and it seems like months later I'm still waiting  
32 for them so we have a lot of back up of freight that  
33 are coming into the village and a lot of these freight  
34 that come in are people that are on, you know, on  
35 public assistance and it makes it pretty hard for them  
36 to get their needs, you know, when there's a delay in  
37 the delivery of freight into the village. Beginning to  
38 see that more.

39  
40 I think other than that that's all I  
41 have, I think. We've pretty much heard from the group  
42 pretty much what we're experiencing here too.

43  
44 That's all I have, thank you.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
47 members of the Council. I just wanted to check in,  
48 too, I know the Council was very interested to hear  
49 from all our previous members as well. We do have  
50

0030

1 James Landlord from Mountain Village online and also  
2 Carl Maxie from Napaskiak and Alissa Nadine Rogers from  
3 Bethel, if the Council would like to hear from those  
4 communities as well.

5

6 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman, I want to  
7 hear from those people.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James and Alissa or  
10 Carl Maxie, if you're available to give a report.

11

12 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

13

14 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 This is Alissa Nadine Rogers -- or, go ahead, who was  
16 that, you could go first.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

19

20 MS. ROGERS: Oh, okay. This is Alissa  
21 Nadine Rogers from the Bethel area.

22

23 For winter hunting conditions this year  
24 has been pretty rough country, very powderly like snow.  
25 This has made it very dangerous for traveling on  
26 creeks, lakes, even trails -- even the trails or even  
27 the river trails, a lot of ice cracking underneath my  
28 snowmachine. We even kind of fell through the ice  
29 already this year, twice. Even now we are experiencing  
30 high water and a lot more overflow than I recognized  
31 over the past years. It's really prominent up in the  
32 high country area.

33

34 For fishing, for whitefish this year,  
35 we didn't do much whitefishing or setnetting under the  
36 ice this year due to the river conditions and not being  
37 able to go out this year. We haven't caught any  
38 sheefish this year so I had to supplement my fishing at  
39 AC store. There are reports and questions about the  
40 sheefish run being really weak out here in the  
41 Kuskokwim this year and not very many, or as much of a  
42 push that was in previous years.

43

44 I had reports on the lower Kuskokwim  
45 area of whitefish that were coming in with diseases and  
46 had a rotting smell. And then there was also pictures  
47 that were sent to me from the Yukon that seemed to have  
48 the same thing as reported on the lower Kuskokwim about  
49 two to three weeks later. So I don't know what's going

50

0031

1 on out there but we're definitely seeing the same  
2 issues in both rivers.

3

4

5 For blackfish, we had put a lot more  
6 blackfish traps out this year than we did in previous  
7 years. We're trying to look for new grounds. Our  
8 location where we used to have our blackfish trap had  
9 dried out because of the increase of beaver traffic out  
10 here so we definitely are looking for new grounds.

10

11

12 For lush fish, it seems harder this  
13 year catching lush fish and they were a lot smaller and  
14 skinnier than they were in previous years. There was a  
15 lot of people who had their traditional fishing grounds  
16 and had to move because the eddies and areas where they  
17 were has drastically changed over the past year,  
18 especially after the big push of water that came  
19 through this fall. Our river channels are changing  
20 pretty rapidly this past couple years with a lot of  
21 eroding in areas where it used to be pretty sturdy  
22 ground.

22

23

24 For pike this year, they're a lot  
25 larger and seem like they're a more abundant than  
26 previous years. There's so many pike and when we went  
27 pike fishing we had pike that were actually jumping out  
28 of our (In Native) holes on to the ice, it was so  
29 bizarre, it was weird. There was quite a bit that we  
30 had no (In Native) in them or anything and there were  
31 just pike jumping out of them. I guess they really  
32 wanted to go home with us.

32

33

34 For smelts and Tomcods, there was  
35 reports of smelts and Tomcods being caught in the (In  
36 Native) areas in the ocean and they were having issues,  
37 not catching as much, I don't know if it was the  
38 conditions that were out there but they also had sent  
39 pictures of that black disease that was seen on  
40 whitefish in fresh waters. They said there wasn't as  
41 much as Tomcods out there when they went out fishing  
42 but they were thankful for what they were getting this  
43 year. Some of them were bigger than they were in the  
44 previous years but they definitely noticed there was  
45 less abundance.

45

46

47 As for mink this year, there's  
48 definitely an increase in mink in Bethel area as you  
49 heard on the news. They're killing off pets and also a  
50 whole bunch of chickens around town. So we definitely

50

0032

1 have a predator increase in the area.

2

3 For caribou news. Folks have been  
4 known to continue to hunt caribou from the villages  
5 this winter especially when it was really bad long  
6 distance condition traveling to the Yukon earlier this  
7 fall -- or this winter -- sorry. There were reports of  
8 caribou being harvested and distributed between  
9 families. There was also a request from a few families  
10 in Kwethluk who had wanted to put in a proposal to have  
11 a limited proxy hunt for elders because she was  
12 concerned that she was not going to have enough food to  
13 sustain her and her family, she's a very elderly lady,  
14 in her 80s and she said she didn't -- her family wasn't  
15 able to catch moose this fall and she was running out  
16 of red meat. She has fish but she didn't have enough  
17 red meat to sustain her through the winter. So  
18 hopefully she was able to get somebody to go proxy  
19 hunting moose for her this month as she was planning  
20 to.

21

22 As for the fall moose hunt. It was  
23 such a wet moose hunting hear we didn't have much luck.  
24 We didn't even see as much traffic as we've seen in  
25 previous years. Not sure if it was they moved or  
26 migrated out of the area where we usually went hunting  
27 but it was really sparse. It was very surprise that we  
28 hadn't seen as much traffic or so much sign or just  
29 anything in practical. There was a lot of moose in my  
30 backyard this year. We had a few families that had  
31 moved in. We have three mothers that had triplets and  
32 one mother who has twins so there's quite a bit of  
33 moose in my backyard.

34

35 As for the winter moose hunting season,  
36 it took us about six hours longer to find a moose in  
37 the Yukon River during the winter moose hunt than it  
38 did in previous years in the area where we usually go  
39 hunting. We went about three hours outside of our  
40 traditional hunting areas to find moose. There were  
41 more wolf tracks than I've seen in previous years.  
42 There were more porcupine signs that I've seen in  
43 previous years. But we were able to catch at least one  
44 moose this year. We usually try to go for two or three  
45 moose a year to get us through the whole entire winter,  
46 our year, until the next winter.

47

48 As for rabbits this year, they're very  
49 sparse in our area. We have a lot of young ones

50



0033

1 around, not too many big and older rabbits. We do have  
2 an increase in jacks running around our hunting area  
3 this year but those darn things are so hard to catch.  
4 I'm slowly learning how to -- learning from them how to  
5 catch them but they're pretty quick.

6  
7 We do have an increase in owls this  
8 year around town and in our hunting ground area.  
9 Especially increase in Big Horns and smaller owls but  
10 no signs of any Snowy Owls where we usually see them.  
11 We usually have two Snow Owls out here but I haven't  
12 seen them at all this year. They like to hunt around  
13 in those ptarmigan hunting areas but I haven't seen  
14 them this year.

15  
16 For ptarmigan, there's a lot more  
17 ptarmigan reported this year and sightings and hunting  
18 numbers, there were a few large flocks of -- packs of  
19 ptarmigan that passed through our area. It seemed like  
20 we had almost two huge large flocks and one really good  
21 week of hunting when they were passing through. Then  
22 we had a few stragglers that stuck around. There  
23 should be -- we should be seeing another big push this  
24 month come through, especially with the spring hunt,  
25 usually the early winter push of ptarmigan are smaller  
26 and the springtime hunt is bigger. So hopefully we'll  
27 have a little bit more ptarmigan coming through.

28  
29 For fox and coyotes. We catching more  
30 younger fox this year than we did in previous years.  
31 They look different to me than previous years but I  
32 just figured it could have been the age of how old  
33 these foxes were. We don't have any more coyotes in  
34 our backyard, they're no longer there where they used  
35 to be so they must have moved out.

36  
37 For customary trading and sharing this  
38 year, I have done a lot more trading this year than I  
39 have in previous years with people. Instead of being  
40 able to go out and get my food myself we have not been  
41 able to do much so I've done a lot of trading this  
42 year. I've also learned that many folks are doing the  
43 same thing since they're not able to go out to their  
44 hunting grounds or fishing grounds and get what they  
45 need as well. This year I've done a lot more sharing  
46 with my dry fish than I have in previous years.  
47 There's a lot more people asking for fish this year and  
48 trading fish this year. But I've also been seeing fish  
49 being sold in the villages just so that the people can  
50

0034

1 make ends meet especially during this Covid -- it seems  
2 like it's been a little more rough for folks in the  
3 villages.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's my report.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

8 Does James or Carl Maxie want to give a report.

9

10 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, this is James  
11 Landlord.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, James.

14

15 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, good morning. Our  
16 ice slowing down, freeze-up was kind of late.

17

18 As soon as the ice flows into the  
19 Mountain and below and above Mountain, maybe three or  
20 four inches thick they walked out and set their nets  
21 but there were a lot of nets right in front of Mountain  
22 and a little bit below Mountain and all up the river.  
23 My brother and I, we didn't have room so we set our net  
24 maybe five miles up the river. My brother had a 34  
25 inch net they were trying to catch (In Natives) and I  
26 didn't have a (In Native) net so I set my 5 inch -- 5.5  
27 inch net. He caught a few (In Native), what do you  
28 call it, Liberty Landing, we set our net right above  
29 it. I caught lush fish, really giant sheefish and  
30 pikes, one of the pikes was maybe king salmon size,  
31 they were just large. But we pull our net out right  
32 before it -- minus 20 -- because it would be too cold  
33 to go back and forth because we check our net every  
34 could days, three days. We didn't want our net to get  
35 stuck underneath the ice so we pulled our net out. We  
36 were supposed to relocate but we haven't done that yet.  
37 But we're thinking pretty soon to catch some sheefish  
38 that's supposed to be coming in.

39

40 As soon as the ice was thick enough  
41 some young guys marked the river to go across the  
42 river, I think there were two locations where they  
43 marked and they were able to go out and set their  
44 blackfish trap. I heard there were some blackfish that  
45 they caught, some didn't catch any. There was a couple  
46 guys that set the blackfish from the Yukon to a lake  
47 and there were -- they caught really big blackfish.

48

49 My son went out with his friends

50

0035

1 towards Kusilvak and on the way back they saw the  
2 coyote, when they went up towards it they said it  
3 smelled. They didn't want to take it, they were kind  
4 of suspicious why it smelled so bad so they just left  
5 it there under the -- out in the -- hope so crows can  
6 eat it but they didn't want to bring it home because  
7 they just said it smelled really, really bad odor.

8  
9 The little snowshoe rabbit, there did  
10 not appear to be so many this year. When the sun came  
11 out after it snowed I went up the river in the  
12 afternoon trying to catch rabbit but there weren't that  
13 many tracks as before. Again, my son went out with his  
14 friend down below Mountain about three or four miles, I  
15 think, they call it Copper Point Island, they said they  
16 saw some jackrabbit tracks. In the past they've been  
17 there -- they've been spotting jackrabbit tracks in  
18 that island but -- and they said they spotted some  
19 jackrabbit tracks there.

20  
21 With ptarmigans between here and St.  
22 Marys on the road, you know, two guys like go up and  
23 pick up some freight, they said they spotted some  
24 ptarmigans, two patches of them. They were really glad  
25 they've been spotting some ptarmigans, they're usually  
26 on the roads -- they're probably eating some -- having  
27 some tough, you know, little rocks.

28  
29 Again, like Alissa said there was some  
30 people that they didn't catch chums last year, and  
31 people been wanting to buy -- if people have extra fish  
32 but I haven't heard. Some people didn't catch so much  
33 chums last year so I don't know the outcome of that.

34  
35 With moose, a few people that ran out  
36 of moose and wanted to catch moose this spring, I think  
37 it's still open. But I haven't really heard anybody  
38 going out -- I haven't heard any report that they  
39 caught moose yet. My brother invited me to go out but  
40 we haven't gone out yet. It's too much -- right now  
41 there's storms and a lot of snow drifts, the trails --  
42 I guess there's snowdrift on the trail and on the river  
43 so we haven't gone out yet.

44  
45 I think that's my report.

46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, James. Is  
50

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1 there any other Council member that may want to give a  
2 report at this time.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we'll go  
7 down to the next item which is the Chair's report.

8  
9 Eva.

10  
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
12 Council. At this time there's no specific reports  
13 under Chair's report. We will have updates on the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board's action on the individual  
15 C&T discussion the Council was involved in at your last  
16 meeting. And we will have some discussions as well  
17 when we get to the charter review process. But at this  
18 time there's no specific information for Chair's  
19 report.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Moving  
24 on to the next item which is public and tribal comment  
25 on nonagenda items. So if there's anyone out there  
26 that wants to give public testimony on nonagenda items  
27 you're welcome to do so.

28  
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

32  
33 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Mike Williams.  
34 I am from the Akiak Native Community. First of all I  
35 appreciate all of the reports from the Yukon and the  
36 Kuskokwim area.

37  
38 I think over the past five years that  
39 we've been submitting special action requests to the  
40 Federal Subsistence Board I appreciate the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board's support to Federalize the river on  
42 the Kuskokwim River. And, you know, we heard reports  
43 of the decline of the chinook in the Yukon and the  
44 chums as stated earlier. And we are still very  
45 concerned about the chinook returns and also the chums  
46 were at one of their lowest numbers on the Kuskokwim  
47 River from the recent reports. And I would rather wait  
48 for those projected numbers as we have seen the State  
49 projections last year and the kings, the chinook did  
50

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1 not return in those projected numbers. So it was a  
2 very concerning time for us on the Kuskokwim, but we  
3 appreciate the approval of our special action request  
4 by the Federal Subsistence Board to limit only to the  
5 Federally-qualified users on the Kuskokwim River in  
6 times of conservation concerns. And, you know, I think  
7 the folks on the Kuskokwim River, with 33 tribes, have  
8 the first shot. I know that from Aniak on up it's the  
9 State managed fishery but I think in order for the  
10 chinook to continue to return to the Kuskokwim River,  
11 you know, we are experiencing climate change impacts on  
12 our river with, you know, salmon dying a couple of  
13 years ago and also the warming or other things  
14 happening in the high seas where they go out and then  
15 before they return, you know, the numbers are not  
16 there.

17  
18 But I think this year we would like for  
19 our Refuge Manager, you know, to welcome the new Refuge  
20 Manager and I think we have had that established  
21 relationship for -- since 2013/14 and there on, from  
22 there on to have that working relationship between U.S.  
23 Fish and Wildlife Service and the tribal governments of  
24 the Kuskokwim River. And I think building on that  
25 trust between and the responsibility that the Federal  
26 government has between the tribal governments and the  
27 Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Department of  
28 Interior, I think this year -- I think after assessing  
29 all of that I would be more inclined for the Refuge  
30 Manager, who is the manager for the river when it is  
31 Federalized from the mouth to Aniak, to consider, after  
32 weighing in all of that data from last year and we're  
33 still concerned about the chinook and the chum fishery,  
34 and take appropriate action. I know that we have a  
35 Memorandum of Understanding between the tribes and the  
36 Fish and Wildlife Service that is in place and with  
37 that I think we can continue to work and I would also  
38 like to, you know, reach out to the Alaska Department  
39 of Fish and Game to further our work to make sure our  
40 people have food to eat and also to make sure that the  
41 returns in the future are there for our children and  
42 our grandchildren.

43  
44 But I think those are some of the  
45 things that we are dealing with and I appreciate the 33  
46 tribes of the Kuskokwim River joining forces to  
47 establish the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish  
48 Commission, and we thank the late Billy Frank for his  
49 concern for us to help us move forward. And I think  
50

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1 with the current Administration that we have with the  
2 Department of Interior and the Kuskokwim Tribes, I  
3 think we can do well.  
4

5 And I appreciate the rebuilding of the  
6 moose and we're seeing lots of moose around here and  
7 I'm very concerned about the vegetation, you know,  
8 they're eating the vegetation is pretty hard to get  
9 right now too, by them.

10

11 But those are just my few comments.  
12

13 Our heart goes out to the people in the  
14 Yukon that didn't get their fish this past summer, but  
15 we still have concerns on the Kuskokwim River that we  
16 need to continue to have Federal management until such  
17 time that the conservation concern is over but I don't  
18 think it will ever happen with all of those factors  
19 about the climate change and other commercial fisheries  
20 elsewhere.

21

22 But those are just my comments.  
23

24 It's been a hard year with the Covid19  
25 restrictions and all of us have had a hard time up  
26 until now and things are not normal still because our  
27 kids are not going to school and it's -- and we're not  
28 having gatherings as we are used to but I think  
29 through, you know, if we beat this Covid19 with  
30 vaccines and with social distancing, keeping your mask  
31 on, washing hands and sanitation, I think we'll get  
32 there.

33

34 And I just want to thank you for giving  
35 me a little time and I appreciate the Akiak Native  
36 Community Tribal Council for all of the work that we've  
37 been doing all of these years along with our  
38 neighboring tribes for the support to make sure our  
39 fish are protected and our people are eating our fish  
40 to survive.

41

42 Thank you.  
43

44 MR. EPCHOOK: Mr. Chairman.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead. State your  
47 name

48

49 MR. EPCHOOK: I'm with Kwethluk  
50

0039

1 Incorporated. Thank you for allowing me to speak, and  
2 I thank Mike for making a comment to Federalize the  
3 Kuskokwim River again. Last year towards the end the  
4 State wasn't good to people of Kwethluk and their  
5 surrounding villages, we weren't allowed to go out and  
6 fish for more salmon. What we would like to see is,  
7 again, the Kuskokwim River being Federalized like Mike  
8 stated, but until the end of September. And I still  
9 believe that within the Refuge, Alaska Department of  
10 Fish and Game should not have any jurisdiction within  
11 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the Refuge  
12 should -- the Refuge should continue to manage both  
13 hunting and fishing within the Refuge.

14  
15 Thank you, very much.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Can I get  
18 your name, I didn't get your name.

19  
20 MR. EPCHOOK: Chariton Epchook with  
21 Kwethluk Incorporated.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Is  
24 there anyone else wanting to give a report on nonagenda  
25 items at this time.

26  
27 MR. IVAN: Mr. Chairman.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: State your name and  
30 where you're calling from.

31  
32 MR. IVAN: Ivan M. Ivan, Vice Chief,  
33 Akiak Native Community with the permission of Chief  
34 Mike Williams, may I make a short comment.

35  
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You have the floor.

39  
40 MR. IVAN: Thank you. I am 74 years  
41 old and I have seen the wildlife resources throughout  
42 this region since 1945 and thank you for those Council  
43 members and those elected just now -- they gave a good  
44 report from the Yukon side, the Kuskokwim and the  
45 Coastal side and they give me a picture of what's  
46 happening in those areas as far as fish and wildlife  
47 are concerned. I have -- I'll make this short.

48  
49 My observation is No. 1, I will start  
50

0040

1 with the moose issue. In Akiak, since four years, the  
2 wolves are coming closer to our community, village  
3 here. Two years ago, last year, and now this year.  
4 Two years ago they used to walk around the perimeter --  
5 outside perimeter of the village but this year and Mike  
6 and Moses and Bob can confirm this, they're being  
7 observed between homes and we got concern for children  
8 and grandchildren, we don't let them walk at nighttime,  
9 but they're coming in closer and more stronger because  
10 they're hungry I believe. And moose is -- my daughter  
11 took pictures of moose and we see them around the  
12 village, they're running from wolves from outside of  
13 the community.

14

15 That's my observation.

16

17 And they sure look good, good red meat.

18

19 As far as this spring, is the hardest  
20 season of all for our people, especially elders. And  
21 we've lost some of them to Covid19. The fish is  
22 getting important. You heard reports of whitefish,  
23 pike fish, lush fish. Lush fish reports. Lush fish is  
24 -- we eat that in falltime and it'll show up in May  
25 when it's hard to get. Anyway we didn't get enough of  
26 our lush fish. I've heard of climate change where the  
27 ice is too thin to walk on to set our traps. We just  
28 finally, I think, was finally after Thanksgiving and  
29 first part of December and, I, myself, probably caught  
30 close to 100 for the whole winter season which is not  
31 enough and I maintain dogs for my late brother Robert  
32 and my grandkids help me raising them now. But we --  
33 our impact as far as fish is concerned, it's universal.  
34 I think -- we love chinook. Our ancestors fished that  
35 fish. In summertime the -- then the reds and the chums  
36 follow, finally the silver salmon go up. But our  
37 elders used to tell us, don't stop fishing. When we  
38 used to -- when I depend on lush, some years the lush  
39 is hard to get, so we fish as much as we can. And we  
40 need to -- we're always careful, much as we can, but  
41 we'll need fish.

42

43 And that's all I have, but we listen to  
44 whatever other meetings that may come up.

45

46 Thank you, very much.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Ivan.

49 Appreciate your report. Anyone else want to give a

50



0041

1 report at this time on nonagenda items.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I  
6 appreciate all your reports and your observations in  
7 your community. We are in challenging times and we  
8 continue to be observant about what goes on with our  
9 food security so appreciate all your reports that  
10 you've given.

11

12 If there's no other report then we  
13 could go ahead and go down to old business.

14

15 Eva.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
18 Council. So we do have the one item under old  
19 business, a brief update from the National Park Service  
20 on the Board's action on the individual C&T request.  
21 And I believe we have Kim Jochum online to provide that  
22 for the Council.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. JOCHUM: Yes, thank you, Eva. Good  
27 morning, Mr. Chair and Council members. Can you hear  
28 me all right?

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, you're coming in  
31 good.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Yes.

34

35 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, thank you. Thank  
36 you. It's just always helpful to know before, thank  
37 you very much. For the record my name is Kim Jochum  
38 and I'm a Subsistence Program Analyst with the National  
39 Park Service Regional Subsistence Team.

40

41 So today I'm here to report on recent  
42 decisions made by the Federal Subsistence Board on the  
43 process used to make customary and traditional use  
44 determinations for individuals, which is also referred  
45 to as individual C&T a lot.

46

47 So before I start talking about these  
48 recent -- go ahead -- okay, if you have any questions  
49 please interrupt me any time. Thank you.

50

0042

1                   Okay. Before I start talking about the  
2 recent decisions more I just want to remind everyone of  
3 a few points. The individual C&Ts are not anything  
4 new, they have been around for a long time and you  
5 might not be very familiar with them because they are  
6 very rare. Less than 10 people have applied for them  
7 in the last 40 years. So almost all customary and  
8 traditional use determinations are for communities and  
9 areas, and not for individuals.

10

11                   So the individual C&Ts and the recent  
12 Board decision will not in any way impact any of your  
13 ability to fish, hunt, trap or gather resources. And  
14 the recent Board decisions on the individual C&T only  
15 make the whole process easier and faster for the  
16 applicant and it became more streamlined overall. The  
17 National Park Service now can officially help  
18 applicants with the application and the application can  
19 be submitted outside of the regulatory cycle and,  
20 therefore we can be more responsive while people must  
21 still meet the same requirements as previously.

22

23                   The National Park Service did not want  
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users waiting for years  
25 to be eligible to go hunt and fish on Park lands, and  
26 that is why the Board modified these steps. So we are  
27 simply now reporting what actions the Board took. This  
28 is not an action item, you not have to vote on this.

29

30                   So last fall we asked, if you remember,  
31 though, all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils,  
32 as well as the seven Park Subsistence Resource  
33 Commissions for feedback. So then we took those  
34 feedback that we did receive and incorporated it into  
35 our proposed process and this is what was adopted by  
36 the Federal Subsistence Board at its January 2021 this  
37 meeting.

38

39                   So the revised process includes two  
40 critical recommendations made by last year -- last fall  
41 by the RACs and the SRCs.

42

43                   So the first is that there is no  
44 delegation of authority to Park Service itself. The  
45 Federal Subsistence Board will retain the final  
46 decisionmaking authority.

47

48                   And the second portion is that the  
49 process now includes a formal recommendation from both  
50

0043

1 the affected RACs as well as the affected SRC.

2

3

4 But perhaps the biggest change in that  
5 the process is that it is no longer tied to the lengthy  
6 biannual regulatory proposal cycle. So, instead, just  
7 -- the application window is open continuously and once  
8 the RACs and the SRCs have weighed in, the Board will  
9 take action on the request at its next public meeting.  
10 So this accomplishes the important goal of being able  
11 to process applications in a timely manner.

11

12

13 So many of the RACs and SRCs voted to  
14 defer action until they had more time to study the  
15 issue last fall. So while the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board already took action to help improve the process,  
17 the Board still welcomes any feedback that you might  
18 have for further improvement, either now or at any  
19 point in the future. And ultimately the National Park  
20 Service and the Federal Subsistence Board just want the  
21 process to be as streamlined and responsive as  
22 possible.

22

23

24 So, again, there's no action on your  
25 end required. So this is just providing you with  
26 information and what the Federal Subsistence Board  
27 voted on.

27

28

29 Thank you for your time, and I am happy  
30 to answer any questions that you might have. And if  
31 you have feedback for the Board I am happy to deliver  
32 that as well.

32

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

34

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank  
37 you for the report. Do we have any questions at this  
38 time from the Council.

38

39

40 (No comments)

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Once again is there any  
43 comments or questions for Kim at this time.

43

44

45 (No comments)

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva,  
48 what's the next.

48

49

50 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

50

0044

1 members of the Council. Next up on the agenda is  
2 review and approve the Council's charter. And you will  
3 find your charter in the back of your meeting books.  
4

5 And it is reviewed and approved every  
6 two years by the Council. It then goes to the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board in their summer work session to  
8 approve any amendments and then is forwarded to the  
9 Secretary of Interior and ultimately the Secretary of  
10 the Interior signs off on the new charter in December  
11 of this year.  
12

13 So we would like to discuss adding an  
14 amendment to your charter to help address these  
15 vacancies that we're currently faced with when  
16 Secretarial appointments don't come either in a timely  
17 manner, all terms expire on December 2nd and need to be  
18 reappointed by the 3rd to avoid a vacancy. So in the  
19 past few years there's been late appointments and then  
20 in 2020 we did not receive appointments at all. And an  
21 amendment to the charter could help address this by  
22 ensuring there are carryover terms.  
23

24 So, again, on Page 33 you'll see the  
25 Council's charter. And under the Federal Advisory  
26 Committee Act the Council charter is renewed every two  
27 years and before it's renewed the Council has this  
28 opportunity to review it and discuss any change that  
29 they'd like to propose to the Federal Subsistence  
30 Board, and, again, the Board then reviews those  
31 proposed changes and, if supported, that request is  
32 forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior.  
33

34 So a lot of the language in the charter  
35 is actually required by the Federal Advisory Committee  
36 Act, or FACA, and its implementing policy, so there's a  
37 lot of the language that can't be changed but there are  
38 a few changes that can be made. So change the name of  
39 the Council, or the number of members on the Council,  
40 or if the Council would like to specify a balanced  
41 membership on the Council, and then reasons for why the  
42 Council would suggest that change.  
43

44 So, again, you can request addition of  
45 language that specifies desired membership balance,  
46 that, if achieved, would allow members of the Council  
47 to adequately represent the entire region. And of  
48 course the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Region is  
49 very large with nearly 50 communities along the Yukon,  
50

0045

1 the Coast, Nunivak Island, the Kuskokwim, and also on  
2 Togiak Federal lands in Kuskokwim River Bay, Quinhagak,  
3 Goodnews and Platinum. So that's language that the  
4 Council can add, a specific geographic balance of  
5 membership if the Council wishes. And during their  
6 last charter review the Western Interior Council had  
7 added similar language to their charter for that  
8 geographic and balanced membership. Currently this  
9 Council has 13 Council members.

10

11 Additionally, the delays to Council  
12 appointments over the last few years the Council may  
13 also want to consider adding a provision to its charter  
14 that allows a member to serve after their term expires  
15 until a successor is appointed, and this is what we  
16 call a carryover term that would come into play if we  
17 run into a similar situation where appointments from  
18 the Secretary of the Interior are delayed or late. So  
19 rather than each member's term expiring and the Council  
20 having an empty seat on the Council, that member would  
21 continue to serve until an appointment letter comes in.

22

23 And we do have some suggested language.  
24 So so far all of the Councils who have met already have  
25 taken up language to address the vacancy concerns and  
26 allow for carryover appointments, and if this Council  
27 wishes to include similar language; any member of an  
28 Advisory Council may serve after the expiration of the  
29 member's term until a successor is appointed. And that  
30 amendment, if approved, would then allow for the  
31 carryover so we don't have vacancies in the interim.

32

33 And one thing that was approved in the  
34 last charter that should be helpful as well once we do  
35 get appointments is that alternate members may be  
36 appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they  
37 occur out of cycle. So if somebody retires from the  
38 Council or moves out of the region an alternate member  
39 is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and then  
40 essentially kind of on standby, but if a vacancy does  
41 occur out of cycle they would be able to be seated to  
42 the Council right away. So that is something that was  
43 approved in the last cycle.

44

45 And, again, at this time the Council  
46 would need to review and approve the Charter and if you  
47 wish to include any of those amendments such as the  
48 carryover terms then we would need a motion on the  
49 record and a vote.

50

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.

4 Thank you for that update. Is there a time limit on

5 this as to when we can approve this?

6

7 MS. PATTON: So this meeting is the  
8 timeframe for the Council to review and approve and  
9 make any amendments and that is because the Council's  
10 charters automatically expire, they only are set for  
11 two years at a time and do need to be renewed every two  
12 years. And kind of similar to the Regional Advisory  
13 Council applications the charter review process also  
14 takes some time so we would need to have the Council,  
15 if you wish to make any amendments or approve your  
16 charter as is in order to submit that to the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board, to forward on to the Secretary's  
18 office. So if -- you know, if you want to think about  
19 it and come back to it tomorrow that would be fine but  
20 it does need to take place during this meeting.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Yeah, I  
25 think we should take this item up as far as a carryover  
26 term, I think, to prevent, you know, those that have  
27 served to be able to come and at least participate in  
28 the teleconference for the YKRAC. So if it's  
29 appropriate I'd like to call for a -- a call to include  
30 an amendment for the carryover term, if that's the  
31 right language.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, can we do  
34 that now?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes. Yes, we can.

37

38 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I move that  
39 we amend the language to include, somewhere, and I  
40 believe it will be No. 12 all the way down to almost  
41 halfway down there under terms, probably at the end,  
42 they could help us out and create the language in there  
43 to carryover expired terms until the new members are  
44 elected or selected. Can we do that?

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: That is my  
47 understanding, yes.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, John.

50

0047

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you.

4

5 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom,  
6 I'll second that motion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion  
9 on the floor by John Andrew from Kwethluk to make an  
10 amendment to our charter to include a carryover term so  
11 that the people that have served in that capacity, once  
12 their term is up, may also participate when their term  
13 is up and seconded by Thomas Alstrom.

14

15 All those in favor say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
24 carries. So at this time do we need to approve the  
25 charter also, Eva.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 If the Council wishes to make any further amendments to  
29 the charter, or, if not, to make a motion then to  
30 approve the charter as amended.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, I don't know if,  
35 you know, we've -- it seems like if this is going to be  
36 the normal way of conducting business through  
37 teleconference, and I don't know if we need to include  
38 on hardship on Council and community to participate by  
39 teleconference only because of, you know, poor  
40 reception, dropped calls, people having to dial in, you  
41 know, from time to time, I don't know if that may be  
42 included in the charter, if not, then we'll move on.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Yes, those are excellent points and the best place for  
46 that language would be in your annual report to the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

50

0048

1 MS. PATTON: The Federal Subsistence  
2 Program and the Board are directed under ANILCA to  
3 provide for the Councils a meaningful participation in  
4 the meeting, so that would be best under the annual  
5 report rather than the charter which essentially lines  
6 out the legal guidelines for the Council and your  
7 authority.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva,  
12 for that clarification. Okay, moving on to -- just a  
13 minute -- I lost my agenda here -- if there's nothing  
14 else in old business we will go down to new business;  
15 call for Federal wildlife proposals.

16  
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
18 I may.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: If the Council didn't have  
23 any further amendments that you would like to make to  
24 the charter at this time we do need a motion on the  
25 floor then to adopt the charter with the one amendment  
26 that you did just make.

27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. You heard it  
31 from Eva, a motion on the floor to accept the charter  
32 with the amendment.

33  
34 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I move that  
35 we accept the charter with the amendment in there.  
36 This is John Andrew.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Guyana. There's  
39 a motion on the floor by John to accept the charter  
40 with the amendment. Do I hear a second.

41  
42 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas Alstrom seconds  
45 the motion. All those in favor say aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

50



0049

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, the

4 motion carries. Okay, moving on to No. 11, new

5 business.

6

7 Eva.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

10 Council. So next up under new business we have the

11 call for Federal subsistence wildlife proposals. We

12 have Pippa Kenner online who will present that

13 overview, and, then, again, the plan is to have all the

14 relevant wildlife updates and data that may be

15 available from both State and Federal biologists and

16 others to present at that time so the Council has the

17 latest information for your consideration. But first

18 Pippa will provide an overview for the call for

19 proposals.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair. Hello,

24 Mr. Chair and Council members. Can you hear me?

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're coming in

27 loud.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Good. Good.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi Pippa.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Okay. I am Pippa Kenner

34 and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence

35 Management. The materials for this presentation begin

36 on Page 15 of your Council book.

37

38 The call for proposals is now open to

39 change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. You

40 may propose changes to the Federal subsistence season

41 dates, harvest limits, methods and means, or gear type

42 and customary and traditional use determinations.

43

44 For the public the call for proposals

45 will close on May 24th. Proposals must be submitted in

46 writing to the Office of Subsistence Management on or

47 before May 24th. There is no form to submit your

48 proposal. Proposals can be submitted in writing by

49 mail, or hand delivery and on the web. Because this

50

0050

1 Council meeting is being teleconference, we can't  
2 accept proposals from the public at this meeting. But  
3 any member of the public wishing to submit a proposal  
4 or needing more information, please call me, at the  
5 Office of Subsistence Management at 907-786-3883. 786-  
6 3883. I would be happy to discuss your proposal with  
7 you and help you submit it.

8  
9 Okay, for the Council, this meeting is  
10 your opportunity to submit proposals. Submitting  
11 proposals is an action item on your agenda if the  
12 Council wishes to submit a proposal. The Council will  
13 receive wildlife updates from Federal and State  
14 biologists next.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council  
17 members. Staff are on hand to answer your questions  
18 but I suggest we now move on to the wildlife  
19 presentations.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. At  
22 this time do we have any questions for Pippa.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: If there's no comments,  
27 we have until May 24 if we are going to submit any  
28 wildlife proposals. I don't know, Eva, is there  
29 anything that stands out as far as considering --  
30 anything to submit?

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
33 talking with Council members in preparation for this  
34 meeting, there weren't any specific proposals brought  
35 up in advance. When the Council gets wildlife updates  
36 and new data, you know, there may be issues that come  
37 to light from that discussion that the Council may want  
38 to consider submitting for this meeting.

39  
40 Also, you know, there's an opportunity,  
41 you know, after hearing the wildlife reports today, you  
42 know, if the Council wants to think about things and  
43 check in with your community, see if there's any  
44 proposals and further develop any proposals tomorrow,  
45 that's an option. And then, of course, the Council  
46 members, as individuals, too, have every opportunity to  
47 submit a proposal on your own up until the May 24th  
48 deadline. And so you may hear, you know, in discussion  
49 with your communities after this meeting an issue of  
50

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1 concern that might be able to be addressed through a  
2 proposal. So as individuals and for the public and  
3 tribes and communities, anyone in the region who would  
4 like to submit a proposal, it is open until the 24th.

5

6 If the Council wishes to submit a  
7 proposal, as a Council, then that would need to take  
8 place at some point during this meeting.

9

10 All proposals submitted relevant to the  
11 YKDelta RAC region will come before the Council at your  
12 fall meeting and the Council will have that opportunity  
13 and the public process to review all of those proposals  
14 and make recommendations at that time. But if the  
15 Council wishes, we can check in with the wildlife Staff  
16 and see what updates are available for the Council to  
17 consider at this time.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.  
22 We'll go ahead and hear that report and hopefully get  
23 some ideas from that. So if there's no other comments  
24 relating to the wildlife proposals, or any questions or  
25 comments for Pippa we'll go ahead and move on.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 This is Alissa Nadine Rogers. I do have a couple  
33 requests for proposals to be brought forth to the YK  
34 Delta RAC for consideration.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

37

38 MS. ROGERS: The first prop -- thank  
39 you, Mr. Chair. The first proposal for consideration  
40 for the RAC would be to create a proxy elder hunt for  
41 the availability of -- submitting an application for  
42 proxy hunt for elders when hunting conditions are not  
43 great for traveling to the Yukon River, or having any  
44 other method of hunting availability to allow a limited  
45 proxy hunt per village; only when emergent needs are --  
46 only when emergency or emergent needs, depending on a  
47 case by case basis for hunting caribou on emergency  
48 basis and/or moose in the area of the Kuskokwim River.

49

50

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1 MS. KENNER: Hi, Alissa, this is Pippa.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Hi Pippa.

4

5 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, may I respond.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To  
10 Alissa, through the Chair. Alissa we -- the Federal  
11 Program already has a proxy hunt permit, but we call it  
12 a designated hunter permit and these are available for  
13 all hunts all the time and you don't have to be an  
14 elder. The State process requires certain things  
15 people to be able to proxy hunt, but in the Federal  
16 Program we don't. A hunter can -- a person can  
17 designate -- any person can designate another hunter to  
18 take their harvest limit as long as they're both  
19 Federally-qualified. So I think what you're proposing,  
20 I think it's already in our regulations and we have  
21 those permits ready upon request.

22

23 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, may I respond.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Thank you, Pippa, for that. And I guess the thing  
29 about it is that outside of hunting regulations are  
30 hunting harvest times, I guess is where the request  
31 came from. Because the hunting had closed and so the  
32 issue at.....

33

34 (Teleconference interference -  
35 participants not muted - typing)

36

37 MS. ROGERS: .....hand is this little  
38 old lady had called me asking if you could go hunting  
39 for caribou or moose, seeing if there's a way that they  
40 could do a limited proxy hunt outside of hunting  
41 openings so that she could get some red meat in her  
42 freezer because she didn't have anymore red meat and  
43 she would be able to have enough red meat and no one in  
44 her family was sharing red meat with her, so that's  
45 where that request had came through. I'm not sure of  
46 the exact wording and where we can put it into the  
47 regulations because I have not really looked it up  
48 recently. But if there was a way that we could somehow  
49 incorporate that into a special type of regulation in

50

0053

1 our regulations, a proxy hunt, of course and.....

2

3 MS. KENNER: Yes, and.....

4

5 MS. ROGERS: .....and if we could open  
6 up some type of hunting, emergency hunting for those  
7 that were in need and also like if we have to pin it  
8 down for elders who don't have anyone that's going  
9 hunting for them or who are widowed or have no method  
10 and means of ability to go hunting, that's something  
11 that's available for them.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Alissa, through the  
14 Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pippa.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Alissa, thank you for that  
19 clarification. I understand now. And at least it gave  
20 me an opportunity to describe our designated hunter  
21 permit. So thank you, Alissa.

22

23 REPORTER: Excuse me, before we move on  
24 to Alissa's next thing. We're getting some background  
25 noise so whoever's typing if you could please mute your  
26 phone.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, this is Carl Maxie,  
31 Napaskiak.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Standby Carl. I think  
34 Alissa is still on -- I believe she has another  
35 recommendation for us -- Alissa, you said you had  
36 another proposal you wanted to look at or submit.

37

38 MS. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.  
39 For the second proposal we are looking at for the  
40 ptarmigan to -- hold on, I'm trying to reread this  
41 comment that was suggested. So it was brought forth to  
42 my attention that they want to revisit the ptarmigan  
43 regulation and add language into the current ptarmigan  
44 regulation as ended; for years that we have a sudden  
45 increase in ptarmigan, that there's some mechanism to  
46 allow for an increase in harvest bag limits or daily  
47 hunting limits. As we are learning through the Covid  
48 this year, there's a lot more increase in harvesting  
49 for ptarmigan because they're distributing it out to

50

0054

1 families in need, widows and also people who don't have  
2 methods and means of getting any current meat. And I  
3 know our tribe out here has been bringing a lot of food  
4 to elders and those that are in need, and just those  
5 who are low income families as well, to get them  
6 through this Covid season. If there was a possibility  
7 that as a general public we could have some type of  
8 mechanism that fluctuates based on the current counts  
9 of ptarmigan to increase the bag limits and also the  
10 daily limit of ptarmigan.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
15 Alissa. I believe we'll be having an update on the  
16 wildlife and at that time you could maybe go ahead and  
17 mention if we need to submit a proposal to increase bag  
18 limits for ptarmigan.

19

20 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
23 Alissa, is that it?

24

25 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, this is Carl.....

26

27 MS. ROGERS: As far as.....

28

29 MR. MAXIE: .....Napaskiak.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Oh, Mr. Chair, may I  
32 please ask a quick question of Alissa?

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, go ahead, Pippa  
35 and then.....

36

37 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Alissa, through the  
38 Chair. Would that include out of season harvest?

39

40 MS. ROGERS: I'm sure we can put that  
41 up for discussion but I don't have a definite, like  
42 timeframe of this is in our out of season but as far as  
43 I know just hunting ptarmigan during the season and not  
44 outside of the cycle season so it would be -- I guess  
45 that it would be only in-season.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Alissa.

48

49 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa. Thank

50

0055

1 you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Go ahead,  
4 Carl Maxie, you want to give a report.

5

6 MR. MAXIE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. I'm 100 percent -- over 100 percent with  
8 Alissa with the elder status there. Plus there's -- as  
9 food price increases all over the state, it's getting  
10 more expensive to go to the store, I think it's good  
11 that Alissa brought it up to this point. I think that  
12 should be an emergency opening, there could be one, and  
13 plus there's more ptarmigans than years before, in our  
14 backyard here. So I have to support Alissa's proposal.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Carl. Just  
19 keep in mind when we do get to wildlife proposals we  
20 could probably consider doing increased or updating the  
21 bag limits for ptarmigan, so keep that in mind.

22

23 If there's nothing else we could go  
24 ahead and move on.

25

26 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark  
27 Burch.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mark, go ahead.

30

31 MR. BURCH: Yes. For the record my  
32 name is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and  
33 Game. Mr. Chair, I just want to give you and the  
34 Council a little bit of an idea of who is available  
35 from the Division of Wildlife Conservation to provide  
36 information that may be helpful to you as you consider  
37 some of these ideas. We have Patrick Jones, your area  
38 biologist there, locally, in Bethel who's on the phone  
39 and able to respond to any questions you might have  
40 along with Philip Perry, who's the management  
41 coordinator. And then specifically for the Mulchatna  
42 Herd of caribou, if you're interested in information on  
43 that we have Todd Rinaldi and the area biologist from  
44 Dillingham, Brian Riley, who are on the phone, and they  
45 would like to give you an update, especially on  
46 brucellosis at some point. And then normally Rick  
47 Merizon, our small game biologist has been available to  
48 talk about ptarmigan and hares and he would like to do  
49 that but he's not available today, he will be available

50

0056

1 tomorrow we expect, though, if you'd like to hold those  
2 species until tomorrow, or, of course, Patrick Jones  
3 can also speak to small game questions you might have.  
4

5 So that's kind of an overview of the  
6 resources that are available to you this morning and  
7 tomorrow.  
8

9 Thank you.  
10

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mark. I'm  
13 sure we'll hear their report as we move along in our  
14 agenda. Moving on to review and approve FY2020 annual  
15 report.  
16

17 Eva.  
18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
20 Council. Actually at this time we do have both the  
21 State biologists noted and Federal biologists online to  
22 provide the Council with updates, wildlife, I know  
23 there's a lot of interest, in particular, and hearing  
24 updates for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Some may be  
25 interested in moose updates as well. But it sounds  
26 like we do have the wildlife Staff who can provide a  
27 report on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And if the  
28 Council wishes, I know that the Council had some  
29 excellent reports on ptarmigan and hares at your fall  
30 meeting in 2019 and that individual Rick Merizon is  
31 available tomorrow morning so we can always resume the  
32 discussion tomorrow morning as well.  
33

34 But at this time it's an opportunity to  
35 hear the Mulchatna Caribou Herd update and any other  
36 wildlife reports.  
37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.  
41 What is the wish of the Council.  
42

43 (No comments)  
44

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we could  
46 go ahead and take them up first thing in the morning,  
47 would that be okay.  
48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Just to  
50



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1 clarify I think we do have particular Staff online  
2 today, this afternoon that are available so if the  
3 Council would like the Mulchatna Caribou Herd report,  
4 this would be a good time to hear that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead and get that  
7 person to give that report then.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
10 this will likely help provide some more background  
11 information when the Council goes back to considering  
12 proposals for caribou.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 REPORTER: Okay, and if I can  
17 interject, this is Tina again. Before Todd gives his  
18 report, if everybody could check and make sure you're  
19 on mute so we can all hear.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tina. We'll  
24 go ahead and take Todd's report on the Mulchatna  
25 Caribou Herd.

26

27 MR. RILEY: Hello, this is Brian Riley  
28 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game out of the  
29 Dillingham office. I'm here to give you an update  
30 about the Mulchatna Herd, if you don't mind.

31

32 So during our regular research  
33 monitoring efforts of the Mulchatna Herd, many of you  
34 may have heard that we've identified a bacteria called  
35 brucellosis among the animals that we've been sampling.  
36 This indicates likely exposure and incidents of the  
37 disease known as brucellosis in this population. You  
38 know some of the things that the species kind of  
39 exhibit are swollen front knees or enlarged scrotum and  
40 detection of the bacteria in tissues detected the  
41 bacteria in tissues of two dead caribou and further  
42 support, you know, showing that we have it in the herd.  
43 This bacteria is mainly spread between caribou from  
44 contact with birthing fluids during calving.

45

46 Currently just kind of an update on the  
47 caribou population. We're currently under the  
48 population objectives set by the Board which is between  
49 30,000 and 80,000 animals, we're currently at 13,500 as

50

0058

1 of our most recent estimate this year. I wanted to  
2 stress that there's currently no open State or Federal  
3 hunting season for Mulchatna Caribou in Units 9, 17, 18  
4 and 19.

5

6 Why is this important for humans.

7 So humans can become infected with the brucella bacteria  
8 if they come in contact with body fluids of infected  
9 animals. So any blood contact, any contact with the  
10 innards of the animal between humans can cause  
11 infection. This -- the prevalence of this disease in  
12 the population may be another kind of, you know,  
13 another part of the puzzle as to why the population  
14 continues to be suppressed. So kind of in the short-  
15 term, what people can do, obviously there is no hunting  
16 season for Mulchatna Caribou at this point, but longer  
17 term, when and if we are able to hunt again, you know,  
18 if a human gets it, people exhibit flu-like symptoms  
19 such as fever that comes and goes, chills, loss of  
20 appetite, sweats and fatigue. Untreated infections can  
21 cause kind of severe medical complications in rare  
22 cases, but it's usually treatable. And the way to  
23 avoid infection is to be aware that brucellosis is in  
24 the herd and take proper care when handling animals  
25 using gloves. People butchering or preparing food for  
26 animals should always avoid trying to get blood or any  
27 body fluids on breaks in the skin or eyes or nose or  
28 mouth. Obviously wearing gloves helps with that. In  
29 particular, don't cut into enlarged or abnormally  
30 appearing organs or meat, including the womb. The  
31 disease tends -- or the bacteria tends to build up in  
32 those particular places. Smoking, drying and pickling  
33 may not kill all these pathogens in the game meat so  
34 cook all meat thoroughly to at least 165 degrees  
35 internal temperature. Washing any implements that come  
36 in contact with the animal or their body fluids,  
37 knives, food processing surfaces should be washed with  
38 hot soapy water after handling the meat. An important  
39 consideration is raw bone marrow has a high risk of  
40 infection for brucellosis so eating any raw parts or  
41 not, you know, thoroughly cooked parts of the animal  
42 can, you know, can lead to infection. The other thing  
43 is this bacteria can also infect pets so it's important  
44 not to feed uncooked parts of animals potentially  
45 infected to pets.

46

47 Then the Department is currently on --  
48 you know, our plan is to continue monitoring and  
49 sampling the same way that we have been looking for

50

0059

1 continued signs of prevalence in the population. WE're  
2 also monitoring a few -- we're looking at older samples  
3 from other species such as moose and wolves to see if  
4 they've also had some incidents or prevalence of the  
5 disease. Yeah, so we're going to keep monitoring as we  
6 have been and see how prevalent it is, if it's -- you  
7 know, and if it's -- try and determine if it's an  
8 active thing or it's something that's been prevalent or  
9 kind of passing through the population. Anyone  
10 concerned about brucellosis or experiencing symptoms,  
11 they should tell their healthcare provider that they  
12 may have been exposed to brucella bacteria and if signs  
13 of the disease are seen in wildlife it should be  
14 reported to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

15  
16 We've done some outreach efforts,  
17 including put out a FaceBook post, specifically kind of  
18 detailing some of the same information that I just gave  
19 you. We've also been putting out direct mailings to  
20 all former permitted hunters in the last few years.  
21 So, you know, we're doing our best to get this  
22 information out to people, make everyone aware of this  
23 situation. Kind of a side note but also related, we  
24 don't expect that there's going to be any hunting for  
25 Mulchatna Caribou probably for 2021 and for the near  
26 future. We're going to, of course, keep monitoring the  
27 population to try and see, you know, is the population  
28 increasing, is it steady, hopefully it's not continuing  
29 to decrease, but we're going to be out here monitoring  
30 and seeing what's going on.

31  
32 But with that I'll take any questions  
33 from anyone.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brian. Do  
36 we have any questions for Brian at this time.

37  
38 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

41  
42 MR. ANDREW: Are we talking this  
43 Mulchatna Caribou -- years ago when they used to be  
44 pretty healthy we had no problems when the snow wasn't  
45 too deep or hardly any but what we used to notice was  
46 that the Mulchatna, when they migrate through some of  
47 them were never healthy physically or visually. some  
48 of them had red -- looked like red (indiscernible) in  
49 their cuts and discolored liver, kind of white and  
50

0060

1 spotty and some years -- and some -- and at one point  
2 they crashed and they have a hard time building up  
3 again. And the ones they get from that side they said  
4 they -- some of them are always skinny looking and not  
5 -- they don't look too edible, but the ones they got  
6 from the ones -- the ones up in the Mulchatna, up in  
7 the hills that migrate over to Bristol Bay side, they  
8 were more healthy looking and not too big, not too  
9 small, they look like reindeer. But the Mulchatna ones  
10 are big and brown with -- those ones that migrate  
11 behind there -- on their migratory route, some of their  
12 animals were never healthy when they catch them and  
13 then they said that these are some of the things they  
14 noticed before they crashed at that time.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.

19

20 MR. RILEY: Thank you. One thing I do  
21 want to note is, you know, during our regular  
22 monitoring efforts we haven't noticed any problems with  
23 the health of any of the animals, you know, they're  
24 fat, their bodies seem to be in good condition, we're  
25 not noticing low weights in calves. So, you know, from  
26 what we can see it doesn't seem to be, you know,  
27 severely affecting the population but, of course, you  
28 know, we only catch a relatively small number of  
29 animals so it's hard to say.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Ray here.  
32 Do you know if the herd is growing or is it still on  
33 the decline?

34

35 MR. RILEY: You know, based on our  
36 composition surveys it seems like, you know, the  
37 numbers -- the numbers that we're seeing don't indicate  
38 that the population is declining. The last two surveys  
39 we came up with about the same population estimate so  
40 based on the information that we have right now it's at  
41 least stable. We're going to, you know, continue to  
42 monitor, we're going to do another population estimate,  
43 you know, in this upcoming year and, hopefully, you  
44 know, based on the positive indicators we see with  
45 calving rates and calf survival and adult survival,  
46 that, you know, that we're going to see an increase or  
47 at least it's going to stay where it's at but, you  
48 know, that's finger crossed and we're hoping for the  
49 best. Of course the STA program is currently ongoing

50

0061

1 in the calving grounds so, you know, there hasn't been  
2 a huge amount of participation this year due to Covid,  
3 I assume, but it is still ongoing. We have a few  
4 groups out hunting at the moment.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we  
7 have any more questions or comments for Brian.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, one more  
10 comment. This is John Andrew at Kwethluk.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, John.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: When I used to go out with  
15 them out -- there's another factor that -- sometimes we  
16 have fairly good sized wolf packs out there threatening  
17 them all the time and we've seen some wolf kills that  
18 were never eaten, for some reason they just kill them  
19 and leave them. They'll probably eat one or two and  
20 then leave the rest, but then there's coyotes that  
21 always follow them but I never see coyotes kill a full  
22 grown caribou but I think they go after the fawns in  
23 springtime. Another big factor is there's always bears  
24 up there going after the calves when the does are  
25 calving up there.

26

27 Yeah, quyana.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.

30

31 MR. RILEY: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone else that wants  
34 to comment or have any questions for Brian on this  
35 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

36

37 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Richard.

40

41 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard. So I  
42 appreciate the updates on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.  
43 But I'm wondering if -- you know, I only heard about  
44 what he just spoke about on a news brief, or on the  
45 news hour when it was -- and I missed a lot of it, and  
46 then this -- I still am -- one question was, if there's  
47 literature or fliers to raise awareness about the  
48 affliction on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and if  
49 there's been any public service announcements or any  
50

0062

1 notices to the public to make them aware about what it  
2 is, and, you know, just so that the people out there  
3 will know.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. RILEY: Yeah, thank you, sir. So  
8 like I said we've been posting on FaceBook, so if you  
9 look on FaceBook you -- it's probably not hard to find  
10 the -- basically a poster that we set up and it  
11 condenses a lot of the information that I just gave  
12 you. The other thing is, you know, we've also, you  
13 know, mailed -- emailed all previous, you know, hunters  
14 who have registered for the hunt and who have hunted,  
15 so we're doing our best to try and get that information  
16 out there.

17

18 The other thing is, that if anyone has  
19 access to the internet, we have a number of resources  
20 on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website that  
21 anyone can kind of get into the weeds on, you know, a  
22 lot of the details, even more details than what I've  
23 given you right now.

24

25 Yeah, so we are doing our best to get  
26 the information out there and I understand that  
27 sometimes it can be hard for people to access. We are  
28 planning on distributing fliers to local communities to  
29 get that out there.

30

31 MR. SLATS: Thank you. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we  
34 have any more questions or comments for Brian.

35

36 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is  
37 Thomas.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas.

40

41 MR. ALSTROM: Yes. I'd just like to --  
42 for Brian there, I'd just like to let him know that,  
43 you know, the majority of the elderly people, elderly  
44 people throughout the communities, you know, they're  
45 not familiar with FaceBook and familiar with the  
46 internet and a lot of the modern day communication and  
47 internet so, you know, fliers might be a very helpful  
48 tip for the older people.

49

50

0063

1                   So, thank you, that's it.

2

3                   MR. RILEY: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, so  
4 we do understand that and that's why we're going to try  
5 and get those fliers out to the, you know, in the hands  
6 of people as opposed to trying to use electronic  
7 information but that effort is currently ongoing.

8

9                   Thank you.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. And  
12 also we have a lot of RTs that could be made available  
13 to pass on the information to the rural villages, so  
14 that's one avenue that they could pass on the message.  
15 So it definitely sounds like a lot of PR is needed to  
16 get the word out as far as letting people know about  
17 this bacteria that's in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.  
18 Does it remedy itself, or what is needed as far as just  
19 observing them from time to time?

20

21                   (No comments)

22

23                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Copy?

24

25                   MR. RILEY: I'm sorry, was that a  
26 comment, if there was a question I'm sorry it didn't  
27 come through.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I was asking if  
30 it remedied itself on this bacteria or is this  
31 something that has to be observed for a period of time?

32

33                   MR. RILEY: So we've known that  
34 brucella is prevalent in caribou populations in Alaska  
35 so it's not an unexpected thing but brucella is here.  
36 It's just we hadn't previously detected it in  
37 Mulchatna. The prevalence is probably very high,  
38 right, and it usually is kind of within populations but  
39 probably not enough of them are infected for us to even  
40 pick it up, or even pick it up using the type of  
41 sampling that we do.

42

43                   So, yeah, like I said it's not  
44 unexpected and the prevalence for whatever reason has  
45 gone up in the population right now and we're seeing  
46 it. Like I said a few other herds around the state  
47 have, you know, have had prevalence in the past and  
48 probably currently have it, yeah.

49

50

0064

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MR. IVAN: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

6

7 MR. IVAN: I'm not a Council member but  
8 a tribal member in Akiak. Could I ask him a real quick  
9 question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You have the floor  
12 Ivan.

13

14 MR. IVAN: Thank you. Where did you  
15 find the samples, from the Kuskokwim area, or towards  
16 Bristol Bay area, at what point is -- or whatever's  
17 happened to them, what location?

18

19 MR. RILEY: So the samples that we've  
20 taken, so the two dead animals are from Unit 18 but,  
21 you know, our sampling encompasses the entire range of  
22 the Mulchatna so it's not just isolated to one  
23 particular part of their range as far as we know. But  
24 further sampling will kind of elucidate whether it's  
25 more prevalent in the west or to the east or if it's  
26 the same kind of all around.

27

28 MR. IVAN: Yeah, when you call them --  
29 the real caribou herd never leaves the main mountains  
30 up there in those mountains, they never hardly leave  
31 that area but this herd -- Mulchatna Herd goes back and  
32 forth from Bristol Bay area, where's Mulchatna?

33

34 MR. RILEY: So, yeah, the Mulchatna  
35 mostly is in Unit 17.

36

37 MR. IVAN: Near what town, Dillingham,  
38 Togiak or other places?

39

40 MR. RILEY: So, yeah, I'm not sure  
41 exactly, you want to know.....

42

43 MR. IVAN: In what -- where they  
44 winter.....

45

46 MR. RILEY: .....what areas the  
47 Mulchatna are near?

48

49 MR. IVAN: That place they call

50



0065

1 Mulchatna, where do they -- I know they come here  
2 every falltime and there's a reason for it, but anyway  
3 where do they go back to from here, what area?  
4

5 MR. RINALDI: Hi, this is Todd Rinaldi.  
6 I'm the Regional Management Coordinator and I've had a  
7 long experience with the Mulchatna Herd and I can  
8 answer that question.  
9

10 Yeah, so the full historic range of the  
11 Mulchatna Caribou has been Unit 18, 17, portions of  
12 Unit 9 and portions of Unit 19. Traditionally the  
13 Mulchatna Caribou don't appear to cross the Kuskokwim  
14 River, that seems to be a northern boundary.  
15 Currently, with the population as it's been for about  
16 the last 10 years, it's been increasingly kind of  
17 divided into two groups. There's kind of an eastern  
18 calving group and a western group. The western group  
19 is in Unit 18 as you folks know. South -- typically  
20 south and -- yeah, south of the Bethel area and into  
21 the hills there, into the Wildlife Refuge. And then in  
22 Unit 17 the majority of the population remains in  
23 portions of 17B and 17C, and they do move through the  
24 hills in the spring into their respective calving  
25 grounds, and there is some movement between the two  
26 groups, so animals from 17 may end up in 18 and vice  
27 versa. And that's some of the specific information  
28 we're trying to get at, we're trying to understand some  
29 finer scale movements. We're looking at adult survival  
30 in both groups as it relates to not only brucellosis  
31 but predation and some other factors. And so when this  
32 population's at its lower level, which is obviously  
33 it's at a very low level, you know, a more historic low  
34 level right now, it provides an opportunity to try to  
35 understand what the herd is doing because it is doing  
36 things differently than it would if it was -- likely at  
37 80,000 or as we've seen it do different things when it  
38 was 80,000 and into -- or even greater into Lake Clark  
39 and to portions of 9 and way up into 19.  
40

41 So the herd is pretty retracted. There  
42 is flow between 17 and 18, but for the most part  
43 there's two main groups of Mulchatna Caribou. One that  
44 resides mostly in the Refuge in 18, and one that  
45 resides mostly in the 17B area of Unit 17.  
46

47 I hope that answers your question.  
48

49 MR. IVAN: I know the game units and  
50

0066

1 their boundaries, I just.....

2

3 MR. RINALDI: Yeah.

4

5 MR. IVAN: .....want to know what.....

6

7 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So.....

8

9 MR. IVAN: .....town it's.....

10

11 MR. RINALDI: .....yeah, so Unit.....

12

13 MR. IVAN: .....near so.....

14

15 MR. RINALDI: .....18 is -- goes right  
16 through the Wood-Tikchik Mountains there so the -- so  
17 Unit 18 is basically Platinum, Goodnews Bay, Napaskiak,  
18 Oscarville, Bethel and I think -- yeah, and all the way  
19 up to the Kuskokwim River, so it's kind of that area on  
20 this side of the Wood-Tikchik Mountains.

21

22 And then the other side of the Wood-  
23 Tikchiks -- east of the Wood-Tikchiks and into  
24 Koliganek and NewStu and Ekwok area and further north  
25 and closer to -- even closer to Lake Clark area and  
26 down towards Iliamna in some years.

27

28 MR. IVAN: Thank you, very much. I  
29 appreciate your response.

30

31 MR. RINALDI: Sure, you're welcome.

32

33 MR. IVAN: As a tribal council we need  
34 to take a look at the original -- okay, thank you,  
35 that's all I got.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Ivan.

38

39 MR. RILEY: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, I think that's it  
42 for the wildlife proposals -- or the Mulchatna Caribou  
43 Herd. Is there any update that we need to hear at this  
44 time other than the Mulchatna?

45

46 Eva.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
49 Council. As the Council wishes, we do have biologist

50

0067

1 Staff on hand if there's any other questions about  
2 moose or other reports this afternoon, and then again  
3 tomorrow morning we would have an opportunity for the  
4 small game, the hares and ptarmigan updates tomorrow.  
5 But this afternoon there are Staff available for other  
6 wildlife updates if the Council wishes, any questions  
7 about moose or other important subsistence resources.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.  
12 At this time it's almost noon, I'll go ahead and call a  
13 lunch break for one hour and come back at 1:00 o'clock,  
14 and then we'll continue with the -- if there's any  
15 updates on the wildlife, we'll take it up then. In the  
16 meantime we'll go ahead and have a lunch break at 12:00  
17 and come back at 1:00 o'clock.

18  
19 Quyana.

20  
21 Eva.

22  
23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray -- thank  
24 you, Mr. Chair. And we will be back on at 1:00 p.m.,  
25 everyone have a good lunch and we'll be back on at  
26 1:00, thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, see you at 1:00,  
29 thank you.

30  
31 (Off record)

32  
33 (On record)

34  
35 MS. PATTON: We're waiting on a few  
36 other Council members here.

37  
38 MR. SLATS: Richard is on. I'm back  
39 on.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Richard.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Ray Oney here.

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Ray, thank  
46 you.

47  
48 MR. MAXIE: Carl Maxie, Napaskiak.

49  
50

0068

1 MS. PATTON: Hello, Carl, thanks for  
2 calling in. It sounds like we're still waiting on  
3 Thomas and maybe some of the others who are calling in  
4 this afternoon as well.

5

6 While we have a minute here, just a  
7 reminder to everyone on teleconference to please check  
8 your phones and make sure they're on mute if you're not  
9 the one speaking. That little microphone button on  
10 your cell phone or star six. And I know sometimes it's  
11 hard to remember to mute again after speaking but that  
12 really helps to cut down on the background noise so we  
13 can hear everyone clearly.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MS. PATTON: Just checking in to see if  
18 Thomas has joined us, Thomas Alstrom.

19

20 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, I'm here Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,  
23 Thomas. So it sounds like we have our current voting  
24 members online. Our other Council members were  
25 planning to participate as well this afternoon.

26

27 Is James Landlord online.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. PATTON: And Phillip expected to be  
32 out today. So I think others will join us this  
33 afternoon. And, Mr. Chair, we do have Council quorum  
34 at this time if you wish to proceed.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.  
37 I'll go ahead and call the meeting back to order, the  
38 time is 1:04 p.m. We did have housekeeping by Eva. So  
39 we left off on wildlife proposals when we went to lunch  
40 so.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -  
43 participants not muted)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, are we still on

50

0069

1 the proposals?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Oh, I'm sorry, thank you,  
4 Mr. Chair. I had myself on mute. I was just actually  
5 just trying to remind everyone else to please mute your  
6 phones. We've got some sweet little kid voices in the  
7 background but it does make it hard to hear Council  
8 members, so please mute your phones.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 And, yes, Mr. Chair. The Council was  
13 still considering wildlife proposals and any further  
14 wildlife updates so thanks to everyone who called in  
15 this morning and reports and a lot of great discussion  
16 from community and Council members.

17

18 Again, we do have wildlife Staff online  
19 if there's any further request for information updates  
20 for moose or anything else like that, and then tomorrow  
21 morning we can resume with ptarmigan and hare and small  
22 game update. And if the Council wishes at that time to  
23 follow back up with -- if the Council wants to make a  
24 formal motion to submit proposals that Alissa had  
25 brought up today. One of them was addressing ptarmigan  
26 and it might be helpful to hear that report tomorrow  
27 morning.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I was just going  
30 to mention that, too, Eva. Since Alissa mentioned  
31 about ptarmigan regulations, to update, so we probably  
32 could take that up first thing in the morning.

33

34 MS. PATTON: That sounds good, thank  
35 you, Mr. Chair. And there will be also another  
36 opportunity tomorrow morning for public and tribal  
37 comment and so if there's public participating that  
38 have more traditional knowledge or potential questions  
39 on proposals that you'd like to discuss that'll be an  
40 opportunity tomorrow morning as well. And then we will  
41 be receiving reports from Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
42 Refuge and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and there  
43 may be information updates there that also triggers  
44 discussion for the Council on any proposals. So we've  
45 got time, until the end of the meeting, for coming back  
46 around to any proposals or requests. But certainly  
47 tomorrow morning we can take up discussion on  
48 ptarmigan.

49

50

0070

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Moving  
4 on, I believe on the agenda under new business we have  
5 review and approve FY2020 annual report.

6

7 Eva.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
10 and Council. This is supplemental for the Council's  
11 review, working on details for this report with the  
12 Council since your last meeting.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -  
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MS. PATTON: Maybe the best way to  
18 proceed would be I can read each of the topics that  
19 were identified by the Council and then go through them  
20 one by one. What would be helpful is to get just a few  
21 more -- a little more input on some details, as much  
22 detail as the Council can provide to the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board on specific requests really helps to  
24 get a solid response that the Council is looking for.

25

26 So if the Council wishes I can go ahead  
27 and read those topics that were identified by the  
28 Council and then we can go through them one by one for  
29 a little bit more discussion and feedback.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Eva.

32

33 MS. PATTON: So the Council identified  
34 the following topics and I'll read through the list and  
35 then we'll go back to do them one at a time. The  
36 Council identified the following topics to include in  
37 their 2020 annual report to the Federal Subsistence  
38 Board.

39

40 No. 1. The need to protect the  
41 resources for people that live in the villages and  
42 depend on them for survival.

43

44 No. 2. Declare when food security or  
45 other emergencies that are going on and put them -- put  
46 that up at the forefront.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted - driving - music)

50

0071

1 MS. PATTON: And No. 3, includes  
2 traditional ecological knowledge along with science  
3 studies.

4  
5 And No. 4. Climate change effects on  
6 subsistence resources, subsistence activities and safe  
7 travel and possible mitigation measures.

8  
9 The effects of the pandemic on food  
10 security was another topic.

11  
12 And address again by the Council the  
13 hardship on the Council and communities to participate  
14 by teleconference only with poor reception and repeated  
15 dropped calls and difficulty to engage that way,  
16 remotely.

17  
18 Another topic was to explore the  
19 possibility of conducting meetings on Zoom, and options  
20 for providing computer resources for the Councils to do  
21 that.

22  
23 And lastly the Council was interested  
24 in reaffirming the importance of continuing monitoring  
25 of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and other inventory and  
26 monitoring studies for important subsistence wildlife  
27 resources.

28  
29 So those are all the topics and if we  
30 could I'll just walk through one by one if the Council  
31 has any discussion or details that we can add that  
32 would be helpful to provide the Board to meet the  
33 Council's request.

34  
35 (Teleconference interference -  
36 participants not muted - driving - music)

37  
38 MS. PATTON: So No. 1 was the need to  
39 protect resources for people that live in the villages  
40 who depend on them for survival.

41  
42 Any further feedback from the Council  
43 on that.

44  
45 REPORTER: Okay, before we go into  
46 that. I think somebody's maybe driving with their  
47 phone unmuted. There's a lot of background noise that  
48 was kind of cutting Eva out. So if we could all take a  
49 second, look at our phone and make sure that we're  
50

0072

1 muted if we are not talking. I would really appreciate  
2 that.

3  
4 So, Ray, go ahead.

5  
6 (Teleconference interference -  
7 participants not muted - driving - music)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And, again, please,  
10 please mute if you're not speaking, star six to mute,  
11 star six to unmute.

12  
13 So at this time we'll be considering  
14 the annual report -- the 2020 annual report to the  
15 Federal Subsistence Board, the one that Eva mentioned,  
16 need to protect the resources for the people that live  
17 in the village who depend on them for their survival.

18  
19 I'll go ahead and comment regarding  
20 that.

21  
22 Like I mentioned earlier in my Council  
23 report we've been getting a lot of backlog of freight  
24 that are coming to the villages, sometimes they are  
25 delayed for maybe at least two or three weeks and  
26 there's times when the local stores -- we have two  
27 local stores that supply our community so a lot of  
28 times, you know, they're empty, you know, before the  
29 next month comes around. And there's a delay in the  
30 freight that are coming to villages and are being back  
31 logged, not only here but I'm sure other villages are  
32 experiencing the same problem with freight coming into  
33 the village. Sometimes they come in damaged because of  
34 the weather, mainly produce, and we need to make sure  
35 that, you know, people are fed, or their food  
36 securities are met whether by resources that we have in  
37 our area or to be able to look at some ways of at least  
38 addressing the back log of the freight that are coming  
39 to the village.

40  
41 Those are some of my comments that I'd  
42 like to bring up right out front.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Thank you for that Ray.

46  
47 And we're going to need to make just  
48 one more update here, there was a bit of static and  
49 background noise while you were speaking, so just a  
50



0073

1 reminder again to please mute your phones. Especially  
2 for the cell phones, sometimes it creates a lot of  
3 static in the background so that's what we're hearing  
4 right now, if everyone can please take a minute and  
5 just ensure your phone is muted, star six.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 Thank you, Ray. Excellent details  
10 there to help relay that critical issue to the Board so  
11 thank you.

12  
13 Any other comments on that particular  
14 topic from the Council or should I move on to the next  
15 one.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MS. PATTON: And the next one is  
20 related too. So the declare -- when food security and  
21 other emergencies that are going on and put them at the  
22 forefront and I think the Council's focus on that was  
23 really looking at the options for, you know, a formal  
24 declaration of emergency. For example, last year on  
25 the Yukon with the failure of the salmon run, and the  
26 delayed salmon runs last year.

27  
28 Any details the Council would like to  
29 add to that topic, food security and declaring  
30 emergencies.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I'll go ahead and  
33 comment on that. Can you hear me?

34  
35 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, Ray, thank  
36 you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you.  
39 Declare when food security or other emergencies that  
40 are going on and put them on the forefront. As you  
41 know, you know, last summer was probably the worst  
42 season we've experienced as far as meeting our needs  
43 for our chinook salmon, or salmon species here on the  
44 Yukon. It was really hard knowing that there's some  
45 fish in the river and not be able to at least get some  
46 fish, even to put on the table for food. And I think  
47 we do need to address that, which includes everyone  
48 that's involved in the cycle of the salmon. I think  
49 the cycle of the salmon needs to be looked at on all  
50

0074

1 views to address that. Because it's just not the  
2 people in river that may be contributing to some  
3 decline but the majority of them we know are what we've  
4 seen, which is the high seas bycatch -- high seas  
5 fishing. We know for sure that contributes to the  
6 decline, not only for Yukon but Western Alaska. That  
7 is our food security that is dwindling, dwindling as we  
8 speak. And like I mentioned, last summer was the worst  
9 season that we've experienced that really affected our  
10 people that commercial for it in order to continue to  
11 subsistence were hard hit because of that. We need to  
12 address that on all levels, everyone needs to be on the  
13 table to be able to address this issue, just not the  
14 people in river, it's got to be the whole cycle,  
15 whether it be out in the Bering Sea or up in the head  
16 waters, we need everybody at the table if we're going  
17 to find some ways to at least try and rebuild the  
18 chinook stock for the Yukon. I think that needs to be  
19 addressed. And we've been addressing it for a long  
20 time, I think, since the maybe late '80s, early '90s,  
21 and to-date we're still dealing with bycatch. And  
22 during the YRDFA Conference, I was able to participate  
23 and despite all the measures that the North Pacific  
24 Fisheries Management Council are doing, we're still  
25 seeing a large amount of bycatch that are being  
26 harvested.

27  
28 So I think that needs to be on the  
29 forefront of our food emergency as far as food  
30 security.

31  
32 Does someone else want to comment.

33  
34 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

37  
38 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.  
39 I fully agree with you. It's not just on the Yukon.  
40 Last summer all our salmon were short in numbers and  
41 they were running late and the ones we caught it was  
42 highly noticeable, a lot of them were small and some of  
43 them had puss -- white pussies coming out of them and  
44 they're infected, it was stuck to their stomach walls.  
45 For years -- years back before it got bad there, we  
46 always pointed our finger out to the high sea trawl  
47 fisheries and False Pass interception, those are some  
48 of the factors we really need to look into. North  
49 Pacific Management Council has jurisdiction in this  
50

0075

1 area but they still allow those big trawl fisheries out  
2 there and the tributariel rivers where they come in to  
3 spawn, they're the burden of conservation, and it  
4 always hurt us really bad.

5  
6 Quayana.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, John. Thank  
9 you, Ray.

10  
11 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, one more  
12 thing I forgot. A lot of -- some of our runs are  
13 running late too. Every year. And during their normal  
14 run timing they don't show but sometime after the State  
15 -- or normal average of fishing time is over we see  
16 them start to come in. Like we -- this fall we had  
17 really late -- really late freeze-up is -- and I  
18 forgot, a few years ago or so, we had our freeze-up  
19 here in November and we were seeing those late silvers  
20 coming in in August then we were still catching them as  
21 incidental catches in our pike and whitefish nets in  
22 November.

23  
24 Quayana.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.  
27 Anyone else want to comment.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'll leave this open to  
32 Alissa or James or Carl Maxie, if they want to comment,  
33 regarding the 2020 annual report to the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board.

35  
36 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, James.

39  
40 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, James.

43  
44 MR. LANDLORD: Last summer there was no  
45 commercial fishing on the Yukon River. I think  
46 commercial fish for only about six hours and it just  
47 stopped. I was just wondering if there was any  
48 difference in the fish counts at Pilot or further up  
49 the river. Despite that it seems like we had a -- we  
50

0076

1 were hearing that a lot of people were not catching  
2 chums for subsistence and there was no commercial  
3 fishing. And I think Thomas mentioned because of the  
4 warming of the river, the Yukon River, a lot of the  
5 fish were swimming at the bottom on the Yukon. So I  
6 was just wondering if there was any difference, fish  
7 counts, summer chum or fall chum. They should have  
8 caught more, you know, in the commercial fishing, but  
9 the people complaining they didn't catch any fish for  
10 subsistence.

11

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, James.  
14 I'm sure Jeff or Deena will give their report when it's  
15 time for them to give agency reports.

16

17 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. Quyana.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, James. Any  
20 comments from Alissa or Carl Maxie, or Thomas or  
21 Richard.

22

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I'm  
27 hoping as we move along we'll be able to pick up some  
28 thoughts as we move along to at least to include that  
29 in our annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
30 Okay, we'll take up the next item if there's no other  
31 comments.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 And, thank you, James for your observations and input  
35 there. So that will definitely be included in the  
36 annual report. And we will have both Yukon and  
37 Kuskokwim fisheries updates under agency reports. So I  
38 think you might be able to get some answers to your  
39 questions there when that comes up.

39

40 The next topic was -- includes  
41 traditional ecological knowledge, along with science  
42 studies.

43

44 (Teleconference interference -  
45 participants not muted)

46

47 MS. PATTON: And we did hear from  
48 Richard Slats this morning on just how important that  
49 was and that acknowledgement. So any further thoughts  
50

0077

1 from any Council members.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Anyone want to  
6 comment on traditional ecological knowledge along with  
7 science studies.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'll go ahead and give  
12 it a shot. I know that traditional ecological  
13 knowledge has been used by our elders and our ancestors  
14 in the past, you know, going from season to season.  
15 You know they would look at the weather, study the  
16 weather, study their surroundings in order to know what  
17 the summer is going to bring. I know from my  
18 knowledge, from people that I've been hearing and  
19 listening too, I know when there's a lot of snow, I  
20 know they said we do get a lot of fish because of the  
21 cold waters that are going down the stream. And also  
22 the grass, when you look at the grass you could tell if  
23 it's going to be a cold winter by observing the length  
24 of the grass. I know we've been wanting to include  
25 traditional knowledge into science studies for a long  
26 time and this would be an opportunity to at least  
27 identify some of those knowledges that can be used in  
28 today's science.

29

30 So if anyone wants to comment relating  
31 to that.

32

33 MR. LUPIE: Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. LUPIE: My name is Adolf Lupie  
38 calling from Tuntutuliak, are you going to recognize  
39 me?

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I will recognize you as  
42 long as you talk about the traditional ecological  
43 knowledge along with science studies.

44

45 MR. LUPIE: Okay. I'm familiar with  
46 that and the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission  
47 using the -- we get those information from our  
48 villages, the traditional, how the fish are coming  
49 there in the fishing season. We, here in Tuntutuliak,

50

0078

1 the most knowledgeable things that we use is the  
2 mosquitos that are coming in, and then there are other  
3 signs, like snow out there that are coming in.  
4

5 So in other villages too, from mouth of  
6 river to up river to Aniak and above, they have -- they  
7 use their traditional things, from (In Native),  
8 Quinhagak and middle river. And then scientifically we  
9 participate with the fish survey at the end of the  
10 season, we give a report to Kuskokwim River InterTribal  
11 Commission and ONC when they gather a survey. And then  
12 in-season, when we -- after -- this is from Tuntutuliak  
13 when we go fishing when there's an opening, and we come  
14 back, there's a fish surveyor, they ask us how much we  
15 catch on the kings, reds and chums and they measure  
16 their scales. So we use both traditional and  
17 scientific, and we tell the Fish and Wildlife biologist  
18 about this and we compare State's biologist, Federal  
19 biologist, and Kuskokwim fish biologist.  
20

21 Thanks for listening to me.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank  
24 you.  
25

26 MR. LUPIE: Bye.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Appreciate it. Thank  
29 you, very much. Is there anyone else who wants to  
30 comment.  
31

32 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.  
35

36 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 This is Alissa Rogers for the record. I was hoping  
38 that we could have traditional eco -- sorry, I'm tongue  
39 tied -- TEK be incorporated somehow as a scientific  
40 research enough to where it can be acknowledged and  
41 that was one of the movements that was pushed so that  
42 we can also use it as a management tool, or a  
43 consideration when doing a management tool.....  
44

45 (Teleconference interference -  
46 participants not muted - coughing)  
47

48 MS. ROGERS: .....that we have  
49 thousands and thousands of knowledge of what happened  
50

0079

1 in our region and we've passed it down through verbal  
2 communication and stories as we have evolved into this  
3 new technology -- as we're evolving in this new  
4 technology world that we're living in. It might be  
5 high time that we begin to document our knowledgeable  
6 experiences and using the scientific relationships  
7 between what's going on in the land and what we're  
8 using as predictions or how we're understanding the  
9 differences between the year to year, is that we start  
10 having these recorded in a way that we can use it  
11 scientifically and see if we can turn it into some type  
12 of an educational curriculum to teach -- or have it as  
13 another tool resource for management in order to  
14 understand how our systems, biological systems, and  
15 ecological systems work out here in our region.

16  
17 One of the biggest goals that I had  
18 seen for envisioning this happening is that we would be  
19 able to use our knowledges, our traditional knowledge  
20 that has been passed down as actual scientific data  
21 when it comes to talking about our lands and resources  
22 in every species that we have out here to even the way  
23 our land has shaped over the years. So that was one of  
24 the biggest things.

25  
26 And a push for U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service to find some grant funding in order to be able  
28 to establish this through our .801 ANILCA.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

33 Okay, anyone else want to comment.

34  
35 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

38  
39 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard Slats  
40 for the record. I agree with Alissa, you know, that  
41 these things that are coming up, there is -- like  
42 everything's moving forward and a lot of times they  
43 leave out local and traditional knowledge. And then  
44 recently there was a news brief or a news that, you  
45 know, there's all these researchers that are coming up  
46 and studying climate change and weather patterns and  
47 the effects that are going on because of climate change  
48 and now that this thing is upon us, you know, like  
49 there's going to be more hardship on us, but whenever  
50

0080

1 we impose to study like with some of the studying, if  
2 they're scientific studies or anything like that,  
3 anything that is doing that we base our decisions on,  
4 they need to include local and traditional knowledge  
5 from the get-go, you know, and not just asking for them  
6 after everything's been said and done. Everything's  
7 been said and done and then looking back and asking for  
8 traditional and local knowledge, because well most of  
9 the time they include local and traditional knowledge  
10 after everything's been studies and done. So -- and  
11 then they come up and tell the local and traditional  
12 knowledge holders that this is -- these are the way  
13 things are. And really they should have included the  
14 local and traditional knowledge carriers, or the  
15 holders, from the get-go.

16  
17 So that's one thing that I wanted to  
18 say.

19  
20 Usually they are left -- the local  
21 knowledge and the people are left out until things have  
22 been said and done. That's what I wanted to mention,  
23 Mr. Chair.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
28 Richard. Anyone else want to comment.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Eva, I think  
33 that's a process that's going to take awhile to look at  
34 and at least gather some information relating to how we  
35 could incorporate that into the studies that we're  
36 doing with our resources. I don't know what steps are  
37 needed for us to follow through with some of the  
38 comments and recommendations that we heard earlier, to  
39 at least get us started in addressing this.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
42 thank you for all the discussion, Council members. So  
43 I will be incorporating everything the Council has  
44 brought forward, all these details, into your annual  
45 report which goes to the Federal Subsistence Board, and  
46 that report also can be directed to the Federal land  
47 managers for those recommendations as well.

48  
49 There are.....  
50



0081

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted - phones ringing)

3  
4 MS. PATTON: .....Title VIII of ANILCA  
5 provides for local and traditional knowledge and social  
6 and cultural knowledge to be considered in the  
7 management of fish and wildlife. And so reiterating  
8 that under Title VIII of ANILCA and the current  
9 management systems as well, have a place for that, and  
10 so trying to help encourage and inform in that process,  
11 the FRMP, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program grants,  
12 specifically have a traditional knowledge grant track  
13 to focus on that specifically, and is encouraged to be  
14 incorporated as you've noted, at the outset in the  
15 scientific research as well, working with communities.

16  
17 So those are some of the avenues and we  
18 can try to target the Council's annual report to kind  
19 of really reach those audiences in terms of management.

20  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council for  
22 all the feedback and comments here and I will get the  
23 final annual report back to all of your review as well  
24 to ensure that we've captured what you're looking for  
25 here.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. I  
30 forgot to mention, too, that cultural and traditional  
31 values should be part of this, too, because we have  
32 cultural (indiscernible) that involves our food because  
33 our potlatches.....

34  
35 (Teleconference interference -  
36 participants not muted - phones ringing)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: .....are an annual  
39 tradition that we do every year and in order to, you  
40 know, follow through with that culture, you know, we  
41 have to prepare at least ahead of time and it includes  
42 fish, wildlife or anything that can be made and so it  
43 does affect our culture and traditional values, also.

44  
45 Okay, moving on.

46  
47 If there isn't any other comments we'll  
48 go into the next point, Eva.

49  
50

0082

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
2 Council. Excellent discussion. And the next one is  
3 continuing monitoring of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and  
4 their inventory and monitoring studies for important  
5 subsistence resources. And we did have some great  
6 discussion this morning with the Council and public and  
7 any further details you would like to add for that  
8 topic.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any comments from the  
13 Council regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and other  
14 inventory and monitoring studies.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I think we had a  
19 good discussion on this, not only from the Council but  
20 also from village members that addressed the Mulchatna  
21 Caribou Herd, and if there's anything in there that  
22 stands out we'd like to include that also in the annual  
23 report.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 Absolutely. So there was a lot of great discussion  
27 this morning that we can incorporate those details.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

34  
35 MR. ANDREW: One thing I forgot this  
36 morning was on the -- when I mentioned the predators,  
37 bald eagles are one of them. When we used to go spring  
38 camp way up in the hills and my dad and his friends up  
39 there, when they used to be reindeer herders up in  
40 there in the early years, when they drop their calves,  
41 gave birth to their calves, they lose some of them to  
42 bald eagles if they're not too close to their calves,  
43 they'll scoop them and they'll take off with them. And  
44 he said it happens on and off when they're calving, or  
45 if the calf separates from their mothers, from the cow,  
46 then they're pretty vulnerable too.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50

0083

1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John. If  
2 there is no other comments relating to the Mulchatna  
3 Caribou Herd we'll move on to the next bullet.

4  
5                   Eva.

6  
7                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
8 Council. The next topic is climate change effects on  
9 subsistence resources, subsistence activities and safe  
10 travel and possible mitigation measures. And the  
11 Council did have an extensive report on impacts and  
12 challenges of climate change in your previous annual  
13 report covering details, climate change, impacts to  
14 subsistence fish and wildlife and habitat, detailed  
15 observations and issues of concern related to climate  
16 change impacts to subsistence activities, travel and  
17 access to resources. And also concerns and a request  
18 for continued research and information to address  
19 climate change and possible mitigation measures in the  
20 YK Delta region. And the Board reply, perhaps didn't  
21 address the mitigation measures as directly as the  
22 Council had hoped, and what might be helpful, sometimes  
23 if the Council has ideas or potential solutions, to  
24 recommend those to the Board.....

25  
26                   (Teleconference interference -  
27 participants not muted - coughing)

28  
29                   MS. PATTON: .....to be specific and  
30 guide them and what some possible measures might be.

31  
32                   We did hear this morning discussion  
33 about with warmer waters that salmon are swimming  
34 deeper in the river and, you know, one possible measure  
35 that may be helpful for subsistence fishers is to  
36 increase the depth of the fish nets. So that's an  
37 excellent suggestion. Any ideas that the Council has  
38 that might be able to help guide and direct the Board  
39 on mitigation measures and to explore where those  
40 flexibilities are in the Federal Subsistence Management  
41 to help mitigate these impacts.

42  
43                   So any thoughts and ideas there would  
44 be very helpful.

45  
46                   Thank you.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

49  
50

0084

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted - coughing)

3

4

5

6

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8

9

10 Thank you so much.

11

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REPORTER: So if we could please take a look at our phones, make sure they're muted, we're getting people coughing in the background while people are trying to give their report. I'd really appreciate it, it kind of overrides the speakers.

MR. LUPIE: Mr. Chairman, Adolf Lupie from Tuntutuliak.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

MR. LUPIE: On the fish -- Eva, on the fish that are swimming deeper, there are more effects because of our traditional beliefs also. During the calm day and the high tide fish really swim on the deeper -- deeper down. And I'd like to mention that to Eva and RAC, the fish, they'll be abundant but -- enough for our parents or relatives or someone dies close to us we have to (indiscernible) 40 days and have a period they have to go certain number of days. When those people go down -- but the fish, they go down deeper, and all the people in Yukon and Kuskokwim know about this. So when things happening like that we start looking -- people are getting suspicious who is not supposed to be going and then they will sneak around and they will find out that somebody is going that way. I think in Federal and State it's really impolite to tell them do not go fishing, but in our traditional we will tell them, don't go fishing, you're hurting the other people because you're letting the fish go down river.

And on the pike, when they go fishing, there'll be lots of pikes and the fish will go down river and if we start catching them, their belly side will be red, so the same thing with the fish on the river.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Adolf.

0085

1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have anyone else  
2 that wants to comment on climate change effects on  
3 subsistence resources, subsistence activities and safe  
4 travel and possible mitigation measures.

5  
6                   (No comments)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we'll go  
9 ahead and move to the next item, Eva.

10  
11                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
12 Council. And I should add the Council had made  
13 suggestions in earlier annual reports as well that  
14 flexibility to open or close seasons when the weather  
15 is good and there are some mechanisms in place like  
16 that under delegation of authority to the Federal in-  
17 season manager who, you know, if the snow conditions  
18 are good, you know, might be an opportunity for  
19 allowing a winter hunt or that sort of thing.

20  
21                   So we'll bring up those issues again  
22 for this report for the Council and one of the  
23 proposals that Alissa was suggesting as well, more  
24 flexibility for emergency hunts for food security or,  
25 you know, being able to get out when the window is  
26 good, or if a population seems to be doing better. So  
27 we'll try to incorporate all that discussion from the  
28 Council as well to kind of hone in on what some  
29 potential solutions might be for mitigation measures.

30  
31                   So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Moving  
34 on to the next point.

35  
36                   MS. PATTON: And the next topic on the  
37 agenda is the effects of the pandemic on food security,  
38 which is similar to the first two topics as well, but  
39 if there's anything further on the effects of the  
40 pandemic on food security from the Council.

41  
42                   MS. PELTOLA: Mr. Chairman.

43  
44                   (No comments)

45  
46                   MS. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

49  
50

0086

1 MS. PELTOLA: This is Mary Peltola from  
2 the InterTribal Fish Commission and I am very lost on  
3 your agenda. I'm just trying to keep tabs so I'm on  
4 deck when the Fish Commission is up. And, Eva, could  
5 you explain the different things that you're talking  
6 about on the agenda. I don't see those on this agenda.  
7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mary. Yes, so  
9 right now we are on review and approve the annual  
10 report for the Council and that was supplemental  
11 materials. The Council had identified each of these  
12 issues that we're talking about now at their previous  
13 meeting to include in their annual report to the Board.  
14 So right now we're taking the time to discuss and add a  
15 little bit more detail to those topics that the Council  
16 had identified that they wanted to include in their  
17 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
18

19 MS. PELTOLA: Great, thank you.  
20

21 MS. PATTON: So we're under.....  
22

23 MS. PELTOLA: I understand now, thank  
24 you.  
25

26 MS. PATTON: Sure, you bet. So that  
27 was under new business, review and approve annual  
28 report and then we'll be up to FRMP discussion after  
29 that.  
30

31 Thank you, Mary.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, moving on. I  
34 believe we're down to the next bullet point, Eva.  
35

36 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair. Then the next point is hardship on the Council  
38 and communities to participate by teleconference only,  
39 which is, in part, due to the current pandemic  
40 circumstances, so dealing with poor reception and  
41 repeated dropped calls and, you know, what we  
42 experience now, with background noise. And the  
43 connected topic to that is the Council wants to explore  
44 the possibility of conducting meetings on Zoom and  
45 would need support for computer resources to do that  
46 for Council members. So those are the last two topics  
47 on the annual report.  
48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

0087

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.  
2 Is there anyone who wants to comment.

3  
4 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

7  
8 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Alissa Rogers for the record. I wanted to also include  
10 that if there's a way that we can look into the  
11 possibilities of having face to face meetings using the  
12 current recommendations for Covid, that way we can have  
13 a face to face meeting, using Covid standards, and,  
14 possibly instead of only having a section of the  
15 Cultural Center, probably a full area of the Cultural  
16 Center and/or another location, which may be less of a  
17 burden on costs so that we can provide an opportunity  
18 to meet for those who don't have the capability to have  
19 unlimited wifi or who has computer issues, or reducing  
20 the technical difficulties of having our annual  
21 meetings over teleconference or Zoom.

22  
23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted - VHF static)

25  
26 MS. ROGERS: I know, the past previous  
27 years, that we have done these meetings on  
28 teleconference is because no one was able to hear each  
29 other and the other issue was that it was hard for  
30 people to get into Zoom meetings because there was too  
31 much -- there's just too much stuff going on for them  
32 to learn how to get into Zoom, for those people who are  
33 not very familiar with it, even trying to call in on  
34 the teleconference seems to be a little cumbersome  
35 for.....

36  
37 (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted - radio)

39  
40  
41 REPORTER: Okay, hang on. So I'm  
42 sorry, Alissa, to interrupt. If everybody could please  
43 take a second, look at your phone, please mute  
44 yourself. I'm having a hard time being able to hear  
45 the speaker for the record, so whoever maybe has their  
46 TV on or radio, could you check your phone?

47  
48 Sorry, Alissa.

49  
50

0088

1 MS. ROGERS: No, that's okay, I  
2 understand. So if there is a possibility that we can  
3 look into having those meetings that'd be greatly  
4 appreciated. And if we have to do one during the  
5 summertime maybe we could have one at some point in  
6 time somewhere where we could meet, that'd be greatly  
7 appreciated. Because I know that we were having  
8 difficulties with Bob online not being able to hear and  
9 be able to participate in this meeting, which is really  
10 beneficial to have him here and I'm pretty sad to see  
11 him go, but I completely understand and am comfortable  
12 with his choices on what he wants to do from this point  
13 forward.

14  
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
18 Alissa.

19  
20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, moving on, on the  
24 next -- or did we go through them already, Eva.

25  
26 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
27 Chair and thank you, Alissa, for feedback. And that  
28 was it for the annual report topics for the report to  
29 the Board.

30  
31 Maybe if we could, just a little -- if  
32 the Council would like to make a motion to approve your  
33 annual report with the additional details that we've  
34 discussed here, then I will incorporate all of that and  
35 get that back to you for your review. But a motion on  
36 the record to submit those topics and the discussion  
37 here to the Federal Subsistence Board would be helpful.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: And maybe I'll just jump  
44 in to ask folks online, to please mute your phones,  
45 we've got someone with background noise that's talking  
46 right now and also it sounds like TV on in the  
47 background. So everyone take a moment, check your  
48 phones, star six.

49  
50



0089

1 MR. MAXIE: Mr. Chair, this is Carl,  
2 Napaskiak.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Carl. Go ahead, Carl.

5  
6 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I was kind of  
7 wondering if we covered education and outreach for like  
8 next summer's science, plus development for school  
9 kids.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

12  
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Carl. Were you  
14 recommending to add education and outreach to the  
15 annual report?

16  
17 MR. MAXIE: Yes, ma'am.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great. Yes, we can  
20 add that as well if the Council approves, to include  
21 that with your annual report as well.

22  
23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25  
26 REPORTER: So excuse me, whoever is  
27 online right now that's maybe trying to make an  
28 appointment with someone else, your phone's not muted  
29 and we're hearing your conversation. If you could  
30 please mute your phone so we can hear the speakers that  
31 are speaking currently. So if you're making an  
32 appointment, we can hear your conversation.

33  
34 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

37  
38 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.  
39 I'd like to make a motion to approve the fiscal year  
40 2020 annual report with the additions.

41  
42 Quyana.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, John.  
45 There's a motion on the floor by John Andrew to approve  
46 the 2020 annual report and the discussion that we  
47 mentioned earlier. Do I hear a second.

48  
49 MR. SLATS: Second.

50

0090

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do I heard a second.

2

3 REPORTER: Richard seconded, Ray.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Was that you Richard,  
6 seconded the motion.

7

8 MR. SLATS: Slats. I'm seconding  
9 John's motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. I thought I  
12 recognized you. Second by Richard Slats. All those  
13 in favor say aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
22 carries. Okay, moving on, Eva, to the next agenda  
23 item.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
26 Council. And I do want to -- I do want to circle back  
27 around to the discussion we had on the Council's  
28 charter this morning. One of the topics that was in  
29 your annual report last year was to address A, the  
30 concerns about the vacant seats and lack of  
31 appointments but specifically to address.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -  
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MS. PATTON: .....a balanced membership  
37 on the Council. And so while we discussed that during  
38 the charter review and approval, the Council didn't  
39 specifically ask for adding that as an amendment to the  
40 charter. So I just want to touch base back with that  
41 and make sure we've got that covered. So the Council  
42 had requested to add to the charter balanced membership  
43 within the Yukon Kuskokwim region to ensure that that  
44 geographic consideration was a part of making  
45 appointments so that we had representation from the  
46 Yukon River, the Kuskokwim River, Kanektok River,  
47 Goodnews Rivers in the Delta region. If the Council  
48 would like to add that to your charter that would  
49 provide specific guidance to the Secretary of the  
50

0091

1 Interior when making final appointments to consider  
2 that balanced representation when you've got many many  
3 highly qualified applicants, to try to balance, to make  
4 sure that there's representation from throughout the YK  
5 Delta region. So if that is something you would like  
6 to include in your charter we could make a motion to  
7 add that amendment as well.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Since  
12 we already voted to include that, we'd like to have  
13 another motion to include into the Council charter  
14 review, what was mentioned about people that -- so we  
15 have consistency in the work of the YKRAC, if someone  
16 wants to move to include that in our annual report to  
17 include the Council charter that we mentioned earlier.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, just one quick  
20 correction. So that was actually a request that the  
21 Council had in your annual report to the Board last  
22 year, but this would be the opportunity to make that  
23 amendment to add that specific request for geographic  
24 balance in representation. So it would actually be an  
25 amendment to add to the Council's charter.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted)

33

34 MS. PATTON: If the Council wishes at  
35 this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 MS. PELTOLA: Mr. Chairman, I think  
38 there's somebody in an office with maybe pencil  
39 sharpeners and the guy with Medicaid making an  
40 appointment, it really sounds like a tribal office. If  
41 somebody could please mute their phone.

42

43 REPORTER: Thank you, Mary. I  
44 appreciate that. This is Tina.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Eva mentioned if  
47 someone wants to make an amendment to the motion to  
48 include the -- can you restate it again, Eva.

49

50

0092

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Again, the Council had made this request in your annual  
3 report but if you are interested to make an amendment  
4 to your charter, to include balanced representation  
5 from throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region on the  
6 Council, and that would include representatives from  
7 the Yukon River, Kuskokwim Rivers, Kanektok, Goodnews  
8 and Delta, so a balanced representation.....

9  
10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12  
13 MS. PATTON: .....from throughout the  
14 YK Delta region to be considered for balanced  
15 membership on the Council.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. I'll  
20 go ahead and make that motion to make an amendment to  
21 our Council charter, balanced representation from both  
22 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

23  
24 Do I hear a second.

25  
26 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Second by Thomas  
29 Alstrom.

30  
31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted - VHF radio)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Somebody's phone is  
35 still on, it sounded like a VHF, can you mute your  
36 phone, please, appreciate it. We're hearing VHF radio  
37 on, if you could mute your phone, we're trying to  
38 conduct business here. Thank you.

39  
40 It was seconded by Thomas. All those  
41 in favor say aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

46  
47 (No opposing votes)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion

50

0093

1 carries. Someone's phone is -- someone's line is still  
2 open so we're still hearing VHF radio, if it's your VHF  
3 radio, please mute your phone, star six.

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted - VHF radio)

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Tina, this is Eva. Would  
9 there be a way to -- for the operator to identify that  
10 particular line, do you think.

11  
12 REPORTER: So I could try that. But  
13 we'd need to stand down for a couple of minutes to see  
14 if the operator answers, and -- or I can say, very  
15 loudly -- if everyone, please, could mute their phone,  
16 check to see if your phone's muted, we're having a lot  
17 of background noise and the Council is trying to  
18 conduct business and it's overriding the speakers. So  
19 please take a second, check and see if your line is  
20 muted. There is a VHF radio coming through the  
21 background, we'd really appreciate it.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 MS. PELTOLA: And you can press star  
26 six to mute and star seven [sic] to unmute if you don't  
27 have a mute button.

28  
29 REPORTER: Right. Actually it's star  
30 six to mute, and it's star six to unmute again. And  
31 unless you're directly the speaker you should be muted.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, sounds better.  
34 Thank you, Tina. Okay, Eva, moving on.

35  
36 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair  
37 and Council. Next on the agenda we have updates on the  
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan and we have Pippa  
39 Kenner and also Cory Graham on for that. And also  
40 wanted to note after we have the FRMP update, the  
41 Council had expressed an interest in hearing from folks  
42 that plan to submit proposals for the Fisheries  
43 Resource Monitoring Program and so we had -- we reached  
44 out to let folks know that this would be an opportunity  
45 if people weren't already going to address that under  
46 agency reports. The Council did discuss an interest to  
47 have this conversation with potential researchers and  
48 have been very actively engaged in identifying the FRMP  
49 research priorities. So just to let folks know, the  
50

0094

1 discussion that I had with the Council prior to the  
2 meeting, though, Council members expressed concern with  
3 so few Council members being voting members, not  
4 feeling comfortable in making any formal  
5 recommendations or requested letters of support or that  
6 sort of thing, but interested in hearing from folks and  
7 discussing research proposals. So there'll be an  
8 opportunity for that, briefly, after the FRMP report  
9 and update.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Pippa,  
14 I believe you're on the floor.

15

16 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
17 Council. My name is Cory Graham and I'll be providing  
18 the FRMP update. I am a Fisheries Biologist with the  
19 Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm here today  
20 to update the Council on the Fisheries Resource  
21 Monitoring Program and the funding opportunity that  
22 closes on March 15th. This is not an action item.

23

24 So we are seeking applications for  
25 projects that address priority information needs you  
26 developed at your last Council meeting and that gather  
27 information to manage and conserve subsistence  
28 fisheries in Federal public waters in Alaska. The  
29 Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting  
30 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by  
31 Alaska Native and rural organizations and promoting  
32 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and  
33 local organizations. For the 2022 funding cycle, it is  
34 anticipating there will be \$2.2 million available for  
35 the first year of new projects. Anyone wanting to  
36 apply can find information about the program on the  
37 Federal Subsistence Management Program's web page or by  
38 visiting [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

39

40 After the funding opportunity window  
41 closes applications will be reviewed by the Technical  
42 Review Committee. The results of that review will be  
43 presented to you at your next meeting.

44

45 Again, this is not an action item.

46

47 If there are any questions I would be  
48 happy to address them now, and that concludes my  
49 presentation.

50

0095

1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Cory. Does  
2 anyone have any comments or questions for Cory.

3  
4                   MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

7  
8                   MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Through the Chair. Cory, would you be distributing all  
10 this information out to the public and to the tribes of  
11 our Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region?

12  
13                   MR. GRAHAM: Currently this information  
14 is available on the Subsistence Management website and  
15 I am -- I'll need to check to see if this has been  
16 distributed in any other way.

17  
18                   MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the  
19 Chair. I'd greatly appreciate it if we could get this  
20 information out to the tribes and let them know that  
21 there's an opportunity because I know a lot of tribes  
22 that want to be more participative in the research and  
23 collecting data information for management across both  
24 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. This will also give an  
25 opportunity for equal collaboration between tribes and  
26 management and also managers and those who are making  
27 laws and regulatory regulations based on the  
28 information that's gathered.

29  
30                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
33 Alissa. Time is of the essence, March 15th is not too  
34 far away, so if we could get that message out to the  
35 villages and tribes so they get that information in  
36 hopes that they would participate.

37  
38                   Thank you, appreciate that.

39  
40                   Anyone else has any questions or  
41 comments for Cory.

42  
43                   (No comments)

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank  
46 you, Cory. Eva, I believe, next.

47  
48                   (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted)

50

0096

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Another reminder, we got typing in the background now,  
3 so please everyone check your phones and star six to  
4 mute. Thank you.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. And  
7 in discussion for this meeting with the Council there  
8 was interest to hear from folks that were considering  
9 proposals and we do have an opportunity to do that  
10 briefly. Those that may not be on this afternoon or  
11 tomorrow for agency reports, there's an opportunity to  
12 share briefly any FRMP proposals that are under  
13 consideration. The Council is interested to discuss  
14 that.

15  
16 Again, in previous discussions before  
17 this meeting, the Council had not felt comfortable to  
18 make formal recommendations but encourage discussion  
19 and to learn about some of the proposals.

20  
21 There were a few folks that had reached  
22 out who were interested to share their proposal ideas  
23 with the Council that I believe are online now so this  
24 would be an opportunity at this time.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted - VHF)

30  
31 MS. TRAINOR: Hi, my name's Alida  
32 Trainor, can you hear me okay?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

35  
36 MS. TRAINOR: Okay. Hello, Mr. Chair  
37 and members of the Council. I'd like to just introduce  
38 myself and give a brief summary of some of the  
39 proposals that the Subsistence Division at Fish and  
40 Game are submitting this cycle.

41  
42 So my name is Alida Trainor, I'm the  
43 lead researcher for the Yukon River region, and I'm the  
44 Acting Regional Program Manager for the Subsistence  
45 Division at Fish and Game.

46  
47 I'm submitting a proposal titled the  
48 presence and use of salmon in the Pastolik and  
49 Pastoliak River. Just a little description of this  
50



0097

1 project. Despite the long-term use of these rivers,  
2 fisheries managers have no data on subsistence salmon  
3 harvest for them, and have a lot of questions about the  
4 presence and absence of salmon species there and the  
5 abundance and health of the salmon species in these  
6 rivers. This study seeks to address the data gaps that  
7 exist about the presence and use of salmon on the  
8 Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers.

9  
10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted - VHF)

12  
13 MS. TRAINOR: We have gained strong  
14 community and tribal support from Kotlik for this  
15 project, and, if funded, we plan to conduct traditional  
16 knowledge interviews, household harvest surveys,  
17 harvest mapping exercises and a number of biological  
18 sampling techniques so we can know for sure which  
19 salmon species are present and at which life stages  
20 they are in these drainages.

21  
22 This proposal isn't finalized and I'd  
23 be really interested to hear any thoughts that the  
24 Council members may have or take any questions about it  
25 at this time.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Is there  
28 any questions for Alida.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And when is the grant  
33 submission, what's the date to submit the grant.

34  
35 MS. TRAINOR: The 15th.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: 15th, okay.

38  
39 MS. TRAINOR: Yeah, so it's heading  
40 into our deadline at the end of this week and will be  
41 submitted by (indiscernible).....

42  
43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted - VHF)

45  
46 MS. TRAINOR: And since I am unmuted  
47 I'll take the opportunity to ask everyone to please  
48 check their phones and mute, it's pretty hard to hear.

49  
50

0098

1                   REPORTER: Thank you, appreciate that.

2

3                   MS. TRAINOR: I have two other

4 proposals that I'd like to just speak briefly to.

5 These are being submitted by Chris McDevitt. He is one

6 of our research -- subsistence research specialist in

7 the Division and he will be resubmitting a research

8 proposal for the Kuskokwim management area post-season

9 subsistence harvest survey. This is the annual

10 household survey salmon project that is conducted each

11 fall throughout the whole drainage as well as south

12 Kuskokwim Bay. The purpose of the project is to

13 estimate the total salmon harvest by species and by

14 community for all the survey areas. This information

15 is crucial for State and Federal managers as well as

16 local organizations and tribal entities for the

17 effective stewardship of the Kuskokwim area subsistence

18 salmon fishery.

19

20                   So that's a reoccurring project that

21 will be submitted again this year. The Subsistence

22 Division has recently taken that project over from the

23 Division of Commercial Fisheries.

24

25                   Chris McDevitt will also be submitting

26 a research proposal called natural indicators of salmon

27 in the upper Kuskokwim River. If this study is funded

28 we will work with three upper river communities,

29 Takotna, McGrath and Nikolai, we're also seeking

30 support from the InterTribal Fish Commission and the

31 regional corporations and potentially of directly

32 collaborating with either/or both of those

33 organizations. We'll conduct multi-day group

34 gathering, discussion.....

35

36                   (Teleconference interference -

37 participants not muted - VHF)

38

39                   MS. TRAINOR: .....in these communities

40 which will focus on traditional knowledge associated

41 with the natural indicators of salmon. These

42 gatherings will include one to two researchers, locally

43 hired research assistants and multiple respondents. In

44 addition we will map significant (indiscernible -

45 interference) that are used and observation of natural

46 indicators. We also have plans to go (indiscernible -

47 interference) community members to help prepare for the

48 upcoming salmon season and accompany

49 (indiscernible).....

50

0099

1 (Recording Paused - calling Operator -  
2 substantial background noise/echo)

3

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, do we have any  
5 questions or comments for Alida for these proposals  
6 that she's submitted.

7

8 MS. JOHNSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

11

12 MS. JOHNSON: This is Melissa Johnson.  
13 There is a severe echo.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, it is loud and I'm  
16 beginning to hear more of it. Any remedies to that,  
17 Tina.

18

19 REPORTER: So it is because there's not  
20 lines muted and they're either on a speaker phone in  
21 the middle of a room, that's causing that feedback. So  
22 I have dialed the operator but that's a hit and miss in  
23 the afternoon, whether they even respond to me, so I  
24 have done that, to disconnect anybody that is not  
25 muted, I mean other than you, Ray, because you're  
26 conducting the meeting.

27

28 But, folks, please if you could take a  
29 moment to look at your phone, look at your  
30 teleconference system, however you're calling in, and  
31 please mute your line if you are not the speaker. It  
32 is interfering with the Council to do business. We'd  
33 so much appreciate it.

34

35 Sorry, Ray, go ahead.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Tina.  
38 And I'll remind you again to please mute your phone if  
39 you're not speaking.

40

41 (Recording Paused - calling Operator -  
42 substantial background noise/echo)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm still hearing the  
45 large screeching noise and echo.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Yeah, Mr. Chair and  
48 Council. I'm wondering maybe we should all disconnect  
49 and take a 10 minute break in order to allow time for

50

0100

1 the operator to be able to isolate that phone line  
2 that's open. I don't think any -- it doesn't sound  
3 like anybody's there in the background so I don't think  
4 we're going to be able to address it by trying to get  
5 their attention.

6  
7 REPORTER: Right, Eva. Eva, excuse me,  
8 if you're going to do that, I am going to suggest to  
9 everybody to please hang up and then redial back in 10  
10 minutes. Because if people just stay on the line when  
11 I disconnect it, it just goes on.

12  
13 MR. ANDREW: So you're saying 10  
14 minutes.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, we will take a 10  
17 minute break and hopefully it'll remedy that problem  
18 that we're dealing with. So I'll ask for a 10 minute  
19 break and we'll come back in 10 minutes and it'll be  
20 around 2:40.

21  
22 REPORTER: Thank you, Ray.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: And we'd like to request  
25 everybody hang up so that we're all disconnected and  
26 that'll help identify that line and hopefully we can  
27 get that disconnected. So everybody hang up and we'll  
28 call back in in 10 minutes.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Thank you everyone.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: 10 minute break.

35  
36 (Off record)

37  
38 (On record)

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, everyone,  
41 so it's sounding pretty quiet. Hopefully it's working  
42 or are you still disconnected Tina.

43  
44 REPORTER: No, I'm on here. So I still  
45 feel like there's somebody moving around with their  
46 phone unmuted. I have called the operator a few times,  
47 although she has not responded, and I'll just keep  
48 trying that or hopefully she'll break into our call and  
49 we can -- I can then go from there. So, again, if  
50

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1 everybody could take a second, whatever device they're  
2 using for this meeting, if you could please make sure  
3 you're muted, it's by star six or your mute button, if  
4 you are not directly speaking, please mute your phone.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 REPORTER: Nope, still an open line.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, somebody still  
11 has got their phone open, I still hear a lot of  
12 background noise.

13

14 REPORTER: Right. And I'm sorry about  
15 that Ray, like I said I have contacted the operator a  
16 few times now, without a response, I'm going to hope  
17 that she does break in soon and try to isolate that  
18 line. And that's about all I can do for now other than  
19 to keep reminding people, please mute your phone. The  
20 Council is trying to do business and there is an open  
21 line somewhere, somewhere in Alaska, so they're either  
22 not listening to the meeting and it's just open in a  
23 room and we can't do much more than that right this  
24 minute, but depend on people to please mute your phone.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm still hearing echo.  
29 Should we go ahead and try, Eva.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Yes, it sounds like maybe the background noise has gone  
33 away but there is a very strong echo. Maybe we could  
34 try providing.....

35

36 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted - echo)

38

39 MS. PATTON: .....it'll require  
40 everyone to speak very slowly though.

41

42 MS. PELTOLA: Did everybody hang up and  
43 call back in.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I did.

46

47 REPORTER: So, no, not everyone did.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Hi, Mary. My understanding

50

0102

1 is we have -- there was a couple phone lines that were  
2 still open.....

3  
4 REPORTER: Seven lines.

5  
6 MS. PATTON: .....that did not  
7 disconnect and it appears nobody is there to man those  
8 phones so we don't really have a way to get a hold of  
9 them. So we're relying on the operator, hopefully we  
10 can get them online to disconnect.

11  
12 (Severe echo)

13  
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I guess I'll  
15 touch back with the Council and see how difficult this  
16 echo will be for the Council to hear. We might need to  
17 try all disconnecting and maybe take another 10 minute  
18 break that we could reach the operator and address the  
19 echo.

20  
21 (Severe echo)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, let's go ahead  
24 and take another 10 minute break, that echo seems to be  
25 getting worse. Call back in 10 minutes, which will be  
26 five minutes to 3:00 so take another 10 minute break  
27 and hopefully we can remedy this problem.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 Everyone hang up.

32  
33 REPORTER: Yes, please hang up. Not  
34 everybody hung up last time, so please hang up.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Everybody should hang  
37 up. Everyone please hang up. Please hang up.

38  
39 (Off record)

40  
41 (On record)

42  
43 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon everyone  
44 this is Eva. So it's sounding pretty quiet in the  
45 background there so hopefully this will work.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm back.

48  
49 MS. PATTON: Hello, Ray. It sounds  
50

0103

1 pretty quiet. You sound pretty clear.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, it sounds much  
4 better.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Well, thank  
7 you everyone for your patience. And, again, just a  
8 friendly reminder if you're not speaking to make sure  
9 your phone is muted. And I know our Council members  
10 are often speaking but if you can remember to star six  
11 to mute your phone again after so we just have the one  
12 line open at a time. So thank you everyone for your  
13 patience and thank you for joining us again this  
14 afternoon and I guess we'll try to pick up where we  
15 left off.

16

17 Mr. Chair and members of the Council.  
18 We did get some updates on FRMP proposals from ADF&G  
19 Subsistence Division, Alida Trainor, and maybe I'll  
20 just check back in, I think had you concluded Alida.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. BURCH: Hello. If I may, this is  
25 Mark Burch.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thanks, Mark, go ahead.

28

29 MR. BURCH: Yeah, my understanding is  
30 that Alida had to leave at 2:30 so we're glad that she  
31 was able to get her information before you before then.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Great. Perfect timing.  
36 Thanks so much, Mark, for all your facilitation there,  
37 too.

38

39 MR. RUNFOLA: Hello, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

42

43 MR. RUNFOLA: This is Dave Runfola,  
44 Subsistence Division. If it's okay with Mark we just  
45 have one more that would be -- that she didn't finish  
46 up with because of the interruptions, and it should  
47 take less than -- it should take 30 seconds.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Sure. Yes, of course. So

50

0104

1 we can pick up there where we left off, thank you.

2

3 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you. RAC members,  
4 thanks for letting us speak at your meetings today  
5 again, about our FRMP proposals that we are going to be  
6 putting in on March 15th.

7

8 Subsistence Division will be submitting  
9 a research proposal called local and traditional  
10 knowledge of subsistence salmon harvesting use in the  
11 lower Kuskokwim River. If that study is fun -- if this  
12 study is funded we'll work with five communities that  
13 fish in the area below the Johnson River and near the  
14 Bay. We'll conduct local and traditional knowledge  
15 interviews and go fishing and to fish camps with our  
16 participants in the project to learn how restrictions  
17 in recent years have changed the way that people are  
18 fishing for salmon and processing and sharing their  
19 catch. We've met with five tribal councils so far and  
20 as of today, four of them have said they'd like us to  
21 come to their communities and do this research if it's  
22 funded.

23

24 Thank you, very much.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, I don't know what  
31 the process is if we are to support these agencies that  
32 are submitting their grant, would that be a possibility  
33 to give support. I know the Pastolik River is my area  
34 and there's been interest in this for two or three  
35 years. So if there's a way we could give support from  
36 our support, I could -- at least know where we're  
37 coming from.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Yes, and if the Council wishes to provide a letter of  
41 support that would be fine for the Council to make a  
42 motion on the record and express the reasons for your  
43 interest in support. I know earlier, prior to the  
44 meeting Council members had discussed feeling  
45 uncomfortable making formal motions but it is at the  
46 wish of the Council.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50



0105

1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. At  
2 this time I'd like to entertain a motion to give  
3 support for the submission of the grant in relating to  
4 the areas both on the Kuskokwim and on the Yukon. I  
5 would like to submit that as a motion.

6  
7                   MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom,  
8 I'll second it.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
11 Thomas. Second by Thomas. All those in favor say aye.

12  
13                  IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, same sign.

16  
17                  (No opposing votes)

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
20 carried. Thank you.

21  
22                  Eva.

23  
24                  MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
25 Council. And if we could, to provide the supporting  
26 justification for the letter of -- a few words from the  
27 Council on why you support and view this as important,  
28 that would be helpful.

29  
30                  Thank you.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I'll go ahead and  
33 comment. The Pastolik River is on the Yukon and the  
34 people from Kotlik have been wanting to include that in  
35 their ways of harvesting salmon resources in that area.  
36 So I would like to recommend that we give support in  
37 their endeavors and hope that they would be able to  
38 fish (indiscernible - echo) in the future.

39  
40                  MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: And if there's anyone  
43 else that wants to express opinions on those other  
44 areas you're welcome to do so. And this is in support  
45 of the grants that are being submitted.

46  
47                  (No comments)

48  
49                  MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
50

0106

1 it sounded like the Council -- the motion was for both  
2 the subsistence study on the Yukon and the post-season  
3 subsistence surveys on the Kuskokwim, and work with  
4 Takotna, McGrath and Nikolai on traditional ecological  
5 knowledge and natural indicators. Any words of support  
6 from John or others.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. RUNFOLA: Eva, this is Dave  
11 Runfola.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi, Dave, go ahead.

14

15 MR. RUNFOLA: Thank you, Ray. Just to  
16 clarify, there were four projects. Maybe we weren't  
17 clear and the -- the -- Eva mentioned the first three  
18 and then the one that I had just mentioned was to work  
19 with communities down river, Napakiak, Nunapitchuk,  
20 Kasigluk, Tuntutuliak and Eek, and I did not mention  
21 those villages earlier just for brevity. So there were  
22 four projects total.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Dave.  
27 We could include that too in support of those.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Yes, and the Council had an extensive discussion this  
31 morning on the interest for traditional ecological  
32 knowledge studies and local community based studies.  
33 We'll note that as well.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If we have  
38 no other comment we could go ahead and move on. Next  
39 item, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 think we may have maybe one or two others that were  
43 interested to share FRMP research proposal discussion  
44 with the Council. We will call out to those folks. I  
45 believe we had Frank Harris who had wanted to address  
46 the Council.

47

48 MS. MONCRIEFF: This is Catherine  
49 Moncrieff with YRDFA.

50

0107

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi Catherine.

2

3 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, I don't want to  
4 jump ahead of Frank but I have one to share as well if  
5 there's time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. MONCRIEFF: I'm sorry, did you say  
10 go ahead?

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I did, go ahead,  
13 you have the floor.

14

15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted - echo)

17

18 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Council, thank  
19 you for the opportunity, through the Chair. This is  
20 Catherine Moncrieff, YRDFA Staff Anthropologist.

21

22 We are working on a proposal for the  
23 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to expand the in-  
24 season subsistence salmon survey program to survey  
25 fishers about whitefish or nonsalmon, especially broad  
26 whitefish. We are working on this proposal because we  
27 heard from many of you from the river, including RAC  
28 members (indiscernible - echo and cutting out),  
29 surveyors, YRDFA Board members and others that they  
30 liked the in-season salmon survey program and they feel  
31 it should be expanded.

32

33 (Calling Operator - Echo)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: There's a little  
36 background echo, so, yeah, if there's any comments or  
37 questions relating to YRDFA's submission of their  
38 grant. Does anyone want to comment.

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

43

44 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Through the Chair. For the record this is Alissa  
46 Rogers. Ms. Moncrieff, is there any way that we could  
47 also have some portion of this be extended into the  
48 winter season when whitefish -- during the winter  
49 season are mainly targeted.

50

0108

1 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes, absolutely.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Ms. Moncrieff.  
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone else have any  
7 questions for Catherine.

8

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: When do we usually hear  
13 back when these are funded, I'm thinking before the  
14 season begins so I don't know if you're to be awarded,  
15 then how should we (indiscernible - echo)

16

17 MS. MONCRIEFF: I'm sorry, I didn't  
18 quite understand that. This is Catherine.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I mentioned that  
21 if you're awarded then how soon would you be able to  
22 begin the nonsalmon surveys.

23

24 MS. MONCRIEFF: Well, with the  
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for this cycle  
26 projects begin in April of 2022 and the way we designed  
27 our proposal the first survey period would begin in the  
28 fall of 2022, and then the following year there would  
29 be more of a winter/spring. There'd be two survey  
30 periods and we would work with the communities to  
31 design the survey periods that meet their peak fishing  
32 periods.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we  
35 have any more questions for Catherine.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 I believe we may have some others who were interested  
43 to discuss proposals with the Council as well. We're  
44 just touching base, I think Frank Harris with the Kenai  
45 Fisheries Office.

46

47 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, this is Frank  
48 Harris.

49

50

0109

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I can hear you.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon members of  
4 the Council. My name is Frank Harris.

5

6 (Calling Operator - Echo)

7

8 MR. HARRIS: .....project is Kuskokwim  
9 River broad whitefish (indiscernible) abundance. As  
10 you know broad whitefish is the biggest whitefish  
11 (indiscernible - echo) spawning locations, it makes  
12 them vulnerable to (indiscernible) climate change and  
13 overharvest. Currently management (indiscernible -  
14 echo) throughout the drainage. A few studies have been  
15 done (indiscernible) spawning locations (indiscernible  
16 - echo)

17

18 MS. PATTON: Frank, this is Eva. I  
19 just need to interject here. It's very difficult to  
20 hear you. I think it's partly the echo. You're also  
21 very quiet and muffled. I don't know if you'd maybe try  
22 speaking directly in your phone.

23

24 (Calling Operator - Echo)

25

26 MR. HARRIS: Since we have little  
27 information on the population size for (indiscernible -  
28 echo) we're proposing a project to determine this  
29 information through a spawning population of broad  
30 whitefish up stream of McGrath. This is one of the  
31 largest spawning aggregates -- did you guys lose me?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. HARRIS: Hello, am I still on?

36

37 MS. PATTON: Yep, you're still on.

38

39 MR. HARRIS: Okay, thank you. So,  
40 yeah, telemetry has shown this is one of the largest  
41 spawning aggregates. Crews would use electrofishing  
42 techniques in the area around McGrath from August to  
43 mid-October to capture and tag as many broad whitefish  
44 as possible. It would also catch other information  
45 from these fish such as age, length and sex data.  
46 These fish will all be tagged and these tagging will  
47 help us get the -- recapture these tags in McGrath will  
48 help us get an estimate on population size. In  
49 addition, these tagged fish will also be caught in the

50

0110

1 subsistence fishery throughout the drainage. And these  
2 tags, when reported to researchers, will provide data  
3 to estimate harvest rates in that population. Baseline  
4 population information is important for managers to  
5 know so they have data points to compare with the  
6 future development, climate change, or overfishing can  
7 all have an effect on whitefish populations. However,  
8 without a starting estimate it'd be unknown how the  
9 population is doing. If this project is funded we are  
10 partnering with the Native Village of Napaimute, NVN,  
11 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and I believe  
12 Orutsararmiut Native Council, ONC, hopefully I  
13 pronounced that properly is very interested in helping  
14 on this project. NVN will provide outreach in the  
15 middle river and collect the reported tagged  
16 information from this region. ONC would contact --  
17 would be a contact for reporting tags, handling the tag  
18 recovery (indiscernible - echo) and Yukon Delta will be  
19 assisting with outreach and tag recovery for the Refuge  
20 and statistical support. In addition, the ONC  
21 biologist will also join the tagging effort from one to  
22 two weeks per year to get experience working with  
23 electrofishing -- if funded this would be a four year  
24 project.

25

26                   Hopefully you could hear most of that,  
27 that's all I had. I'll be able to answer any questions  
28 that anyone might have.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, do we have  
31 any questions for Frank at this time.

32

33                   (No comments)

34

35                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank  
36 you. Eva.

37

38                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Maybe I'll just check online and see if we have anyone  
40 else who has joined us today who would like to discuss  
41 FRMP proposals with the Council.

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   MS. PATTON: And there may be some  
46 discussion when we get to the fisheries reports and  
47 updates, there may be others who have FRMP proposal  
48 information for the Council at that time. So it sounds  
49 like that was it for right now.

50

0111

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.

4 We'll go down to the next item which would be the

5 agency reports.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

8 Council. first on agency reports we have an

9 opportunity for tribal government, and we do have ONC

10 on the agenda.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -

13 participants not muted - echo)

14

15 MS. RUSSELL: Hi there. This is Katy

16 Russell from ONC and I'm here with Danielle and we're

17 going to be presenting on ONC Partners for Fisheries

18 Monitoring Program. Just a quick note at the

19 beginning, if you're having trouble hearing us because

20 of the echo or any other noise, please let us know and

21 we will stop and repeat ourselves.

22

23 I just wanted to introduce myself. My

24 name is Katy Russell. And I'm a Fisheries Partner

25 Biologist with ONC in Bethel. I'm new to Bethel and

26 recently started working here just a few months ago. I

27 previously worked in Sitka for the Forest Service on a

28 sockeye (indiscernible - echo) but I'm originally from

29 Arizona. I'm glad to be here with Danielle and will

30 let her introduce herself as well.

31

32 MS. LOWERY: Yeah, hi, everyone. I'm

33 Danielle Lowery. I was born and raised in Bethel

34 Alaska. And I started this Partners Biologist position

35 in January but I have been working with ONC the past

36 three years now.

37

38 MS. RUSSELL: Okay, great. So we're

39 going to go ahead and get started. We're just going to

40 give a little overview of what we're going to be going

41 over. We will review our post-season subsistence

42 harvest survey projects, talk about our 2020

43 subsistence age, sex, length data results, give an

44 update on our in-season harvest monitoring project and

45 proposal, give updates on our summer 2021 projects, and

46 give Natural Resource Department highlights and also

47 talk about our indigenizing salmon management project.

48

49 So to begin, an update, our post-season

50

0112

1 subsistence harvest monitoring project. This project  
2 is done in collaboration with Alaska Department of Fish  
3 and Game. In this project ONC technicians and Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Game technicians conduct  
5 household surveys and surveys in Bethel and villages  
6 along the Kuskokwim River to gather information on  
7 salmon harvested on the Kuskokwim. As Alida, from  
8 ADF&G mentioned, just a few minutes ago, we are in the  
9 process of reapplying for funding with the Department  
10 of Fish and Game as the PI on this project. This past  
11 fall in 2020, the ONC fisheries technicians completed  
12 the survey goal of 525 surveys in Bethel and they  
13 actually exceeded this goal and completed 535 household  
14 surveys. We want to thank the technicians for their  
15 hard work on this project. In total, with the surveys  
16 conducted by ADF&G and outlying villages, 1,792 surveys  
17 were conducted. Because of Covid19 there were updated  
18 survey methods and instead of just household surveys,  
19 some surveys were conducted over the phone or online  
20 because of the pandemic. Our community deliverable  
21 with the results of the 2020 season will be coming out  
22 soon from our partners at Fish and Game. And we want  
23 to thank our partners at Fish and Game for the work on  
24 this project as well.

25

26 Now, to give an update on our 2020  
27 subsistence age, sex, length program. In 2020 ONC  
28 collected age, sex, length data, or ASL data on chinook  
29 salmon. This ASL data is managed by our partner on the  
30 project, Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist  
31 Sean Larson. In 2020, the majority of chinook samples  
32 were age 4 and age 5. 39.5 percent of the chinook  
33 sampled were age 4 and 43.3 percent were age 5. 21.3  
34 percent of the chinook sampled in 2020 were female and  
35 the average length of sampled chinook was 651  
36 millimeters. This chinook age, sex, length sampling is  
37 a part of our in-season harvest monitoring project.  
38 Currently we are applying for funds for 2022 through  
39 2025 from the FRMP to continue funding this project.  
40 And this project includes the age, sex, length sampling  
41 program as well in-season harvest monitoring surveys  
42 that are conducted at Bethel boat harbor and Bethel  
43 area fish camps. This project has been going on for  
44 over 20 years and we have received many letters of  
45 support from different organizations and groups in the  
46 community to support our proposal. We want to say  
47 thank you to all of these groups for their support,  
48 and, big, quyana, for all of the support for this  
49 project.

50



0113

1                   In the summer of 2021 we will be  
2 working on a variety of projects including continuing  
3 the in-season harvest monitoring program and also  
4 conducting chinook salmon otolith sampling and a few  
5 other projects as well.

6  
7                   I'm going to pass off to Danielle who  
8 will talk about the other projects that will be going  
9 on this summer.

10

11                   MS. LOWERY: Yeah, to continue on with  
12 what Katy was saying, ONC will continue to work on the  
13 fish distribution program, the ADF&G's sonar project  
14 partnership as well as the ONC science and culture camp  
15 and (Indiscernible - echo) expedition camp.

16

17                   And like Katy said earlier, ONC will  
18 continue to do otolith sampling this summer. This is  
19 project between ADF&G and the University of Washington,  
20 Professor Schindler, and (indiscernible - echo) chinook  
21 salmon caught by the ADF&G Bethel test fishery and  
22 collect the otoliths so the otoliths are ear stones in  
23 salmon that help with hearing and balance. These are  
24 important as they are able to help determine where the  
25 fish are born and how they spend their first year of  
26 life. And once collected the otoliths are packaged and  
27 sent to the University of Washington for further  
28 analysis. An update on this project, Schindler has  
29 submitted a proposal this year to Arctic, Yukon,  
30 Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative to continue the  
31 work on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River, to continue  
32 collecting otoliths to genetically determine natal  
33 origins of chinook salmon caught in test fisheries.

34

35                   And so next up ONC will continue to  
36 recruit the (indiscernible) fisheries technician  
37 position this summer with the help of our partner  
38 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, or ANSEP  
39 as well as the Office of Subsistence Management. We  
40 also have outreach efforts at the regional high school  
41 as well as the Lower Kuskokwim School District.....

42

43                   (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted - echo - coughing - nose  
45 blowing)

46

47                   MS. LOWERY: .....the region. And this  
48 season we are also looking into an intern exchange with  
49 Bristol Bay Native Association. We have done this in

50

0114

1 the past and hopefully if everything is well this  
2 summer, have the opportunity to do so again.

3

4

5 And for fish distribution. We continue  
6 to plan on receiving fish caught from the test fishery  
7 and distributing them among elders or those disabled in  
8 the community of Bethel. And to recap on the 2020  
9 summer fish distribution ONC delivered 931 fish to  
10 members of Bethel between May 27th and July 19th. And  
11 currently ONC is distributing moose, whitefish,  
12 ptarmigan and rabbit to Bethel as well. And all  
13 delivery efforts are being coordinated by ONC  
14 Americorps Jesuit volunteer, or Caroline Black.

15

16 And for Staff changes within the ONC  
17 Natural Resource Department, Janelle Carl transferred  
18 positions from the Environmental division to the Native  
19 American Lands Environmental program coordinator  
20 position and Mary Matthies is the Environmental Program  
21 Coordinator and we're glad to have her back as she  
22 worked with ONC in the past for many years.

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0115

1 really appreciate all the support that we receive.

2

3 Quayana.

4

5 MS. RUSSELL: If anyone has any  
6 questions we're happy to answer them now or if anyone  
7 needs clarification.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted - talking)

13

14 MS. RUSSELL: I'm sorry, we didn't  
15 catch that if that was a question about ONC Fisheries  
16 Program. Thank you.

17

18 REPORTER: I actually think that was an  
19 open line. So if everybody could please look at their  
20 phone, see if you're muted because that was a  
21 background conversation. I really apologize for these  
22 interruptions and the echo and the unmuted lines.

23

24 Go ahead, Ray.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. PATTON: It sounds like we may have  
29 lost Ray Oney, are you still online with us.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I was talking but  
32 on mute, so I'm sorry. But do we have any questions or  
33 comments today for Danielle or Katy at this time.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none. Thank  
38 you for your report Danielle and Katy. We can go ahead  
39 and move on to the next item, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
42 members of the Council. Next on the agenda was Native  
43 Village of Napaimute. Dan Gillikin who's the Partners  
44 for Fisheries Monitoring Program Biologist did contact  
45 me to say he wouldn't be able to call in and noted that  
46 they have been -- they don't really have any updates  
47 since the fall meeting. They're continuing to work on  
48 the Aniak test fishery, Salmon River weir, George River  
49 internship program for students and their math and

50

0116

1 science expedition program also for students. And  
2 that's a rafting expedition with students. So he did  
3 say if Council had any questions I can contact him to  
4 call in but that's all he had for the Council.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. So  
9 keep that in mind if you have any questions for  
10 Napaimute you could relay that to Eva. Okay, moving on  
11 to the next item.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Oops, I'm sorry I was on  
18 mute. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Next up we  
19 have Association of Village Council Presidents. Thank  
20 you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jennifer, are you on.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. PATTON: We had Jennifer Hopper on  
27 this morning and also Paige with AVCP.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. PATTON: And if they've dropped or  
32 not online right now we can always come back to them.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Hopefully  
35 they'll announce if they do come back. Okay, we could  
36 go ahead and move on to the next report.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
39 Council. Next up on the agenda we have Kuskokwim  
40 InterTribal Fish Commission.

41

42 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Eva. Thank  
43 you, Mr. Chairman. This is Mary Peltola with the  
44 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission. I was  
45 wondering if it would be allowed for Dr. Daniel  
46 Schindler to give an update on management strategy  
47 evaluation, it's something that the Fish Commission,  
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game and some  
49 others are involved in.

50

0117

1                    Could Daniel Schindler speak -- could  
2 he use some of the Fish Commission's time?

3  
4                    CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I'll allow that,  
5 thank you.

6  
7                    MS. PELTOLA: Okay. Quyana, Mr.  
8 Chairman. Dr. Schindler, do you want to go ahead.

9  
10                   DR. SCHINDLER: Thanks, Mary, can you  
11 confirm that you can hear me?

12  
13                   MS. PELTOLA: Yes.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, we can hear you.

16  
17                   DR. SCHINDLER: All right, thank you,  
18 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mary. And, thank you  
19 everyone for this opportunity to talk about an activity  
20 that model size group of us is organizing to look at  
21 different ways of managing Kuskokwim River salmon  
22 fisheries. By way of introduction I'm a faculty member  
23 in the School of Fisheries at the University of  
24 Washington, and I've worked on Western Alaska salmon  
25 fisheries for the last 25 years or so including about  
26 10 in AYK region salmon fisheries.

27  
28                   (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30  
31                   DR. SCHINDLER: But this fancy term  
32 that Mary mentioned, management strategy evaluation,  
33 the title of that doesn't matter so much, it's really  
34 more of the intent of what we're doing. And what our  
35 intention is, is to provide a mechanism for  
36 incorporating all of the different types of knowledge  
37 that exists about salmon and salmon fisheries  
38 throughout the Kuskokwim. So the intention here is to  
39 organize a series of community meetings where these  
40 will be organized much like talking circles, that I'm  
41 guessing most people on the call are familiar with,  
42 where we will have and provide opportunities for people  
43 throughout the watershed, whether they're from fishing  
44 communities or agencies or academics or other users of  
45 the resource, to talk about what they believe is  
46 important in terms of the features of the ecosystem but  
47 also how the fish respond to different ways of fishing  
48 the salmon populations.

49  
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0118

1                   So our purpose is to really bring to  
2 the table traditional knowledge, local knowledge and  
3 what you might want to call western knowledge about  
4 salmon and salmon fisheries. The reason we believe  
5 this is important is because a lot of this knowledge is  
6 currently not included in management paradigms and as a  
7 result there is probably substantial lost opportunity  
8 to learn and understand collectively how this ecosystem  
9 works and how people interact with the ecosystem.

10

11                   A second goal is to document the  
12 diversity of values that different people within the  
13 Kuskokwim hold for salmon and salmon fisheries and  
14 understand how these vary among user groups among  
15 different parts of the river, et cetera.

16

17                   And all of this knowledge and range of  
18 values will be incorporated into formal sets of  
19 computer models that'll allow us as a group, and the  
20 group is again academic scientists, agency scientists,  
21 users of the resource where the intention is that  
22 collectively we will use these models to explore how  
23 different ways of managing the fishery may produce  
24 different outcomes for people and for the resource in  
25 the Kuskokwim.

26

27                   Some of our expected outcomes or  
28 outcomes we're hoping for is both an improved  
29 understanding that incorporates all of the collective  
30 wisdom that's held by many of the people and all of the  
31 people if we can get to them throughout the watershed,  
32 including academic and agency scientists, but more  
33 importantly the traditional sources of knowledge and  
34 also improved understanding of the management process  
35 and how different management approaches may produce  
36 levels of sustainability of these fish populations  
37 moving into the future. We know about climate change,  
38 we know about marine fisheries that intercept Kuskokwim  
39 chinook salmon, and really we don't know is what the  
40 consequences of different management approaches are for  
41 the long-term sustainability of the fish and for  
42 fishing communities.

43

44                   I just want to briefly mention some of  
45 the partners, Mary mentioned some of them, but I want  
46 to acknowledge them here, because it really has been a  
47 team effort so far and that's the intention moving  
48 forward, but Kwik'Pak is one of the core participants,  
49 ONC is a core participant, and ONC actually was the

50

0119

1 organization that attracted the first grant to start  
2 supporting this activity. AVCP. Alaska Fish and Game.  
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Office of Subsistence  
4 Management. University of Alaska-Fairbanks.  
5 University of Washington. And Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim  
6 Sustainable Salmon Initiative. So all those groups are  
7 involved in this activity moving forward.

8

9 Because so much of this work depends on  
10 meeting in the communities in the watershed, Covid has  
11 put the brakes on our activities a little bit, but our  
12 hope is that by next winter or late fall we'll begin  
13 organizing some of these meetings in some places  
14 throughout the watershed to get people talking and co-  
15 developing knowledge about how this ecosystem works and  
16 how we might manage it moving into the future.

17

18 And that's all I have to say unless  
19 Mary wants to add to it. Mary is on our organizing  
20 group so she may have something to add that I have  
21 missed.

22

23 MS. PELTOLA: No, that was good, thank  
24 you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I didn't  
27 get your name, again, Dr?

28

29 DR. SCHINDLER: My name is Daniel  
30 Schindler, like Schindler's List.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Schindler, okay.

33

34 DR. SCHINDLER: Yeah. And if you don't  
35 know that movie you can ask Mary.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I've seen that  
38 movie.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. At this  
43 time do we have any questions or comments for Mary or  
44 Dr. Schindler.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, it's going to be  
49 interesting to see how it works out and I'm sure we'll

50

0120

1 get an update once you put this into play, maybe during  
2 the fall meeting or maybe during the winter meeting.  
3 So appreciate your report.

4  
5 DR. SCHINDLER: Of course. And if  
6 people do have questions I recommend you getting in  
7 touch with either Mary Peltola or Janessa Esquible from  
8 ONC and they can answer questions you might have or  
9 they can give you my email and I'm happy to followup.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. I  
12 believe we do have in our packet the InterTribal Fish  
13 Commission update, I believe, I don't know are you  
14 going to mention that or not, or it's already been  
15 mentioned.

16  
17 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Since the update on what Dr. Schindler was talking  
19 about is over I'll do a really quick update since you  
20 guys do have this briefing.

21  
22 We are going to have an annual meeting  
23 on Zoom on April 7th and 8th. We didn't have an annual  
24 meeting last year because of Covid and now that we've  
25 practiced a bit on Zoom, we're hoping to have a good  
26 meeting. And there will be a toll free phone number  
27 that people can call in if you don't have internet. We  
28 need to have elections for the Executive Council  
29 representatives, there's seven of them, one for each  
30 unit. The officers, there's three officers, Chair,  
31 Vice Chair, and Secretary, and then we have four in-  
32 season managers from four sections of the river who  
33 consult with the Refuge manager during the chinook  
34 season. So all of those elections will need to happen  
35 on the 7th and 8th. And we're reaching out to tribes  
36 right now to make sure that we have their updated  
37 Commissioner name and that they have all the call-in  
38 numbers. And if you do want to listen in on that,  
39 please let me know, my number is 545-6206, and I can  
40 get you the call-in information.

41  
42 Our Staff right now is myself, Kevin  
43 Whitworth is our Fisheries Biologist, and he's in  
44 McGrath. Casey Wrangell is our Executive Administrator  
45 and she's stationed in Anchorage. And then Terese  
46 Schomogyi is our communications and outreach  
47 specialists and she's also stationed in Bethel, as I  
48 am.

49  
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0121

1                   This year we got our 638 tribal compact  
2 status for the first season. So with great  
3 appreciation for AVCP for being our pastor agency since  
4 2015, this year, for the first time, we are eligible to  
5 receive funding directly which we're very excited  
6 about.

7

8                   The projects that we're working on.  
9 One has been going since 2017 and that's the community  
10 based harvest monitoring. Last year we had four  
11 communities that they monitored, some years it's been  
12 as many as six communities, this year we're planning on  
13 at least four again. With Covid it's had its  
14 challenges.

15

16                   The Takotna River weir project, Kevin  
17 Whitworth has been the principle investigator on that  
18 for a number of years and they hire all local people  
19 from that neck of the woods to run that project.

20

21                   And then we also are a partner on the  
22 Kwethluk weir, although that did not happen last year  
23 because of Covid.

24

25                   We're very excited that the group  
26 developed, for the first time, a management strategy  
27 and a harvest strategy and the in-season managers  
28 worked with the Feds, the Fish and Wildlife Serv -- or  
29 Federal Subsistence Board did Federalize the chinook  
30 run and we have a very big thank you to those of you on  
31 the RAC Council who were in support of us getting that,  
32 that was -- that made a very big difference. And as it  
33 turned out, you know, that forecast of 220,000 chinook  
34 did not happen, it was -- I don't know I think the  
35 preliminary numbers it was more like 110, and I think  
36 prelim -- and I'm guessing here, the forecast was not  
37 110 as the goal was, but we did allow fishing in some  
38 -- in some cases there were even more fish harvested  
39 than in 2019 but all of this is to say our run is very  
40 poor. The forecast isn't very good, the early forecast  
41 from Fish and Game is not good, on the low side, it's  
42 97 up to about 120,000.....

43

44                   (Teleconference interference -  
45 participants not muted)

46

47                   MS. PELTOLA: .....so we're just -- you  
48 know, it's a very unfair situation for everyone on both  
49 of our rivers that the runs are returning this way and

50

0122

1 we're just trying to do what we can to ensure a decent  
2 escapement.

3  
4 So with that I'm happy to answer any  
5 questions.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Mary. Do we  
8 have any questions for Mary at this time.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none. You have  
13 her number if you need to get a hold of her, she's  
14 given you her number. So thank you Mary for your  
15 report.

16  
17 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, moving on. Eva.

20  
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
22 Council. Maybe before we call our next report, just  
23 reminder again, it sounds like there's some shuffling  
24 papers in the background that makes it hard to hear.  
25 Just everyone check your phones again to star six. And  
26 we do have some recommendations for addressing the  
27 echo. It was sounding better for awhile there, again,  
28 to make sure if you're muted that helps reduce any  
29 echo. Also it might help when people are speaking if  
30 you're not on speaker phone, but rather speaking  
31 directly into your phone and maybe keeping phone  
32 devices away from each other so there's no interference  
33 that way. Hopefully those things will help with the  
34 echo so we can hear clearly. If everyone could just  
35 take a moment again, star six to mute.

36  
37 And thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.  
38 Thank you Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission  
39 for their report, and up next we're moving on to Yukon  
40 River -- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

41  
42 MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chairman.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

45  
46 MS. HOOPER: Eva.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

49  
50

0123

1 MS. HOOPER: Hi, this is Jennifer  
2 Hooper with AVCP. I was wondering if you might want to  
3 circle back because I'm on now.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, that.....

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Hi, Jennifer, that would  
8 be wonderful.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.....

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: .....Jennifer.

15  
16 MS. HOOPER: Okay. I'm really sorry, I  
17 got cut off, I've been -- we're on the road and, of  
18 course, right before I'm going to get called up is when  
19 my phone cuts me off.

20  
21 Anyways I just wanted to provide a  
22 quick update for AVCP activities. Am I coming through  
23 okay.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Nice and loud.

26  
27 MS. HOOPER: Okay. And I do apologize,  
28 again, for the disruption and also that I did not get  
29 our update submitted to Eva in time to be included in  
30 your packet. But nonetheless some updates from AVCP.

31  
32 Our current Staff situation is myself  
33 and Paige Jones, who I believe is on the line. She is  
34 our resource coordinator focusing on our forestry  
35 program. We're still recruiting for a resource  
36 coordinator position that focuses on marine fisheries  
37 and other marine related topics. And we're in the  
38 process of creating a fourth position to assist with a  
39 lot of the subsistence resource day to day activities  
40 and also to potentially look into developing a social  
41 science program.

42  
43 But some activities that have occurred  
44 since the last meeting. Our waterfowl conservation  
45 committee, the regional migratory bird management body  
46 was not able to meet in the fall because of Covid and  
47 we did actually have our spring meeting yesterday, met  
48 by phone with all of the unit representatives and then  
49 all of the agency partners to talk about plans for the  
50

0124

1 2021 migratory bird season.

2

3 I know I've mentioned before that we've  
4 been working on a survey to use as a communication tool  
5 for tribes and the public to provide feedback and input  
6 to us on what some of their focus areas and priorities  
7 are. Because of our limited capacity we're trying to  
8 make sure that we're identifying and including project  
9 work on areas that the tribes have as priorities.

10

11 We've also been working on a new  
12 division structure within AVCP and since we last met,  
13 AVCP has been merged with our realty and our cultural  
14 environmental sciences program for a lands and cultural  
15 resources division. And John McIntyre oversees the two  
16 divisions and our program and there may be some  
17 additional changes within the program as AVCP tries to  
18 continue aligning services that are similar or have  
19 similar clientele.

20

21 As you just heard from Mary, the  
22 InterTribal Fish Commission is now able to receive  
23 their funding directly from the Federal government and  
24 so we are wrapping up our financial support here this  
25 spring.

26

27 We continue to engage with the North  
28 Pacific Fishery Management Council process and attend  
29 their meetings as we have time. We've concluded work  
30 on the formal community engagement committee at the  
31 Council level and at their last meeting they did agree  
32 that the work of that committee should continue and so  
33 we're hoping to continue involvement with that process  
34 at the Council level.

35

36 We've been working with both Yukon  
37 partners on submitting requests for fishery disaster  
38 declarations to the Governor. And both the Yukon  
39 request and the Kuskokwim request that was submitted by  
40 the Fish Commission, as far as I know, neither river  
41 system has heard back from the Governor's office on  
42 what he's going to do with those requests.

43

44 We are working on a forestry hazardous  
45 fuels reduction project within our region. Right now  
46 our focus is on the community of Russian Mission and  
47 we're lining up meetings with the community and the  
48 different entities to discuss the projects and more  
49 specifics will be determined from those meetings.

50

0125

1                   And also as Mary and Dr. Schindler  
2 mentioned we've been assisting with work on the  
3 projects on the Kuskokwim and we'll continue to be  
4 active as we can and help achieve the goals of that  
5 project.

6  
7                   A couple of notes for the springtime  
8 and summer work. AVCP is still on full remote work  
9 status and all programs are working remotely through at  
10 least March and travel restrictions are still in place  
11 for all of our programs.

12  
13                   The survey I mentioned, we are hoping  
14 to incorporate areas with the programs that we're now  
15 working together closely with in this new division,  
16 like the environmental IGAP program, the realty program  
17 and developing a more comprehensive survey that will  
18 expand on the areas that those programs need input from  
19 the tribes on.

20  
21                   Going to continue with the capacity  
22 that we have for engaging with the Councils, North  
23 Pacific Council process and working on developing a  
24 more active forestry program within the region. Also  
25 eventually working on some sort of fire safety outreach  
26 and education within the department.

27  
28                   That concludes my updates, Mr.  
29 Chairman. Thank you.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Jennifer.  
32 Do we have any questions or comments for Jennifer.

33  
34                   (Teleconference interference -  
35 participants not muted)

36  
37                   MS. HOOPER: That's not me, I promise.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: I thought it was you.

40  
41                   (Laughter)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
44 hearing none, thank you Jennifer. Go on to the next  
45 item, Eva.

46  
47                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
48 Council. Yes, so next up then we have Yukon River  
49 Drainage Fisheries Association.

50

0126

1 MS. FITKA: Hello. Good afternoon,  
2 Chairman and Council members. This is Serena Fitka,  
3 Director of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
4 Association.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hi Serena.  
7

8 MS. FITKA: Thank you for giving the  
9 opportunity for us to report to you today. I am here  
10 with Catherine Moncrieff, our Anthropologist who will  
11 also be assisting me in giving the report.  
12

13 I'd like to bring your attention to the  
14 report which was provided as supplemental material to  
15 your meeting where we highlight our accomplishments and  
16 update the RAC on our fisheries resource management  
17 program, projects and other related activities.  
18

19 The YRDFA 2020 30th annual Board  
20 meeting took place December 15th and 16th, 2020 by  
21 teleconference and some of the highlights of our  
22 meeting. We were able to fill all district seats with  
23 new Board members. Stanley Pete from Nunam Iqua, Al  
24 Von Finster from Whitehorse, alternates Richard Tuluk  
25 from Chevak and Paul Andrews from Emmo, Michelle  
26 Peterson from Mountain Village, and James Roberts from  
27 Tanana and Carl Sidney from Teslin.  
28

29 Four out of the six resolutions were  
30 passed. The delegation reported poor fishing  
31 throughout the Yukon River drainage along with high  
32 water levels, reports of ichthyophonus in fish and the  
33 current impacts of climate change.  
34

35 Last year we were able to host a post-  
36 season meeting and due to Covid we felt it was  
37 necessary to have another meeting to discuss the 2020  
38 season. The post-season meeting was held on December  
39 17th via teleconference, 47 participants joined the  
40 call and it lasted for 180 minutes. YRDFA Board  
41 members gave reports of fishing conditions and concerns  
42 the communities had. Low to no subsistence harvests of  
43 salmon were reported throughout the drainage along with  
44 high water conditions making it difficult to fish. The  
45 coastal communities reported large pods of beluga at  
46 the south mouth, the middle river reported that the  
47 short openings caused "combat fishing" where everyone  
48 would try to go out and catch what they can. Russian  
49 Mission reported catching bright and healthy chums and  
50

0127

1 sockeyes in their ice nets in November and December.  
2 In the up river communities, reports of ichthyophonus  
3 were prevalent in the salmon and were not suitable for  
4 consumption. Many subsistence fishermen held off on  
5 fishing for chinook and waited for fall chum, which  
6 many were not able to harvest because of the low  
7 returns and closures.

8  
9 This year we also hosted off-season  
10 teleconferences October, November and February. The  
11 teleconferences were topic focused on provided fishers  
12 with information related to Yukon River research. We  
13 understood that with the travel restrictions and the  
14 inability to meet we wanted to make sure there was an  
15 opportunity to hear about research and other related to  
16 issues that were affecting the Yukon River fishers.  
17 YRDFA hopes to continue providing information that's  
18 important to the Yukon River communities.

19  
20 Some of the upcoming activities to look  
21 forward to.

22  
23 The 2021 YRDFA Board meeting is  
24 scheduled for April 27th and 28th in Fairbanks Alaska  
25 at Pikes Riverfront Lodge. The Board will meet face to  
26 face with the option of alternates joining virtually.  
27 The Board felt it was very important to meet face to  
28 face to effectively discuss issues around the Yukon  
29 River.

30  
31 There are 12 Board members up for  
32 reelection this year and three alternates. You can go  
33 to our website at [yukonsalmon.org](http://yukonsalmon.org) to see whose terms  
34 are up for 2021.

35  
36 The 2021 pre-season meeting will be  
37 held virtually on April 29th. We will be planning to  
38 host district meetings before the pre-season meeting.  
39 This will give the fishing districts the opportunity to  
40 discuss their concerns and report to the management  
41 during the pre-season meeting. We'll have more  
42 information in the coming weeks, so, please, check our  
43 website at [yukonsalmon.org](http://yukonsalmon.org) or our FaceBook page at  
44 Yukon River Drainage Fishery Association.

45  
46 Some of the other activities that I'd  
47 like to report on.

48  
49 The fisheries disaster. Just like  
50

0128

1 Jennifer stated we haven't heard anything. Last month  
2 I reached out to the Governor's office and spoke with  
3 John Moller, to which he said the Governor had the  
4 reports to review. Since then we have not heard  
5 anything. Last week I met with Anne Robertson with  
6 Murkowski's office to inquire about the status of the  
7 declaration and we have not heard anything.

8  
9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11  
12 MS. FITKA: Our first Yukon River  
13 salmon management in-season teleconference will begin  
14 June 1st, 2021 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. We'll be sending  
15 out posters and letters to all tribes and First Nation  
16 offices. Please keep an eye out for them and post them  
17 in your community. We encourage all community members  
18 to please participate. We had a low participation from  
19 the coastal communities and District Y1. YRDFA has  
20 been trying to increase participation in areas where we  
21 are lacking so, please, encourage your fishers in your  
22 districts to participate during our in-season  
23 teleconferences every Tuesday at 1:00 o'clock from June  
24 to the end of August.

25  
26 I'd like to turn it over to Catherine  
27 to give reports on her projects and after that we will  
28 accept any questions or comments.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, thank you. This is  
33 Catherine, can you hear me okay?

34  
35 REPORTER: Yes.

36  
37 MS. FITKA: Yes, I can hear you.

38  
39 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay, great. Hi, thank  
40 you for this opportunity to report to your Council. As  
41 Serena said this is Catherine Moncrieff and I am the  
42 YRDFA Staff Anthropologist.

43  
44 I'd like to start my report with our  
45 in-season In-season Subsistence Salmon Survey program  
46 which is an FRMP funded project through March of 2024.  
47 As you may know, through the In-season Subsistence  
48 Salmon Survey program, YRDFA hires a local person in 10  
49 communities along the Yukon River stretching from  
50



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1 Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers during the chinook  
2 or king salmon season in their community. The  
3 information collected weekly and observations are  
4 shared anonymously with managers and with the Yukon  
5 River via the weekly teleconference. This important  
6 communication tool helps managers ensure that both  
7 Yukon River escapement is met and as many subsistence  
8 fishers are meeting their goals as possible. We are  
9 currently working on revising the survey forms for this  
10 coming season and we will begin rehiring our surveyors  
11 in April and plan our annual training event. We expect  
12 to be working in all 10 communities again this summer.

13  
14 The next project I'd like to give you  
15 an update on is Traditional Ecological Knowledge of  
16 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on  
17 Draanjik drainage. Currently we are developing a  
18 community review packet to be sent to each community to  
19 provide them an update on the project and ask for their  
20 feedback. We expect to be doing biological field work  
21 this coming spring, summer and fall with the Tanana  
22 Chiefs Conference, our partners Staff conducting an  
23 aerial survey in the (Indiscernible) Creek and  
24 Teedraanjik drainage to identify and locate the coho  
25 salmon spawning areas that has not yet been added to  
26 the anadromous waters catalog. This location has been  
27 identified by traditional knowledge and with positive  
28 eDNA analysis. Additional field work is planned for  
29 the spring and summer of 2021 to document rearing  
30 juvenile and spawning adult chinook and chum salmon.  
31 This project wraps up in March of 2022.

32  
33 We have two new exciting new projects.

34  
35 The first one: They Told Us There'd  
36 Come a Time, Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition on  
37 the Yukon River, a catalog of elders warnings. It's  
38 funded by the North Pacific Research Board, it is a  
39 partnership with the Tanana Chiefs Conference Young  
40 Adult Emerging Leaders. Through this project we will  
41 research documented local and traditional knowledge of  
42 salmon. The goal of the project year one is to review  
43 local and traditional knowledge archives for warnings  
44 from elders about salmon shortages or threats. We held  
45 a workshop with our team in late January to learn about  
46 the archival materials and how to access them.  
47 Currently our team is working on digging through the  
48 archives and we will meet later this year to share our  
49 results and begin our analysis. In year two we will  
50

0130

1     conduct ethnographic interviews and in year three we  
2     will produce outreach materials to showcase what we  
3     have learned.

4

5                     We have another newly funded project  
6     which has not yet begun. This one is titled:  
7     Integrating Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge  
8     into Anadromous Waters Catalog and Fish Inventories of  
9     Selected Drainages of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, 2021  
10    to 2023. This project funded by the Alaska Sustainable  
11    Salmon Fund, or AKSSF will have YRDFA partnering with  
12    the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat Division  
13    to document important areas with anadromous fish.  
14    Together we will work with the communities of Tanana,  
15    Nenana, and Manley Hot Springs to identify important  
16    fish locations for the anadromous waters catalog.

17

18                    That concludes my portion of the  
19    report, unless, Serena, you have anything else to add,  
20    I think we can take questions and thank you for your  
21    time.

22

23                    MS. FITKA: No, I have nothing else.  
24    Thank you.

25

26                    CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for your  
27    report. Do we have any questions for Serena or  
28    Catherine at this time from the Council.

29

30                    MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman. Can you  
31    repeat the name of that last speaker. This is Richard.

32

33                    CHAIRMAN ONEY: Catherine Moncrieff.

34

35                    MR. SLATS: Thank you.

36

37                    CHAIRMAN ONEY: Serena, did you say you  
38    were going to have your gathering sometime this spring?

39

40                    MS. FITKA: Yes. So we will be having  
41    our annual Board meeting in Fairbanks April 27th and  
42    28th and just the Board members will be meeting face to  
43    face and there'll be an option to join in virtual with  
44    an 800 number.

45

46                    CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Is  
47    there any other questions or comments for Catherine or  
48    Serena at this time.

49

50

0131

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none,  
4 appreciate your report, thank you, very much.

5

6 MS. FITKA: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Moving on, Eva.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
11 Council. And thanks to Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
12 Association for a great report. Next on the agenda as  
13 we're moving down we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Do we have  
15 Staff online from Togiak.

16

17 MR. MOOS: Yeah, this is Kenton Moos,  
18 the Refuge Manager.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. MOOS: All right. I'm going to  
23 make this short. Just real quickly, Andy Aderman, I  
24 know usually gives this report and he's out in the  
25 field today so I'm -- you got the Junior Varsity giving  
26 the report today.

27

28 But anyway, I, first of all want to  
29 thank you for this opportunity, and just real briefly  
30 we've got a fair amount of Staff changes. One of the  
31 biggest Staff changes we have, we just want to let  
32 people know and we want to congratulate him but we'll  
33 also miss him, Johnny Dyasuk, our interpreter who has  
34 been with us for over 30 years has decided to retire  
35 and we will miss Johnny but at the same time he, you  
36 know, just lives up in Aleknagik and we're happy that  
37 he'll be around to assist and he's graciously agreed to  
38 volunteer and stuff when we need him and so forth. So  
39 -- but we will miss Johnny for sure and we very much  
40 appreciated his time and service with Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service, especially here at Togiak National Wildlife  
42 Refuge.

43

44 Also we are in the process of hiring an  
45 RIT out of Quinhagak, the position is currently open.  
46 So if anybody from Quinhagak is listening and is  
47 interested in an RIT position with Togiak Refuge,  
48 please get a hold of us, either here, or there's an  
49 announcements over there in Quinhagak as well.

50

0132

1                   Then also we have -- since I believe we  
2 talked with you last, we have hired a Deputy Refuge  
3 Manager, Mr. Stan Cullings is on board now. And we  
4 also have a new biologist, she's -- I think we might  
5 have introduced her before, but Janelle Trowbridge who  
6 is originally from Nome and a recent graduate from UAA,  
7 is with us as well. So we're excited about having  
8 those new employees with us.

9

10                   As far as this upcoming season we are  
11 hoping that we're going to be able to get some projects  
12 done. We are waiting for some approval on some capture  
13 work that we're hoping to do in cooperation with Alaska  
14 Department of Fish and Game for moose and caribou, the  
15 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd, and then moose to the  
16 west of us both in 17A as well as in Unit 18. But  
17 we're waiting for approval on that and we're hoping  
18 that we're going to be able to get that done.

19

20                   And then some of our other field camps,  
21 again, it's sort of a -- we're needing to get approval  
22 from our regional office before we can proceed with  
23 some of them, just because of some of the concerns with  
24 Covid, but we are hoping that we will be to a more  
25 normal field season this year.

26

27                   With that, I'll stop there.

28

29                   If anybody has any questions I will try  
30 to field them and otherwise thank you for your time.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we  
33 have any questions for Kenton at this time with the  
34 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

35

36

37                   (No comments)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none,  
40 appreciate your report. Thank you, very much.

41

42                   MR. MOOS: Thank you. Have a great  
43 afternoon.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Enjoy your day, too.  
46 Okay, moving on, Eva.

47

48                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
49 Council members. And thanks to Kenton, and maybe just

50

0133

1 a note if Andy was available tomorrow, the Council was  
2 going to resume discussion on wildlife proposals so  
3 there'd be an opportunity if Andy had any further  
4 updates he did want to share with the Council.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. MOOS: I will let him know, thanks,  
9 Eva.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Kenton. And  
12 next up we have Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

13

14 MR. MOSES: Hi Eva. Mr. Chair. This  
15 is Aaron Moses. First we're going to start off with  
16 Spencer Reardon, he's going to update with the  
17 fisheries for the summer. Spencer, are you online.

18

19 MR. REARDON: Yes, I'm online.

20

21 MR. MOSES: Okay.

22

23 MR. REARDON: Not a whole bunch more to  
24 say than what you've probably already heard. Basically  
25 we have a new manager, Boyd Blihovde, who is out today,  
26 and I'm stepping in for him today.

27

28 We have been working closely with the  
29 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission looking at  
30 forecasts and playing scenarios as to how to best  
31 manage the chinook fishery this year. And so we  
32 continue to plan to do so. We'll also be working with  
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And we're trying  
34 to work on a 2021 management strategy, that's the next  
35 step for us. We're in the early stages of discussing  
36 that. And so we hope to be able to share that with the  
37 public in the near future.

38

39 We're also going to be part of the in-  
40 season harvest monitoring where we, Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service, will be conducting the boat counts during the  
42 openers, combining that with the in-season harvest  
43 monitoring information that ONC and the Fish Commission  
44 collects to try to get in-season information for where  
45 we're at with the harvest of chinook.

46

47 And so that's about all I have to say  
48 right now for Kuskokwim fisheries, which shouldn't be  
49 surprising to many. It's looking very similar to past

50

0134

1 years. So, thank you.

2

3 MR. MOSES: Okay. I'll continue on  
4 with that for the wildlife side and Refuge updates.

5

6 We are also looking for two Refuge  
7 Information Technicians. I believe that the  
8 announcement has gone out so if anybody from anywhere  
9 along the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta is looking for a job,  
10 please, contact us here at the Refuge.

11

12 Due to Covid we're trying to plan as if  
13 it would be a normal year. We realize that it's not  
14 going to -- a lot of things may not go through but a  
15 lot of our waterfowl crews are planning on going out  
16 into the field, out towards Titako -- or not -- Kigigak  
17 Island to do their emperor goose work. A lot of the  
18 stuff we're working on also is we're working with Fish  
19 and Game and they will mention it during their  
20 presentation, right now we are still flying a  
21 population survey between Marshall and Russian Mission  
22 and Fish and Game did Marshall on down to the coast and  
23 they'll have a presentation on that.

24

25 Just a couple things about regulation  
26 changes.

27

28 Yukon Delta, we're going to be  
29 submitting a special action to the Federal Subsistence  
30 Board to extend hunting for moose in Zone 2 to October  
31 15th. Recently we haven't been getting near the quota  
32 and so we'd like to extend opportunity up in Zone 2,  
33 Federal and up into the hills. We're going to be  
34 putting a permanent regulation proposal also during  
35 this wildlife cycle.

36

37 Our law enforcement, they're conducting  
38 patrols for Mulchatna. The caribou have been coming by  
39 on our side of the hills here and there and so our law  
40 enforcement has been flying and snowmachine patrols  
41 throughout the area.

42

43 As for Staff changes, Spencer, who just  
44 talked, he's now the Supervisory Biologist, he was the  
45 Deputy Manager and is moving over to lead the biology  
46 program. And we are also -- hired a new Park Ranger  
47 and visitor services manager, he started but he's  
48 teleworking from Anchorage, so later on this summer you  
49 guys will be able to meet him.

50

0135

1 Other than that, that's all we got for  
2 right now, if you guys have any questions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you Aaron  
5 and Spencer. do we have any questions for them at this  
6 time.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I do, on Zone 2, can  
11 you identify the area and if you're going to extend the  
12 opening and how long will that be for?

13

14 MR. MOSES: I'm sorry, you cut out  
15 there for a second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, you mentioned  
18 about asking for a special action request to extend the  
19 moose hunting in Zone 2, can you identify where that  
20 area is and how long you plan to extend the opener.

21

22 MR. MOSES: Yes. Zone 2 is on the  
23 Kuskokwim, it's primarily on the south side of the  
24 Kuskokwim up in the mountains. We have Zone 1, which  
25 is more closely to the Kuskokwim River right now, but  
26 up higher -- up by like Three Step Mountain where it's  
27 primarily Federal lands, we are going to be extending  
28 the moose season in that area to October 15th.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
31 October 15th. Do you plan on doing any kind of moose  
32 surveys here in Unit 18, the lower Yukon area?

33

34 MR. MOSES: Yeah. Fish and Game will  
35 present that during their turn. We're working with  
36 them. Fish and Game flew the lowest Yukon so they'll  
37 be able to give you the numbers on that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, we'll wait for  
40 their report. Thank you, very much. Do we have any  
41 questions or comments for Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
42 Refuge.

43

44 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Alissa.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Through the Chair, this is Alissa Rogers for the

50

0136

1 record. I was going to ask Aaron, do you need any type  
2 of letter of support for your special action request or  
3 any type of action needed to help support your  
4 extension?

5

6 MR. MOSES: At this time I do not know.  
7 We are still in the process of trying to draft it but  
8 it'll be submitted here shortly and the Board -- or the  
9 RACs should be getting a copy of it once it is  
10 completed.

11

12 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa. Is  
15 there any other questions or comments for Aaron or  
16 Spencer at this time.

17

18 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: John.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, this is John Andrew  
23 from Kwethluk. When was the last time you guys had an  
24 aerial survey on the moose population on the Kuskokwim  
25 side and the side south, all the way up to Zone 2 area?

26

27 MR. MOSES: Spencer are you still on.  
28 I think Spencer would be able to answer that.

29

30 MR. JONES: I'm on too if you would  
31 like me to do it.

32

33 MR. MOSES: Oh, yeah, Patrick too.

34

35 MR. REARDON: Yeah, Patrick will -- he's  
36 going to summarize, I imagine a number of moose  
37 information data, but it has been some time. We know  
38 we're overdue but we have indication that the  
39 population has gone up since then. So hold tight and  
40 I think Patrick will give you more detailed information  
41 because I imagine he has it at hand.

42

43 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, this is Patrick  
44 Jones with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pat.

47

48 MR. JONES: So I'll just go ahead and  
49 start in the south side of Unit 18 and work my way  
50



0137

1 north.

2

3

4 We're in a pretty unique situation, the  
5 last two winters have been really a lot of snow and  
6 we've had some extra funding for moose so in the last  
7 12 months we've actually surveyed -- or are currently  
8 in the process of surveying every moose population in  
9 the unit. So last March, March 2020, so almost a year  
10 ago we, with the Togiak Refuge, surveyed the Goodnews  
11 River. That population has increased pretty  
12 dramatically and it was up to 450 moose.

12

13

14 Moving north into the Kanektok River,  
15 Quinhagak has its own little moose hunt area now, 617,  
16 that moose population is also increasing pretty fast,  
17 they are up to 234 moose. That's a new record for that  
18 drainage.

18

19

20 And then as we move into the Kuskokwim  
21 proper, we have two hunts, or two zones in the  
22 Kuskokwim. So it's RM615 is the hunt we refer to, and  
23 Zone 1 is the mainstem river and Gweek and lower  
24 Johnson River, it goes from Kalskag all the way down to  
25 Eek River. And in this section, in Zone 1 we counted  
26 3,200 moose. So that moose population is continuing to  
27 grow, it's starting to slow its growth a little bit, as  
28 we're increasing hunting, but it's still continuing to  
29 grow. But in Zone 2, and Zone 2 is kind of the eastern  
30 side of this Kuskokwim area, so it's the drainages and  
31 the mountains, so it's the upper Tuluksak, the Fog  
32 River, Kisaralik and Kasigluk, above the upper cut  
33 across there, it's the Kwethluk River up stream --  
34 basically up stream of Three Step Magic Creek area, and  
35 Eek River, up river of the forks, so this area we were  
36 able to do the survey with U.S. Fish and Wildlife here  
37 in Bethel and we counted 790 moose and so that  
38 population is up too. So that's pretty good news.  
39 That's why we were able to increase hunting season this  
40 year in both zones. We added a week to Zone 2 so  
41 people are hunting into October 7th this year, and we  
42 added four days to Zone 1, it was an 11 day season, so  
43 that was the longest season we had.

43

44

45 And while I'm there I'll talk about  
46 that hunt too. This year with food security issues and  
47 other things we've had more people hunting than we've  
48 ever had before. So this year I gave out 1,850 permits  
49 for that hunt, that's about 500 more than the next  
50 highest year so we just had a lot more hunters, people

50

0138

1 that had never hunted before, hunting this year, and  
2 that resulted in a pretty high harvest. So Zone 1 and  
3 Zone 2 together we killed 331 moose during the hunting  
4 season and we've killed an additional 30 moose out of  
5 the hunting season with mortuary moose, so these are  
6 moose that villages request for funerals or 40 day  
7 feasts. So we've killed almost 370 moose here on the  
8 Kuskokwim this year, that's almost 100 moose than the  
9 previous high year. And it looks like the population  
10 can support that at the moment but that's a high  
11 harvest for the population we have so it's getting  
12 close to 10 percent harvest rate.

13

14 And then as we move north to the Yukon,  
15 so this year and the last couple weeks we -- Fish and  
16 Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife have been conducting  
17 moose surveys there. I'll start in the lower river.

18

19 So we have the Yukon divided into three  
20 sections. So the lower river for us for the moose  
21 survey area is kind of everything down stream of  
22 Mountain Village, that includes Kusilvak area, Nunam  
23 Iqua, Emmonak, up to Kotlik, kind of the Delta proper.  
24 We counted in that area 11,200 moose so that population  
25 is up considerably from last time we counted it, we  
26 counted it about four years ago and it was 8,000, so  
27 it's continuing to grow even though we have a very  
28 liberal hunting season there.

29

30 Moving up river from that, the middle  
31 section, we call the Andreaafsky survey area, so that's  
32 basically Mountain Village to a point like halfway  
33 between Marshall and Pilot Station and includes the  
34 Andreaafsky River and Mountain area. There we counted  
35 8,700 moose. Basically down stream of Pilot Station we  
36 have 20,000 moose right now in the Yukon and that's a  
37 lot of moose, probably too many moose for the habitat,  
38 especially here in the winter.

39

40 And currently as Aaron and Spencer  
41 said, we're still trying to fly the upper section,  
42 hopefully with some more good weather we'll get a good  
43 number here for the area up stream of Pilot Station up  
44 to the 18/21E boundary here.

45

46 But I mean that's quick and dirty, any  
47 questions.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew.

50

0139

1 Thank you, very much. And I really appreciate your  
2 report. This is a very good time to go out and do it,  
3 it's the first time you've got a lot of snow in a long,  
4 long time.

5

6                   Quyana.

7

8                   MR. JONES: Yeah, so lots of snow, it  
9 was really good conditions, we could really see those  
10 moose. And as everybody else kind of pointed out  
11 earlier in the meeting, these moose are moving down to  
12 the mainstem river and on the islands and they're being  
13 really visible. They're getting -- they're starting to  
14 have a stressful time so they're letting people get  
15 closer to them than they normally should. They're  
16 hanging out on the snowmachine trails, so just remind  
17 everybody to be careful, those moose are working hard  
18 in the deep snow and if they're on a trail they don't  
19 really want to get off right now.

20

21                   MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew. It's  
22 the first time we see moose really close by, mostly on  
23 the willows, and even the wolves are coming in right to  
24 the villages to try to get close to the moose.

25

26                   Thank you.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have  
29 any more questions or comments for Pat.

30

31                   MR. LUPIE: Mr. Chairman. Adolf Lupie  
32 from Tuntutuliak.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

35

36                   MR. LUPIE: Good afternoon. This fall  
37 this village of Tuntutuliak didn't do so well on moose  
38 hunting like previous years. Most of the people around  
39 here used to catch moose but last fall we had very hard  
40 time catching moose and there were a lot of families  
41 that didn't catch one. And some of those things when  
42 we cannot catch or see a moose, we were seeing there  
43 were too many (indiscernible), there, that winter, and  
44 that was the reason and we didn't catch -- most of the  
45 moose spots -- moose spots didn't have any moose.  
46 There weren't lots of people -- even they caught a  
47 moose they were not like previous years because there  
48 were a lot of (indiscernible) in the wintertime.

49

50

0140

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

4 Anyone else has any comments or questions for Pat.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

9

10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Through the Chair, Alissa Rogers for the record. Pat,

12 is there by any chance that we could increase the

13 harvest availability in the lower, the very lower

14 section of the Yukon River?

15

16 MR. JONES: Boy, I'm all ears if you

17 have an idea. I mean the season is open August 1 to

18 April 30th and it's a two moose bag limit. So

19 currently it's the most liberal moose hunting

20 regulation in North America. It's just a long ways away

21 from everywhere and logistics and expenses keep people

22 from traveling that far. But if you can come up with

23 an idea to harvest more moose on the lower Yukon I'm

24 listening.

25

26 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27 Another comment for Patrick.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32 Through the Chair, Alissa Rogers again. Is there a

33 possibly where the Native Corporations can

34 commercialize harvesting the moose and then selling

35 them just the way they do with the reindeer in the

36 Mekoryuk or any other type of caribou harvesting or

37 reindeer harvesting in other locations of the region,

38 where we can implement that type of system for those

39 villages down there to sell and also make profit for

40 their tribes or their corporations or their village to

41 increase harvesting opportunities and also try to put a

42 cap or put some type of pressure on the increasing

43 population down there?

44

45 MR. JONES: So there's not a legal

46 route right now. The big difference is the reindeer in

47 Nunivak are privately owned, they're a domestic animal

48 and the moose are a wild animal, so under the State

49 Constitution there's no market hunting allowed, that's

50

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1 kind of the North American model of game management  
2 actually. So there's not a way to incentivise it with  
3 that kind of program. ONC here has been a little  
4 creative with some of their Covid money and they're  
5 sponsoring hunters that will go to the Yukon and proxy  
6 hunt for elders and they're supplying gas and a sled, I  
7 believe, this year. So there's -- we've had a record  
8 number of proxies this year through the Bethel office  
9 and that's been a pretty cool program to see, that  
10 Janessa Esquible's got going over there with ONC, it  
11 sounds like it's working especially in the winter, and  
12 that's harvesting 10s of moose more, 10, 20 moose more  
13 and, quite honestly, on the Yukon, I suspect when we're  
14 all said and done we're going to find another 5,000  
15 give or take above Marshall, if I were just going to  
16 guess right now, so we're talking about 25,000 moose  
17 roughly on the Yukon River drainage and Andreafsky.  
18 And currently harvesting a year -- we harvest about  
19 1,000 moose on the Yukon, the whole entire Yukon from  
20 August through March and really I'd like to see that  
21 harvest get closer to 3,000 or 4,000 to start bringing  
22 this population down a little bit and start protecting  
23 that habitat from long-term damage.

24

25 So I'm not sure how we turn the notch  
26 up that much on the Yukon right now. It's just -- it's  
27 just so far away and when people, say from Anchorage,  
28 come, they have to fly over a lot of moose before they  
29 get there and it just doesn't make a lot of sense for  
30 people to travel that far. But I mean I kind of like  
31 that line of thought you're going down there, Alissa,  
32 but I guess we can't market hunt, I guess, is the final  
33 answer.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Probably another idea I  
36 could mention is maybe for the non-profits, like our  
37 elder care there in Bethel and also if the communities  
38 can at least harvest a moose for the school, I think  
39 there's opportunity that may be available there,  
40 especially for the non- -- like the elders and the  
41 prematernal home, those areas that do rely on, you  
42 know, subsistence foods because our people are -- and  
43 if that could be made available I'm sure we could  
44 assign people from our area to at least get one or two  
45 moose for non-profit, would that be made available?

46

47 MR. JONES: You know there's ways to do  
48 that. ONC is helping with proxies, so if there's  
49 somebody there we can proxy for we can do that. The

50

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1 other thing that happens is if an animal gets turned  
2 over to the State Troopers or Fish and Game for some  
3 reason, that normally goes to a charity here in Bethel,  
4 like the ones you mentioned Ray, prematernal home or  
5 the old folks home or the -- one of the youth  
6 facilities here, and those have all been very  
7 successful but we don't get very many animals like  
8 that, that's two or three a year that we normally get  
9 in good enough condition to turn over. And as far as  
10 schools, we have what's called an educational permit,  
11 we have three schools right now that have educational  
12 permits in the unit and that's a really cool program if  
13 -- it takes a little bit of organization from a teacher  
14 or a principal but they can get a permit from the State  
15 for free and they just have to have an educational  
16 curriculum that goes with it but then we'll allow them  
17 to go harvest a moose and that normally works out  
18 pretty good. You get teachers involved, you get elders  
19 involved and then they are able to go harvest a moose,  
20 and skin it and butcher it and then the kids get to,  
21 you know, cut the whole thing up and process it and  
22 give it away. And then normally there's some kind of  
23 feast in the gym, or at least there was before Covid,  
24 and then that's always been a really, cool successful  
25 program, a little hunting knowledge, a little local  
26 knowledge, a little science, kind of the best of all  
27 worlds kind of situation. And so if your school, or  
28 anybody has a school in their community that might be  
29 interested in it have them give me a call and I can  
30 walk them through how to do this. Every one that's  
31 been done so far has been really good, really high  
32 success.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.  
35 Anyone else has any comments or questions for Patrick.

36

37 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James  
38 Landlord.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

41

42 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, right now Mountain  
43 Village Tribe has moose hunting for elder or anybody  
44 that don't have meat, they buy the gas and also have  
45 hunting license and harvest they haven't used yet, to  
46 call the tribe and they'll -- provide the gas and go  
47 out and get a moose. It's open right now for ones that  
48 have hunting license and harvest.

49

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1 MR. JONES: Sure. So through the  
2 Chair. So we still have to follow the seasons and the  
3 bag limits for all the areas. Right now Unit 18  
4 remainder is open for moose until the end of April. So  
5 that's the Coast basically from Kong north up to Kotlik  
6 on the Coast and it's the Yukon River drainage in the  
7 upper Johnson up stream of Nunapitchuk so it's a huge  
8 area. That's the area I'm talking about that has  
9 25,000 moose right now. So in that area, on the State  
10 side, if you're 60 -- 65 years or older, blind or 70  
11 percent disabled, we can do a proxy for you and see if  
12 we can find a hunter that'll go out for you. And on  
13 the Federal side, we can do what's called a designated  
14 hunter or Aaron Moses can help you with this and that's  
15 where one rural resident out here can hunt for any  
16 other rural resident. So there is -- if you need help  
17 hunting there's ways to do that under the State system  
18 of the Federal system.

19

20 MR. LANDLORD: This is James again. I  
21 have a -- what do they call that, permanent hunting and  
22 trapping license, 65 and older.

23

24 MR. JONES: Yeah, so once a person  
25 turns 60 you get a free hunting, fishing and trapping  
26 license for the rest of your life so that's absolutely  
27 free and -- but you still have to follow all the  
28 regulations and bag limits everybody else does, it just  
29 doesn't cost you any money is the only difference. So  
30 it's free for you but you still have to follow the same  
31 hunting seasons everybody else does. But -- so if you  
32 have that it's most likely we can do a proxy for you or  
33 -- or a designated hunter, whatever would be easier for  
34 you.

35

36 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, okay, thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do we  
39 have any other comments or questions for Pat.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none,  
44 appreciate your report Pat -- Pat Jones and also Aaron  
45 and Spencer. If there is nothing else we could go  
46 ahead -- we got almost 5:00 o'clock.....

47

48 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair.

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, who's  
2 speaking.

3  
4                   MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is Thomas  
5 Alstrom. I had a question for Pat.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, go ahead,  
8 Thomas.

9  
10                  MR. ALSTROM: Well, maybe not a  
11 question, rather a comm -- yeah, rather a question  
12 maybe. You know is there any regulations or  
13 information about harvesting or collecting moose  
14 antlers throughout the region because I've seen here  
15 throughout the communities here on the Yukon Delta, a  
16 lot of younger individuals they go out and collect  
17 these moose antlers, maybe there might be some kind of  
18 regulations or some information that communities should  
19 be aware of or is that free or open for everyone?

20  
21                  MR. JONES: Sure. So there's a few  
22 regulations about moose antlers. So the big one is  
23 that you have to destroy the trophy value of the animal  
24 to sell the antlers, and that's a legal term and what  
25 that means is before you sell it you have to cut the  
26 antlers off of the skull plate so that each antler has  
27 to be individual with no skull attached to is basically  
28 the rule. Otherwise you're allowed to sell them from  
29 hunted animals and you're absolutely allowed to go pick  
30 up the ones that -- the sheds and sell those. So I  
31 guess that's the -- it's pretty liberal in this unit.  
32 If you go up to Unit 23 they have some regulations in  
33 Unit 23 that prohibit the sale of caribou antlers up  
34 there. But as far as Unit 18 goes it's -- you're  
35 allowed to sell them and you're especially allowed to  
36 pick them up off the ground and sell those.

37  
38                  MR. ALSTROM: All right, thank you Pat.

39  
40                  MR. JONES: Yep. Yep, no problem.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Thank  
43 you for that. Is that it for the Fish and Game report  
44 and Yukon Delta National report, if there's no other  
45 reports to give I think that'll be it for today. I'll  
46 go ahead and continue again in the morning, if there's  
47 nothing else, Eva.

48  
49                  MR. JONES: Could I have one more  
50



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1 report and I'll wrap it up real fast.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry, go ahead,  
4 Pat.

5

6 MR. JONES: All right. So I'll wrap it  
7 up with the last thing. So this spring, just to let  
8 everybody know in advance that it looks like we'll be  
9 able to do moose captures this year. We canceled them  
10 last year because of Covid but it looks like everybody  
11 that'll be on the capture team has the vaccine so we're  
12 moving forward with it. The capture areas we're  
13 looking at is the lowest Yukon, so it's that area down  
14 stream of Mountain Village on the Yukon and in the  
15 Paimiut area, so we'll be concentrating kind of between  
16 Marshal and Russian Mission in those two areas. And so  
17 April 15th we'll be working in that area for about a  
18 week, between those two areas about a week with a  
19 helicopter and a SuperCub locating and we're going to  
20 catch 11 month old calf moose, cows and weigh them to  
21 see how healthy they are and how fast they're growing.  
22 We're going to put radio collars on them and see if we  
23 can't follow them through their life, figure out how  
24 far they move, if they're moving, migrating and age of  
25 first reproduction and if they die, what's killing  
26 them. This is supposed to be a three year project, I  
27 think it might end up being a four year project because  
28 of the Covid year but this will be the second year  
29 we've done it. Two years ago we went in there and  
30 collared 20 moose below Mountain Village and 20 moose  
31 up there by Russian Mission. Those cows this year --  
32 this year will be the first year, we're kind of  
33 expecting to be able to go out there and find if those  
34 cows are having calves. So far most of the moose have  
35 lived. We've lost three to wolves and two to bears and  
36 one starved to death so far. So it looks like on  
37 average there's some mortality from predators but on  
38 average the moose are doing pretty darn good on the  
39 Yukon right now. Life seems to be pretty good for  
40 them.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. As we heard  
43 from Alissa earlier today she was having some calves  
44 that were in her backdoor and I guess she saw three  
45 calves from one cow so there's a good production of  
46 calves it sounds like.

47

48 How about the bison, how are they  
49 doing?

50

0146

1 MR. JONES: You know I don't have  
2 current numbers on the bison up there by Shageluk. I  
3 can see if I can find something for you tomorrow, I  
4 just don't have that at hand right now.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, it'd be good to  
7 get an update on that because I believe we did get a  
8 small report last fall so if we could get an update on  
9 how they're doing as far as calving and the wolves and  
10 what not, or if they might be migrating out of that  
11 area, so it'd be good to know.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. JONES: Yep. Yep, not a problem.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's no  
18 other questions, Eva, I think if we can break for the  
19 day unless there's any other housekeeping items that we  
20 need to be aware of before we end the day.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
23 Council members. That sounds good for today and then  
24 we'll pick back up tomorrow morning.

25

26 I'm just getting a request here from  
27 our Yukon fisheries Staff, they're trying to catch both  
28 the Eastern Interior meeting and the YK Delta RAC, they  
29 did request if there was an opportunity to have their  
30 report in the morning if possible and, otherwise, we  
31 had planned on resuming back with the wildlife updates  
32 and discussion on any proposals.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. If  
35 there's any agencies that are pressing for time we  
36 could go ahead and take them in the morning.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
39 thanks to Council members for all your great work today  
40 and for all the reports from everyone and patience with  
41 our teleconference line. It's sounding pretty good now  
42 so hopefully we'll have good luck tomorrow morning.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
45 Council.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, if there's  
48 nothing else we'll go ahead and recess for this evening  
49 and come back on at 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

50

0147

1 MR. SLATS: Good night everybody.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Have a good evening.

4 Guyana.

5

6 MR. LUPIE: Good evening from

7 Tuntutuliak and bye-bye.

8

9 MS. ROGERS: Guyana, Mr. Chair. We'll  
10 talk to you guys tomorrow in the morning.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thanks for being  
13 with us Alissa. Okay, good evening, see you in the  
14 morning.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Guyana, have a good  
17 evening everyone.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Same to you, Eva, bye.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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14 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically  
15 on the 3rd day of March;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and  
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23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
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