

0143

1 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
10 Bethel, Alaska
11 October 28, 2022
12 9:16 a.m.
13
14
15

16 MEMBERS PRESENT:

17
18 Myron Naneng, Acting Chair
19 John Andrew
20 Jackie Cleveland
21 Norma Evan
22 James Landlord
23 Henry Parks
24 Phillip Peter
25 Alissa Rogers

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33 Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid
34
35
36
37
38
39

40 Recorded and transcribed by:

41
42 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
43 329 F Street, Suite 222
44 Anchorage, AK 99501
45 907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net
46
47
48
49
50

0144

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/28/2022)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Advisory Council, there's a lot of work that needs to be done so from here on I would appreciate that we make a concerted effort to show up on time, because I know that some of you would want to get back home later on in the day and if the presenters are not present, we'll go onto the next item if they notify us that they're not here.

So in the interest of time I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. The time now is 9:16 a.m. October 28th and before we get on to the agenda items, I'd like to know if there's anyone that would want to make any public comments. Tim.

MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair, this is Stanislaus Sheppard, Mountain Village.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Before we go on, and I'm sorry, I forgot to do this. Let's do a roll call of the Council Members first.

MS. MCDAVID: Good morning. For the record this is Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator.

Henry Parks.

MR. PARKS: Present.

MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

MS. EVAN: Present.

MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MS. MCDAVID: Thomas Alstrom. Thomas is absent due to illness.

Jackie Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Here.

0145

1 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

2

3 MR. LANDLORD: Here.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

6

7 MS. ROGERS: Present.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter, Sr.

10

11 MR. PETER: Here.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Wassilly Alexie. Wass is
14 absent and has an excused absence.

15

16 Ray Oney.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Ray, were you able to
21 call in today?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Ray is absent. Myron
26 Naneng, Sr.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I'm here.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman, are you on
31 the line with us today?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: I know Robert was in
36 Anchorage for some treatment, so he might be able to
37 call in later.

38

39 And Richard Slats?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: No Richard.

44

45 Mr. Chair, we have quorum.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
48 We'll go ahead and start off the meeting with public
49 comments before we go onto the agenda items of

50

0146

1 proposals, so, Tim.

2

3

4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
5 morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. My name
6 is Timothy Andrew. I'm a subsistence user representing
7 myself. Just a continuation from yesterday giving me
8 the chance express part of what I was intending to talk
9 about. I'm from the community of Marshall or the last
10 several weeks, and thank you to Norma, that we've been
11 having a bear issue in the community. I understand
12 it's a sow with a cub, grizzly bear, been pretty much
13 tearing the community, taking moose that are hanging in
14 the fish racks and just ruckus in the community.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

We also had a brown bear here in Bethel just north of my house up in Tundra Ridge. It came within 50 yards of the road this past September -- or in August.

And it seems apparent that with the lack of berries and with the lack of other alternative food sources that these animals are starting to come into town. There's not a whole lot that we can do about it, but it's just something that arises as food sources tend to disappear for these animals that they depend on.

The other thing that I would like to mention, it's good to see -- it's very heart warming to see young ladies, young people participate in the regional advisory council, Norma, Alissa and Jackie. And hopefully that trend continues so that we can carry on our involvement, our input into the Federal subsistence management in Alaska. So thank you very much.

The other issue is there's been a lot of sightings of musk oxen in various areas, tundra villages. There's a herd on the Yukon River, there's some in the Kuskokwim Mountains behind Kalskag, various locations. And it's quite apparent that there's an increase in population perhaps to a limited huntable pop -- level. And this next game cycle I'm intending to submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game and also to the Federal Subsistence Management, although it's not a subsistence priority under the Federal management, but would like to make it so, so that we can at least at some day have an opportunity to harvest these animals.

0147

1 And so the question I would leave at
2 the end of my testimony is how do we nominate a species
3 for subsistence priority. Do we submit a proposal? Is
4 there a process that we're supposed to go through?

5

6 And hopefully at some point somebody
7 will answer that question, because the Yup'ik people
8 are very opportunistic as far as subsistence hunting
9 and fishing and gathering whatever resources that are
10 edible and something that we've grown to love, like the
11 beaver. The beaver came in in huge populations back in
12 the 1970s. They had a great big growth 1970s, 1980s.
13 Prior to that they were very low in population. They
14 were -- just started to move down towards our area. In
15 fact, I remember my dad harvesting beaver and he had to
16 put in a locked CITES tag because the beaver
17 populations were so low, but now that they're here, we
18 had a -- we depended on that for subsistence and we
19 didn't have to go through that process at that time.

20

21 But we need to be able to -- as animals
22 and different species start settling on our lands, you
23 know, we're going to be out there subsistence hunting
24 and fishing and gathering, and we'd just like to know
25 how that process -- how we can start that process.

26

27 And thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, Tim. Anyone
30 else with a comment.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: On the phone.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Anybody else on
35 the -- would like to make public comments. Is anyone
36 on the phone?

37

38 MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
39 this is Stanislaus Sheppard, Mountain Village.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead,
42 Stan.

43

44 MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning. (In
45 Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: I am going to speak in
48 Yup'ik from (in Yup'ik).

49

50

0148

1 MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning, Board. My
2 name is Stanislaus Sheppard. My Yup'ik name's (in
3 Yup'ik). I was born and raised here in the Yukon,
4 reside in Mountain Village. A subsistence user all my
5 life. During the course of my life I've seen a lot of
6 changes, especially on the resource salmon. I grew up
7 eating salmon every year and participate in the fish
8 camp stake, putting it away for the winter. (In
9 Yup'ik)

10

11 INTERPRETER: It is getting worse here
12 and our culture and ways are disappearing because of
13 this, but in other areas, in the ocean are abundant.

14

15 MR. SHEPPARD: I'm sorry. Maybe go back
16 and -- do you have a translator, Myron?

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: You're being
19 translated as you're speaking, Stan.

20

21 MR. SHEPPARD: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

22

23 INTERPRETER: And because of this reason
24 my grandpa and my dad, they've told me, when you grow
25 up, the fish -- for this reason people will start to be
26 against you and it is getting worse. We no longer can
27 fish for subsistence for three years now. It seem like
28 we're going through a moratorium and it's because from
29 (Indiscernible) and from down the river it's like we're
30 having a moratorium. A lot of people were stingy and
31 from the shoreline, but when we tried different ways,
32 they are starting to become abundant. After they
33 studied the Kuskokwim River they started the moratorium
34 in our area and that's what w were told in the Yukon
35 River. And after the moratorium they're becoming
36 abundant. And the fish commission are working together
37 and the people from there told us that if you do a
38 moratorium that you might complete something. But I'm
39 thinking if every year they're getting less and less.
40 There be some way that they may come back some summer.

41

42 MR. SHEPPARD: I am kind of nervous
43 right now, but I'm going to switch to English, because
44 I have to read this. How low does the fish hatching
45 Eagle fish where action was taken on all fishers on the
46 -- in the state of Alaska. Seems like the only fishers
47 on the Yukon are the ones taking action to make sure
48 there is some escapement. That is costing our
49 subsistence, our way of like and passing on the
50

0149

1 traditions to our younger generation. It seems like we
2 are on a moratorium here on the Yukon River and every
3 year the count at Eagle is dropping. What will be done
4 the escapement -- what will be the escapement next
5 year, and how low does the escapement have to be before
6 any action is taken pertaining to the treaty we've got
7 with Canada? US and Canada treaty for that escapement.

8

9 Qu yana.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Qu yana, Stan.

12

13 Anybody else on line to test -- make
14 public testimony.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no one,
19 I'd like to read the letter that I just.....

20

21 MR. LUPI: Adolph Lupi from Tuntutuliak.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Go ahead.

24

25 MR. LUPI: Yes. Good morning.
26 Yesterday we talk about a creature at Kuskokwim River
27 and today we're going to talk about the animals on the
28 -- caribou and moose. And I'll have two -- and again
29 what Mr. Hook came to see me and said, that elders,
30 they are tired by experience. When they say go hunting
31 or fishing, they go without -- when they are told
32 stuff.

33

34 State and Federal, they have good
35 employees. The people -- I mean, the employees who are
36 sitting there, they had education, college education
37 and they received some -- they interned and they
38 learned a lot and they have better knowledge about the
39 scientific methods and knowledge. They are able to
40 predict using the methods and technology, and when they
41 do that
42 they are risking -- some like to risk, some don't like
43 to risk, and who are not risking, they disappoint and
44 they aren't disciplined, because they are too kind to
45 us, but so much for that.

46

47 For us Natives, we are taught to love
48 one another and be kind and so forth like Mr. Peter
49 said and the other advisory boards who are sitting

50

0150

1 there. They are already taught by the dad and mom how
2 to conserve. And through meetings like going to
3 rallies, salavik (ph), they listen to the elders what
4 they were taught about and they're following. We're
5 not fluent in English, writing the law, but we have
6 (indiscernible) decrease and statuettes passed down
7 from our ancestors. These are word from mouth and it
8 is in our heart, mind and soul. And like that guy who
9 said that in -- from Mountain Village, his grandpa oral
10 knowledge him what we'll be getting into and we're now
11 getting into it. Like him, I am standing up and
12 speaking out much as I can because I'm getting into it.
13 (In Yup'ik).

14

15 INTERPRETER: We will get to that point
16 that the ancestors said.

17

18 MR. LUPI: It's really hard for me to do
19 institutionalized and uninstitutionalized, because our
20 law and your state law and Federal law, they bump each
21 other. And (in Yup'ik)

22

23 INTERPRETER: The life laws of the
24 Yup'ik to love one another, to be friendly with
25 another, do not be irritated with another, but to be
26 saying to work on that.

27

28 MR. LUPI: But it's hard to deal with
29 when we are doing in conservation or whatever we're
30 doing that. I'm glad Mountain Village got that
31 moratorium. And someone should elaborate the
32 environmental will pose for me. I want someone to
33 elaborate that Marshall that can focus on that and
34 learn on that more.

35

36 Quyana and good morning.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana, Adolph.
39 Anybody else on line that make -- anybody else on line
40 who may wish to testify?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no one
45 else, I'd like to read a letter that I just -- or note
46 I got a letter from Scammon Bay this morning and they
47 want me to present it as part of the public testimony.
48 And it's from my brother-in-law George Smith from
49 Scammon Bay.

50

1 Thank you for the opportunity to
2 address my concerns for the allowable but ineffective
3 four-inch mesh size during the summer for non-salmon
4 species doing fishing restrictions to conserve AYK
5 salmon. First of all, I am a 63-year-old Yup'ik
6 Eskimo, a life-long resident of Scammon Bay which sits
7 along the north face of the Askinuk Mountains and at
8 the bank of the Kun River. Kun, if you translate it,
9 the river looks just like a lung, you know, the
10 passages inside your lung. A life-long subsistence
11 fisherman for salmon of the Black River to the north
12 and the Kun River for the species of all whitefish, all
13 of which require different mesh sizes during certain
14 times of the short summer.

15
16 Although I appreciate the ADF&G along
17 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowing me to set
18 net for non-salmon species during the summer, the
19 timing for the types of whitefish we want to target,
20 broadhead and shee, during the early part of the summer
21 do not excuse upon mesh very well. With the allowed
22 four-inch gear, we're only able to net arctic cisco and
23 the humpback whitefish in which the spring and early
24 summer are heading to the lakes and sloughs to fatten
25 up during the summer. My parents would not harvest
26 those fishes because they are very skinny and have no
27 fat content in them. During one of the call-ins with
28 YDFME -- YRDFFA and the Yukon River Delta Fishery
29 Association with people from up and down the Yukon
30 River and along the coast I brought up that scenario to
31 the caller from Tanana, voiced the same sentiment how
32 skinny the humpbacks as they make their way up the
33 rivers and even they don't harvest them in the spring.

34
35 On the other hand, the broadhead and
36 sheefish are swimming into the River and have very high
37 fat content, but are not able to harvest -- we are not
38 able to harvest them due to the mesh size restriction
39 of four-inch mesh size. Ideally we use up to five-and-
40 a-half-inch mesh for the broadhead and the sheefish.

41
42 I am equally concerned that -- about
43 the dismal king and chum salmon returns on the Yukon
44 River and carry my share for the conservation and abide
45 by the current restrictive gear requirements. ADF&G
46 and Fish and Wildlife Service have already set a
47 precedent on the Yukon River that allow for seven-and-
48 a-half-inch mesh size, 100 feet long, from the
49 confluence of the Kuskokwim River and the Tuntutuliak,
50

1 and I can name the other rivers where they're allowed
2 to set net here -- or fish on the Yukon like Galak,
3 Kweek River, Bykluk. Bykluk is down near the mouth of
4 -- across from Tuntutuliak near the mouth of the
5 Kuskokwim. And a couple of other non-salmon spawn
6 tributaries. The Kun River is not even a tributary of
7 the Yukon River. All the tributaries up the river end
8 in lakes to the north and become dead ends to the east
9 just like the Johnson River and Tuntutuliak Rivers in
10 my example of precedents.

11
12 ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service already allows eight on the Kuskokwim
14 tributaries and I don't see why it should not be
15 allowed in the non-tributaries of the Yukon in the non-
16 salmon spawn rivers.

17
18 Thank you for your time and hearing my
19 concern for the unintentional negative impact and
20 additional hardship caused to us of our decided to
21 harvest whitefish in the Kun River. Like you and
22 everyone else in the region, we are very concerned
23 about the poor salmon runs on the Yukon River, but we
24 would like to harvest whitefish in our river with
25 appropriate gear up to five-and-a-half-inch mesh size
26 nets.

27
28 So that's the comment that he make.
29 And I think it's been raised before, but I think that
30 precedence has already been set here on the Kuskokwim
31 where people fishing the non-spawning -- what they
32 consider to be non-spawning rivers in the area. And
33 that's from George Smith from Scammon Bay.

34
35 Any other public comments?

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
38 did receive a written comment, this is from Mr. Timothy
39 Andrew. He submitted a written comment that follows up
40 on his comment that he provided orally yesterday about
41 the lawsuit recently filed which is known as Forrer
42 versus State of Alaska, et al. His comment says, this
43 lawsuit is in regards to the failure of the state of
44 Alaska to provide for the constitutional sustained
45 yield of various species, including salmon, caribou,
46 and other species. This lawsuit, if successful, would
47 have far-reaching consequences in the management of our
48 subsistence resources. It would create a totally
49 different mindset for the state managers of our
50

0153

1 subsistence resources in all matters of their
2 jurisdiction including allocations for different user
3 groups.

4

5 Mr. Chairman and the remainder of the
6 Regional Advisor Council, if this lawsuit is consistent
7 with the goals and objectives of subsistence management
8 in Alaska, I would recommend that this body file an
9 amicus brief in support of the plaintiff.

10

11 Thank you for your consideration in
12 this matter and best regards. That's the end of the
13 comment.

14

15 Thank you for submitting that, Mr.
16 Andrew. I did confer with our Leadership Team, and
17 they said that this isn't something that the Council
18 themselves would be able to take up, but that we can
19 pass your suggestion on to our solicitor. So thank
20 you.

21

22 And we'll also follow up with you if
23 you want to give your name -- or your phone number and
24 your email about the C&T, the subsistence priority for
25 musk ox.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
30 Before we go on, Ray Oney sent a message that his wife
31 is in the hospital and cannot join us for the meeting
32 today because he has to keep his phone off by being
33 with his wife in the hospital. So I just want to share
34 that.

35

36 And also yesterday we gave everybody an
37 op -- on the Council an opportunity to make a report on
38 their village, and this morning I'd like to ask James
39 Landlord if he has anything to say about his life
40 experience the last few months.

41

42 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 My name is James Landlord. I'm from Mountain Village.
44 I'm glad that George Smith brought that -- his comments
45 on what was serious, the river break up. We don't fish
46 for whitefish right away. The first fish that we're
47 trying to catch is sheefish, and the count -- their oil
48 content is really rich and everybody's glad for fresh
49 fish, sheefish.

50

1 Anyways, my dad used to tell us that go
2 ahead during the spring, as soon as it's thunder right
3 away -- right after the ice break up when there's the
4 thunder, that that is a good sign for there's going to
5 be a lot of kings and a lot of fish. Well, the thunder
6 right after ice moved, break up, no ice in the river,
7 and I was really glad with that. I said there would be
8 a lot of kings this summer because it always happened
9 like that when there's early thunder. But instead
10 there was a fire right above St. Marys. When I saw
11 that thunder, I was sitting in the window on my chair
12 and I looked out at it, really, really loud. You could
13 just see the thunder, I see that it was pretty thick.
14 Two days later there was a fire up in -- around St.
15 Marys.

16
17 Anyway we kind of had a rough June
18 because of that fire. People from St. Marys and
19 Mountain would be moved to Bethel or elsewhere, and
20 there's going to be a meeting up at Anchorage and my
21 tribe was going to send me there. And since they were
22 moving elder out and that the office decided to send me
23 over to Anchorage early, one day early. (In Yup'ik).
24 It gets really smokey in Mountain, it's real hard to
25 breathe. It was really bad.

26
27 Now, as everybody know really there was
28 no fishing this summer, throughout the summer. No
29 kings, no summer chums, fall chums, or cohos. But in
30 end of September people started going after sheefish,
31 go to Mountain or up Piyak (ph). And the guys were
32 catching a lot of whitefish. I'm kind of very
33 grateful that the young guys that went out gave us some
34 fish.

35
36 I didn't go out all summer because I
37 had health conditions that I couldn't do any work. And
38 this is my first travel maybe since June, even though
39 my wife was worried, even my siblings, and I wanted to
40 get out of the house and travel.

41
42 There were a lot of moose right away.
43 My sons didn't go out hunting because people gave us so
44 much meat and our freezers filled up real fast because
45 of that. We were also real grateful for that.

46
47 Continue on with that thunder, a good
48 sign that there been -- that there might be more
49 abundant fish in the Yukon. We would have the north
50

0155

1 wind, the northwest wind, you know, 15, 20 miles an
2 hour I think it. My dad used to say it's going to stir
3 up the mouth of the Yukon and, you know, rough it up,
4 and he used to say that the fish where there's north
5 wind, not with the south like we've been having how
6 many -- I think how many years. But this year we had
7 north wind and I thought that was a good sign, too, for
8 that fish would be coming in, but there was hardly a
9 fish.

10

11 Got a lot of angry people from Mountain
12 because they couldn't fish. There were no kings, no
13 chums, no (In Yup'ik). Some of them wanted to talk --
14 they were -- they'd been talking to neighbors to sneak
15 and get some fish, you know, that's how bad they wanted
16 to catch a fish.

17

18 We were grateful, too, that Fish and
19 Game when they will fill their test they pass out some
20 fish to the elders and we were one of them, and it
21 tasted very delicious. They were different from when
22 we eat frozen that were frozen all winter.

23

24 That's all I have, yeah. Quyana.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana, James. If
27 there's no more public comments -- geez, I keep -- if
28 there's no more public comments, we'll go ahead and
29 start on the proposals.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Are you going over then
32 musk ox or.....

33

34 MS. KENNER: Whatever you want.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Sure. Good morning,
37 everyone. We're going to go into the Federal fisheries
38 proposals now. As a reminder, the proposal
39 presentation procedure is on Page 119 of your meeting
40 books, and there's also a handout on the table at the
41 back of the room. We'll have one regional proposal and
42 then the remaining proposals are cross-over proposals
43 that the Council can decide if you want to be presented
44 the cross-over proposals.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
49 members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner, and
50

0156

1 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
2 Management in Anchorage. I'm really happy to be here
3 today in person and meeting you all. It's really an
4 honor to be in front of this Council.

5

6 The analysis of Proposal FP23-02 begins
7 on Page 120 of your Council materials. And it's a long
8 -- what we could.....

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Turn your microphone.....

11

12 MS. KENNER: Okay. It's quite a long
13 analysis and so what I'm going to do is I'm going to
14 quickly summarize the main points in the analysis.

15

16 So this proposal was submitted by
17 Chevak Native Village and requests the Federal
18 Subsistence Board to recognize customary and
19 traditional uses of Chinook, summer chum, coho, sockeye
20 and pink salmon by residents of Chevak, Hooper Bay, and
21 Scammon Bay. Currently these three communities have a
22 customary and traditional use determination for and are
23 eligible to harvest fall chum salmon only under Federal
24 regulations.

25

26 These communities have demonstrated
27 their customary and traditional uses of all salmon
28 based on the eight factors in regulation that exemplify
29 customary and traditional uses. They have demonstrated
30 a long-term consistent pattern of use recurring for
31 many years using methods of processing and preserving
32 used by past generations, using skills and values
33 handed down from generation to generation, sharing
34 their harvest with others, and relying on a wide
35 diversity of wild foods which provide substantial
36 cultural, economic, social and nutritional value.

37

38 For example, the ancestors of people
39 living in the area of Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon
40 Bay have relied on a seasonal round of wild resource
41 harvesting in which salmon was prominent for at least
42 several thousand years. Women have perfected the art
43 of processing foods for consumption and storage in the
44 arctic climate. Salmon are generally dried and smoked
45 for preservation. People describe the subsistence way
46 of life, including taking only what is needed and not
47 wasting, and the importance of teaching children these
48 values. People sharing their harvest of wild resources
49 is a predominant feature of subsistence economies in
50

0157

1 Alaska. Salmon were and continue to be distributed
2 through kin and community networks in these
3 communities. People relied on a wide variety to wild
4 resources that comprise a substantial portion of their
5 diet and people have demonstrated their use of salmon
6 in numerous publications that are described in the
7 analysis.

8
9 So therefore the OSM preliminary
10 conclusion is to support this proposal.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
13 Members, and this is the end of my presentation. I'll
14 try to answer questions. This is an action item on
15 your agenda.

16
17 Now, I am also going to say that other
18 Councils who have acted on this proposals, and you
19 might want to listen to the other information we're
20 going to provide to you after my presentation. I think
21 you'll find it interesting.

22
23 Thank you very much for your time.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you.

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Pippa. I'm
28 going to help Myron go through the procedure.

29
30 Next is do you know if we -- or if
31 Orville's on the phone or if anyone from OSM in the
32 room knows if there were any tribal consultations about
33 this proposal.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Should I wait for Orville?

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: You go ahead if you know.

38
39 MS. KENNER: For the record this is
40 Pippa Kenner. There were no comments during tribal
41 consultation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Do we have any agency
44 comments. From Fish and Game to start.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Any comments from any
49 other Federal agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife
50

0158

1 Service.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

comments.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, Pippa, I think we're ready to hear advisory group comments.

12

Would you let us know what the other Advisory Councils

13

chose on this?

14

15

16

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Pippa Kenner for the record. So other Councils took it up. The Western Interior, the Eastern Interior, the Seward Peninsula, and they supported the proposal.

17

18

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

23

MS. MCDAVID: Any Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

MS. MCDAVID: Or SRC comments.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

32

MS. MCDAVID: And I don't believe we received any written public comments for this proposal.

33

34

35

And now we would ask if there's any public testimony in the room or on the phone in regard to FP 23-02.

36

37

38

39

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any public testimony on this proposal.

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I'll just make a comment. I know when the village of Hooper, Chevak and Scammon heard that they did not have customary and traditional use of salmon that they've survived on for centuries they were kind of surprised and shocked. How could they exclude us from being able to harvest what we have survived on for centuries? We've used the

50

0159

1 salmon prior to statehood. We've used the salmon prior
2 to the U.S. government laid claim to state of Alaska or
3 any of the Federal waters, so we were kind of surprised
4 about the fact that we're excluded under the customary
5 and traditional use of the resource.

6
7 Okay. Is there a motion for discussion
8 of FP 23-02?

9
10 MS. ROGERS: I move.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Wait.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I think the
15 Council should first make a motion whether you want to
16 support or oppose, and then get a second and then move
17 into discussion.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. ROGERS: I move to support FP 23-02.
22 This is Alissa Rogers.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: A motion made, is
25 there a second?

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Second.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by John
30 Andrew. Any further discussion on the motion?

31
32 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik) Mr. Chairman.

33
34 (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: Why are these three
37 villages not recognized here on the Kuskokwim? We from
38 the upper Kuskokwim, it is -- the river is open to us,
39 not closed. So all these rivers that empty out into
40 the Bering Sea, all the fish enter these river systems
41 from the Bering Sea. So our ancestors did not
42 discriminate. And the fishermen from Hooper Bay and
43 Scammon Bay, we support them in their fishing. And it
44 is open to all of us so these regulations, we need to
45 keep an eye on them because they are not made by us.
46 And this also, aside from this proposal. We know the
47 rivers here on the Kuskokwim that empty out, or the
48 sloughs that empty out into the Kuskokwim, the non-
49 spawning rivers, are open without limit and can use any
50

0160

1 gear for our subsistence use. So we need to support
2 these three villages.

3

4

5 We all eat salmon, even the
6 Athabascans, even White people, Black people, whatever
7 people eat fish, so we do not need to be against each
8 others. That is not right. So when it comes to our
9 vote we need to support these villages and not leave
10 them separate. So the two rivers come together, even
11 the Athabaskan to resolve issues like this. So we need
12 to think of our families and people in the villages we
13 represent. So you just remember the conflicts we had
14 in the past.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana, Phillip.
18 Any -- (in Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: Any other comments to this
21 proposal?

22

23

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: John.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Quyana, Mr.
26 Chairman. I like what Phil Peter said about sharing
27 you could do. I feel more comfortable when I speak in
28 Yup'ik.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: John, before you speak,
31 just so everyone knows, if you would like to listen to
32 the translation, please get a headset at the back of
33 the room and turn it to channel 8 -- channel 1, sorry.
34 Channel 1.

35

36 MR. LUPI: There's just two -- the three
37 sets here.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: We have one more set here.

40

41 MR. LUPI: This one's not being used.

42

43 (Discussion regarding headsets away
44 from microphones.)

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. My name's John W.
47 Andrew. I like what Phil Peter said about sharing
48 salmon for all the villages regardless of where they
49 came from. And I'm more comfortable speaking in

50

0161

1 Yup'ik. We have translators. Yeah.

2

3 (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: So this is John Andrew,
6 and he knows these three villages that we are talking
7 about. They are like us and they eat traditional food
8 like the -- all the species of the salmon that are
9 destined for the Yukon River. I have relatives there
10 in Hooper Bay and my ex-wife was -- or my sister's wife
11 was from Hooper Bay. And they would ask for Kuskokwim
12 fish and when he was able, he is able to send them
13 fish, because they do get up where they are living a
14 little later than they come -- get to the Kuskokwim.

15

16 So a lot of times when I went to Hooper
17 Bay and when they have -- they would share their salmon
18 that is very fat. Very fat (In Yup'ik), salted fish
19 and very fat dry fish. And they are -- make you sleepy
20 because of the high fat content.

21

22 So you think we are total -- though
23 many there are many of our relatives all over the
24 rivers in our country, because that is where the food
25 is. So he does not agree with this where the Federal
26 agency does not recognize these three villages as being
27 traditional users and consumers of salmon. So they are
28 asking to be recognized, and they are Chup'ik and
29 Yup'ik. They do eat these salmon. I will be very
30 happy if we do support these villages and what they
31 want. This is all.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana, John. Any
36 further discussion on the motion to accept FP 23-02.

37

38 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Alissa.

41

42 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Through the Chair. This is a long time coming. We've
44 been asking for this for quite some years, even prior
45 to my participation in this. And I know there was a
46 historical reason that they had kept those three
47 villages -- considered them as Central Kuskokwim area
48 in regards to the historic uses.

49

50

0162

1 But over the past years subsistence has
2 changed and subsistence uses, even though their
3 traditional areas have changed in regards to how the
4 pattern the migration of our fisheries, and how the
5 migration of our wild animals and birds move, so does
6 our traditional areas. But for them to finally come
7 together from those three tribes to put this together,
8 it's a long time coming. So I will be in support of
9 this.

10

11 Mr. Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you,
14 Alissa. Any more further discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. CLEVELAND: Question.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The question's
21 been called for on the motion. Let's do it -- go ahead
22 and do a roll call.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

25

26 MR. PARKS: Yes.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter, Sr.

29

30 MR. PETER: Yes.

31

32 REPORTER: Would you use your mic,
33 please, will you -- this one.

34

35 MR. PETER: Yes.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

38

39 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

46

47 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

50

0163

1 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

4

5 MS. EVAN: Yes.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes eight to
12 zero. Sorry. No -- yeah, he voted. Yeah.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Passes.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, I did.

19 Yeah. Yes, I voted already.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Hoffman, did you make
22 it on line?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: It doesn't sound like it.
27 So motion passes eight to zero.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes. Quyana. We
30 go on to the next agenda item. Now where's my agenda.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Page 146.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah. Next agenda
35 item is FP 23-1, the cross over proposals and close
36 reviews. Maybe you can go through all of them, or do
37 we have to.....

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. It's up to the
40 Council if you want to be presented the cross-over
41 proposals.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Let's look to see.
44 Will you go ahead and go into the Copper River
45 proposal.

46

47 MR. FOLEY: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
48 of the Council. Good morning. For the record my name
49 is Kevin Foley and I'm your Fish Biologist with the
50

0164

1 Office of Subsistence Management. Materials for this
2 agenda item, Fisheries Proposal 23-01 may be found on
3 Page 146 of your council book.

4

5 Proposal FP 23-01 was submitted by the
6 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and requests
7 the Federal Subsistence Board rescind the closure to
8 the harvest of non-salmon fish in the Jim River
9 drainage by Federally-qualified subsistence users, and
10 modify regulations to allow rod and reel -- rod and
11 reel gear only, and Arctic grayling harvest and
12 possession limit of 10 per day which is double the
13 sportfishing limit.

14

15 The proponent states this proposal
16 would continue subsistence uses by allowing harvest of
17 non-salmon fish by Federally-qualified subsistence
18 users in an area that is currently closed. The Council
19 believes there's verifiable traditional use of non-
20 salmon fish in this drainage, and the limited harvest
21 by rod and reel should be allowed.

22

23 The proponent adds if subsistence users
24 are going to travel for Arctic grayling, the harvest
25 limit should be increased to justify time and expense.
26 Allowing for a reasonable harvest of Arctic grayling
27 would reestablish a subsistence priority use of fish.
28 Limiting harvest to rod and reel gear only would ensure
29 continued viability of fish in the area.

30

31 While the Council also believes there's
32 verifiable traditional use of salmon in this drainage,
33 it does not believe the salmon runs can support any
34 harvest at this time and the closure should be
35 rescinded only for non-salmon fish.

36

37 The Jim River drainage, which is
38 located in the Western Interior Region, is closed to
39 subsistence fishing under both Federal and state
40 regulations; however sportfishing is allowed under
41 state regulations.

42

43 The Federal closure was reviewed during
44 the 2021 and 2023 fisheries regulatory cycle. The
45 Western Interior and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
46 Councils recommended eliminating the closure to the
47 harvest of all fish and modifying regulations to allow
48 rod and reel only and an Arctic grayling harvest and
49 possession limit of 10 per day. The Eastern Interior
50

0165

1 and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and North Slope Regional
2 Advisory Councils deferred to Western Interior;
3 however, during the Board's fisheries regulatory
4 meeting the Board determined that any action beyond
5 simply eliminating or maintaining the closures would
6 not allow appropriate notice and opportunity for public
7 comment. Therefore the Board voted to maintain the
8 closure with the expectation that a proposal could be
9 submitted by Western Interior RAC to eliminate the
10 closure and that is the proposal currently before you.

11

12 Approximately three miles of Jim River
13 exist within the Kanuti Refuge boundary managed by the
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The remainder of the
15 Jim River drainage is general domain land managed by
16 the Bureau of Land Management.

17

18 Chinook, chum and coho salmon spawn in
19 the Jim River, but aerial surveys indicate low numbers
20 in the drainage. The predominant non-salmon fishes
21 include Arctic grayling, burbot, humpback and round
22 whitefish, long nose sucker, and northern pike. Stock
23 assessments of Arctic grayling indicate the Jim River
24 is one of the most productive drainages in the area.

25

26 Wiseman and Coldfoot are the
27 communities most likely to subsistence fish in the area
28 if the closure is rescinded due to their proximity to
29 the drainage. ADF&G Division of subsistence conducted
30 it's only subsistence survey of Wiseman and Coldfoot
31 for the 2011 calendar year. For Wiseman, all
32 households used fish, although in small quantities.
33 For Coldfoot, no use of non-salmon fish was documented
34 during the study period.

35

36 Subsistence fishing is prohibited in
37 the Jim River under state and Federal regulations so
38 there is no legal subsistence harvest in this system.
39 Harvest is allowed under state and sportfishing
40 regulations.

41

42 Arctic grayling make up the majority of
43 sport fish harvest along the Dalton Highway corridor.
44 During 2009 to 2018 an average 122 Arctic grayling were
45 harvested from the Jim River.

46

47 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
48 support proposal FP 23-01.

49

50

1 This drainage is currently closed to
2 subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified subsistence
3 users, but open to other uses which is in contradiction
4 with Title VIII of ANILCA. There's likely a small
5 amount of harvest under state sportfishing regulations
6 predominantly near the Dalton Highway. Allowing a
7 limited subsistence harvest using rod and reel only
8 would provide subsistence opportunity in an area that
9 is currently closed and protect populations from over-
10 harvest.

11
12 If this system is open to rod and reel
13 only, state sport fish harvest and possession limits
14 would apply. Increasing harvest and possession limits
15 of Arctic grayling would provide a subsistence priority
16 for Federally-qualified subsistence users. Maintaining
17 the closer to salmon will protect the small populations
18 within the drainage.

19
20 Once more for the record my name is
21 Kevin Foley and I'm a Fish Biologist with the Office of
22 Subsistence Management. That concludes my presentation
23 for Fisheries Proposal 23-01. Although I was not the
24 original analyst for this proposal, I and my colleagues
25 are standing by for any questions you may have.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. Go
28 through the process regarding.....

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Kevin. We're
31 going to go through the procedures. Were there any
32 tribal consultation summaries that we need to hear.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: No. All right. Moving
37 on, any agency comments from Fish and Game.

38
39 MS. STUBY: Good morning, everyone.
40 This is Lisa Stuby with Division of Sport Fish. And
41 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is neutral on
42 Federal Proposal FP-23-01. The proposed daily harvest
43 of 10 Arctic Grayling with rod and reel gear from the
44 Jim River by Federally-qualified users from low
45 population areas will not be a conservation concern.
46 However, this amendment will result a conflict in state
47 and Federal regulations for the Jim River and could
48 complicate enforcement.

0167

1 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Lisa. Any
2 other comments from agencies. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Or any tribes.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hearing none, could
12 we hear how the other Regional Advisory Councils may
13 have voted on this.

14
15 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair. Again this is
16 Kevin Foley, Fish Biologist, OSM. This proposal was
17 presented at the Eastern Interior, Western Interior,
18 and North Slope Regional Advisory Council meetings.
19 The Eastern Interior RAC recommended to support FP 23-
20 01, noting there's no biological concern related to the
21 proposal and that it will benefit the subsistence needs
22 of the people in the area. Western Interior RAC
23 recommendation to support, noting the analysis was
24 thorough and the fresh water stocks can support the
25 proposed level of harvest. And North Slope RAC offered
26 a recommendation to support.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Kevin. Do we
31 have any fish and game advisory committee comments or
32 subsistence resource commission comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hearing none, any
37 written public comments.

38
39 MR. FOLEY: There were no written or
40 public comments for FP -- for this proposal. Thank
41 you.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. We can now
44 move on. If there's any public testimony regarding FP
45 23-01.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik) There
48 seems to be none. From the Regional Advisory Council.

49
50

0168

1 MR. PARKS: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: Is this for all the Yukon
4 or are they up towards the.....

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: They are further inland
9 around the Dalton Highway.

10

11 MR. PARKS: (In Yup'ik)

12

13 INTERPRETER: Oh, that far.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: He just wanted to
16 know where it is. Okay. So, Alissa.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I will make a
19 motion to adopt FP 23-01.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: There's a motion
22 made. Is there a second.

23

24 MR. PETER: Second.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by
27 Phillip Peter, Sr. Any further discussion on the
28 motion.

29

30 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Alissa.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 want to see if Jack Reakoff is on the line in regards
36 to this proposal. Jack, are you currently on line?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, I am, Alissa. Well,
39 Western Interior Council supported the proposal, and
40 for the justification read into the record there with
41 you. Thank you.

42

43 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Reakoff.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Are you
46 calling for question?

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: We do need some discussion
49 about your justification. Thank you.

50

0169

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. Through the Chair. I am in support of the
3 subsistence users of that area in having ability to go
4 subsistence fishing. It's kind of disturbing that they
5 are allowed to go sports fishing and they closed
6 subsistence fishing in that area. As the analysis and
7 the biological -- there's no biological concern.

8

9 I do recognize that there is going to
10 be state and Federal conflict in regulations, yet we
11 can correct those as sister proposals to ADF&G and make
12 the current regulations the same so there is no law
13 enforcement conflicts.

14

15 And as a Board the Subsistence Council
16 to support subsistence uses, I see fit that we do
17 support subsistence for this region.

18

19 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you, Alissa.
22 Any other comments.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no
27 other comments, can you read the motion so we can be
28 clear on it?

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
31 motion made by Alissa and seconded by Phillip was to
32 adopt FP 23-01.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

35

36 INTERPRETER: Any questions before the
37 vote?

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Question.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The question's
42 been called on the motion. Let's go ahead and do a
43 roll call. Okay. Let's go ahead and do a roll call.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: All right. Henry Parks.

46

47 MR. PARKS: Yes.

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

50

0170

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. PETER: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

MS. ROGERS: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

MS. EVAN: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: And do we have any other
Council Members on the phone with us.

(No comments)

MS. MCDAVID: Hearing no one, Mr. Chair.
Myron Naneng.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I vote yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes eight/zero.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
the record, Katya Wessels. I just wanted to clarify to
the councils on the proposals, councils make the
motions to support, not to adopt. It's the Board, the
Federal Subsistence Board that adopts the proposals.
The Council supports the proposals and sends the
support to the Board. So you don't need to restate the
motion and re-vote, but I'm just making sure that the
records clear that that was the Council's intent to
support these proposal.

Thank you.

0171

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah. Thank you
2 for the explanation, but yesterday, right, there was a
3 sentence about preservatives, preservative measures and
4 conservation measures, and I was wondering which one
5 was which. So I think we all need to speak more
6 clearly about how we use the English language so that
7 everybody can understand the meaning. So I just wanted
8 to point that out.

9
10 Thank you for the explanation.

11
12 MS. ROGERS: I want to point out, maybe
13 on the back of our cards you should get it corrected as
14 it says motion to adopt.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

17
18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks for pointing that
21 out, Alissa. We will get that corrected.

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I think it's a
24 leftover from previous people who worked in the
25 program. So thank you for pointing that out, that's a
26 very important thing to fix.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: And perhaps, Ms. Rogers,
29 would you like to clarify if your intent was to support
30 when you used the word adopt?

31
32 MS. ROGERS: Yes, I will go ahead and
33 clarify that my motion was to support the proposal.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. We'll
38 go on to the next agenda item. Brooke.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Go ahead, Pippa, when
41 you're ready.

42
43 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Hello. Good
44 morning. Mr. Chair and members of the Council. For
45 the record my name is Pippa Querly -- Pippa Kenner, and
46 I'm an Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
47 Management.

48
49 Also on line I hope is Cory Graham who
50

0172

1 is an author of this analysis but couldn't make it to
2 the meeting today. Hello, Cory, are you there? Well,
3 maybe this will.....

4

5 MR. GRAHAM: Yes, I'm here.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Oh, thank you, Cory. Glad
8 to hear that. He's a Fishery Biologist at OSM who many
9 of on the Council have heard from before.

10

11 So I'm going to present Fisheries
12 Closure Review 23-02 which can be found on Page 165 of
13 your council book. And again it's a long analysis and
14 I'm just going to provide a summary.

15

16 So Federal Closure Review F -- or
17 Fisheries Closure Review FCR23-02 reviews the Federal
18 subsistence closure to the harvest of all fish in the
19 Kanuti River drainage. This is a standard Board
20 directed review to determine if the closure is still
21 necessary. Cory can correct me if I'm wrong, but I
22 believe this is in the Western Interior Region.

23

24 Under Federal regulations subsistence
25 harvest of all fish is prohibited in the Kanuti River
26 closed area. The Federal closure was carried over from
27 state regulations at the beginning of the Federal
28 program and has not been reviewed or modified since.

29

30 Under state regulations the Kanuti
31 River is closed to subsistence fishing, but
32 sportfishing is allowed. So similar to the previous
33 proposal. Same situation.

34

35 So the closure area which is located in
36 the Western Interior Region crosses the Dalton Highway
37 and is located on general domain land managed by the
38 Bureau of Land Management.

39

40 According to local knowledge and the
41 anadromous waters catalog, Chinook and summer chum
42 salmon are present in the Kanuti River downstream of
43 the closure area. Aerial surveys indicate few salmon
44 inhabit the Kanuti River. Non-salmon fish species such
45 as Arctic grayling, burbot, round whitefish, northern
46 pike and long nose sucker have been observed in the
47 Kanuti River, but information in the closed area is
48 limited.

49

50

0173

1 Similar to the Jim River, the previous
2 proposal, Wiseman and Coldfit -- Wiseman and Coldfoot
3 are the communities most likely to subsistence fish in
4 the area if the closure is rescinded due to their close
5 proximity to the drainage.

6
7 More detailed info should have -- oh,
8 yeah. And if the closure is rescinded, Federal
9 subsistence regulations for the Yukon northern area
10 would apply.

11
12 Harvest of salmon would be allowed if
13 authorized by state emergency order or a Federal
14 special action. Non-salmon fish could be taken with
15 any gear listed at the top of Page 167 of your council
16 book, which is any legal gear. Subsistence rod and
17 reel harvest limits would match state sportfishing
18 harvest and possession limits. Harvest would be
19 unrestricted for all other legal gear types.

20
21 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 rescind the closure.

23
24 Currently a portion of the Kanuti River
25 is closed to subsistence fishing, but open to other
26 uses. Rescinding the closure would establish a Federal
27 subsistence priority in the area. However, allowing
28 unrestricted harvest for gear types other than rod and
29 reel in an easily accessible system may lead to
30 overharvest.

31
32 While populations may be protected by
33 limiting subsistence harvest to rod and reel only
34 and/or modifying harvest limits, these modifications
35 are not possible through the closure review process and
36 would require a fisheries proposals to be submitted.
37 Because the closure review process = oh, until a
38 proposal can be submitted in a year, the Federal in-
39 season manager may use their delegated authority to
40 restrict gear types and/or harvest limits for up to 60
41 days to protect populations in the closure area.
42 Actions exceeding 60 days would require a temporary
43 special action that would be implemented by the Board.
44 So in the meantime before a fisheries proposal can be
45 submitted the in-season manager could reduce harvest
46 limits if over-harvest was a concern.

47
48 Because the closure review process is
49 fairly new and motions are different than for
50

0174

1 proposals, I will briefly describe the Council's
2 options which are listed on Page 181 of your council
3 book.

4

5 The Council may recommend to retain the
6 status quo. This means keeping the closure in place.

7

8 Another option is to rescind the
9 closure, and this would eliminate the closure.

10

11 The Council may also modify the
12 closure. While it is not possible to modify gear types
13 or harvest limits, the Council may choose to rescind
14 the closure for non-salmon species only, for example.

15

16 The last option is to defer the
17 closure. Under this option the Council would defer the
18 closure to the home region, which in this case is the
19 Western Interior Council.

20

21 That concludes my presentation, and I'm
22 standing by for any questions you might have regarding
23 the analysis.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any questions from
26 the Council Members.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Alissa.

31

32 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Through the Chair. Ms. Pippa, do we have any
34 indication that public users or any type of users that
35 are non-subsistence or Federally-qualified users, in
36 other words pretty much any person or any state user
37 has used these fish -- these waters for fishing? Do we
38 have any of that information? Because what I'm
39 thinking is like it's a public access road and if
40 someone wants to go fishing, they're going to pull off
41 the side of the road and throw their hook and line in
42 regardless if they're Federal users or not.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Thank
45 you for the question.

46

47 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

48

49 MS. KENNER: I'm going to -- yeah, I

50

0175

1 believe there is a section on harvest. And in the
2 meantime Cory might have a succinct.....

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: He's on there.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Thank you. Cory
7 might have an immediate answer to your question. Cory,
8 are you there?

9

10 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Go ahead, Cory.

13

14 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you. Through the
15 Chair. So there is fishing that's allowed in the
16 drainage, but estimates for the Kanuti River
17 specifically are not available.

18

19 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
20 Cory, is that because they haven't had any restriction
21 or we just haven't been regulating, monitoring? As a
22 sports fishing industry, it seems like there should be
23 some type of monitoring in a tributary or any usage
24 where fish is being taken from the river especially in
25 the sports fishing regulations.

26

27 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Through the
28 Chair. Again this is Cory Graham with OSM. I would
29 like to see if Mrs. Stuby's on line. She's more
30 familiar with the sportfishing data than I am and she
31 may be better able to answer your question.

32

33 MS. STUBY: Through the Chair. Lisa
34 Stuby, Division of Sport Fish.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Go ahead, Lisa.

37

38 MS. STUBY: What was the question again?

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Through the Chair. The question was do we have any
42 information in regards to harvest numbers or if we have
43 any analysis on who uses that tributary for fishing
44 and/or what would the biological impact be in regards
45 to rescinding this closure?

46

47 MS. STUBY: Okay. Through the Chair.
48 Sportfishing is allowed. I was going to get my
49 regulations. Sportfishing is allowed, although this is

50

0176

1 along the Trans Alaska Pipeline Corridor and it is road
2 accessible. People -- and there's actually a nice big
3 pull out there. But because it is road accessible
4 through sport fish regulation, it is closed to salmon
5 fishing. And this is all within a five-mile radius
6 corridor on either side of the Trans Alaska Pipeline
7 and Dalton Highway.

8
9 Lake trout, there's no retention
10 allowed although you're not going to find lake trout in
11 the Kanuti River. And northern pike, too, are limited
12 to five per day, five in possession, only one of which
13 may be 30 inches or longer. And then Arctic grayling
14 limits are limited to a harvest of -- which is per our
15 general regulations, of five per day, five in
16 possession with no size limit.

17
18 There hasn't been any enumeration
19 studies, any studies to, say, to get population
20 abundance specifically on the Kanuti River.

21
22 As far as harvest, I'll have to take
23 just a second here and look my numbers up, but the
24 harvest for the Kanuti -- harvest numbers aren't
25 specific for the Kanuti, they are.....

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: Lisa, could you -- sorry
28 to.....

29
30 MS. STUBY:numbers reported.....

31
32 MS. MCDAVID:interrupt, Lisa.....

33
34 MS. STUBY:along the Dalton
35 Highway itself. Unlike the Jim River -- there's
36 actually harvest that's recorded for the Jim River, but
37 if you'd like, it will take me just a quick -- a few
38 seconds here to pull my fisheries management report up,
39 and I can just give you Dalton Highway numbers for
40 harvest of Arctic grayling.

41
42 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Lisa, may I ask
43 you a question, this is Pippa Kenner.

44
45 MS. STUBY: Yes.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Hey, Lisa, I have it right
48 in front of me, so I'll start reading it while you're
49 looking.

50

0177

1 REPORTER: We need to mute.

2

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: Could we please ask
5 everyone on the phone to mute your phones, please.
6 Press star-six or the mute button on your phone. We're
7 having trouble hearing our presenters. Thank you.

7

8

9 MS. KENNER: Okay. So the source for
10 this information is Lisa Stuby on Page 179. The
11 majority of sport fish harvest along the Dalton Highway
12 corridor for the Yukon River management area is for
13 Arctic grayling. Sport fish harvest limits -- sport
14 fish harvest estimates are not available specifically
15 for the Kanuti River, but sport fish harvest estimate
16 for Arctic grayling in streams along the Dalton Highway
17 south of Atigun Pass report an average of 324 fish
18 annually during the 2009 to 2018 period. Annual
19 harvest for northern pike for this area during this
20 time was 22 fish, 22 northern pike a year, and 324
21 Arctic grayling a year.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Fishing effort for this entire area for
all species during the '09 to 8 -- during the years
2009 to 2018 was approximately 928 angler days.

Sportfishing effort and harvest for
this report is taken from the annual mail-out survey
that Sport Fish Division does.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
Council.

Lisa?

MS. STUBY: Yes. Hold on just a second
I'm looking up that -- it's always -- whenever I'm
trying to find something, it always takes me a second,
so hang on for just a minute. I have a.....

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
questions.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

MS. STUBY: No, that's -- yeah. No,
that sounds about right, yeah. I mean numbers are a
little more updated because, you know, this is -- I
mean 20 -- we now have numbers from the statewide
harvest survey for 2021, so -- yeah, things are still

0178

1 pretty much as you mentioned.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you.

4

5 Alissa.

6

7 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 Through the Chair. I also wanted to understand how the
9 customary and traditional use determination includes
10 Chevak, Hooper, Scammon and Stebbins that have
11 customary and traditional use in Kanuti. Is that
12 assimilation (ph) that the river runs -- flows in that
13 area or do they physically go up there and fish in that
14 river?

15

16 MS. KENNER: Ms. Rogers, through the
17 Chair. For the record this is Pippa Kenner. So for
18 the Yukon, everybody who lives in the Yukon River
19 drainage has C&T, customary and traditional use
20 determination for salmon and non-salmon fishes in the
21 Yukon River drainage. And so you just adopted a
22 proposal that would include those three communities
23 into that customary and traditional use determination
24 for salmon. So we have taken care of that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa. So this
29 is just foresighting in including those three so they
30 have more justification to fall on.

31

32 Thank you, Pippa.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Any more
35 questions regarding the proposal -- let me recognize
36 James first.

37

38 MR. LANDLORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 And the justification on Page 181. It says rescinding
40 the closure would establish a Federal priority,
41 subsistence priority in the area. What does in the
42 area mean?

43

44 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.
45 Through the Chair Mr. Landlord. The area -- I'm trying
46 to find the closure area.

47

48 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

49

50

0179

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Cory. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Cory.

6

7 MR. GRAHAM: The closure area is the
8 Kanuti River upstream -- sorry. The Kanuti River, the
9 closure area would be again the Kanuti River upstream
10 from a point five miles downstream of the highway
11 crossing. So the area is just referring to the area
12 that's currently closed.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
17 that is -- a map of that area is on Page 170 of your
18 council book, so you can actually see the closure area.
19 It's a really good question.

20

21 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah.

22

23 MS. KENNER: It's showing the -- it
24 says, yeah, the Kanuti River closure area, which is
25 highlighted.

26

27 MS. STUBY: Through the Chair. This is
28 Lisa Stuby again with Division of Sport Fish. I have --
29 yeah, my apologies. I wasn't prepared for Alissa's
30 question, but, yeah, the -- and I just, you know,
31 quickly reviewed Pippa's -- I mean the FCR as it has
32 been written.

33

34 The harvest is actually much less than
35 300. I'm looking at more correct harvest. This has
36 averaged between 2011 and 2020. What you were reading
37 was for the total Dalton Highway. Well, that also
38 includes the Jim River and that includes other
39 drainages. And the Jim River is reported separately.
40 So pretty much for harvest values for Dalton Highway
41 streams excluding the Jim River would be for 2011/2020
42 178 and 2016 to 2021 -- I'm sorry, to 2021, 115. So
43 actually about half the values that was read in. But
44 my apologies.

45

46 MS. KENNER: And I'm going to add to
47 that. This is Pippa Kenner. So on Page 170, the
48 Kanuti River closed area is in kind of a pinky-red
49 along the Kanuti River there, so you can see it. If
50

0180

1 you find the Kanuti River, the area that is highlighted
2 in pink is the closed area on the map on Page 170.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any
7 more questions regarding the proposal?

8

9 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Jackie.

12

13 MS. CLEVELAND: Qu yana, Chair. I'm just
14 finding it, I guess, hard to believe that there's still
15 sportfishing and not subsistence fishing in these
16 tributaries. And I was curious like lives there? Is
17 there villages and they are indigenous, they're our
18 brothers and sisters, Athabaskan and Inupiaq live there
19 and they're small communities. Yeah, I just find it
20 hard to believe if there was a conservation concern
21 that sport is still there, sportfishing is still
22 allowed and subsistence is supposed to be priority.
23 And I understand there's, you know, state and feds in
24 this, but I guess in this day I just find it hard to
25 believe that there's these situations where sport fish
26 is still allowed in these areas where indigenous people
27 are trying to feed themselves.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Respond to
30 that?

31

32 MS. KENNER: We agree, and that's why
33 we're doing these closure reviews, and thank you very
34 much for the comment. This is Pippa Kenner. Mr.
35 Chair. I'd also like to add that we'll continue with
36 the discussion with public testimony, but also what
37 we're going to have is we're going to tell you later on
38 what the different Councils decided to do and that
39 might be helpful to your discussion.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine,
45 subsistence policy coordinate for OSM. And I just
46 wanted to acknowledge Jackie Cleveland's comment,
47 Council Member Cleveland's comment about these closure
48 reviews and the fact that these closures have been in
49 place for some time. And it is the Federal subsistence
50

0181

1 management program's responsibility to review them and
2 to bring them before the Councils to help determine if
3 they are no longer needed.

4

5 As you heard, these closure reviews --
6 or these closures have been in place since the program,
7 the Federal program, began, and this is housekeeping,
8 and this is our effort to correct that conflict with
9 Title VIII of ANILCA. And so we're really grateful for
10 your attention to these. These are really I important,
11 and we hope that with your help and your guidance we'll
12 take care of them quickly.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. I also
17 have a question. You know, I think everybody watches
18 sportsman show on TV as well as the outdoor show, and
19 the definition of sports fishing for many of our people
20 is catch and release. So with the exposures that
21 happen on these -- in these area streams and rivers, so
22 they can't keep whatever they catch, so -- and it's
23 sportfishing. So it's more -- it seems like it's more
24 or less catch and release fishery than to catch it and
25 eat it. So I just want to get further clarification
26 because whatever we watch on TV as sportsman shows and
27 things like that seems to be that as a sportsman you
28 only catch and release.

29

30 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question,
31 Mr. Chair. For the record this is Pippa Kenner, and we
32 do have Cory and Lisa on line who can help me. I do
33 not believe -- oh, here it is. It says lake trout may
34 be taken only by catch and release fishing, but as Lisa
35 Stuby reminded us, there's not going to be a lot of
36 lake trout in this area. And there are restrictions,
37 there are.....

38

39 MS. STUBY: Through the Chair. No, you
40 usually see lake trout in lakes. And there are lake
41 trout. (Indiscernible) and a few other lakes are
42 actually pretty well off the road, but you do see more
43 as you go further north. But within Kanuti or Bonanza
44 that's coming up yet, I highly doubt you'll see any
45 lake trout.

46

47 MS. KENNER: And thank you, Lisa. This
48 is Pippa Kenner again. Now, for sportfishing there are
49 size restrictions in this area. When there are size

50

0182

1 restrictions it means people may be releasing -- or
2 must release fish that are in that size slot. So there
3 is some sportfishing catch and release going on. I
4 can't estimate how much though. It is legal.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Pippa -- Mr. Chair, sorry.

7

8 MS. STUBY: That is correct. Yeah,
9 people can catch and release.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: I think Mr. Chair would
12 also like clarification as to some of these sport
13 fisheries are able to retain some of their harvest for
14 consumption or if they have to return them all to the
15 water.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa
20 Kenner. We're not in a situation where people must
21 return fish to the water right now, because the harvest
22 of a certain species is closed. I do not see that in
23 the state regulations at this time for non-salmon fish.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: You know, for many
26 of us even non-salmon fish is a subsistence food
27 source, and we can see it in the rules and regulations
28 that are imposed upon our people on mesh sizes for
29 nets, which, you know, it -- you can try and catch
30 whitefish, you can try and catch non-salmon species for
31 subsistence purposes, and it seems like it kind of
32 creates a confusion that you allow sports fishing and
33 at the same time closing subsistence fishing for people
34 that may be living there.

35

36 You know, I've been to Allakaket and
37 they're close to these river systems, not very far from
38 there. And I know they to hunting up in that area.
39 Hunting and fishing. And for them, if they happen to
40 be camping and try to catch a non-salmon species for
41 food, are they going to get cited? It happened here in
42 the Y-K delta with pike. It happened before. But
43 there was a lawsuit that was filed back in 1890s that
44 changed that. So I think there has to be some kind of a
45 standard that would allow local people to retain some
46 of these fisheries and not define them as sportfish,
47 because if we have all of these restrictions that are
48 placed upon us with mesh sizes for non-salmon species,
49 maybe they should be allowed to go rod and reeling for
50

0183

1 some of these non-salmon species for food. And I know
2 grayling tastes good. And you can use corn as a bait
3 to catch those, because I fished for them when I lived
4 up at Fairbanks as well as fishing around Copper River
5 area. An it just seems unfair that we've got to be
6 exclusive restrictions when you have a standard at the
7 mouth of the river systems and along the whole river
8 systems, yet you have a different standards to some of
9 these tributaries of the Yukon River.

10

11 So I just want to express my concern
12 regard that, because it seems like there's different
13 definitions for different users, and so I think that
14 ought to be corrected at some point in the future.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Alissa, go ahead.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Through the Chair. Have you had any feedback from
24 Bettles and Evansville, from those specific communities
25 or any discussion or have we -- has this come about
26 just as housekeeping from the Federal Subsistence Board
27 or as this actually brought up by those communities?

28

29 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Thank
30 you for the question, Ms. Rogers. So it's the Federal
31 Subsistence Board's policy to revisit these closures
32 every -- if there's a cycle, every three or four years
33 without a proposal. So we don't need a proposal. We
34 need to review them and make sure they're still
35 appropriate.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more questions
38 from the Council Members.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If not, continue,
43 Brooke, with that.

44

45 Nels.

46

47 MR. ALEXI: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: Are you -- is this

50

0184

1 separate from the Kuskokwim and not part of a Kuskokwim
2 proposal? So our land, our river, is this separate
3 what you are discussing? Can I comment on it right
4 now? So when I ask that question here on the Yukon and
5 Kuskokwim we are in king conservation mode. They let
6 us use lower mesh nets, but the farther river and going
7 out into the -- but those that are on the Yukon. So
8 they are talking about Arctic grayling and average span
9 size, and I was not sure, they're allowed to fish, and
10 they -- and cannot be used for subsistence.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: So we are talking about
15 interior Yukon, the grayling fish.

16

17 MR. ALEXI: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: So he asked why they are
20 being treated separately towards subsistence users,
21 closed to them and then open to sport. I was thinking
22 that you were talking about out land and the Kuskokwim.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

25

26 INTERPRETER: No, that is -- we are not
27 discussing anything on the Kuskokwim River. So Myron's
28 question with the -- on the Yukon where under this
29 proposal and river the sports fishermen are allowed to
30 continue fishing.

31

32 MR. ALEXI: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 INTERPRETER: Thank you. Now I
35 understand. I'll wait for Kuskokwim comment.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
38 discussion on the.....

39

40 MR. LUPI: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG:proposal? Go
43 ahead, Brooke.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

46

47 MR. LUPI: (Indiscernible) from
48 Tuntutuliak.

49

50

0185

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Was someone's on
2 the line?

3

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: If we -- I'm sorry, if we
6 could hold off on public comments just a couple more
7 moments, please.

8

9 MR. LUPI: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
10 speech)

11

12 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, I was just going
13 to say for the record that is Nels Alexi who was
14 speaking. Just for the record, that's Nels Alexi.
15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Just go
22 ahead.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. We're going to move
25 through the procedure and we'll get to public comments
26 in just a moment. Were there any summaries of tribal
27 or ANCSA corporation consultations.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, any agency
32 comments. ADF&G.

33

34 MS. STUBY: Hello. Through the Chair.
35 Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
36 Division of Sport Fish. The Alaska Department of Fish
37 and Game is opposed to rescinding FCR 23-02 and
38 allowing for subsistence harvest by Federally-qualified
39 subsistence users due to sustainability concerns.
40 Resident species at high latitudes are slow growing,
41 have lower productivity and are present in low
42 densities making them more easily to over-exploit.
43 Allowing multiple gear types including gillnets and no
44 harvest limits may result in localized depletions or
45 over-harvest of populations particularly during
46 seasonal migration. This action will be contrary to
47 the regulatory protection implemented within the Trans
48 Alaska Pipeline corridor, the five-mile radius as I've
49 mentioned, and will result in conflicting state and
50

0186

1 state regulations for the Kanuti River that could
2 complicate enforcement.

3
4 Any regulatory action taken by the
5 Federal Subsistence Board should mirror state
6 sportfishing regulations including gear and bag and
7 possession limits.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Do we have any other
12 agency comments, Federal or tribal.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, advisory
17 group comments, the other Regional Advisory Councils.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Thanks,
20 Ms. McDavid. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. The WIRAC
21 -- this is in the Western Interior Region, and the
22 Western Interior Council recommended the Board modify
23 the closure by rescinding it to non-salmon species
24 only, and I have a short justification.

25
26 The Council noted there was little
27 concern for over-harvest given Arctic Grayling is the
28 predominant species in the drainage and are targeted
29 primarily with rod and reel. In addition the system is
30 distant from Wiseman and Coldfoot, the nearest
31 communities, which are the communities most likely to
32 subsistence fish in the area.

33
34 So that was Western Interior.

35
36 Eastern Interior followed the Western
37 Interior and said modify by rescinding species to non-
38 salmon species only. So keep the closure to salmon,
39 open it to non-salmon species.

40
41 And the Council's justification summary
42 is the Council was concerned about Yukon salmon stocks
43 and additional harvest on those stocks.

44
45 The North Slope took it up, this is the
46 combined Yukon/Northern Region, so the North Slope
47 Council took it up and they opted to rescind. They
48 recommend the Board rescind the closures.

49
50

0187

1 And the Council noted that rescinding
2 the closure would benefit subsistence uses and provide
3 a Federal subsistence priority.

4
5 And lastly is the Seward Peninsula
6 Council, and the Council opted to not take up this
7 closure review.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Pippa. Do we
12 have any fish and game advisory committee comments or
13 subsistence resource commission comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, were there
18 any written public comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: None, all right.

23 And.....
24

25 MS. KENNER: Oh, excuse me. Thank you,
26 Mr. Chair. There were no public written comments
27 submitted during the comment period.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. And now, Mr.
30 Chair, if you would like to open it up to public
31 comments, I think there was one on the line.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
36 Was there any comments from the public on line.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. It's Jack
39 Reakoff.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Yeah, we -- I live in Wiseman and I'm in the affected
45 rescind restricted area. The Council voted for this
46 and modified the proposal to eliminate only non-salmon
47 fish to be harvested. Almost all of the fish that are
48 taken in those drainages would be with rod and reel.
49 It is not a year-round fishery. Like if the primary
50

0188

1 biomass or the main fish that's there, they're there
2 from mid May through late September, and that's a fact.
3 So it's not a year-round fishery. Nobody's fished with
4 gillnets and the various types of gear down there in
5 decades. There's a state subsistence fishery in the
6 middle fork and southward of the Koyukuk near where we
7 live here and we can use gillnets in these drainages
8 here. Seem to have no problem with that harvest. So
9 the reality is there's -- it's going to be -- it will
10 additional harvest opportunity in the future.

11

12 I intend as the Chair of the Western
13 Interior Council to make a proposal for a bag limit
14 change for those drainages as we have on the Jim River
15 which has 10 fish per for subsistence user.

16

17 That will be my comments, Mr. Chair.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

22

23 Brooke.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Do we have any other
26 public comments in the room or on the phone?

27

28 MR. LUPI: Adolph Lupi from Tuntutuliak.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. LUPI: Yeah, they told me to speak
33 in Fish and Game about subsistence. There was sports
34 fishermen right there and I told them up here in
35 Alaska we don't need sports license to get the fish to
36 eat, but down there they sell sports license. And for
37 me, a Yup'ik, it was different, (in Yup'ik) really
38 different for me. If I wanted to fish, I need to buy a
39 sports license. And too far, but the Chena River, I
40 didn't know where it was, but that guy did serve me
41 from sports fishing just a few days ago in mail, and
42 they were asking me when I sports fish how much I got,
43 but I'm not a sports fisherman.

44

45 When they have sports fishing up there,
46 we'll be let go. I mean, Mr. Tricks (ph) -- Chinook
47 salmon up where they were just (indiscernible) where
48 they let them go and take whatever they want like char
49 or grayling. I didn't know what they're fishing for.

50

0189

1 Quyana.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

4

5

INTERPRETER: Say your name.

6

7

MR. LUPI: (In Yup'ik) Adolph Lupi from
Tuntutuliak.

9

10

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. I
recognize Alissa.

11

12

13

14

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
move that we support with modification SCR23-02 as
follows. You -- wait, sorry. I just lost my page.
That we support this to rescind the closure and the
ability to harvest other than salmon with rod and reel
only non-salmon stocks, and possession of limits is 10
per day.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MS. MCDAVID: Mrs. Rogers, I don't
believe we can add limits onto a closure review. I
think the option is only to rescind or retain or modify
the open or closure.

23

24

25

26

MS. ROGERS: So this.....

27

28

29

MS. MCDAVID: I think a fishery proposal
like Jack mentioned would have to be submitted in order
to modify the bag limits.

30

31

32

MS. ROGERS: Okay.

33

34

35

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
is Pippa.

36

37

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah.

38

39

40

MS. KENNER: I just want to -- Pippa
Kenner. I just want to add to that, Ms. Rogers, that
this is kind of protective. Generally the Board's
policy and best practices is that when we get a
proposal or a closure review, we look only at the
proposal and the closure review. We do not -- the
Board generally will not use that as a vehicle for
creating other limitations.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

MS. ROGERS: Okay.

49

50

0190

1 MS. KENNER: One must get a proposal.
2 So we're a little off synch with these and we're
3 correcting that. So the next time you get these
4 closure reviews it will be during the period in which
5 you can also submit a proposal.

6
7 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

8
9 MS. KENNER: But we're off kilter right
10 now. And my colleague Robbin La Vine has more
11 explanation. Thank you.

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Actually Pippa did an excellent job. We are working on
15 trying to synch up these closure reviews to give
16 Councils time to both rescind and then propose
17 regulations that would be able to be implemented when
18 that closure is lifted. I also know that within the
19 Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal
20 subsistence management program there is recognition
21 that the managers, the Federal managers, can make
22 changes in-season to gear type and harvest limits. And
23 that is an authority delegated to the in-season
24 managers in most cases.

25
26 And so these particular closures right
27 now are of great interest to the Federal subsistence
28 management program and to the Board members. They
29 certainly want to ensure that any vulnerable fishing
30 opportunities are both protected, watched, well managed
31 while providing opportunities for subsistence uses. So
32 this is in discussion right now and it will be also
33 discussed during the Board meeting.

34
35 You can make a recommendation to
36 rescind and you can also provide comments that you
37 think might be helpful to the Board.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. I'm going to go
42 ahead and rescind my current motion to make a
43 correction that we support FCR 23-02 at this time.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Motion's been
48 made. Is there a second?

49
50

0191

1 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, could I just get a
2 clarification on the motion, Ms. Rogers, did you intend
3 to rescind the closure to non-salmon only or to salmon
4 and non-salmon?

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. ROGERS: I believe that was to
9 rescind non-salmon stocks.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Would it be okay if
12 I perhaps restated the motion to clarify -- make sure
13 this is your intention. The motion would be to modify
14 the closure to rescind to non-salmon only, but remained
15 closed to salmon harvest.

16
17 MS. ROGERS: Would it be okay if I can
18 get a quick clarification from Jack Reakoff on what --
19 Jack, are you still on line? Can you tell me what your
20 Council did in regards to your area?

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: Through the Chair. The
23 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council voted to
24 modify the closure to only rescind for non-salmon
25 species. Thank you.

26
27 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Jack. I
28 appreciate it. Yes, we are going to modify to non-
29 salmon species as following with the WIRAC. Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. The motion
32 has been made to support and modify -- the modification
33 that is being requested by Western Interior. Is there
34 a second?

35
36 MR. ANDREW: Second.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by John
39 Andrew. Any further discussion on the motion?

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

44
45 MS. ROGERS: I'll go ahead and give a
46 justification. Since this has not been reviewed I
47 believe since implementation of 1970s through 1992, and
48 support of subsistence users of Bettles and Evansville
49 and those closest to the community of Kanuti River, and
50

0192

1 the analysis was well put together in support of
2 opening this fishery, that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service and ADF&G will work together under the
4 delegation of authority to restrict the fishery as it
5 progressed, we are assured that the future proposals
6 will be implemented to deal with the fishing issues
7 that arise and including setting regulations and
8 limitations in regards to gear type and possession per
9 day. And that we are in support of the Western
10 Interior as they -- this is within their region.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Any further
15 discussion on the motion to support.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Time for question?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no
24 more -- yes, Brooke?

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted -- there
27 were some great comments made earlier by Mr. Chair and
28 Mrs. Cleveland, if you all wanted to restate those at
29 all or just reference that you'd like those to be
30 included in the justification.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I think from my
33 standpoint, for me, I'd leave it up to the Western
34 Interior that are directly affected to work on their
35 proposal, because I don't want to add anything more
36 that would make it more difficult for them.

37

38 Any more discussion on the motion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. PARKS: Question.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: The question's been
45 called.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The question's
48 been called. Was there a comment on the phone before
49 we vote on this?

50

0193

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Can I ask the
2 court reporter that we remind people to please silence
3 your cell phones? We're getting some background noise
4 that it's hard to hear folks. Thank you.

5

6 REPORTER: Please mute your phone per
7 Council request. Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. The motion
10 has been made and seconded, and now we're down to roll,
11 and question's been called.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

14

15 MR. PARKS: Yes.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

18

19 MR. PETER: Yes.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

22

23 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

30

31 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

38

39 MS. EVAN: Yes.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Any other Council Members
42 joined us on line.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0194

1 MS. MCDAVID: Thomas Alstrom.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing no one, Myron

6 Naneng.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes eight to

11 zero.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. I'm
14 beginning to see people squirming, so we'll take a 10-
15 minute break.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead and call
22 the meeting back to order. The time now is 11:30.

23

24 We're on to the next agenda item, and
25 that's the FCR 23-03. Review the closure to
26 subsistence harvest of all fish in Bonanza Creek.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 members of the Council. For the record this is Pippa
30 Kenner with OSM. This begins on Page 183 of your
31 council book, and while you're finding that page, I
32 just want to tell you I'm going to provide a brief
33 summary of the analysis. It's a rather long analysis.

34

35 Okay. So again Fishery Closure Review
36 FCR 23-03 is a standard Board-directed review of a
37 Federal subsistence closure to the harvest of all fish
38 in the Bonanza Creek drainage. The purpose of this
39 closure review is to determine if the closure is still
40 necessary.

41

42 Under Federal regulations subsistence
43 harvest of all fish is prohibited in the Bonanza Creek
44 drainage. The Federal closure was carried over from
45 state regulations at the beginning of the Federal
46 program and it has not been reviewed or modified.

47

48 Under state regulations Bonanza Creek
49 is closed to subsistence fishing, but sportfishing is

50

0195

1 allowed. This is a similar situation to what we just
2 discussed in the previous closure review.

3
4 So the closure area is located again in
5 the Western Interior region and crosses the Dalton
6 Highway and is located on general domain land managed
7 by the Bureau of Land Management.

8
9 Information regarding salmon is limited
10 in this area, but chum salmon may spawn in Bonanza
11 Creek and have been documented downriver of the Dalton
12 Highway. Population assessment near and above the
13 Dalton Highway for all salmon species is lacking in the
14 drainage. For non-salmon fish there are Arctic
15 grayling, burbot, round whitefish, long-nose sucker,
16 and northern pike are believed to be in this area.

17
18 Arctic grayling abundance was assessed
19 in 1996 in a three-mile section of Bonanza Creek that
20 crosses the Dalton Highway, and results showed there
21 was an estimated density of 349 grayling per mile in
22 the study area.

23
24 Wiseman and Coldfoot are the
25 communities that most likely subsistence -- that are
26 most likely to subsistence fish in the area if the
27 closure is rescinded due to their close proximity to
28 the drainage.

29
30 So if the closure is rescinded,
31 Federal subsistence regulations for the Yukon northern
32 area would apply. Harvest of salmon would be allowed
33 if authorized by state emergency order or Federal
34 special action. Non-salmon fish could be taken with
35 any gear listed on Page 185 of your council book. That
36 includes, you know, set net, drift nets, that kind of
37 thing. And subsistence rod and reel harvest limit
38 would match state sportfishing harvest and possession
39 limits. Harvest would be unrestricted for all other
40 legal gear types.

41
42 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
43 rescind the closure. Currently Bonanza Creek is closed
44 to subsistence fishing but open to other uses.
45 Rescinding the closure would establish a Federal
46 subsistence priority in the area. Similar to the
47 Kanuti River, allowing unrestricted harvest may result
48 in a conservation concern; however, populations may be
49 protected by special actions until a proposal that
50

0196

1 modifies allowable gear types and harvest limits can be
2 submitted.

3
4 That concludes my presentation and I'll
5 be standing by along with again Cory Graham, our
6 fisheries biologist who's on the phone to answer any
7 questions you might have. And, of course, following
8 this you're going to hear, you know, public comments
9 and what the other Councils did and that kind of thing.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you.

14 Brooke, you'll go through the process.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Any tribal
17 consultation or ANCSA corporation consultation comments
18 summaries.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, agency

23 comments. Fish and Game.

24

25 MS. STUBY: Good afternoon. Through the
26 Chair. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Lisa Stuby,
27 Division of Sport Fish. Very similar to Kanuti, the
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is opposed to
29 rescinding FCR 23-02 and allowing for subsistence
30 harvest by Federally-qualified subsistence users due to
31 sustainability concerns. Resident species at high
32 latitudes -- oh, I meant FCR 23-03 -- at high latitudes
33 are slow growing, have lower productivity and are
34 present in low densities, making them more easily to
35 over-exploit. Allowing multiple gear types, including
36 gillnet and no harvest limits may result in localized
37 depletions or over-harvest of populations particularly
38 during seasonal migrations.

39

40 This action will be contrary to the
41 regulatory protection implemented within the Trans
42 Alaska Pipeline corridor and will result in conflicting
43 state and Federal regulations for Bonanza Creek that
44 could complicate enforcement. Any regulatory action
45 taken by the Federal Subsistence Board should mirror
46 state sportfishing regulation, including gear and bag
47 and possession limits.

48

49 And also just one thing I just wanted

50

0197

1 to bring up, I was reviewing the report to the
2 mark/recapture study that occurred in 1996 on Prospect
3 Creek, and it did incur a rather large standard error
4 which is also within the FCR review. And the project
5 took place within a three-mile area which was just
6 right off the Dalton Highway, so it didn't cover the
7 entire drainage. And this habitat is pretty suitable.
8 And only four fish were recaptured at the minimum of
9 seven recaptured fish. And you need seven fish to test
10 for bias. So the precision is a bit low and it does
11 incur, like I said, a very large error around that
12 estimate, too, so I'm thinking that this is -- that
13 stream may not be as robust as you think with 349 fish
14 per mile. It might be a lot less than that depending
15 upon where you are in the river. And like I said, the
16 mark/recapture, the number of fish that were recaptured
17 turned to be very, very low. So I just want to kind of
18 add that onto the record.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Any comments
21 from Federal or tribal agencies.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, advisory
26 group comments. Other Regional Advisory Councils.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Members of the Council. Again we have four Councils
30 who reviewed this closure review. It is in the Western
31 Interior region and that Council recommends the Board
32 modify by rescinding to non-salmon species only. So
33 that's like what we just did in the other closure
34 review. The justification is the same. The Council
35 noted there was little concern for over-harvest given
36 that Arctic grayling the predominant species in the
37 system and are harvested by rod and reel. In addition,
38 the Council believes that Arctic grayling will
39 primarily be harvested when engaging in other
40 subsistence activities, harvested incidentally.

41

42 So the Eastern Interior Council did the
43 same, similar justification and they determined that
44 they did not want to rescind the closure to the harvest
45 of salmon because of concern for those stocks.

46

47 The North Slope region recommended the
48 Board rescind the closure. The Council noted that
49 rescinding the closure would benefit subsistence uses

50

0198

1 and provide a Federal subsistence priority.

2

3 And again the Seward Peninsula Council
4 opted to not take up this closure review.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Pippa. Any AC
9 comments or SRC comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, do we have
14 any written public comments.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 There were no written public comments delivered during
18 the public comment period.

19

20 And this is Pippa Kenner for the
21 record.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. We can now
24 open it up to public testimony if there's anyone in the
25 room or on line that would like to comment on the
26 Fisheries Closure Review 23-03 for Bonanza Creek.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Jack
29 Reakoff.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Yes, as you see, the Western Interior did exactly the
35 same in this proposal as the previous.

36

37 The biomass is actually really high in
38 the summertime and then the fish are basically vacating
39 the drainage once the insects died out and then fish
40 start vacating the drainage and go back out of the area
41 where they are harvested in other areas.

42

43 But I feel there's no concern for
44 conservation. The in-season manager could close it at
45 certain times of the year for all gear types other than
46 rod and reel. There's other mechanisms. We will be
47 submitting a proposal on these few drainages in the
48 next cycle.

49

50

0199

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

4 Any other comments.

5

6 Go ahead.

7

8 MS. CLEVELAND: This is Jackie
9 Cleveland. I had a question for Pippa or someone. You
10 voted to rescind?

11

12 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair.....

13

14 MS. CLEVELAND: You voted to rescind and
15 then Western wants to modify, Eastern wants to modify,
16 yeah? So I guess -- I mean just because maybe I'm torn
17 now between rescind and modify. Can you say why you
18 chose modify -- I mean rescind instead of modify?
19 Sorry.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. This is Jack
22 Reakoff.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Are you responding
25 to the question?

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, I will.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Go ahead.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, we voted to modify
32 the proposal to protect salmon but allow the harvest of
33 non-salmon species. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. For the record
38 this is Pippa Kenner. So if the Western Interior
39 Council had opted to rescind the entire -- the closure,
40 it would have been open to the harvest of salmon, too.
41 And because of the conservation concerns for salmon
42 they opted not to go that route. They opted to keep
43 the salmon closure in place to Federal subsistence uses
44 and I think that was their justification.

45

46 Did I answer your question, Ms.
47 Cleveland?

48

49 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes and no I guess. So

50

0200

1 I understand that the Western Interior's take, but I
2 guess I was wondering if you recommend rescinding, is
3 it because there's plenty of salmon in that, you know,
4 in that river?

5

6 MS. KENNER: That's a very good
7 question. For the record this is Pippa Kenner.
8 Through the Chair.

9

10 So.....

11

12 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Oh, and Cory Graham is also
15 on line. He may be able to provide a better answer.
16 Go ahead, Cory.

17

18 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. So
19 information regarding salmon is limited in Bonanza
20 Creek. There may be salmon there, but again we just
21 don't have a lot of data regarding that. And the
22 motion -- or the preliminary conclusion to rescind is
23 we thought that the -- you know, we still had the tools
24 to protect salmon via special action like the non-
25 salmon species protection of over-harvest. But as the
26 RACs noted, there is concern for salmon in the drainage
27 and they just wanted to protect them as well. So it's
28 a rescind to non-salmon species only. Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
31 questions.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no more
36 questions, entertaining a motion to support the
37 recommendations.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead
40 and move to support.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Motion made by
43 Alissa to support the recommendations.

44

45 MS. ROGERS: With modification of non-
46 salmon.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah. With the
49 modification that's request by Western Interior. Yes.

50

0201

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: I'll just repeat that for
4 everyone.

5

6 So the motion is to modify the closure
7 and rescind the closure to non-salmon only. Thank you.

8

9 MR. PETER: Second.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The motion has
12 been made and seconded. Any further discussion on the
13 motion?

14

15 MR. PETER: Question.

16

17 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. The motion
20 has been made, seconded. I'll give an opportunity for
21 the discussion before we take up your question.

22

23 MR. PETER: Yeah. Alissa.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Go ahead,
26 Alissa first.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Through the Chair. In connection to -- sorry, let me
30 get -- pull up the one. 23-01 and 23-02, to support to
31 modify with non-species, this hasn't been reviewed
32 since 1992. In support of subsistence users of that
33 area and in support of the WIRAC, support with
34 modification with non-salmon, and belief that ADF&G and
35 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorization of
36 delegation will make the regulations and restrictions
37 in the best interest of the species. Arctic grayling
38 is very abundant in this river, that there is no
39 biological concerns to not rescind the closure.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Comments from OSM
44 or anybody else.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Did you
49 have a comment -- okay. Motion has been made and

50

0202

1 seconded and question has been called. All in support
2 of the motion to support say -- let's go ahead with the
3 roll call.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

6

7 MR. PARKS: Yes.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter, Sr.

10

11 MR. PETER: Yes.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

14

15 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

22

23 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

30

31 MS. EVAN: Yes.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes eight to

38

39 zero.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We're down to the
42 next item, FCR 23-05, review closure to subsistence
43 harvest of all fish in Delta River.

44

45 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 Members of the Council.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We'll take a five-
50 minute break. They want to discuss working through
lunch hour.

50

0203

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The Council
6 desires that they go ahead and order and for the time
7 being continue our work.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Maybe someone can
14 go find our Council Coordinator.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: I'm right behind you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Oh, I didn't know
19 they were behind me.

20

21 (Off record conversations)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. We're going
24 to call the meeting back to order again. The time now
25 is 12:10 -- or 12:08 p.m. We said we'd work through
26 lunch hour, so this is our lunch hour and we're going
27 to work through it.

28

29 So we're down to agenda item FCR 23-05,
30 reviewing closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in
31 the Delta River.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
34 members of the Council. Again this is -- for the
35 record this is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist
36 at the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
37 And the review for Federal Closure Review 23-05 begins
38 of Page 2001 [sic] of your Council book. And again I'm
39 just going to offer a brief summary of what that review
40 contains.

41

42 So this is a review of the closure to
43 the harvest of all fish in the Delta River and again it
44 is a standard Board-directed review to determine if the
45 closure is still necessary, just like our previous two
46 analyses.

47

48 So under Federal regulations
49 subsistence harvest of all fish is prohibited, is not

50

1 allowed, in the Delta River. The Federal closure was
2 carried over from state regulations and it has not been
3 reviewed or modified. Under state regulations the
4 Delta River is closed to subsistence fishing, but
5 sportfishing is allowed. So we're in the same
6 situation we were in in the past two analyses.

7
8 The Delta River, which is located in
9 the Eastern Interior Region, begins at the outlet of
10 Lower Tangle Lake about 60 miles south/southwest of
11 Delta Junction. The upper portion of the Delta River
12 is a component of the National Wild and Scenic River
13 System which is administered by the Bureau of Land
14 Management. The lower section of the closure area is
15 on general domain land which is also managed by the
16 Bureau of Land Management.

17
18 So chum and coho salmon spawn in the
19 lower section of the Delta River, but salmon do not
20 inhabit the closure area in general. Non-salmon fish
21 is comprised of Arctic grayling, burbot, round
22 whitefish, long-nose sucker, lake trout and Dolly
23 Varden present in the area.

24
25 Previous research indicates the closure
26 area provides year-round habitat for an abundant
27 population of Arctic grayling with one of the highest
28 density estimates ever recorded for the species in
29 Alaska. A lot of Arctic grayling.

30
31 Big Delta and Delta Junction are the
32 communities most likely to subsistence fish in the
33 Delta River if the closure is rescinded due to their
34 close proximity to the drainage.

35
36 So if the closure is rescinded, Federal
37 subsistence regulations for the Yukon northern area
38 would apply, including nets, the use of nets. Non-
39 salmon fish could be taken with any gear listed on Page
40 202 of your council book. Subsistence rod and reel
41 harvest limits would match state sportfishing harvest
42 and possession limits, and harvest would be
43 unrestricted for all other legal gear types.

44
45 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is
46 to rescind the closure.

47
48 Currently Federal public waters of the
49 Delta River are closed to subsistence fishing, but open
50

0205

1 to other uses like sportfishing. Rescinding the
2 closure would establish a Federal subsistence priority
3 in the area.

4

5

6 Previous research indicates the closure
7 area contains an abundant population of Arctic grayling
8 with one of the highest recorded densities in the state
9 of Alaska; however, allowing unrestricted harvest for
10 gear types other than rod and reel may lead to over-
11 harvest. Similar to the previous reviews, populations
12 may be protected by special actions until a proposal
13 that modifies allowable gear types and harvest limits
14 can be submitted.

14

15

16 Okay. That concludes my presentation,
17 and again I'll be standing by with Cory Graham on line
18 to answer your questions.

18

19

Thank you very much for your time.

20

21

22

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Brook,
let's go follow the format.

23

24

25

Are there any questions from the
Council Members.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

30

31

MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hearing no
questions, we'll move through the procedure. Any
summary of tribal ANCSA consultations.

32

33

(No comments)

34

35

36

MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, agency
comments. Fish and Game.

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

41

MS. MCDAVID: Do we have anyone from
Fish and Game still on the line.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

46

MS. MCDAVID: We're looking for agency
comments on the Fishery Closure Review 23-05.

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

0206

1 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hearing none, any
2 Federal agency comments or tribal comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Hearing none, advisory
7 group comments. The other RACs, please.

8
9 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Through the
10 Chair. For the record this is Pippa Kenner. So this
11 is in the Eastern Interior region and the Eastern
12 Interior Council deferred this Federal closure review.
13 The Council said, the Council noted the needed to hear
14 from people that will be affected, such as the Delta
15 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Council was also
16 concerned about a lack of monitoring and potential
17 over-harvest.

18
19 The Western Interior Council deferred
20 to the home region, so they deferred. The Council
21 noted that the Eastern Interior Council is the home
22 region and should make the decision.

23
24 The North Slope Council also deferred
25 to the Eastern Interior Council.

26
27 And the Southcentral Council provided a
28 comment -- oh, the Southcentral Council provided a
29 comment that they do not have customary and traditional
30 use determination in this area.

31
32 Brooke, could you advise me what to do
33 with that comment?

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: I'm sorry, with what.....

36
37 MS. KENNER: The Southcentral Council
38 made a comment, but they aren't -- you know, it's not --
39 it's not a crossover for them. It's a crossover
40 strictly speaking for them, but they made a comment.

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: Sure. So other Councils
43 that aren't -- they're able to make comments even if
44 it's not in their region, but the Board doesn't have
45 deference to those Councils. So if you wanted -- if
46 you know what that comment was, you could read it and
47 just let them know.

48
49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Brooke, I'll
50

0207

1 read it quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council recommends the
3 Office of Subsistence Management remove the Federal
4 subsistence fishing closure of the Delta River, but
5 delay opening Federal subsistence fishing until such
6 time that OSM has conducted a Section 804 subsistence
7 user prioritization or similar analysis of the area to
8 determine which Federally-qualified users should
9 receive a customary and traditional use determination
10 of the Delta River drainage, or who would be eligible,
11 to make recommendations as to the appropriate methods
12 and means of harvest to ensure sustainable fisheries
13 management.

14

15 As written OSM's recommendation would
16 make the Federal waters of the Delta River drainage
17 available to all Federally-qualified rural residents of
18 the Yukon northern area whereas Federally-qualified
19 rural residents in the AHTNA traditional use territory
20 would not be eligible to subsistence fish under Federal
21 regulations in the area that the AHTNA na people have
22 fished and stewarded for countless generations.

23

24 Okay. So what they're saying is we --
25 it's in our area, but they say we don't have a
26 customary and traditional use determination for that
27 area so we're going to submit a proposal, but it's
28 still recommended rescinding the closure.

29

30 MR. WUTTIG: Through the Chair. This is
31 Klaus Wuttig with Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. WUTTIG: Yeah. Thank you. My
36 apologies for jumping in late with the state's
37 position. I was moving my phone and I hit my -- I hung
38 up inadvertently, so I'm coming in a little bit late.
39 So I'd like to step back for a moment and just give the
40 state's position. And before I do, I just kind of have
41 a question on this proposal, because it refers to the
42 Delta River and the state regulations refer to Delta
43 River tributaries, and there's also lake systems in
44 there. And so it's a little challenging to really
45 state a full position on this because we're not really
46 sure where the boundary is. Could I have some
47 clarification on that?

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

50

0208

1 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, respond
4 to.....

5

6 MR. GRAHAM: This is Cory Graham with
7 OSM, so -- oh, thank you, Mr. Chair. So it's the --
8 we're defining the Delta River as from the outlet of
9 Lower Tangle until the end of the closure area. It
10 does now include the lakes or other drainages -- or
11 streams, excuse me.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thanks you.

14

15 MR. WUTTIG: And that would include the
16 main stem Delta River all the way down to One Mile
17 Creek?

18

19 MR. GRAHAM: Correct, it's the main stem
20 entering to the end of the Federal public lands.

21

22 MR. WUTTIG: Okay. Thank you. So I'll
23 go ahead and kind of formulate a position here. So
24 Fish and Game is -- I mean we're opposed to the
25 proposal, and the reason being is that allowing the use
26 of multiple gear types is a real concern. The Wild and
27 Scenic portion, or the 12-mile section below the falls
28 of the Delta River, well, the bottom four miles of that
29 is all glacial so there are a lot of grayling there,
30 but it is just an eight-mile section of the river.

31

32 And then for the main stem, it's a
33 large glacial river with several tributaries that cross
34 the road system that go into the main system, so the
35 main stem of the delta, it's cold and glacial. So any
36 fish would be there present in very low densities. And
37 similarly for all the small streams that cross the
38 road, if there are a few fish in there, they would be
39 pretty vulnerable especially when we're talking about
40 allowing all gear types, such as gillnets, and it does
41 give us sustainability concerns.

42

43 And furthermore, you know, having --
44 opening it for subsistence, Federal subsistence
45 harvest, we do have some conflicting regulations with
46 state regulations. So that's why we're opposed to it.
47 And our main concern is the allowing multiple gear
48 types in that section of river and all those small
49 tributaries that cross it.

50

0209

1 Through the Chair, thank you.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for that
4 comment. So we left off before we backed up real quick
5 to get Fish and Game's comment, with the other Regional
6 Advisory positions. And now we'll move on. Are there
7 AC comments or comments from SRCs.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: It sounds like none.
12 Were there any written public comments.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 There were no written public comments. This is Pippa
16 Kenner for the record.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. And now we can
19 open it up to public testimony if there is any.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Hearing no public
24 testimony, I'll turn it over to you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. We're
27 looking for a motion from the Council to support.....

28

29 MR. WUTTIG: Is there a way to public
30 testimony? Sorry.

31

32 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead if
35 you have public comment or public testimony. I'll give
36 you the opportunity.

37

38 MR. WUTTIG: Thank you. I appreciate
39 that. So the Delta Fish and Game Advisory
40 Committee.....

41

42 REPORTER: Would you identify yourself,
43 please.

44

45 MR. WUTTIG:is opposed to
46 rescinding F -- sorry, are you ready?

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, go ahead. Identify
49 yourself first, please.

50

0210

1 MR. WUTTIG: Oh, sorry. Yeah, this is
2 Klaus Woody with Fish and Game. I'm the Management
3 Coordinator for Region 3.

4
5 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you.
6

7 MR. WUTTIG: Reading the public comment
8 for Delta Fish and Game AC. The Delta Fish and Game
9 Advisory Committee if opposed to rescinding FCR 23-05
10 and allowing for subsistence harvest by Federally-
11 qualified subsistence users due to sustainability
12 concerns for resident species fisheries with
13 unrestricted to gear and harvest limits.

14
15 Thank you. Mr. Chair. Madame Chair.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

18
19 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Alissa.

22
23 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With
24 all of the deferring from all the Regional Councils and
25 the actual Council who is the home Council of this,
26 we'd like to hear more from the people in the area in
27 regards to this proposal. I would like to make a
28 suggestion if the rest of the Council would like to
29 follow, to defer this proposal to the home Regional
30 Advisory Council.

31
32 Mr. Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So you're making
35 that motion as a motion?

36
37 MS. ROGERS: Yes, it is a motion.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
40 Is there a second to the motion to defer.

41
42 MR. PETER: Second the motion, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by
46 Phillip Peter. Any further discussion on the motion.

47
48 Jackie, you had a comment.

49
50

0211

1 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes. Quyana, Mr. Chair.
2 So hearing these last four proposals, they're almost
3 similar -- or most of them are similar. But I'm just
4 still in disbelief that if there is a conservation
5 concern in any of these rivers I guess why is
6 sportfishing open. And in reference to Katie John, you
7 know, they're not priority.

8
9 And I guess personally I've always
10 wished that sportfishing was considered a commercial
11 fishery because there is commerce, money is exchanged.
12 A lot of money. But we've tried to do this in
13 Quinhagak a bunch, but the reasoning is always that
14 they take the least amount of fish, three percent, but
15 the mortality rate is never, you know, mentioned. And
16 I know in Quinhagak the mortality rate is high. We're
17 always -- or, sorry, it's low. We see a lot of dead
18 fish on the shores that were caught and released. So
19 that's just my opinion. I mean, I wish it would be
20 considered a commercial fishery so when there is
21 conservation concern and the commercial fishery is
22 closed, then the sport should be closed, too. But
23 that's just my opinion.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you, Jackie.
28 I think if the Council doesn't object to it, I would
29 also convey that same concern and share it with the
30 other Councils who are dealing with this issue, that
31 our position is that subsistence should be recognized
32 in all of the proposals that are coming, that have come
33 before us.

34
35 And I support your position of saying
36 that we seem to be ignoring Katie John, which is a
37 Federal legislation recognized by the Federal
38 government, so I would request that that message be
39 conveyed to these other Councils that we're all in the
40 same boat where we want to be protected on our
41 subsistence rights and rights not be given priority to
42 commercial and sportsfishing.

43
44 With that, thank you.

45
46 So a motion has been made and seconded.

47
48 Any further discussion on the motion.

49
50

0212

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Question.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The question's
6 been called for. Let's do a roll call again.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: I'll just restate the
9 motion. The motion is to defer to the home region
10 Regional Advisory Council, which is Eastern Interior.

11

12 Henry Parks.

13

14 MR. PARKS: Yes.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

17

18 MR. PETER: Yes.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

21

22 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

25

26 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

37

38 MS. EVAN: Yes.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair Myron Naneng.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes eight/zero.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
47 Following agenda, we've already taken item D. Yes,
48 you've got another proposal, okay. Thank you. Go
49 ahead.

50

0213

1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Council. Before we continue, I just
3 wanted to give you an update on our lunch plans. The
4 order has been placed, it will be delivered here in
5 about another 20 minutes.

6
7 I did want to note that the Yukon River
8 Drainage, YRDFA folks, Fisheries Association has
9 generously brought some snacks for you, and if you have
10 a moment and you want a quick little snack to carry you
11 through to lunch time, they've generously brought it,
12 and it's over here by the coffee.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And then I don't
15 want to continue our -- I don't want to divert our
16 flow.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
19 Now we're down to our next agenda item, Item E, 2020
20 Fishery Resource Monitoring Programs. You've got the
21 floor.

22
23 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
24 Chair. Members of the Council. Good afternoon. For
25 the record my name is Kevin Foley and I'm a Fish
26 Biologist within the Office of Subsistence management.
27 The materials for this agenda item begin on Page 213 of
28 your council meeting book. For the Fisheries Resource
29 Monitoring Program we would like to start with an
30 update on the 2022 monitoring plan which was finalized
31 in the spring of 2022.

32
33 There are 13 newly funded projects in
34 2022, five in the Yukon region and eight in the
35 Kuskokwim region. There are also six on-going projects
36 in the Yukon region with four on-going projects in the
37 Kuskokwim region.

38
39 Beginning with the Yukon region, Pages
40 216 and 217 of your meeting books, newly funded
41 projects include the east fork Andreafsky weir Chinook
42 and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing
43 assessment; Gisasa River weir Chinook and summer chum
44 salmon abundance and run timing assessment; Western
45 Alaska coho salmon genetic baseline development;
46 presence and use of salmon in the Pastolik and
47 Pastoliak Rivers; and humpback whitefish and other non-
48 salmon fishes traditional ecological knowledge and
49 biological sampling in the upper Koyukuk region.
50

0214

1 The six on-going projects from 2022 in
2 the Yukon region include Yukon River coho salmon radio
3 telemetry; mixed stock analysis for Yukon River chum
4 salmon; in-season Yukon River subsistence salmon survey
5 program; customary trade in the lower and middle Yukon
6 River; Yukon River in-season salmon management
7 teleconferences; and evaluating dart and telemetry tags
8 in an effort to track run timing and migration patterns
9 of Yukon River Arctic lamprey.

10

11 Moving into the Kuskokwim region, Pages
12 220 and 221 of your meeting book, the eight newly
13 funded projects in 2022 are Takotna River Weir salmon
14 run timing and abundance; George River salmon weir;
15 Bethel subsistence harvest survey; Kuskokwim management
16 area post-season subsistence salmon harvest survey;
17 local and traditional knowledge of salmon harvest and
18 use for subsistence in the lower Kuskokwim River
19 drainage; natural indicators of salmon in the lower
20 Kuskokwim drainage; community-based harvest monitoring
21 network for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon; and
22 Kuskokwim River broad whitefish subsistence harvest and
23 spawning abundance.

24

25 The four on-going projects from 2022
26 include Kuskokwim River coho salmon abundance
27 estimation and whitefish indices using sonar; Salmon
28 River of the Pitka Fork Chinook salmon escapement
29 monitoring; middle Kuskokwim River chinook and chum
30 salmon in-season assessment; and Kwethluk River salmon
31 run timing and abundance.

32

33 The Office of Subsistence Management
34 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
35 and will announce the 2024 notice of funding
36 opportunity for the monitoring program this winter. We
37 will be seeking proposals for projects that gather
38 information to manage and conserve subsistence fishery
39 resources in Federal public waters. The monitoring
40 program is also directed at supporting meaningful
41 involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native
42 and rural organizations and promoting collaboration
43 among Federal, state, Alaska Native and local
44 organizations.

45

46 The first step in this process is for
47 the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the priority
48 information needs for their respective regions. These
49 are research needs or gaps in information needed to
50

50

0215

1 manage Federal subsistence fisheries. These priority
2 information needs provide the framework for soliciting,
3 evaluating, and selecting projects for funding through
4 the monitoring program.

5

6 The development of the priority
7 information needs is an important process for the
8 Council. Your final version of priority information
9 needs determines the types and subjects of project
10 proposals that are sought for within your regions.

11

12 Three primary types of research are
13 requested: harvest monitoring; traditional ecological
14 knowledge; and stock status and trends. Harvest
15 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge
16 projects provide information directly from subsistence
17 users including descriptions of fishing effort and
18 harvest and use patterns. Stock status and trend
19 projects address fish abundance, migration, and
20 behavior in specific fisheries.

21

22 Research priorities that fall outside
23 of that scope of the monitoring program are not
24 considered or not funded, and they include projects
25 focused on habitat protection, mitigation, restoration
26 and enhancement, hatchery propagation, restoration
27 enhancement and supplementation, and contaminant
28 assessment, evaluation and monitoring. These kinds of
29 projects are most appropriately addressed by the local
30 land managers, by local land management or regulatory
31 agencies. In addition, projects for which the primary
32 objective is education or outreach, such as science
33 camps, technician training, or intern programs are not
34 eligible for funding under the monitoring program.

35

36 Council Member Thomas Alstrom worked
37 with OSM Staff and Council Members from Eastern and
38 Western Interior to exchange information and discuss
39 priority information needs for the Yukon region.
40 Council Member Alissa Rogers worked with OSM Staff and
41 Kevin Whitworth from Western Interior to exchange
42 information and discuss priority information needs for
43 the Kuskokwim region. We will discuss the results of
44 these meeting in a moment and then ask the Council to
45 finalize and adopt the 2024 priority information needs
46 for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair. This concludes
49 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update. Are
50

0216

1 there any questions before we begin reviewing the list
2 of priority information needs.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Jackie.

5

6 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. Through the
7 Chair. Kevin, I had a question about say we wanted to
8 -- or we got our weir back on our river and to co-
9 manage, would that fall under ADF&G and the tribe or is
10 there or is there such a thing as the U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife and tribe co-management even if -- so it's in
12 the refuge, but it's state water.

13

14 MS. KENNER: I hear you asking -- hi.
15 For the record this is Pippa Kenner. I hear you asking
16 two questions. And one is, does a pro -- does the
17 focus of a project have to be on Federal public lands,
18 and the answer is not necessarily. If fish travel
19 through both Federal public lands and state-managed
20 lands on their way to their spawning area, we would
21 consider a Federal fisheries resource monitoring
22 project even if it was in state-managed waters.

23

24 MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

25

26 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
29 questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead and
34 continue on with the report.

35

36 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
37 group worked through 2018 and 2020 priority information
38 needs, recently funded projects and data gaps. The
39 resulting draft list is contained within tab two of
40 your supplemental materials.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: One second, Kevin, thank
43 you. Council Members, I just want to make sure you
44 have a copy. If anybody doesn't have their
45 supplemental materials that were mailed to them, I can
46 give you an extra copy. Tab two is where the list of
47 draft priority information needs are.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0217

1 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Brooke. We can
2 work through these one by one and make any final edits
3 that this Council sees fit. After the Council has
4 approved its priority information needs for the Yukon
5 region we'll move onto the Kuskokwim region. I
6 recommend that after we have reviewed all priority
7 information needs the Council put forward a motion to
8 approve the list, including any changes made by the
9 Council at which point the 2024 priority information
10 needs will be final and will be published in our notice
11 of funding opportunity this winter.

12
13 Mr. Chair. At this time I would ask if
14 the Council would prefer for me to read aloud through
15 the draft list or if the Council prefers to read
16 through the list themselves and provide comment.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Do you want him to
19 read the list or do you want to read it on your own and
20 then ask questions. Read the list? Have him read the
21 list, is that what you're asking, James? What's the
22 desire of the Council?

23
24 MS. ROGERS: We can read it and then we
25 ask questions.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead and
28 read it and we be listening.

29
30 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Members of the Council. I'm now going to read through
32 the Yukon Region draft priority information needs for
33 the 2024 FRMP cycle which again are found within tab
34 two of your supplemental materials. And I would like
35 to point out that these are presented or listed in no
36 particular order.

37
38 MS. ROGERS: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I meant
39 that we will read it and then ask questions. But I
40 wanted to find out, since the Yukon has more
41 informational needs, can you summarize their most
42 priority one that they discussed? Or are you asking us
43 specifically for all of them to be approved?

44
45 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair.

46
47 Ms. Rogers, that's an excellent
48 question. I don't believe it's the position of OSM to
49 prioritize the priority information needs that the
50

0218

1 Council places -- identifies.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (Indiscernible -
4 microphone off)

5

6 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner.
7 So uniquely on the Yukon there are actually -- the
8 Yukon travels through three regions, and so one of the
9 reasons why the list is longer is because it's a
10 gigantic drainage and three Councils may have
11 completely different priority information needs, yet we
12 treat it for funding as one region. So we are asking
13 you to approve a list of priority information needs,
14 and the sub-group that came together from those three
15 Councils determined that these were the priorities.
16 And in these priorities it includes non-salmon fishes
17 and salmon. It includes the possibility of approving
18 funding for any weir or, you know, sonar, anything that
19 enumerates the number of fish that are escaping; in
20 addition the quality of those fish that are escaping,
21 meaning what age are they, what condition are they in;
22 and for non-salmon fishes it generally emphasizes
23 looking into where these fish are, what their migration
24 is and how they spawn. And a lot of that work is
25 conducted in the villages. Lisa Stuby is a wonderful
26 example of that. Because a lot of the fishery
27 biologists that offer you information, they're not
28 sure. And in addition there are a couple of requests
29 to continue doing house-to-house harvest surveys about
30 what people -- what fish people are harvesting so we
31 can keep track of that. And in general that's what
32 these priority information needs are.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. In the spirit
35 of this, and it seems like our subcommittees have
36 already discussed and I don't want to take away from
37 this, the points that were made on here, I want to --
38 if there's no -- oh, before we get into discussion
39 between the Council, I want to put a motion on the
40 floor that we are in support and if these are approved,
41 great. Go ahead.

42

43 MS. KENNER: Yes, I forgot the most
44 important part. One of the strategies of developing
45 these working groups from the three different Councils
46 is so the member -- your member of that group can
47 explain to you the justification, and it's Mr. Alstrom
48 and he's not here today. So I just want to recognize
49 that.

50

0219

1 MS. ROGERS: And is it to -- we're
2 adopting or supporting this one?

3
4 MS. KENNER: Support is a fine way to do
5 it.

6
7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Through the
8 Chair. In the spirit of the Yukon region draft
9 priority information needs and also the Kuskokwim
10 region draft priority needs for 2024 FRMP cycle, I move
11 to support.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: A motion has been
16 made to support.

17
18 REPORTER: Mic, please.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Motion has
21 been made to support the draft priority information
22 needs. Is there a second.

23
24 MS. EVAN: I second.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. It's second
27 by Norma. Any discussion. Go ahead.

28
29 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
30 Through the Chair. In the event that Mr. Alstrom is
31 not available to give us the justification, I'm sure
32 you guys had a long discussion as we did. Do you guys
33 have a summary justification for all three Councils
34 that have met on this for the Yukon River?

35
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.
37 Through the Chair. This is Pippa Kenner. No, we do
38 not produce a summary of the justification. We
39 generally take notes on what priority information needs
40 people are identifying and helping the Council Members
41 put that into language that would be appropriate for
42 the published list that goes out to potential people
43 applying for the money. So I'm sorry about that.

44
45 In general they continued to support
46 the enumeration of and quality of escapement. That was
47 really important. Of salmon.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
50

0220

1 questions regarding the lists?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I just have a
7 comment and probably a question. Item Number H on the
8 Yukon region draft priority, the in-season estimates of
9 genetic stock composition of Chinook, summer chum, and
10 fall chum runs. Are you going to be able to share that
11 information with the trawl fleet so that they can try
12 and use that as information for avoidance? I know
13 that's a different forum, but one government
14 information should apply -- to be shared with another
15 entity that -- or agency that controls what ultimately
16 returns to the Yukon.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question,
Mr. Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So first of
all, one of the reasons why OSM wants to enter into
these cooperative agreements with tribes and other
entities is because it stimulates research in an area
that might not otherwise be researched. So we want to
get money to answer questions and provide information
that we need, your Council needs, to manage these
fisheries. We require all the information to be
public. We try to produce information that we all
agree was collected rigorously and is the appropriate
information for the questions that we ask. So, yes, we
encourage public distribution and scientific use of all
this information.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, I think it
would be appropriate definitely to share that with
managers at North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,
because they do impact the returning salmon runs to the
Yukon and the Kuskokwim.

I'll just give an example of how
agencies don't seem to coordinate with each others.
When I went to get the Real ID that's required for our
government, I had to provide everything to Department
of Transportation. My birth certificate, my driver's
license, my everything, disclosure. Then I went to TSA
and I had to provide the same information, and I asked,
how come I provide it to one agency and the other
agency that want to use that information, to just make
it available. And they said, that's a different agency
that's monitoring that.

0221

1 But with the salmon issue I believe
2 that we're all in this together and that should be
3 emphasized that whatever genetic information that you
4 obtain with the studies that are done should be shared
5 and monitored also by those that intercept the fish as
6 well as those that do the bycatch, because we've dealt
7 with the state of Alaska over the years and they always
8 find some excuse not to recognize that they're
9 impacting the salmon that are returned to the river
10 system, therefore we end up being -- bearing the burden
11 of conservation more than they do. And I hope that one
12 day that ends, because we're trying to survive, we're
13 trying to eat, yet they're trying to make money, which
14 is completely different than our way of life out here
15 in the Yukon and Kuskokwim, so I'd request that this be
16 shared with them, because they're impacting our lives
17 and the lives of our people in the villages.

18
19 Okay. Thanks.

20
21 Okay. We had a motion and a second.
22 Or was there a second -- oh, yeah, Norma seconded.

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

27
28 MR. LANDLORD: It seems like I heard in
29 one of the meetings or discussion with North Pacific
30 Fisheries that education -- they need to be educated,
31 education on the Yukon River subsistence and Kusko
32 River, that they lack education that a lot of people up
33 and down the river, that they need education how we use
34 our fish or how many people eat it out here. Okay.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Pippa.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
39 the record this is Pippa Kenner. So, yes, buried in
40 the language of many of these what we call priority
41 information needs that we want people to apply for
42 funding to answer these questions, is oftentimes
43 questions about how people use these fish. And there's
44 also a priority information need that talks about
45 traditional ecological knowledge of fishes, of all
46 fishes, that people can apply for money to answer those
47 questions. And in this sense, this traditional
48 ecological knowledge includes, you know, things like
49 local rules and traditions about how fish are used, not
50

1 wasted, that kind of thing, all the way to important
2 harvest sites, and how harvest may be decreasing or
3 increasing based on whether or not people are finding
4 fish or not. So, yes, it does include that, and that's
5 a very good question. Thank you for the question.

6
7 MR. LANDLORD: One more, Mr. Chairman.
8 The last one on your sentence, with emphasis on
9 Canadian-origin stock. Who needs (ph) becomes one
10 river from Canada, there's one origin in Whitehorse
11 area and maybe one in Dawson City? How many origins do
12 we have that comes one -- from one river? There must
13 be two or three in Canada. I know there's one in
14 Dawson City and one in Whitehorse, right? And I don't
15 know how many times I hear complaint about Whitehorse
16 dam, that the salmon can't go through the area to
17 spawn. And I hear like we have to go through the State
18 Department to complain about the dam, but I don't know
19 if it's ever been done. Gosh, we tried it before and
20 they said you have to go to State Department.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair.
25 For the record this is Pippa Kenner. So I can tell you
26 what I know. What I know is that for these
27 transboundary river issues, like the Stikine in
28 Southeast and the Taku, the Council down there has been
29 asking questions particularly about mining projects in
30 Canada. And so the information is going up through
31 your annual reports to the Federal Board with requests
32 for them to push these questions higher, including to,
33 you know, State Department that deals with treaties.
34 So, you're right, it's a different country, and.....

35
36 To change the subject just a little
37 bit, I also want to say something I just noticed. In
38 this E that you were talking about, the last sentence
39 says with an emphasis on Canadian-origin stocks, we
40 can't -- through our program we don't fund projects in
41 Canada. So I think what they're saying is that, you
42 know, after the Eagle River sonar those fish have been
43 determined to be Canadian in origin fish, or actually,
44 you know, right about the Tanana that most of those
45 fish are Canadian-origin fish. So it's to get a handle
46 on what is the quality of the fish going over the
47 border, but not actually doing work in Canada.

48
49 I would like to ask some of our
50

0223

1 leadership Staff, like Robbin La Vine, if she has a
2 better answer about where comments and questions from
3 the Councils about where comments and questions from
4 the Councils about what's happening in Canada that are
5 affecting salmon stocks, where those comments are best
6 put?

7
8 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is Robbin LaVine. And I would like to confirm that I --
10 the question. So it's my understanding that this
11 Council's very interested in the salmon that you rely
12 on that travel the entire length of the Yukon River
13 drainage. And that extends into another country,
14 another nation. So that's Canada. And you are asking
15 where your comments might best be directed relative to
16 your concern.

17
18 MS. KENNER: And he says that they've
19 been directed to go to the State Department with their
20 comments.

21
22 MS. LAVINE: I'm thinking. This is
23 Robbin, and I'm thinking, so anybody listening on line,
24 there's a pause. And I imagine that if you've been --
25 suggested that you go to the State Department, that
26 might be one place to go, but I also think that the
27 Federal Subsistence Board in their capacity and in
28 their capacity as updating and acting in the authority
29 of the Secretaries is also a good place to go, so there
30 may be multiple channels for your concerns to travel.

31
32 And I'm going to pause for a moment
33 because Gerald is here and he may also have more
34 specific information.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 MR. MASCHMANN: Chair and Council
39 Members. I don't think it would be inappropriate if
40 the Council, you know, sent a letter directly to the
41 Yukon River Panel expressing those concerns. And I
42 know that panel members -- there's members from your
43 community or near your community, fishermen who are on
44 that panel as well as alternates and advisors. And I
45 do know that they are also concerned with what's going
46 on in Canada. So that's another avenue. It's, you
47 know, writing a letter directly to the Yukon River
48 Panel, or if you know someone in your community or near
49 your community who's on that panel is, you know,
50

0224

1 talking to them directly and say, hey, we're -- our
2 Regional Advisory Council is concerned about, for
3 example, mining up in Canada, can you make sure that
4 you are bringing that up at the next Yukon River Panel.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.
7 Any more questions. The question's been called?

8
9 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

12
13 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, if we -- if no one
14 has called the question, I was going to call the
15 question.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. I'll ask
18 for unanimous consent. Is there any objections. Any
19 objections. Any objections.

20
21 (No objections)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: You've got your
24 working orders. It's been approved.

25
26 MS. KENNER: (Indiscernible - mic off)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

29
30 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

33
34 MS. ROGERS: Can I also go ahead and put
35 a motion on the floor that we -- the Yukon-Kuskokwim
36 River write a letter to the Yukon River Panel in
37 regards to the concerns of Mr. Landlord and include
38 Norma Evan and Thomas Alstrom and Raymond Oney who are
39 on the Yukon Panel on this RAC in regards to discussing
40 their concerns in regards to the mining, the dams and
41 any other information that we need to get a letter to
42 the correct people so we can make sure that our Yukon
43 fellowship is also advocating on their behalf.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. You've
48 heard the motion. Is there a second.

49
50

0225

1 MR. PETER: Second the motion, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Second by
5 Phillip. Any further discussion on the motion.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. PETER: Question.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Question's been
12 called. Ask for unanimous consent. Any objection.
13 Any objection. Any objection.

14
15 (No objections)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No objections, so
18 it's unanimous. Okay. Go ahead, Brooke.

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
21 just wanted to let Mr. Landlord know that I'll follow
22 up with you after the meeting so we can talk a little
23 more about your concerns about the dam in Canada and we
24 can draft the letter.

25
26 And also I wanted to clarify for Pippa
27 that the motion that was just made to approve or
28 support the PENS, Mrs. Rogers made that for both the
29 Yukon and the Kuskokwim PENS.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Do you have
34 any more on Item Number E? Okay.

35
36 REPORTER: Mic, please.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We've already
39 taken care of Item F on the.....

40
41 REPORTER: Mic, please.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I forget to
44 remember. We've already taken care of Item F, which is
45 the Partners for Fish Monitoring Program. We've
46 already taken care of the Joint North American Workshop
47 on Ungulate Conference. Now we're down to Item Number
48 H.

49
50

0226

1 And I know people are hungry so I'll
2 give you 20 minutes to eat your lunch. We're not in
3 the military, but that's how much time they give them.

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We'll go ahead and
10 call the meeting back to order again. The time now is
11 1:25 or a little there after p.m.

12
13 We'll go down to Item H under new
14 business, excuse me, identifying issues for FY2022
15 Annual Report. So, Brooke.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
18 the record this is Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator.
19 So it's time for the Council to decide on what issues
20 to include in you FY 22 Annual Report. Guidelines for
21 the annual report can be found on Page 224 of your
22 meeting books. This is an action item.

23
24 ANILCA established the annual report as
25 a way for Councils to inform the Federal Subsistence
26 Board of regional subsistence uses and needs and to
27 provide recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
28 manage strategies, policies, standards, guidelines and
29 proposed regulations. Your annual report ensures the
30 Board has the most up-to-date awareness of issues,
31 concerns and current events that impact your
32 subsistence way of life. With your report and
33 recommendations, the Board can make informed decisions
34 on regulatory and policy actions.

35
36 After this meeting is over I will draft
37 the draft annual report based on the topics discussed
38 and you'll get a chance to review your draft annual
39 report at the winter meeting, so the next meeting.

40
41 So I guess on Page 225 of your meeting
42 books there's some guidelines for the format of the
43 report, and I basically wanted to point out there's
44 kind of two main types of things you can include in
45 your report. You can let the Board know about concerns
46 you have for different issues, and that's more of just
47 raising awareness of those concerns and letting the
48 Board know about it. Another type of item may be if
49 there is some sort of action that you're requesting of
50

0227

1 the Board that you would like a Board response to. So
2 those are two different types of things you might want
3 to think about when you're discussing annual report
4 topics.

5

6 And so now with Mr. Chair's permission
7 we could open it up to discussion of annual report
8 topics.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Any
13 comments from the Council Members.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead,
18 Alissa.

19

20 MS. ROGERS: In light of our agenda and
21 not being able to hear the rest of our agency reports
22 and finding out what ideas and things that we may have
23 on hand, I'd like to move this item agenda towards the
24 end of the meeting after we had heard and ingested all
25 of the information that needs to be fed to us before we
26 decide on what we want to -- what our end report of the
27 meeting to our Federal Subsistence Board.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. If there's
32 no objections, we'll move this agenda item further down
33 after we hear reports from other agencies. It's after
34 the last item? After the reports?

35

36 MS. ROGERS: After the agency reports.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: After the agency
39 reports.

40

41 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, it will be before
42 future meeting dates.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Uh-huh. Okay.
45 Any objections.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any objections.

50

0228

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any objections.

4

5 (No objections)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No objections.

8 We'll go on to the next item, Item I.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
11 for this agenda item, it just serves as an announcement
12 about the fall 2022 Council application and nominations
13 season. Or the open season. So there is a news
14 release on Page 226 of your meeting books. This is not
15 an action item. It's just to let Council Members and
16 members of the public know that we are currently
17 accepting applications and nominations for all 10
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The
19 application period is open through February 21st, 2023.

20

21 And just a reminder, Council Members
22 typically serve three-year terms before having to
23 reapply. There are five members of your Council that
24 will have their terms expiring next year and I've given
25 each of you an incumbent application. So if you could
26 either please fill that out and pass it back to me by
27 the end of the day or make sure -- I'll be following up
28 with you after the meeting to make sure we get those if
29 you -- in time for the deadline if you would like to
30 reapply.

31

32 For members of the public there are
33 applications on the back table. Please feel free to
34 take one even if you don't want to apply yourself. We
35 would prefer not to take those back with us. Pass them
36 out. We can probably leave them with the refuge for
37 people to pick up, but, yeah, we want to make sure that
38 as many people as possible have a chance to apply to
39 serve on the Council so we have good representation
40 across the region.

41

42 So that's all I had for that. Just
43 remember that date, February 21st to get your
44 applications in.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Quyana,
49 Brooke. Now we're down to item J, elect Council Member

50

0229

1 to represent YKDelta Regional Advisory Council on wood
2 bison planning team. Any volunteers?

3

4 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 Really quick on that, I think if Mr. Ray Oney is up for
6 it, I would see if he can go ahead then, because he's
7 really passionate about the wood bison and they don't --

8 I see it fit that Mr. Oney would be out
9 representative.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any objections for
12 -- you got a comment? Any objections from Council
13 Members regarding that?

14

15 (No objections)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: One good thing
18 about being not here is that you get nominated for
19 positions that you don't think you'll ever be in. So I
20 support that.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. If it would be
27 possible, it would be great to nominate probably at
28 least two other alternates just in case -- because the
29 planning meetings for the wood bison planning team only
30 come up every several years, and as you know over time
31 membership on the Council might change. So what we
32 found, they just had a planning meeting and a member of
33 our Council -- we didn't have a representative because
34 that person who was selected no longer serves on this
35 Council, so it's really good to have a couple of
36 alternatives as backups on the record.

37

38 Additionally for your information, we
39 do have a member -- or a Staff member from Fish and
40 Game who wanted to give a brief update about the recent
41 wood bison planning meeting. If that would be okay, we
42 can see if he's on the line.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes. Is there
45 someone from Fish and Game.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Luke, were you able to
48 call in yet?

49

50

0230

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. MCDAVID: Perhaps, Mr. Chair, we could move on to maybe nominating some alternates and see if he has another minute or two to call in. Thanks.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Maybe I'll ask for volunteers first. Any of you want to serve on the.....

MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG:as alternates? Go ahead.

MR. PARKS: (In Yup'ik) Or John. John.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: John, you're volunteered. This is to watch four-legged animals that you love to hunt. (In Yup'ik)

MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

REPORTER: John, use your mic, please. Your mic. Thank you.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll probably have to have (ph) the applications. I've got some hospital appointment over in Anchorage.

MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I have a suggestion. Hold on, please.

REPORTER: Please mute your phone on the teleconference unless you're addressing the Council. Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Or I guess it's not a suggestion. Sorry. I just wanted to give you some information and then you can do with that what you will.

Previously to this meeting when I spoke to Wassilly Alexie, he was interested. He's not able to call or attend this meeting because of a death in his family, but he might -- it might be worth treating him as an alternate.

MS. ROGERS: Yeah, let's do it.

0231

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We can ask him.
2 And once again, being absent you're appointed to
3 something that you don't know about. So we'll go ahead
4 and support that, too. (In Yup'ik)

5
6 MR. PARKS: Yeah, (in Yup'ik)

7
8 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Yeah, we've
9 got two of them. So one designated and two alternates.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 Luke Rogers, were you able to call in
14 to the teleconference?

15
16 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I'm here now.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. One moment,
19 we're trying to adjust the sound in the room. Could
20 you state your name again?

21
22 MR. ROGERS: Yes, this is Luke Rogers
23 with the wood bison restoration project, part of Fish
24 and Game here in Fairbanks. Can you hear me all right?

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: Try again.

27
28 MR. ROGERS: This is Luke Rogers with
29 Fish and Game, part of the wood bison restoration
30 project.

31
32 REPORTER: Luke, could you get a little
33 closer to the mic and speak a little louder, please?

34
35 MR. ROGERS: Yes. This is Luke Rogers
36 with Fish and Game. Can you hear me all right now?

37
38 REPORTER: That's fine. Thank you.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Luke. We're
41 having some.....

42
43 MR. ROGERS: Excellent.

44
45 MS. MCDAVID:audio trouble in the
46 room, so as loud as you can speak would be very nice.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0232

1 We're ready for you to give us an
2 update about wood bison. Thank you.

3

4 MR. ROGERS: All right. Yeah. So my
5 name is Luke Rogers. I am with Fish and Game here in
6 Fairbanks, part of the wood bison restoration project.
7 I am the wildlife technician under the current
8 biologist, Tom Seaton who is unable to attend today,
9 but I appreciate you all giving me the opportunity to
10 speak for the project.

11

12 I hope you're all doing well and
13 enjoying the meeting and getting some good discussion
14 done. Right here in Fairbanks right now it's six
15 degrees, I mean cool. I'm standing outside on an ice
16 rink, so I'm not sure what the conditions are like in
17 Bethel, but if it's starting to become winter there I
18 hope everyone is ready for winter and prepared and
19 going to stay warm this winter.

20

21 I was invited here by the coordinator,
22 Brooke McDavid, to speak and give a short update on the
23 wood bison restoration project. Thank you, Brooke, for
24 allowing that.

25

26 So as far as an update for the wood
27 bison project, I guess I'll start at the beginning for
28 any folks who might not be familiar with it. The wood
29 bison restoration project is a program from the Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game which is seeking to restore
31 wood bison, a historically native species from Alaska,
32 in areas of the state that are interested and have the
33 social license to do so and the biology to support the
34 establishment of the herd.

35

36 Currently there is one bison herd in
37 the Innoko Flats which is slightly upriver of the Yukon
38 delta near the villages of Holy Cross, Shageluk, Anvik
39 and Grayling, in the GASH area. That herd was
40 established in 2015 with 130 bison that were flown in
41 and barged down the Yukon.

42

43 One of the more recent updates for the
44 herd is that this summer you may have heard that we
45 released an additional 28 yearling bison which we
46 received from a national park in Canada this spring in
47 the Innoko Wilderness with the rest of the herd, and we
48 did so by building what is called a soft release pen in
49 which we held the yearlings for a period of two to
50

0233

1 three weeks in a make-shift fenced pen that was built
2 with the help from locals in the communities of Holy
3 Cross and Shageluk. We built that pen and held the
4 bison in it for around two weeks to allow them to
5 adjust to their habitat and become accustomed to their
6 new area and connect with the local bison. And it was
7 exciting to see a local bull bison come and visit the
8 pen and interact with the yearlings who showed great
9 affinity towards that local bull bison.

10

11 We released the bison and are happy to
12 say that the 28 yearlings have integrated with the
13 herd. That is the update from this summer.

14

15 As far as the current population
16 stands, we don't have a perfect idea, but we are
17 looking to do a photo census this next month. We
18 attempted to do one in October but the conditions
19 didn't provide the best estimate. Our current guess is
20 it's somewhere in the 150 range, 150 to 160 bisons.
21 That the current population with the admission of those
22 28 yearlings this summer.

23

24 In other news, we were able to hold a
25 planning meeting here in Fairbanks in which we invited
26 all of the representatives from the planning team
27 organizations which include the local landholders such
28 as BLM, Native corporations, as well as tribal
29 councils, non-profit organizations, hunting groups, and
30 the state and Federal governments.

31

32 The Yukon Delta Regional Advisory
33 Council is one of those planning team organizations,
34 but unfortunately we were not able to have a
35 representative this time, because there is not one
36 designated yet. So my hope is that one of the orders
37 of business for you, it may have already happened, is
38 that you will be able to determine who could be a
39 representative and/or an alternative representative for
40 the Council to attend our future meetings for the
41 Innoko wood bison herd. Your voice is really important
42 to us and our planning team and we appreciate you
43 taking the time to consider it.

44

45 And then thanks again for letting me
46 speak today on behalf of Fish and Game with bison
47 project. At this time if you have any questions, I'd
48 be happy to field some of those for you.

49

50

0234

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any questions. Go
2 ahead, Alissa.

3
4 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Through the Chair. Thank you for your presentation,
6 Mr. Rogers. I was wondering if you have any updates or
7 any plans or any type of ideas of when we would get an
8 update for the YKDelta area in regards to getting a new
9 herd re-established for wood bison, since our last
10 update of our wood bison that was put in -- we haven't
11 heard an update from it since -- as far as I know, the
12 last time I believe we had like maybe three or five
13 left that I heard. Do you have any update for us for
14 the wood bison in our area?

15
16 MR. ROGERS: Yes. Thank you for your
17 question, I appreciate it. As far as wood bison in the
18 Yukon Delta area I am familiar with a geo (ph), we call
19 them disburser or individuals going on exploratory
20 forays, being that they leave the main herd, which is
21 in that Innoko Flats area, for periods of a few weeks
22 to a few months to explore new territory. And part of
23 that has been going down the Yukon River actually
24 making its way over towards the Kuskokwim as well.

25
26 The one that I'm speaking of right now
27 was a cow that was in very good health and doing well
28 and exploring new habitat near the Quinhagak area.
29 Unfortunately that cow which did that foray back close
30 to the release in 2015 was illegally shot unfortunately
31 and we have not since seen a lot of data from our radio
32 locations on the herd of other individuals exploring
33 down into that area.

34
35 That's not to say that that won't
36 happen in the future, but as it stands in the seven
37 years that the herd has been established, we've only
38 had a few and that one specific one is the one that I'm
39 familiar with (indiscernible - audio break up) now.

40
41 In regards to the possibility of
42 establishing a new herd in the area, we are certainly
43 interested in hearing from local villages and other
44 groups that are interested in possibly establishing a
45 bison herd in their area. And if you are interested in
46 doing that, then I would encourage people to contact
47 myself and Tom Seaton. And Brooke McDavid should have
48 a few information cards that has our emails on there,
49 but it is my first and last name, luke.rogers R-O-G-E-
50

0235

1 R-S, number 2@alaska.gov if you'd like to reach out to
2 me with any more inquiries about the possibility of
3 establishing a bison herd in your area. Did that
4 answer your question?

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Rogers.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any
9 other questions -- James.

10

11 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I have -- Luke, I
12 have a text message forward to Mountain, want to know
13 how was the roaming range of the bison.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Luke, did you hear the
16 question? We had a question from Council Member.

17

18 MR. ROGERS: I couldn't hear it, it was
19 muffled. Could you please repeat it for me?

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Sure, no problem. We have
22 a Council Member from Mountain Village on the Yukon and
23 he received a question from someone in the community if
24 you could I guess talk about the current range of.....

25

26 MR. LANDLORD: The roaming range.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: The roaming range, how far
29 that extends maybe and especially of interest towards
30 Mountain Village. Thank you.

31

32 MR. ROGERS: Sure. That's a great
33 question and thank you for that question. As far as
34 the range of the herd, we kind of use different metrics
35 for that. One is the core home range, which is 90
36 percent of the locations of all animals or more. It's
37 actually more like 95 or 99 percent. And those
38 locations are determined off of GPS collars that we
39 have fitted on some, but not all, of the bison in the
40 herd. Currently it's about 40 collars out of the 150
41 estimate that we have. And so the core range of the
42 animals basically extended from the Innoko Flats near
43 the villages of Grayling and Shageluk in the north and
44 the southern end of that range, which is generally a
45 winter range, goes down towards Paimiut Slough and Holy
46 Cross and Reindeer Lake. I'm not sure if you're
47 familiar with those areas, but that is the core home
48 range where we see 99 percent of the locations of the
49 bison that have GPS collars on.

50

0236

1 What I was explaining previously is
2 that some bison go on what are called exploratory
3 forays in which they go away from the herd as
4 individuals or small groups. Generally what we've seen
5 is one to two individuals, but sometimes it can be
6 larger groups. Those animals will go long distances
7 like the one I described that went all the way to
8 Quinhagak.

9
10 As far as going down the Yukon towards
11 I believe it was Pilot Station or Mountain Village was
12 the community that you described, I'm not personally
13 aware of any disburser or forays that have gone towards
14 that area, but that's not to say that it couldn't
15 possibly be a bison that is uncollared that may have
16 gone that way. So if you ever hear from anyone that
17 has said that they've seen bison down in your area, we
18 would also love to hear about that as well. That would
19 be valuable information for us and you can contact us
20 about that. And we'll even provide an incentive like a
21 hat from the project or something like that for your
22 time.

23
24 As far as the northern disburser or
25 exploratory forays, we have seen som that have gone up
26 towards Galena and even further. Currently there is
27 one cow in the northernmost area that is near Kaltag,
28 but she is a lone cow without any other animals with
29 her. One animal went all the way up towards Kobuk
30 Village and another went to the Brooks Range.
31 Unfortunately that bull did end up passing away in the
32 Brooks Range. He kind of got caught up there in the
33 winter without suitable habitat through the winter.
34 And so he ended up passing away there. And we haven't
35 seen any other individuals go that far.

36
37 So to our knowledge right now the
38 furthest north is somewhere near the Kaltag area and
39 the furthest south there are no disburser or
40 exploratory forays going outside of the main core range
41 which is near the GASH area and Innoko Flats.

42
43 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Stan
44 Sheppard would like to ask Luke a question from
45 Mountain.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Is he on the
48 phone?

49
50

0237

1 MR. LANDLORD: Yeah.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Stan, go ahead,
4 ask the question.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Luke, it sounded like we
7 have a member of the public who's on the phone who
8 might want to ask you a question.

9

10 Stan, are you on line?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: If you're trying to
15 speak, you might be muted.

16

17 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes. Yes, I finally
18 turned off mute. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through the
19 Chair. Luke, wood bison coming down slowly, give or
20 take under 10 years, that possibility might come to
21 reality. What would be the mixture of the bison and
22 moose grazing area? Like the grazing area down here
23 for the moose, I think it was last counted after the
24 moratorium, '95, the moose population is up to in the
25 40,000 range, and the vegetations out here along the
26 Yukon River, especially down river, it's like somebody
27 took a lawnmower mowed the willows. That would be my
28 concern, the vegetation for both bison and the moose.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, absolutely. Thank
33 you for bringing up your question and concern. That's
34 certainly a reasonable one to bring up as we wouldn't
35 want to be disrupting the moose population there. I
36 know that many folks in the area rely on moose as a
37 meat for subsistence purposes.

38

39 What I can say is that in our
40 experience with bison, specifically with bison, but you
41 can also see this throughout the state in areas where
42 we currently have plains bison herds such as Delta
43 Junction and Farewell as well as the Copper River, that
44 bison and moose have different preferred species to
45 eat. As you mentioned, moose like to eat those shrubby
46 willows and small trees, whereas bison generally graze
47 on grass and sedge that you would find on the river --
48 on river and/or lake habitats, the edge of those. So
49 the nice think about that is that they aren't

50

0238

1 overlapping in their diet very much, and therefore
2 they're not disrupting one another's habitat. There is
3 some diet overlap at short points in the year between
4 moose and bison, but it's not a significant percentage
5 of the diet of bison that takes up the preferred
6 species of moose.

7
8 And what I will say also, if you are
9 concerned about the possibility of moose habitat being
10 lost and losing moose population numbers due to bison
11 in your area, that if we look at the area such as
12 Farewell and Delta Junction, those have large bison
13 herds in the hundreds as well as some of the premier
14 hunting for moose populations as well.

15
16 And in my personal experience having
17 spent over a month and a half in the Innoko this
18 summer, I spent a lot of time around bison and very
19 frequently you would see moose in the same area doing
20 their own thing and bison doing their own thing.
21 They're not spending time being aggressive towards each
22 other and they often occupy very similar habitats very
23 close by without disrupting one another.

24
25 I hope that answers your question.

26
27 MR. SHEPPARD: Through the Chair,
28 Stanislaus Sheppard. Thank you very much. That was
29 just one of my concerns and with this trend in weather
30 we're having we might be getting more and more snow
31 every years covering the grass if you say that's their
32 main diet food. Thank you very much, sir.

33
34 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, absolutely. And if I
35 may answer that real quick. We have found in the
36 Innoko population that snow is not actually the main
37 issue for the bison. It's those cycles where the rain
38 comes in and freezes the ground and makes some of the
39 habitat inaccessible to the bison. And we've had that
40 a few times. As I'm sure you're aware, there's been a
41 few winters, like 2018 and 2020 to a lesser degree in
42 the last seven years, that there's been kind of those
43 warming cycles where a lot of freezing has fallen. And
44 that has been one of the limiting factors for the
45 bison. But deep snow years and years where it's warm
46 enough where most of the snow melts, either of those
47 situations are actually pretty beneficial for bison,
48 and they have no problem using their big head to scoop
49 the snow out of the way so that they can access that
50

0239

1 vegetation.

2

3

4 So like you're saying with the changing
5 climate, it's hard to predict exactly what's going to
6 happen in the area, but we are believing that there is
7 a good likelihood that it will either go towards more
8 warm, snow-free winters or periods with less snow, or
9 hopefully having some days where -- some years that is
10 where it's more snow and less rain. And either of
11 those situations would be beneficial for bison and I'm
12 sure for other populations like moose as well.

12

13 But that's a great concern to bring up.
14 I appreciate it once again.

15

16 MR. SHEPPARD: Through the Chair. Thank
17 you very much, Luke.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. Stan.

20 Any.....

21

22 MR. LUPI: Adolph Lupi from Tuntutuliak.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Who's that?

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Adolph.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Adolph, (in
29 Yup'ik) go ahead.

30

31 MR. LUPI: Okay. I know from your
32 report that the bisons are well protective and there's
33 educations around there. And they're not ready for
34 hunting yet. What are the consequences for illegal
35 hunting?

36

37 MR. ROGERS: Thank you for you question,
38 and, yes, you are correct that the herd has not reached
39 a population yet that the planning team, which is made
40 up of organizations like the government and the local
41 Native tribes and corporations as well as hunting
42 organizations, has decided that they would like the
43 herd to grow to a larger level that would be able to
44 sustain a larger harvest at the moment, and that is
45 what they decided in the most recent planning meeting
46 here last month. So you are corrected that we are
47 currently not having hunting on the population and
48 letting it grow.

49

50

0240

1 We have had I believe it is three bison
2 illegally harvested since the inception. And the
3 consequences for hunting them, obviously it varies for
4 each specific situation and what caused it. Was it a
5 planned attempt, they knew it was a bison and they
6 purposely went to go harvest it? That might be judged
7 by the authorities more severely than, for example, the
8 gentleman who actually shot one in Quinhagak, wasn't
9 familiar with the species and wasn't entirely sure what
10 he was shooting at at the time. And so while there are
11 certainly consequences, it varies for each situation.
12 So I can't say specifically what the consequences would
13 be if you harvested one illegally. It would be up to
14 the authorities and the situation that played at hand.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 MR. LUPI: Quyana.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
21 questions.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
28 to make a comment for Luke. Before we heard your
29 update, the Council did nominate some folks for the
30 planning team. We have a nomination for Ray Oney to be
31 the main representative, two alternates, Phillip Peter
32 and Wassilly Alexie. And I'll follow up with you after
33 the meeting to make sure you have their information.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. ROGERS: Great. I'm glad to hear
38 that. Thank you for taking the time to do that. Like
39 I said before it is important that your Regional
40 Advisory Council has a voice in the planning process
41 and I apologize that you weren't able to have a
42 representative this time. I will be sure to share the
43 final management plan with you, Brooke, and make sure
44 that you get it out to the rest of the Council as well
45 as share it with the new chosen representatives. So
46 thanks again for taking the time to do that and we look
47 forward to working with you in the future.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Quyana. If

50

0241

1 there's no more questions, we can go on to the next
2 item. We can take a break for a moment for your -- with
3 technical.....

4

5 MS. FITKA: One minute. We don't have
6 to take a break, just take one minute.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. One minute.

9

10 MS. CLEVELAND: 60 seconds, no cheating.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Are we on?

13

14 MS. FITKA: We are on. Does that sound
15 better?

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

18

19 MS. FITKA: Okay.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Before we get on
22 to the state Board of Fisheries proposals, I'd like to
23 ask the representatives of the Yukon River Drainage
24 Fishery Association to make a report, because I know
25 that some of the proposals from the state will have an
26 impact on some of their work.

27

28 MS. FITKA: Good afternoon, Chairman and
29 Council Members. Thank you for the opportunity to
30 present to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
31 Council. I'm pleased to represent the Yukon River
32 Drainage Fisheries Association. My name is Serena
33 Fitka, executive director of the organization.

34

35 I'd like to have my employees introduce
36 themselves.

37

38 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, My name is
39 Catherine Moncrieff and I'm the Staff Anthropologist
40 for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

41

42 MS. CANFIELD: Hello. My name is Gabe
43 Canfield, I am the Project Coordinator for YR DFA.

44

45 MS. FITKA: I'd like to bring your
46 attention to our report in your booklet on Page 227.
47 We would like to provide you with brief updates on our
48 activities and key accomplishments since we last met.

49

50

0242

1 Our Board met on March 22nd and 23rd in
2 Anchorage, and our next Board meeting will be in 2023
3 and is tentatively scheduled for April 17th and 18th in
4 Fairbanks. We will have five Board Member seats up for
5 election and five alternates, so please encourage your
6 people in your communities to self-nominate or your
7 tribes to submit nominations.

8
9 We will be having a special meeting and
10 that will be scheduled in a couple weeks to go over
11 Board of Fish proposals. It is tentatively set for
12 November 9th and this will be for (indiscernible)
13 meeting.

14
15 Our Yukon River salmon summer preseason
16 preparation meeting was held in Anchorage on March
17 24th. This was our first in-person preseason meeting
18 since 2019. We had approximately 80 people in person
19 and 50 online participants. With the high number of
20 participants we put the agenda aside to listen to the
21 people's concerns as we went around the room. It was a
22 very successful meeting.

23
24 Our 2023 Yukon River preseason meeting
25 will be held in Fairbanks and this will be a two-day
26 meeting, and that is tentatively scheduled for April
27 19th and 20th.

28
29 For the fishery disaster update, as you
30 heard, NOAA has allocated about 55 million to the
31 salmon fishery disasters in Alaska, and on September
32 22nd the state of Alaska opened up for public comment
33 on the spend plan. YRDFA did submit comments. We can
34 provide that letter if your Council wishes. The
35 deadline for comments was October 6th.

36
37 Some of our comments included we wanted
38 a reason for the combination of -- or combining the
39 Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River in the years 2020
40 and 2021. We just wanted to make sure that these two
41 rivers were different. They have different number of
42 communities. Kuskokwim had opportunities to
43 subsistence fish whereas the Yukon River communities
44 did not.

45
46 We also disagreed with the formula for
47 the distribution of the subsistence allocations by
48 shares and also the income guidelines. We felt that
49 ever person that lives in a rural community along the
50

0243

1 Yukon River does subsistence fish, so we didn't feel
2 the income guidelines were necessary.

3
4 We need to continue to work with our
5 delegation to strengthen our subsistence priority in
6 MSA, Magnuson-Stevens Act, to better serve our people
7 who continue to receive the shorter end of the stick.

8
9 Our teleconferences, our in-season
10 salmon management teleconferences that are funded by
11 FRMP are in your report with the number of participants
12 and how long each call lasted. Usually about a month
13 before the teleconferences start we mail two posters to
14 every community and first (ph) stations on the Yukon
15 River. We also use the radio, too, for announcements
16 along with our website and social media to remind
17 people of the teleconferences each week.

18
19 I want to acknowledge our challenges
20 which currently include the lack of participation.
21 Listening to the dismal news each week took a toll on
22 the mental health of our people. And I understand that
23 people do not want to share information while on the
24 call. Taking into the current situation included
25 special presentations on topics we heard arise from
26 previous calls. I want to emphasize that the
27 teleconference calls are still a useful platform for
28 people to talk and I encourage future participation on
29 the Yukon River.

30
31 I'll move on to some work we've been
32 doing in the Area M. We've been working closely with
33 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. We did submit a
34 letter along with 15 other organizations in western
35 Alaska to the Area M Seiners Association asking them to
36 voluntarily stand down because of the low runs in
37 western Alaska. We did receive a letter back from them
38 saying that the research that we provided them was not
39 right and that they will ask their fishermen to stand
40 down.

41
42 Then we did submit a joint letter with
43 YRDFA and Bering Sea Fishermen's Association to the
44 Commissioner asking for him to use his authority to
45 submit an emergency order to stop -- or regulate the
46 fisheries in the Area M more stringent. And we did not
47 get a response directly from him.

48
49 So we did move to ask for a meeting
50

1 with the Governor and that took place on August 29th
2 and I believe the details are in the report. We did
3 request a second meeting, and that actually we got a
4 response yesterday, and that is scheduled for November
5 15th at 8:30, and this meeting will be with the 15
6 organizations that we've been working with. We've been
7 having calls every other week, kind of getting a plan
8 together, a plan of action, what -- everything that's
9 being done around Area M. So I think just coming
10 together, making sure that people are informed of
11 what's going on, that we'll continue to make sure
12 everyone's being informed of our activities.

13

14 MS. ROGERS: Sorry, Serena. Mr. Chair.
15 Can I get a silence on the phone, please.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: If you're on the phone for
18 the teleconference, could you please mute your phones.
19 Star-6 or the mute button on your phone. We're getting
20 feedback. Thank you.

21

22 MS. FITKA: Yeah. And I'll go ahead
23 turn it over to Catherine to give some updates on other
24 projects.

25

26 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Good afternoon
27 again. For the record this is Catherine Moncrieff. I
28 want to update you on a few of our projects, and I'll
29 start with the FRMP-funded projects. And the first one
30 is our in-season subsistence salmon survey program, and
31 this is also included in your supplemental packets,
32 with a report and results from the final interviews of
33 2022.

34

35 Some highlights from this season
36 includes starting out with a hybrid training in March
37 in Anchorage with some surveyors in person and some on
38 line. And this was followed by another challenging
39 summer with surveyors attempting to collect information
40 from fishers who were unable to fish. Through the
41 final interviews we learned that the impact of Covid 19
42 was greatly reduced this year, but some participants in
43 almost every community felt some impact or just stayed
44 isolated from others. We also learned that
45 participants were again not to harvest enough fish for
46 the winter. Our surveyors informed us that it would be
47 easier to do their job if people could fish and wanted
48 to participate in the survey. They said some people
49 were reluctant to give information, afraid they would

50

0245

1 be shut down or restricted from any kind of fishing.
2 We are learning that we need to find new ways to put
3 people at ease with this program. Next steps for this
4 project include considering program updates and
5 revisions, and we're bringing Gabe on to help run the
6 project and explore ways to enhance its effectiveness.
7 This program is currently funded through the Fisheries
8 Resource Monitoring Program through March of 2024. And
9 if you have ideas for changes or about how to improve
10 this program, please contact one of us from YRDFA.

11

12 Next I want to give you an update on a
13 project called local and traditional knowledge of
14 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on
15 the Draanjik drainage. This FRMP-funded project has
16 ended since your last meeting and we do have a final
17 report available in electronic form. In this project
18 YRDFA partnered with the communities of Chalkyitsik,
19 Fort Yukon and Venetie and the Tanana Chiefs Conference
20 to update the anadromous waters catalog. We used a
21 combination of traditional knowledge and western
22 science techniques to document anadromous fish and make
23 nominations to the anadromous waters catalog in the
24 following locations. Rearing juvenile Chinook in the
25 Tetthajik and Drifting Snow Creeks, spawning adult and
26 rearing juvenile coho salmon in Ni'inmlii in the
27 Kvenjik Creek drainage, presence of adults and juvenile
28 round whitefish in Kvenjik Creek, Drifting Snow Creek,
29 and the Grayling Fork Black River, and the presences of
30 juvenile Arctic lamprey in Kvenjik Creek, Tetthajik
31 Creek and Grayling Fork Black River.

32

33 Our other projects are covered in your
34 supplemental documents and they include the elders
35 mornings project, its full title is They Told Us
36 There'd Come a Time, conserving fish, preserving
37 tradition on the Yukon River. In this project we'll be
38 holding our third workshop in November to focus on
39 learning how to turn our research and recordings into
40 outreach materials. This project goes through March of
41 2024. Our final year will focus on summarizing what we
42 have learned, producing outreach materials and giving
43 presentations about the project.

44

45 Next I want to give you an update on a
46 project funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund.
47 It's called local and traditional knowledge of
48 anadromous fish in select drainages of the Tanana and
49 Yukon Rivers. This project is a partnership between

50

0246

1 YRDFA and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
2 it has a goal of expanding the documentation of fish
3 presence and its life stages on a section of the Yukon
4 and Tanana Rivers. During this past summer the Fish
5 and Game team was out on the river in June, July and
6 September documenting fish presence. We did local and
7 traditional knowledge interviews the previous summer to
8 help direct Fish and Game Staff on where they should go
9 to find these fish. While they were in the field this
10 summer they were able to document 14 species of fish
11 including Chinook and chum salmon as well as several
12 whitefishes known to be anadromous in the middle Yukon
13 River or lower Tanana River such as least cisco,
14 humpback whitefish, broad whitefish and sheefish. But
15 some of the field work was not -- they weren't able to
16 complete their field work because of fires and other
17 weather issues in the area, so we've extended this
18 project for one more year and now it will end in June
19 of 2024. This will give us the time to complete the
20 field work and hold community meetings to share the
21 results.

22

23 And then finally I want to tell you
24 about a new project called engaging fishers in Chinook
25 salmon research. This project is funded by the North
26 Pacific Research Board and it will begin January of
27 2023. In this project we'll be partnering with the
28 communities of Alakanuk and Emmonak to conduct
29 interviews about the health of Chinook salmon as they
30 enter the river. This information will help inform our
31 companion project led by Dr. Katie Howard and Vanessa
32 (Indiscernible). We'll also be working with the
33 communities of St. Marys and Huslia to monitor water
34 temperatures, conduct carcass surveys and develop a
35 community action plan if there is another heat event
36 that causes a salmon die off in the future. This
37 winter we'll be reaching out to begin our partnerships
38 and this work on this project.

39

40 And now I'd like to hand it off to Gabe
41 to have her tell you about another of our projects.

42

43 MS. CANFIELD: Hi. My name is Gabe
44 Canfield for the record. I will be speaking on the
45 Yukon River clearinghouse project that we have just
46 started in July of 2022. This project is called the
47 Yukon River watershed clearinghouse, a culturally
48 responsive (ph) monitoring program. It is in
49 partnership with the Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed
50

0247

1 Council. That is YRITWC.

2

3

4 The Yukon River clearinghouse in
5 partnership with the Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed
6 Council is a culturally-responsive monitoring program
7 that will culminate in a digital clearinghouse where
8 traditional ecological knowledge and scientific
9 materials on the Yukon River will be accessible. For
10 this project we'll be having 10 local hires in
11 communities to do water quality monitoring and testing
12 as well as training to do traditional ecological
13 knowledge interviews. This will be released by the
14 local tribes and the job description will be sent
15 officially next week.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

We have a press release on this topic on the table in the back that I can pass out to everyone if you're interested. It is further described also in you supplemental packet.

More information on our other YRDFA projects and programs are included in your supplemental packets and we would be happy to answer any questions you have about our reports or projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend your meeting and provide this report.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. Any questions from Council Members.

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Alissa.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the Chair. Thank you so much for your presentation. I really appreciate you guys being here in person. It's good to see you guys here. And then also a couple questions in regards to the lower Yukon area. In you guys' report, during you guys' meeting, was there a precedence in exactly what specifically was very importantly discussed or high point prioritization as you guys were talking with the folks knowing the fact that they haven't -- sorry -- been able to fish? Do you have specific like insights that we need to know in regards to those meetings and your discussion points during those meetings that we need to know as a council?

0248

1 MS. FITKA: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair. During our Board meeting there was some issues
3 that were discussed in regards to some concerns on the
4 lower Yukon River and one of them was climate change,
5 and the other was the intercept fishery of Area M.
6 Well, just not being able to fish in general. There
7 was discussion about, and I heard it brought it up here
8 on the Council, was since we haven't been able to fish
9 for salmon, the impacts that it's making on the non-
10 salmon species. There was concerns around the coastal
11 communities, the low numbers of broad whitefish I
12 believe. I'll have to doublecheck on my discussion
13 with one of our board members from Nunam. But that was
14 one of the concerns that they were seeing was the low
15 number of broad whitefish in their area this year.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
18 questions from the Council Members.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I'll just make a
23 comment. I'm not surprised that whatever studies that
24 you have done regarding Area M fisheries are considered
25 to be wrong. Even the state of Alaska biologists that
26 made studies down there and they've changed the numbers
27 to the point where it benefits Area M fishers when they
28 know that our river system salmon are being impacted by
29 the intercept fishers. And we've gone through that
30 over the years. A couple of years ago they had a
31 commissioner of Fish and Game who worked for East
32 Peninsula Borough which also covers Area M. His
33 biologists and scientists did the study of impacts of
34 salmon that were returning to the river systems, but he
35 got into the politics of it and reduced the numbers to
36 the point where it didn't make sense for the Board of
37 Fish to make any hard decisions to reduce their
38 bycatch. So history, it's still going on today.

39
40 So I thank you for your report and I
41 appreciate the progress that you guys are making, and I
42 know that all the people that are working together on
43 the fisheries have to work together to make their point
44 heard by state of Alaska for sustainable yield of all
45 fisheries. So thank you.

46
47 Any other questions.

48
49 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

50

0249

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

2

3

4 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. And I really
5 appreciate your guys' report on the -- I'm going to
6 butcher this, I can't talk -- anadromous project, yeah.
7 In regards to the species that you guys found, was that
8 like something you guys were expecting or already knew
9 about those fisheries -- or the fish in those areas
10 that you needed to put on the books in regards to
11 protecting those fisheries, or was that a project given
12 by TEK in order to ensure their subsistence rights to
13 those areas?

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

 MS. MONCRIEFF: I think that we're very
interested in helping the state of Alaska fill out the
anadromous waters catalog better because we know that
it protects the fish a little bit. At least if we know
that they're in -- that they're known, and there's so
much of the state that is unknown, and we've done a
series of a few projects now of this type. And we
always talk to the community first and make sure that
they want us to do this kind of project before we start
on it. And then starting with the TEK interviews first
is so informative because, of course, the people who
live in the area know where the fish are already, and
so then when the Fish and Game -- or when the
biologists go out, they have a list of -- I give them a
list of what the people have said, and so they probably
know, you know, to expect those kinds of fish when they
go looking for them. And I think maybe that informed
them when to go out to do their sampling so they knew
which time of the summer to go out. So they -- I don't
think they really told me whether they were expecting
to see those fish or not. I guess I didn't ask them
that question because I had already heard from the
people in the area.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

I hope that answered your question.

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. That actually
did. And in regards to the Chinook salmon health
project in Alakanuk and Emmo, is that still an ongoing
or is that wrapped up and you guys have results that
can be presented?

46

47

48

49

50

 MS. MONCRIEFF: That is a brand new
project that hasn't started yet. It will start in

0250

1 January, and we were contacted by Dr. Katie Howard and
2 you saw Serena's presentation. She mentioned they were
3 also funded on their companion proposal or project
4 that's parallel to ours, but they asked us to talk to
5 people about specific -- in Alakanuk and Emmonak. And
6 we were going to include Kotlik as well, but they
7 already have some TK interviews that are going to be
8 happening, and we're hoping to partner with that
9 researcher to get some of the same questions asked up
10 there, but we didn't want to overload them with too
11 many people coming to talk to people. Anyway they
12 asked us to talk to people to see if they had
13 observations of the health of the Chinook as they enter
14 the river that might help them understand what the
15 juvenile -- what the ocean researchers are seeing and
16 their theory about what the fish are eating in the
17 ocean and how that's affecting their health as they
18 enter the river.

19

20 So, yeah, like I said, the project
21 hasn't started yet and it will run for three years.
22 We'll do the interviews in the first year, and then
23 we'll come back in the second or third year, I forget,
24 to share the results of what we learned and see if
25 there's anything additional that people want to add to
26 what we hear.

27

28 MS. ROGERS: Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more questions
31 from the Council Members.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If not, Quyana for
36 your report, and any closing comments.

37

38 MS. FITKA: Okay. Quyana for your time.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you.

41 I think we have a long list of -- the next agenda is
42 the state of Alaska Board of Fish fishery proposals.
43 Go ahead.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. It's up to the
46 Council if there are any Board of Fisheries proposals
47 that you with to comment on. Mr. Chair. Perhaps you
48 would entertain recommendations from other Council
49 Members if there are certain proposals they would like

50

0251

1 to discuss and comment on, recognizing that we are
2 short on time.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Are there any
7 suggestions, recommendations from the Council on the
8 proposals that are coming for state of Alaska
9 fisheries.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Through the Chair. We'll go ahead and take a look at a
couple proposals because we are short for time. I wish
we had more time. We used have three to four days for
these meetings because our agenda was so long and we
talk a lot and we tell stories and back our stories up
with facts and things that we talk about, because we're
long-gated (ph) people and we tell our history and the
things we know before we get to our point, so we talk a
lot. So our meetings used to be three to four days
until the budget cut happened and now our meetings are
pushed into one to two-day meetings which is hard
because no one wants to work until midnight, right? By
the time we hit 5:00, 6:00 o'clock in the evening our
brains are fried. So that is one thing that is to
bring back our long-gated meetings back to three to
four days so that we can discuss these issues.

Let's go ahead and take a look at the
Alaska State Board of Fisheries, the
Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim proposal index. If you want
copies, I'm sure we can share books. I think we only
have two books right now, right, Brooke?

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. Unfortunately we
only have two books. If you all would like me to put
it up on the screen, I could do that.

MS. ROGERS: Yeah. It might be easier
than trying to share books around.

After discussing information with RACs
and trying to get ahold of fishermen and subsistence
users on the Yukon since our other Yukon members who
bring proposals to the table, both Mr. Oney and Mr.
Alstrom, unable to be here, I reached out to other
people in addition to what they would like us to see

0252

1 and to look at, that including also in the upper region
2 of our Kuskokwim communities and our neighbors upriver
3 who also have interest in proposals they would like us
4 to oversee.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa, which region index
7 would you like to start with?

8

9 MS. ROGERS: Let's go ahead and start
10 with the AYK region. Do you have a proposal list of
11 the Yukon subsistence and personal use fisheries list
12 that we can look at so that if there's anything that
13 they see, we can go ahead and jump into those if they
14 want to take them up.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. One moment, I'm
17 having a problem getting the right screen to project.

18

19 MS. ROGERS: Brooke, and for the record,
20 our Vice Chair is currently stepping out for the moment
21 so I'll be being appointed for delegation of authority
22 until he returns. He should be back within 5, 10
23 minutes. I don't think any more than that. Thank you.

24

25 I'll go ahead and give the Council some
26 time to read through those, and if any of those you
27 want to bring up or want to discuss or even look more
28 into in regards to these proposals, please speak up and
29 let me know so we can take them up.

30

31 I might want to entertain to see if
32 John Lamont is currently on line. John Lamont are you
33 logged in today?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Do Council Members see any
38 Yukon region proposals that you're interested in taking
39 up? As a reminder, the ADF&G advisory committees in
40 your local area will also be having meetings soon to
41 take up these proposals and you could participate as a
42 member of the region in those meetings.

43

44 MS. ROGERS: At this time I would like
45 for anyone from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to please introduce
47 Proposal 81, implementing a Yukon River drainage
48 subsistence salmon permit to allow retention of king
49 salmon less than 24 inches in length and with the

50

0253

1 annual limit of 10 fish during times of king salmon
2 conservation. It is Page 18.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa, we don't -- or,
5 Mrs. Chair, sorry. We don't have anyone prepared to
6 speak to State proposals. If there is someone from
7 Fish and Game on line that would be willing to answer a
8 question, but we don't typically formally present the
9 State proposals at the Federal RAC meeting.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, hi, Brooke. Through
14 the Chair. This is Deena Jallen with the Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game. I am on and available to
16 help answer questions. Some of these proposals were
17 submitted by -- you know, in this case Proposal 81 was
18 submitted by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee fisheries
19 subcommittee, so they would be the one to answer
20 questions about the intent, but I can help answer
21 questions that would be relevant to the Fish and Game
22 fisheries management side, and I am on line.

23
24 MS. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you. The
25 first question that comes in is -- hold on, sorry, I
26 just lost my page. The first question that comes in in
27 regards to Proposal 81, is this in regards to the whole
28 Yukon River drainage from -- yeah, the whole entire
29 Yukon River drainage and how is it affective to playing
30 with subsistence regulations that are already put in
31 place?

32
33 MS. JALLEN: Yes, so that is correct.
34 This proposal as written could apply to the entire
35 Yukon area and it would -- you know, my understanding
36 of the proposal is that there would be to come a permit
37 that you would need to get and then if we did identify
38 a very small subsistence surplus then we could
39 potentially have a management action where we allowed
40 the taking of king salmon under 24 inches with dip nets
41 and with fish wheel. So that's kind of what this
42 proposal seems to be trying to do is to allow perhaps
43 some small limited harvest of king salmon, but only by
44 permit holders in this -- at the Sedona (ph) place and
45 then only under 24 inches.

46
47 MR. LANDLORD: Number 80?

48
49 MS. ROGERS: 81. Do you have 81's
50

0254

1 language? If not, I can too read it. James was asking
2 about (indiscernible - mic off) You want 80?

3

4 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: I'm trying to get John
7 Lamont on the phone right now. I called him, I asked
8 him if he was going to be joining us so as soon as he
9 responds we can go to 80.

10

11 MR. LANDLORD: On number 80 makes me
12 feel like there are no restrictions in middle and upper
13 Yukon River. Is this a proposal like number 80 to
14 restrict subsistence king salmon? I didn't hear right
15 now.

16

17 MS. ROGERS: I'm sorry, I forgot your
18 name on Fish and Game who was representing the Yukon
19 Fish and Game right now.

20

21 MS. JALLEN: Yeah. Thanks. Thanks,
22 Alissa. This is Deena Jallen the Yukon River Summer
23 Season Manager. I couldn't quite hear what the
24 question was in regards to Proposal 80.

25

26 MR. LANDLORD: Referring to Proposal 80,
27 it states that restrict subsistence king salmon harvest
28 in the middle and upper Yukon River. It just makes me
29 feel that there are no restrictions right now for king
30 salmon harvest, for subsistence fishing related to
31 middle and upper Yukon River. Are there any
32 restrictions right now?

33

34 MS. JALLEN: No, so right now the Yukon
35 River area is managed by times, area and gear, and so
36 when we restrict fishing we put in fisheries closures
37 or gear limits, and so right now unless you're in a
38 very few limited permit areas like in District 6, the
39 Tanana road system, people don't have a limit or a
40 quota on their subsistence harvest. If they can fish,
41 it's open for fishing.

42

43 What this proposal would do would be to
44 say that fishermen in those districts would need a
45 permit to fish for kings and they would have a limited
46 number of kings. The permit doesn't specify what that
47 limited number would be. That would be something that
48 was -- you know, you would either ask who proposed it
49 or that would come out in Board of Fish discussion.

50

0255

1 But this proposal would require those households to get
2 a permit and then have their king harvest limited by
3 number in some way.

4
5 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. Thank you. Can
6 you clarify Proposal Number 82, because this October 1
7 to April 30 is -- the river usually has started -- I
8 mean frozen.

9
10 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, so Proposal 82
11 relates to the sinking of gillnets and right now
12 there's this reg that's in like the statewide regs that
13 says that in the Yukon area and a few other areas of
14 the state you can sink a gillnet. You can have it be
15 under the surface of the water. You know, some people
16 might sink a gillnet to fish under the ice, some people
17 might sink a gillnet to have it be below the surface of
18 the water so, you know, wouldn't get drift (ph) caught
19 on your float line. But this would require, if it
20 passed, to have visible float lines and floats, of
21 course, on the surface of the water between May 1 and
22 September 30th, so that would be like in the summer
23 when the water's flowing and they're not iced, you
24 would need to have corks visible on the water in this
25 passed.

26
27 (Inaudible conversations -- microphones
28 not turned on)

29
30 MS. CLEVELAND: Through the Chair. Can
31 I make a recommendation? In the interest of time and
32 all the reports that we still have to hear and knowing
33 that these proposals will be looked at in detail next
34 week, a lot of them, I'm wondering if we could just --
35 you know, if we want to be a part of this process, then
36 we could attend those meetings next week with the ACs
37 and move on with our agenda. Quyana.

38
39 MR. GILLIKIN: Madam Chair.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

42
43 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 This is Dan Gillikin with the Paimiut. I would like to
45 bring attention to the proposal that the middle
46 Kuskokwim AC submitted. I don't have the book here, so
47 I don't know what number it is, but it is regarding a
48 basin-wide Tier II permit system for Chinook salmon on
49 the Kuskokwim drainage. It's a fairly complicated
50

0256

1 proposal and I think it's one that -- well, I
2 collaborated with the local AC here on the proposal,
3 but it's one that I wanted to bring to the Council's
4 attention. And although they may not want to discuss
5 it right now, the certainly probably want to understand
6 that proposal and provide comment at a later date.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Dan. For the
11 Council members Dan is speaking about Proposal 90 and
12 that's on the screen now.

13

14 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: May we entertain Mr.
19 Gillikin in regards to Proposal 90.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (No audible
22 answer)

23

24 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Let's go ahead and get an introduction of Proposal,
26 then we'll decide if we want to act on it.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 Mr. Gillikin.

31

32 MR. GILLIKIN: Yes, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. Thank you, Alissa. So like I mentioned, I
34 collaborated with the local AC up here, advisory
35 committee, on this proposal that would -- it's
36 actually a hybrid proposal. It's a Tier II, Tier I
37 proposal for allowing Chinook salmon harvest on the
38 Kuskokwim River under a permit system. So I don't have
39 it in front of me, at least how it's written in the
40 booklet.

41

42 But in a nutshell what it is is there
43 would be initially a Tier II system, permit system, put
44 in place during the early period of the Chinook run.
45 That would be from June 12th to June 24. Now, this
46 would protect early run headwater stocks until the 24th
47 and is around the median date of the run timing for all
48 areas around Bethel for Chinook salmon. About a third
49 of the chum salmon have passed by the 24th and less
50

0257

1 than a quarter of the sockeye pass the surrounding area
2 there.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

What it would allow is it would allow 12 basically days of uninterrupted fishing opportunity for people who hold a permit. So you wouldn't be limit by time, area, gear necessarily restrictions. If you have a permit, a Tier II permit, in hand, you can go fish any time, any location you wish either setnet or drift gillnet between June 12th and June 24th.

Now, that being said, there will be a limit on the permit, and that allocation will be determined every year based on the forecasted run of fish, of Chinook salmon that are going to be coming back, and then the available surplus for harvest.

So after the 24th -- well, a few things about the Tier II permit. So the Tier II permit would also allow for proxy fishing, so individual households would be responsible for managing their own permit and they may collaborate with other permit holders and pool their resources to go out and fish out of their fish camps, much like they had done traditionally until we got into this management cycle of these short openers and people just going out and kind of combat fishing on their own. So it would restore some of those traditional practices in my mind.

So after the 24th, the fishery would revert back to basically the Tier I type of fishery opener, and that's more or less what we have been under for the last 10 years or so where it becomes a time, area, gear opening, but you wouldn't have to have a permit. So it would be any resident and you could go out and fish only when it was open. That would be based on how many fish were reported from the early opening permit system, and then the remaining available surplus. So there would be an opportunity later in the season for people to fish other species without a permit if they chose not to get a permit.

So that's more or less it in a nutshell. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions if there are any.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any questions from the Council Members?

0258

1 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

4

5

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Dan, for your presentation, introduction of it. If we do go into a Tier II what are the repercussions and how long would it take us to get out of a Tier II?

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GILLIKIN: Well, given that you have not been meeting ANS for quite a while now, I believe that -- I mean I'm not absolutely certain, but I believe the trigger is basically once we've reached the sufficient numbers to allow harvest that's within the established ANS. But because we have not been achieving that for quite a while, I don't believe there's currently any Tier II fisheries going on in the state right now. There was one up in Nome for a while, but certainly when you read the regulations, in my mind anyway, would qualify as a Tier II.

And people understand that under a Tier II system not everybody may possibly get a permit. It's based on, you know, historic use of the resource, proximity to the resource, availability of other resources, just like the Tier II moose permit system that's in place.

One thing I didn't mention is under the Tier II, if you're fishing under the Tier II permit system, so you'd be allowed to retain any other species that you caught, like chum or sockeye. They don't count towards your permit. And then also we had in there that Chinook salmon 20 inches or less would not count towards your allocation on your Tier II permit.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other questions by Council Members.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to respond to Mrs. Rogers. You had asked how you would potentially get out of the Tier II. But I just wanted to point out that it does say in the proposal this regulation would expire the start of 2026, so I think that's the intent of the proponent is

0259

1 to have it for a temporary time. Thank you.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Good afternoon.

4

My comments would be that I'm not necessarily
5 supportive of going into a Tier II permit system,
6 because many of our people in the villages may not have
7 access to Fish and Game, or the Department, and it
8 seems ironic that our people want to be put on Tier II
9 permit system when Area M, which is also managed by
10 state of Alaska, is allowed to go commercial fishing.
11 That impacts the fishes that are returning to our river
12 system. I think if we want to support this, they've
13 got to be -- treat everyone fairly and work on
14 sustained yield, and once they start doing that maybe
15 I'll support the proposal.

16

17

That's my comment. Thank you.

18

19

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

20

21

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

22

23

MS. ROGERS: In regards to the comments
24 that were made in regards to this proposal, if you
25 would like, we could take this proposal up as a support
26 and then take a vote to oppose the proposal so they'd
27 know where we stand in regards to our notes that are
28 justification for why we're opposing this proposal and
29 the security of subsistence for our area.

30

31

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. I think
32 that would be fair. So entertain a motion.

33

34

MS. ROGERS: Yes, sir. I, Alissa
35 Rogers, am making a motion for Proposal 90, 5 AAC 01-
36 dash-280 subsistence fishing permits in regards to
37 creating a Tier II subsistence king fishery in the
38 Kuskokwim River, and that's on Page 35 of the proposal
39 book.

40

41

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: There's a motion
42 made. Is there a second?

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If there's no
47 second that the motion dies. So it rolls back the
48 motion, it's not seconded, so the motion is dead now.

49

50

0260

1 But, Dan, I appreciate you bringing
2 this thing up, but I don't have trust and reliability
3 to the state of Alaska as fish managers when they're
4 asking us to bear the burden of conservation, yet allow
5 other fisheries that are know interceptors to go
6 fishing without any restrictions.

7
8 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 appreciate your position and thank you for your time.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Thank you
12 very much. Alissa.

13
14 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Would it be
15 appropriate at this time to make a comment, Brooke, so
16 that our comment on this proposal has been made or
17 submitted to the Board of Fish in regards to this
18 proposal?

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: I may need to ask for
21 clarification since the motion died, I'm not sure if
22 you're going to be taking this up. Perhaps Mr. Chair
23 can.....

24
25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I think it would
26 be appropriate to tell the Board of Fish that the
27 YKDelta Regional Advisory Council does not support this
28 proposal because of the fact that state of Alaska, if
29 they're going to be issuing Tier II permits should
30 recognize that some of the salmon that are being --
31 that are bound for the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, even
32 though this is just a Kuskokwim proposal, are impacting
33 the returning salmon and they're putting us in a
34 position that -- of having to get permits when they
35 should be working to reduce the bycatch that can allow
36 for more salmon to return.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Katya Wessels, OSM, for the record. If the Council
42 wants to make a comment as a body of the Council, you
43 would need to have a motion to submit that comment.
44 You can't just make a comment to the Board of
45 Fisheries.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Even though the
48 motion died, I'd recommend to the Council that they
49 make a motion that we submit comments on this proposal
50

0261

1 that we're not supporting it and for reasons that --
2 some of the reasons that I've stated. So that the
3 Board -- Subsistence Board would recognize that we have
4 an on-going concern with intercept fisheries that are
5 being executed by state of Alaska elsewhere for salmon
6 that are bound for the river systems. So if I can make
7 a motion, make that motion, but I'd ask one of the
8 Council Members to make that motion.

9
10 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I know the
11 first one had died it, so I'm going to make it as
12 simple as possible so we can follow through without the
13 exact language. I'll go ahead and make the motion in
14 support of Proposal 90 for discussion purposes. We
15 need a second.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I'd second it for
18 discussion purposes and that way we can make a
19 statement that we don't support; that, you know, we can
20 make some of the statements that I've made and some of
21 the statements that the rest of the Council members can
22 make in opposing the motion.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. I just want to, you know, agree with you
26 because a motion to support doesn't mean that you
27 support the proposal. It just -- all the motions need
28 to be made in the positive, and then if you're opposed
29 to this proposal, you just vote no to the motion to
30 support this proposal, if that's what your choice is.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Since I seconded,
33 is there any discussion by the Council members on this
34 proposal.

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Are you seconding?

37
38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, I'm seconded
39 for discussion purposes.

40
41 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead
42 and put in comments. Okay. Thank you so much, Dan. I
43 really appreciate you taking the initiative, and I know
44 how hard it is to put proposals together.

45
46 In light of how our current
47 restrictions are and have been in the past two decades,
48 and understanding that we did not meet ANS, and putting
49 ourself into Tier II, my understanding of the Tier II
50

1 system, it's not technically what we need at this
2 moment, because once we get into a Tier II system we
3 can never get out of the Tier II system, especially if
4 the current numbers that we have at this time in
5 achieving -- not being able to meet ANS and not being
6 able to achieve those numbers, and the numbers we need
7 to sustain subsistence, and not being able to achieve
8 our traditional, historical ANS numbers for the past 45
9 years, almost 50 years at that, and with our current
10 status of how our Chinook salmon was and now that we're
11 losing our chums and our coho currently right now are
12 in distress, and we understand that; and then on top of
13 that we have issues with Area M and where we're not
14 communicating and being able to meet in regards to
15 keeping regulations between Area M and our region who
16 are suffering at the tail end so that we could meet
17 escapement so Area M can continue fishing, I don't see
18 it fit that we as the end users have to be regulated so
19 that Area M can continue fishing.

20

21 In accordance to the bycatch
22 presentation that we had received yesterday, it appears
23 that they're allowed to go fishing unrestricted unless
24 they have a cap on their fishery in regards to Chinook
25 salmon and chum salmon. But the problem being fitted
26 into that situation is that they get to go fishing
27 unregulated, unmonitored, unenforced, and then we end
28 up having to take the blunt of it. And if they don't
29 meet the amount of fish that are coming through through
30 our test fisheries and finding out the quantitative
31 estimate of fish that are returning, then we have to be
32 the ones that are getting regulated. And yet we're not
33 making money off this fishery, we're putting fish in
34 our subsistence foods. We're putting fish in our smoke
35 houses. We're putting fish on the table. We're
36 feeding our kids and we're trying to make a livelihood
37 being the largest and the poorest area in the country
38 right now. We're not living a third-world country,
39 we're living a fourth or fifth-world country right now,
40 and after the huge storm that came through it's even
41 harder to get food out to the villages and to places
42 that really need it, who really rely on the subsistence
43 uses.

44

45 So if you do, Mr. Chair, those are my
46 comments.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0263

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana, Alissa.
2 Any other comments from Council Members.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. I think the
7 motion's up for a vote. The no vote means, no, you
8 don't support it; yes means yes, meaning you support
9 it. So let's go ahead with the roll call.

10
11 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Park.

12
13 MR. PARKS: No.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

16
17 MR. PETER: No.

18
19 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

20
21 MS. CLEVELAND: No.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

24
25 MR. ANDREW: No.

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

28
29 MR. LANDLORD: No.

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

32
33 MS. ROGERS: No.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

36
37 MS. EVAN: No.

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, Myron Naneng,

40
41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Motion fails zero/eight.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
46 proposals for discussion.

47
48 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. There was a
49 recommendation that we bring up Proposal 91 to modify
50

0264

1 the Kuskokwim area lawful gear and gear specifications
2 and operations to provide gear opportunity to harvest
3 salmon other than king salmon during the times of
4 salmon conservation as follows.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Fish and Game, are you
7 on line?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Are there any Fish and
12 Game Staff that could speak to Kuskokwim Region
13 Proposal Number 91 that was submitted by the
14 Department.

15

16 MR. SMITH: Hello, this is Nick.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. SMITH: This is Nick Smith with the
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Kuskokwim
22 area subsistence and commercial fisheries manager.

23

24 So Proposal 91 was submitted by the
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and this proposal
26 would establish alternative fishing methods that could
27 be used during times of chum, sockeye or coho salmon
28 conservation. This would allow, you know, more -- an
29 adaptive management strategy in years like we had this
30 year with coho. If you look through that proposal,
31 you'll notice that a lot of the gear types available in
32 this proposal are what we currently have on the books
33 during king salmon conservation. So, yeah, this year
34 we were kind of.....

35

36 REPORTER: Nick, could you hold on one
37 minute, please.

38

39 MR. SMITH: I didn't hear that?

40

41 REPORTER: Are you there, Nick?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 REPORTER: Nick, are you there?

46

47 MR. SMITH: Yes, I am.

48

49 REPORTER: If you'd get a little closer

50

0265

1 to your mic and speak a little louder, please.

2

3

MR. SMITH: Okay. How about now.

4

5

REPORTER: Try that again.

6

7

MR. SMITH: Do you still hear me?

8

9

REPORTER: Can you still hear? Yeah,
10 just speak as loud.....

11

12

MR. SMITH: I'm still here.

13

14

REPORTER:as you can, please.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. SMITH: Okay. I'll do my best here.
So this proposal would establish alternative fishing
methods that can be used during times of chum, sockeye,
and coho conservation (indiscernible - feedback) we ran
into this year, especially with coho and we didn't have
any specific alternative gears available when
conservation needs -- when conservation is needed.

When we think about king salmon season,
there's a number of alternative gear types available
with set nets, and reducing mesh size and alternative
gears that allow wide relief.

What we ran into this year, especially
with coho, is we didn't have any specific alternative
gears available when conservation is needed. When we
think about king salmon season there's a number of
alternative gear types available with setnets and
reducing mesh size and alternative gears that allow
live release like dipnets and fishwheels and those gear
types haven't been added to the regulation book for
sockeye and coho, specifically, and what we do have for
chum really doesn't align with what we have for king
salmon so this proposal would establish alternative
gears that are very similar to what we have during the
king season so that when we do have times of
conservation we have an ability to provide opportunity
for other species that are abundant.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, any
questions from the Council members regarding this
proposal.

Alissa.

0266

1 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Through the Chair. Thank you Nick, was pretty hard to
3 hear you so I just want to make sure I was
4 understanding this correctly. Pretty much this
5 proposal is saying that it's establishing fishing
6 methods to allow for your management and those in
7 management for chums, sockeye and coho, to have
8 availability for other methods and means like we do for
9 king salmon in conservation -- when we're in
10 conservation this way this gives you more tools and
11 allows for other opportunities for other species to be
12 caught while we're in conservation mode. Did I hear
13 you correctly?

14
15 MR. SMITH: Through the Chair. Yes,
16 Alissa, that's what this proposal is doing.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any questions
19 from Council members.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: It pretty much
24 what the Yukon River had to go through with the efforts
25 to use different methods of harvest and now we're down
26 to zero on the Yukon in terms of being able to fish
27 during the summertime despite what has been the efforts
28 in the past. So that's my comment regarding this
29 proposal.

30
31 MS. ROGERS: A motion.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: But, yeah, there
34 needs a motion to.....

35
36 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead
37 and make the motion to support Proposal 91 from Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game. The 5 AAC 01-270, lawful
39 gear and gear specifications and operations, in
40 modifying the Kuskokwim area lawful gear and gear
41 specifications and operations to provide greater
42 opportunity to harvest salmon other than king salmon
43 during times of salmon conservation.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Motion has
48 been made, is there a second.

49
50

0267

1 MR. PETER: Second.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by
4 Phillip. Any further discussion on the motion.

5

6 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, I'll go ahead
7 and make a comment. I appreciate this work that you're
8 putting in in regards to allowing opportunity and re --
9 fixing a regulation so that you have more management
10 tools in times of conservation like we had this year.
11 If we had these regulations at that point we would have
12 been able to go out fishing for other species but
13 because we didn't have these regulations in our book we
14 weren't able to go out fishing for other species so I
15 believe and I support this proposal that we do have
16 management tools in regards to supporting harvesting of
17 other species during times of conservation or whenever
18 our river is being closed.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any
23 other questions.

24

25 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Henry.

28

29 MR. PARKS: Henry Parks from
30 Nunapitchuk. I have a question. This proposal here now
31 exactly from where -- the Kuskokwim River does this
32 starts and where does it end, is it from the mouth all
33 the way up Kuskokwim or where -- exactly where does it
34 start? My question. Because it states fishwheel, is
35 that fishwheel still running up there, I don't know.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Maybe Fish and Game could
38 answer that.

39

40 MS. ROGERS: Yeah, Nick.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Nick, would you be able
43 to answer that question for our Council member? Thank
44 you.

45

46 MR. SMITH: Yes, I would. Through the
47 Chair. So these management tools would be able to be
48 used anywhere throughout the Kuskokwim area, so the
49 Kuskokwim River and the Kuskokwim Bay and like we do
50

0268

1 already during king salmon season there are -- we can
2 also use our time and area so we can implement these,
3 you know, mesh size restriction or length restrictions
4 or setnets or live release from fishwheels in specific
5 areas of the river that it's needed. So there would be
6 a lot of flexibility where we could use these tools
7 during times of conservation.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thank you.

10

11 MR. PARKS: I didn't catch what he
12 stated, I couldn't hear what all he stated.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: You may have to
15 repeat yourself and speak louder.

16

17 MR. SMITH: This is Nick again. So the
18 management tools that are in this proposal could be
19 used throughout the entire Kuskokwim River and the
20 Kuskokwim Bay and then like we do during king salmon
21 season we can implement them on a time and an area
22 basis so that they could be used in the area that
23 they're needed.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
26 discussion on the proposal.

27

28 MR. PARKS: Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
31 discussion on the proposal.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I just have one
36 question, you know, the last few years we've had State
37 management start off at the beginning of the year and
38 eventually there was Federal takeover of subsistence
39 management especially down in the lower river before it
40 gets to Aniak. How does this proposal affect fisheries
41 management by Fish and Wildlife Service?

42

43 MR. SMITH: Yeah, this is Nick. So I
44 don't think it would affect it the same way that's
45 currently done on the Kuskokwim. There's currently an
46 injunction against the State of Alaska from doing any
47 management actions while there's a Federal special
48 action in place in the lower Kuskokwim River so moving
49 forward, as long as that injunction is in place we
50

0269

1 wouldn't be using these tools in the lower Kuskokwim
2 River while there's a Federal special action in place.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I didn't quite
5 hear you because you're not speaking loud enough.
6 Maybe that's not being fixed right now.

7

8 REPORTER: Hold on, one more time.
9 Nick, are you there?

10

11 MR. SMITH: I am.

12

13 REPORTER: Try that again please.

14

15 (Feedback)

16

17 REPORTER: Okay, keep going.

18

19 MR. SMITH: Can you hear me okay.

20

21 REPORTER: Is that any better, that's
22 as loud as it's getting.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

25

26 REPORTER: Go ahead, Nick.

27

28 MR. SMITH: Okay. Yeah, so the brief
29 summary of it is is that there's currently a court
30 ordered injunction against the State of Alaska from
31 doing any management in the lower Kuskokwim River while
32 there's a Federal special action in place so if this
33 proposal were to get adopted we would not be using any
34 of these tools while there's a Federal special action
35 in place in the lower Kuskokwim River.

36

37 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I might be
38 able to help summarize it really quick. So pretty much
39 what we already have going for our Kuskokwim fisheries
40 we're going to do that for all the other fisheries.
41 Even though these tools may be implemented when there's
42 a special action by Federal Subsistence Board, ADF&G
43 would not be implementing these tools, so it's pretty
44 much what we're doing is we're just copying and pasting
45 everything from the king salmon on to the reds, chums
46 and cohos.

47

48 Did I say that right, Nick?

49

50

0270

1 MR. SMITH: Yes, Alissa, that's more or
2 less what would happen.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thank you.
5 Any further discussion on the motion.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, if there's
10 no more we'll go ahead with the roll call.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, question has been
13 called. Roll call Henry Parks.

14

15 MR. PARKS: Yes.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

18

19 MR. PETER: Yes.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

22

23 MS. CLEVELAND: Abstain.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

30

31 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, could you repeat
34 that James.

35

36 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Alissa
39 Rogers.

40

41 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

44

45 MS. EVAN: Yes.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

50

0271

1 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 7-0.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

6

7 MS. ROGERS: Could we get a
8 justification of why you abstained Jackie?

9

10 MS. CLEVELAND: Can I choose not to.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I think in the
13 parliamentary procedures you don't have to explain why
14 you abstained but if you say no you can say why you
15 said no, so I respect her willingness to say that she
16 abstained on her vote.

17

18 Any other proposals.

19

20 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

23

24 MS. ROGERS: It was brought up, that
25 recommendation that we take up Proposal 140.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

28

29 MS. ROGERS: So do we have.....

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, we have
34 before us Proposal 140. Is someone at Fish and Game
35 willing to talk about this proposal.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure
38 if there's anyone online from Fish and Game that could
39 speak to this proposal, 140, from that region.

40

41 MS. ROGERS: What about Serena, can
42 she.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Is she here.

45

46 MS. JALLEN: Hi, this is Deena Jallen
47 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, just to
48 clarify, is 140 submitted by the Fairbanks Fisheries
49 Advisory Council?

50

0272

1 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct, Deena.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Submitted by who?

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Fairbanks Fish and Game.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay.

8

9 MS. JALLEN: They're going to have a
10 meeting coming up soon, next week I believe, let me
11 look that up real quick, the fisheries subcommittee,
12 they're going to be discussing Board of Fish proposals
13 on Monday November 7th if anyone wants to call into
14 that AC meeting you would have a chance to ask some of
15 the folks that submitted that proposal, would be able
16 to discuss it in more detail. I can send information
17 about that meeting to Brooke and she could forward it
18 out to anyone who wants to -- is interested in
19 attending that meeting.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Entertain a
24 motion to address Proposal 140.

25

26 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. I'll go ahead
27 and take a motion to support Proposal 140 for
28 discussion.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: A motion has been
31 made, is there a second.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Second.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by John
36 Andrew. Any further discussion on the motion to
37 support Proposal 140 Council members.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

42

43 MS. ROGERS: I know we had earlier in
44 the beginning of our meeting we had someone, I believe
45 it was Serena, are you here, that can help us get
46 through Proposal 140 since it was introduced.

47

48 MS. FITKA: Thank you. Through the
49 Chair. I was just asked by Gale Vick, she sits on the

50

0273

1 Fairbanks Advisory Council, so Gale Vick and Virgil
2 Umphenour were the ones who drafted this proposal and
3 she asked to bring it to your attention since she was
4 not available to attend online. But I will answer -- I
5 will try to answer any questions. All I know is the
6 history of that this proposal was presented to the
7 Board of Fisheries I want to say, and people in the
8 audience who have more experience than me, it was
9 passed for awhile with these windows to reduce the
10 amount of salmon that were bound for the AYK region and
11 then the Board of Fish Council members changed and then
12 it was reverted back to what it is now.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
15 questions or discussions. You can turn off that mic.
16 Any more discussion or questions on this.

17

18 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. ROGERS: I do have some feedback in
23 regards to Proposal 140. The other issue is Area M in
24 South Unimak and Shumigan Island in June targeted
25 sockeye passage, the interception of chum salmon, other
26 suppressed salmon stocks need to be controlled in the
27 management plan. The Fairbanks Advisory Committee
28 Virgil Umphenour spoke extensively about this and his
29 experience when he was on the State of Alaska, Board of
30 Fish. Currently Proposal 140 would repeal the current
31 plan in South Unimak and Shumigan Islands, I'm sorry if
32 I'm butchering that -- June Management Plan. The
33 proposal that's currently in Proposal 140 would then
34 readopt the old plan with modifications to set fishing
35 period parameters to control bycatch of chum salmon
36 specifically. And do we have any other RACs that have
37 taken this proposal up.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Through the Chair. Ms.
44 Rogers. We -- I know, just because I'm also the
45 Coordinator for Eastern Interior that they took this
46 proposal up and supported it. I'm not sure about the
47 other Councils.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0274

1 MS. ROGERS: Federal Subsistence Board,
2 do you have any other RACs that have taken this up.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Fellow Staff members, are
5 you aware if any other of the RACs took up Proposal 140
6 for Board of Fish.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: I'm not 100 percent
9 positive but I think Western Interior took it up, I can
10 find out, hold on a second.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
13 questions regarding Proposal 140.

14
15 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

18
19 MS. ROGERS: Katya, I got you. I just
20 got notified that WIRAC had supported this proposal as
21 well.

22
23 MS. WESSELS: That's what I thought.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I just got one
26 question. I know here in the YKDelta, especially those
27 out on the Coast that fish for salmon are limited to
28 the three mile limit and when you take a look at the
29 map of that fishing district it goes far and beyond the
30 three mile limit that they can possibly go to. And I
31 know that beyond three mile limit it's Federal
32 management or supposed to be Federally-owned and I hope
33 that the Federal managers, whoever is monitoring the
34 fisheries down there don't allow commercial fishing
35 beyond the three mile limit because that's the question
36 that I have. Because it seems like they have that
37 whole access area beyond three mile limit based on the
38 map that I've seen regarding the fishing district. Can
39 anybody answer that?

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Well, if nobody
44 has an answer to that, I make a proposed amendment to
45 supporting this proposal that fishing be restricted
46 within the three mile limit and not be allowed to go
47 beyond that and ask the Federal managers of those that
48 monitor fisheries beyond the three mile limit to make
49 sure that the fishermen down there don't go beyond that
50

0275

1 line. And I know down in Bristol Bay, if you go beyond
2 a certain area at the mouth of the Nushagak River
3 you're monitored and you get fined for fishing beyond
4 that. So -- and we're also told here on the Kuskokwim
5 as well as the Yukon that if you go beyond the three
6 mile limit or the boundary set by the fishing district
7 that you can be cited for fishing outside the line. So
8 that would be my proposal to amend the proposal to say
9 that the fishing be restricted within three mile limit
10 as it is also restricted in many of the fisheries and
11 boundaries that are set by the State. At Black River,
12 which is south of the Yukon you have only a one mile
13 radius from the mouth of the Black River that you can
14 fish in. And I'm sure that's pretty much the same way
15 as it is up along the mouths of the Yukon River, the
16 south mouth, the middle mouth and even the north mouth.

17
18 So that would be my proposed amendment
19 to this proposal. And I'll write something to that
20 effect. So that's my motion, is there a second.

21
22 (In Yup'ik)

23
24 MR. PETER: Second.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, seconded by
27 Phillip. Any further discussion.

28
29 REPORTER: Mic please.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any further
32 discussion on the motion that I just made, no fishing
33 within the three mile limit or the boundaries that are
34 set by -- even one mile would be fine because we're all
35 restricted out here on the Kuskokwim and Yukon to fish
36 in certain areas and we can't go beyond that,
37 especially during commercial fishing.

38
39 Any more discussion on that proposal,
40 amendment.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

45
46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
47 I get a clarification in what you're asking for because
48 this proposal specifically is targeting commercial
49 fishing only.

50

0276

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: It doesn't target
4 subsistence fishing so I'm trying to figure out if
5 you're talking about restricting in the three mile
6 limit, are you talking subsistence fishing or.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No.

9

10 MS. ROGERS:just -- no.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The commercial
13 fishing districts are set on the Yukon, if you take a
14 look at the maps there are areas that are restricted
15 where you can only commercial fish in certain areas out
16 -- some of the maps that were drawn by the State of
17 Alaska and looking at the map that shows where Area M
18 fisheries is executed goes above and beyond that three
19 mile limit so I'm just asking and adding that they be
20 restricted to certain areas instead of going beyond it.
21 Similar to what they have down in Bristol Bay where
22 they can't go beyond a certain line when they go
23 commercial fishing. This does not affect subsistence.

24

25 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So was there a
28 second.

29

30 MS. ROGERS: I think he already
31 seconded it.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, okay it was
34 seconded. Any further discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If no discussion,
39 let's vote on the amendment first by roll call.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I'll restate the
42 motion that's on the table, is to amend the original
43 motion to support Proposal 140 with a modification that
44 no commercial fishing should occur beyond three mile
45 limit beyond the coast line.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes. Okay, let's
48 go ahead with the roll call.

49

50

0277

1 MS. MCDAVID: All right. For the
2 amendment, Henry Parks.

3
4 MR. PARKS: Yes.

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

7
8 MR. PETER: Yes.

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

11
12 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

19
20 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

23
24 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

27
28 MS. EVAN: Yes.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

33
34 MS. MCDAVID: Amendment passes 8-0.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Now going
37 back to the main motion of supporting Proposal 140,
38 it's been moved and seconded, any further discussion on
39 the motion.

40
41 MR. ANDREW: Question.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Motion has been
44 called. Okay, let's go ahead and do a roll call again.

45
46 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Mr. Chair. Would
47 you be able to state the original motion or I could do
48 that for you with the amendment.

49
50

0278

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: The original
2 motion is to support Proposal 140 as written but my
3 amendment is to state that the commercial fisheries be
4 limited within what we call the State jurisdiction
5 versus Federal jurisdiction or be restricted to certain
6 areas that limit them from going beyond a certain
7 fishing area.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So just to
10 clarify, restating for the record, the motion on the
11 table is to support Proposal 140 with modification to
12 limit commercial fishing to no further than three miles
13 from the coastline?

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. All right, we'll
18 do roll call again.

19
20 Henry Parks.

21
22 MR. PARKS: Yes.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

25
26 MR. PETER: Yes.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

29
30 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

31
32 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

33
34 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

37
38 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

43
44 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

45
46 MS. EVAN: Yes.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

49
50

0279

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 8-0.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Quyana.

6 Any other proposals.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. If not go

11 ahead.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. Before we
14 move on I did want to bring to the Council's attention
15 that there will be a couple of separate Board of Fish
16 meetings this coming cycle, this next year, and you --
17 your Council just made comments on proposals that will
18 be taken up at two separate meetings. The first one is
19 the AYK meeting and that will be held in January,
20 January 14th through 18th, and the second one -- and
21 that was for the Kuskokwim proposals that you took up,
22 the second one will be the Alaska Peninsula, et cetera
23 meeting that will take place in late February, February
24 20th to 25th. The Council wish to discuss if you would
25 like to choose representatives and alternates to
26 potentially represent your Council and be able to speak
27 to your comments at those meetings.

28

29 Also as a reminder, your Council did
30 submit two proposals for the Alaska Peninsula region,
31 Area M, that you may wish to be there to speak to.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. We
36 could probably discuss designating people at the --
37 during the December meeting, or our next meeting.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Our next meeting isn't
40 until the spring.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Oh, sorry.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, your next meeting
45 will not be until, I believe, February -- after.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thanks for
48 that. What's the desire for the Council to attend
49 those meetings as a whole or send a representative.

50

0280

1 MS. ROGERS: You can only send one.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: One.

4

5 MS. ROGERS: One.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: More often than
8 not when there's people to back up your statement and
9 support it and repeat it over more than once at a Board
10 of Fish meeting it usually gets the message across so
11 my suggestion would be at least two people be there at
12 that meeting.

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. Your Council
15 could request that you send two representatives to each
16 meeting, OSM would have to take that back and see if we
17 would be able to honor that request after this meeting.

18

19 MS. CLEVELAND: So we're not doing
20 nominations -- are we open for nominations?

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, we should -- or if
23 the Council wishes now would be the time to nominate
24 folks.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay.

27

28 MS. CLEVELAND: Can I nominate Myron
29 Naneng.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
32 nominations.

33

34 MS. EVAN: I nominate Alissa Rogers.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Alissa. So.....

37

38 MR. LANDLORD: I nominate Ray Oney.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. There's
41 three.

42

43 MS. ROGERS: There's three -- up to
44 three.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, and as a reminder
47 there are two separate meetings so potentially there
48 could be some switching around of who goes to what
49 meetings, one person could go to both meetings

50

0281

1 potentially if we're able -- if we're able to send two
2 folks.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So we'll use that
5 list of the three nominees to make a request to OSM to
6 be able to send at least two representatives to each of
7 the meetings. If there's no objections from the
8 Council.

9

10 MS. CLEVELAND: And if there's two, how
11 do we pick the two from the three?

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Maybe based on
14 availability, you know, I think that would be the best
15 way.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Perhaps.....

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: And we'll
20 coordinate with our Coordinator here.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, and just a
23 suggestion maybe -- well, I guess you guys commented on
24 only Kuskokwim proposals, but maybe one from Yukon and
25 one from Kusko region.

26

27 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: I want to note we have
32 John Lamont, if he's available on the phone for a Yukon
33 proposal he wants to introduce, Proposal No. 80.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, John.

36

37 REPORTER: I want a break, I want to
38 change something, for a minute.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, we'll take
41 a five minute break and get John on the line.

42

43 REPORTER: I don't know if we'll do any
44 good but we'll see.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

0282

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We can listen to
2 John regarding Proposal No. 80 so we need Council
3 members to come back ASAP.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, go ahead,
8 John.

9
10 MR. LAMONT: Mr. Chairman, my name's
11 John Lamont. I'm a (indiscernible) traditional
12 commercial fisherman from the mouth of the Yukon from
13 (Indiscernible) my wife's from Alakanuk and we
14 (indiscernible) in Emmo for elementary school. My
15 proposal is to limit subsistence take of chinook salmon
16 on the Yukon River until the Department of Fish and
17 Game can get a good handle on the number of chinook
18 that are reaching the spawning grounds in Alaska and
19 Canada. Over the last several years the Department has
20 counted numbers at the Pilot Station sonar and at the
21 Eagle sonar and there's been a disparity between the
22 numbers of chinook bound for Canada and Alaska waters
23 between those two counts. Therefore, in some years
24 it's been 60,000 that were unaccounted for, some years
25 90,000 and I am, as a user of chinook salmon on the
26 mouth of the Yukon River, I am really frustrated that
27 our State cannot afford to accurately count chinook
28 salmon.

29
30 Historically the commercial fisheries
31 on the mouth of the Yukon in Y1, 2 and 3 has been the
32 mainstay for subsistence livelihood. In 1979 and 1980
33 after the Alaska Native Settlement Act when the Alaska
34 National Interests Lands Act went into place the
35 Secretary of Interior discussed with locals about the
36 commercial chinook salmon fishery on the mouth of the
37 Yukon because there was no -- it was maintained and it
38 was testified -- I don't have the -- I don't have all
39 the information other than in my head -- but the
40 Secretary of Interior commented that since all the
41 commercial fishermen in Y1, 2 and 3 were indigenous
42 people that should be -- that should rate as a
43 subsistence fishery. Because all of the people and,
44 you know, you can correct me, or one of the people can
45 correct me if they want but from June 1 to June 30 they
46 commercial fish for chinook salmon. They charge with
47 the canneries, not just one cannery there was Point
48 Adams Packing Company, there was Carlile Packing
49 Company, there was Yukon Delta Fish Marketing Coop,
50

0283

1 there was Bering Sea Fisheries that a subsistence user
2 would charge all winter long for fuel, for food, for
3 staples that they need and then in June when the
4 commercial fishery opened they would pay off their
5 debt, kind of like the trap -- trading industry back in
6 the late 1800s and early 1900s. But my proposal simply
7 is to stop all subsistence fishing for chinook salmon
8 if until and only until the Department can get a good
9 read on all the numbers that are returning to the
10 spawning grounds in Alaska and Canada and not provide
11 that after the fact, but provide that when they're done
12 with the subsistence counts in -- at the end of the
13 summer.

14
15 I do serve as an alternate panel member
16 on the U.S./Canada Panel and for years I've been asking
17 for that subsistence harvest data be set in a December
18 meeting and they said, no, they do not have it, so I
19 really would like support in this proposal.

20
21 I make my life -- subsistence
22 livelihood off the Yukon River fish, I did not fish for
23 the first time in my life for chinook salmon in 2001
24 and last summer. I could not go out there. I'd get
25 penalized for even putting in a four inch net in the
26 water at my fishcamp. But if there's any questions
27 from the Council I'd be more than happy to answer them
28 to the best of my ability. I don't have the paperwork
29 in front of me but I thank Ms. Rogers for providing me
30 with a copy of the proposal that I submitted. I have
31 another proposal for Area M but that will be discussed
32 at the Area M Board of Fisheries meeting.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council
35 members.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, Quyana,
38 John. Any discussion from the Council regarding
39 Proposal No -- what was it, Proposal No. 80 -- yeah,
40 regarding Proposal No. 80.

41
42 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

45
46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. So thank you
47 Mr. Chair. Through the Chair. Thank you John for
48 being able to be here at our meeting today. I had a
49 quick question in regards to the areas that you wanted
50

0284

1 to get a closure on, are you talking about above Y3 or
2 are you talking about the whole river?

3

4

5 MR. LAMONT: Through the Chair.
6 Alissa. Without pitting our people it would have to be
7 the whole river, but when I wrote this I was pretty
8 frustrated that in Y1, Y2 and Y3 we were always
9 restricted and they lift the restrictions in Y4, 5 and
10 6. So this was originally written -- I don't know if
11 it states in the proposal, I didn't go through it with
12 a real fine tooth comb recently, I submitted this
13 proposal about two years ago and it was to identify
14 areas above Y3 on the Yukon River main stem.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you, Alissa.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Further
discussion on this proposal, or entertaining a motion
to support and once there's a second we'll go ahead and
further discuss it.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Through the Chair. I'll go ahead and entertain the
motion to support Proposal 80 5 AAC 01237 subsistence
limits for chinook salmon on the Yukon River to
restrict subsistence king salmon harvest in the middle
river and upper Yukon River above Y3 in sections Y4,
Y5, Y6.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, motion has
been made, is there a second.

MR. PETER: Second, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded by
Phillip Peter. Further discussion on the motion.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
discussion on the motion.

MR. CLEVELAND: Myron.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

0285

1 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana Chair. Without
2 having the proposal in front of me I wish I guess we
3 knew more of like the biology side and why they opened
4 it in the first place up there, what was the reason why
5 they were -- the restrictions were lifted, does anyone
6 know that?

7
8 MS. MCDAVID: Deena, are you still on
9 the line with us, we had a question about if you could
10 speak to the lifting of restrictions in the upper
11 river, if that was the case?

12
13 Thanks.

14
15 MS. JALLEN: Hi, yeah, this is Deena
16 Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I
17 couldn't quite hear the question. I think it was
18 asking about when fishing restrictions are lifted in
19 the upper Yukon.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. So the Council's
22 currently discussion Board of Fish Proposal No. 80 that
23 was submitted by Mr. John Lamont and they were kind of
24 curious about some of the regulatory -- regulations and
25 how upper river versus lower river restrictions.

26
27 MS. CLEVELAND: Hi, can you.....

28
29 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, for those of
30 you.....

31
32 MS. CLEVELAND:hear me?

33
34 MS. JALLEN:that follow the --
35 can you hear me?

36
37 MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah, if you could not
38 hear my question before I was asking why the
39 restrictions were lifted in the upper river, was there
40 numbers to support the lifting of that restriction?

41
42 MS. JALLEN: Hi, yeah, this is Deena
43 Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
44 Yeah, so those of you that follow the YRDFA
45 teleconferences throughout the season know that we use
46 a variety of information in-season to manage the run as
47 it comes in. As the run is starting to come in we look
48 really closely at the lower Yukon test fishery and at
49 Pilot Station sonar information and that gives us a
50

0286

1 pretty good idea of the number of kings that are coming
2 in-river. We also collect genetic information from
3 those fish and then once they send in that data we get
4 an analysis about a week later estimating a percent of
5 Canadian origin fish so that data is usually a little
6 bit delayed. So we're using information from Pilot to
7 try to figure out the number of fish that are coming up
8 river. And we really look at run sizes from previous
9 years and management actions that were taken in
10 previous years to try to figure out, you know, is this
11 a year where the run is so low that it needs to be, you
12 know, totally closed like this year, or is it a year
13 like 2019 where the run size did look pretty large at
14 Pilot Station sonar that we did allow a fair amount of
15 subsistence harvest, we (indiscernible) meet ANS for
16 king salmon in 2019, as the run progresses up river, it
17 takes king salmon about a month to travel between Pilot
18 Station sonar and Eagle sonar, we start looking at
19 counts at Eagle sonar to figure out if enough kings are
20 going to be passing the Border into Canada and so some
21 years, you've probably heard the phrase Oops Management
22 where we maybe heave let fishing happen in the summer
23 and we're looking at the run that looks good but once
24 those counts start coming into Eagle it looks like
25 we're not going to meet the Border escapement goal into
26 Canada and so then we sometimes end up putting, you
27 know, pretty hard restrictions on upper river in
28 District 5 and sometimes they get, you know, Oops
29 Managed, and they get completely closed and that's
30 really unfortunate when that happens.

31
32 You know we do really want people to
33 get kind of even harvest opportunity throughout the
34 run.

35
36 But, yeah, those of you who are
37 following us, you know, all summer during YRDFA calls
38 we know that there's a lot of information, there's a
39 lot to take into account as this run is taking a month
40 to travel up river and so we do the best that we can
41 and we really do want everyone, you know, to get
42 harvest opportunity when there's a harvestable surplus
43 available. And so that's -- you know, when you got
44 questions in-season, you know, please ask us in-season
45 and, yeah, I'll leave that at that.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
48 questions.

49
50

0287

1 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.

6 Through the Chair. Piggybacking off of Jacqueline's
7 question of lifted restrictions and knowing that these
8 proposals come out or are created at least two to three
9 years ago, so what we're talking about is what was the
10 data information that you had received to lift the
11 restrictions when Y1, Y2 and Y3 were heavily restricted
12 at that time knowing that there was not even
13 opportunity for harvest -- for subsistence harvest to
14 be taking place in regards to those numbers that you
15 had received and in addition to that, learning from our
16 past mistakes as managers and as decisionmakers in
17 regards to subsistence, if there is going to be closure
18 in Y1, Y2 and Y3, I would like to see it consistently
19 closed in Y4, Y6 [sic], up past Eagle River [sic] with
20 the same restrictions regarding of what the data is
21 collected in Eagle.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, this is Deena Jallen
26 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, you
27 know, we really do try to look at the run as it comes
28 in. You know the last few years, especially with
29 uncertainty about the forecast we have closed the lower
30 Yukon early in the run while we get a better
31 assessment, or we start seeing some fish in to get an
32 idea of how big the run is. The other thing to keep in
33 mind is that, you know, the river is really different,
34 it's really dynamic as you go up river. In the lower
35 Yukon district you get every stock, every salmon that
36 goes by it goes through those areas and so sometimes
37 fishing periods are short because all the salmon are
38 going by, you know, you have a lot of fish going by per
39 hour. As you get further and further up river, salmon
40 have peeled off into their tributaries, they're going
41 to where they're going to spawn and so sometimes the
42 upper Yukon has what looks like more fishing time but
43 they don't necessarily see as many fish go by during
44 that open fishing time.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any further
47 discussion or comments.

48

49

50

0288

1 (No comments)

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Having fished on
5 the Yukon I'll just make this one comment, that, I know
6 that a lot of people complain about the location of
7 Pilot Station sonar as the site to monitor fish, salmon
8 that are going up the river, it's too far up river.
9 Many of the lower Yukon fishermen -- subsistence
10 fishermen also have stated that the fact that
11 Department's using the Pilot Station sonar and the test
12 fishery there as to gage the escapement of salmon
13 there's -- it causes loss of opportunity for the lower
14 Yukon, Y1, Y2 fishermen to fish for salmon and we've
15 seen that happen more often than not for quite a number
16 of years even before they started the restrictions and
17 closures.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So there's been suggestions by some of
the people on the lower Yukon that maybe you should
move that sonar somewhere below Mountain Village so
that there can be a better estimate and monitoring of
salmon that's going up the river.

So that's the comment that I've heard
before and I'm sharing that and I think that's the
reason why John put this proposal together.

Any more discussion of this Proposal
80.

31 (No comments)

33 MS. ROGERS: Question.

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Question's been
36 called. Roll call.

38 MS. MCDAVID: I'll restate the motion.
39 The motion is to support Board of Fisheries as -- 80,
40 No. 80 as written.

42 Henry Parks.

44 MR. PARKS: Abstain.

46 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

48 MR. PETER: Yes.

0289

1 MS. MCDAVID: Jackie Cleveland.

2

3 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: James Landlord.

10

11 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Rogers.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

18

19 MS. EVAN: Yes.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 7-0.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
28 proposals to discuss.

29

30 MR. LAMONT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

33

34 MR. LAMONT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
35 and Council.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, Quyana,
38 John. Okay, do we have any more proposals to discuss
39 at this time.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If not I've been
44 told that the avian flu person would like to make a
45 quick presentation so we'll give him the opportunity
46 now to do that. Avian flu is considered what they call
47 the bird flu.

48

49 Go ahead.

50

0290

1 MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Chair, for
2 allowing me to present this information in committee.

3
4 My name is Bryan Daniels and I'm the
5 Waterfowl Biologist here at Yukon Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuge here in Bethel. I apologize, this is
7 not in your large booklet, I believe Brooke is passing
8 them out now. And then for those in the audience
9 there's copies in the back.

10
11 Given this Council normally does not
12 discuss migratory bird issues I was unsure of
13 everyone's background and knowledge on Avian bird flu
14 so I'm going to provide more background in this
15 presentation than like the other presenters, but I'll
16 go as quick as possible given the time. I know
17 everyone wants to go home this evening if they can.

18
19 So this presentation is modified from a
20 couple presentations given by Angel Matz and Eric
21 Taylor as well as myself, I included Yukon Delta
22 specific information and data that I have collected
23 this year on Avian influenza. But I do have to say
24 that the Avian influenza response in Alaska was
25 spearheaded by Eric Taylor and Bob Gerlach with the
26 State Veterinary Office.

27
28 Next slide please.

29
30 So just a quick outline. I'm going to
31 go over what highly pathogenic Avian influenza is, I'm
32 going to refer to it as HPAI. I'm going to provide a
33 little bit of history of HPAI, who tracked it this
34 year, or the past couple years and then I'm going to
35 give some specifics to Yukon Delta, the risks to humans
36 and subsistence users and then the expectations of HPAI
37 spread for fall and winter.

38
39 Next slide please.

40
41 So this has a lot of words on it but,
42 in general, Avian influenza is caused by a virus,
43 similar to the flu with us, but it's a virus that
44 infects poultry, chickens, domestic ducks and wild
45 birds, especially waterfowl. The pathogenicity is
46 really determined by the ability to produce a disease
47 in domestic chickens so that's how they know how
48 pathogenetic it is, is how easily it's passed in
49 between chickens. And then information on how viruses
50

0291

1 are classified. It's not real important for this
2 topic, for this presentation, but just know that the low
3 pathogenic strains occur naturally in wild birds and
4 when we're sampling birds we find a lot of them but
5 they don't cause death or illness. Highly pathogenic
6 are extremely infectious so they transfer between birds
7 very readily, very easily, and are often fatal to
8 chickens and therefore also to other birds. And then
9 they're also classified based on where they're from,
10 they're either a European strain or a North American
11 strain. And the current outbreak is a Eurasian strain
12 of highly pathogenic Avian influenza and it's an H5N1
13 is the combination.

14

15 Next slide please.

16

17 So a little bit of history.

18

19 I am not -- first off I am not an Avian
20 influenza expert. The outbreak this year has provided
21 or allowed me the opportunity to learn more about it
22 and kind of dive head first trying to become more
23 knowledgeable on Avian influenza.

24

25 So the current outbreak began in 2020
26 and that was over in Europe and then it slowly spread
27 across Europe and then indicated on the Eastern side
28 and then down in the Lower 48, across the Lower 48 to
29 the West and then as birds migrated back up here from
30 the Pacific and Central Flyways they then -- Avian
31 influenza was found in Alaska. The first confirmed
32 case was in late April 2022 and that was in chickens
33 and bald Eagles. And so Fish and Wildlife Service has
34 worked with both State -- or State, Federal and tribal
35 InterAgency groups to address Avian influenza in Alaska
36 by coordinating carcass collections and this was done
37 in order to track the spread of Avian influenza
38 geographically, which species are affected because
39 there is very few species known to be infected of
40 waterfowl species in which we were kind of spearheading
41 the sampling of that, and then also to be able to
42 provide information to subsistence hunters.

43

44 Next slide please.

45

46 So this is the main partners, this
47 isn't all of them but you can see who worked on the
48 collaboration. So the Alaska Native Tribal Health
49 Consortium played a big role and then you can see the

50

0292

1 different Federal partners and the State partners and
2 the Department of Health really played a big role in
3 this and the Federal Veterinarian sample -- or provided
4 the analysis of most of the samples sent in.

5

6 Next slide please.

7

8 So tracking Avian influenza the Fish
9 and Wildlife created a phone line for people to call
10 and that's the hotline up there, it's still active.
11 Most of our birds have migrated out but there are still
12 some passerines, so if you find sick and dead birds you
13 can still call in or call me at my office and we can
14 potentially collect them and send them in to get
15 tested. U.S. Fish and Wildlife worked with others to
16 collect all the birds and carcasses for the testing and
17 really the collection depended on the number of birds,
18 the conditions, so if it was fresh or not and
19 logistics, it is much easier for like myself as an
20 agency personnel to send in a bird to another agency
21 personnel and have it paid for and figured out a whole
22 lot easier, coordination, and so a lot of it went
23 through me, here, on the Yukon Delta, and then also the
24 State Veterinarian took the samples and posted the
25 confirmed cases on that website there.

26

27 Next slide please.

28

29 So species affected as of October 4th.
30 You can see there's a lot of species affected, that
31 does not mean that's a total number of birds affected,
32 that's just the number of species known to be affected.
33 And so there was a lot of reports of bald Eagles that
34 did die along the Kenai Peninsula, Mat-Su Valley that
35 were sick and called in and also Northern Harriers and
36 Snowy Owls were affected, and then for water birds, a
37 lot of goose species and then some shorebirds as well.
38 Ravens were affected pretty heavily. And then the
39 gulls, terns and yeagers, the -- the birds that nest
40 communally, so they like to nest in colonies, they nest
41 close together in high numbers were affected more, so
42 the terns, the gulls, the black brant, they all nest in
43 colonies and so they were affected in higher numbers,
44 and then other species that may use the same lakes as
45 them in high numbers were also affected from what I saw
46 here on the Yukon Delta. And then shorebirds and
47 passerines, dunlins and tree swallows, and this list is
48 not extensive, it's just more of a sampling bias of
49 what people find, right, so there's probably more --
50

0293

1 there's a lot of room out there where people don't find
2 birds, or they were eaten by predators before they were
3 found. We did have domestic poultry and ducks, and
4 then there have been two red foxes in Alaska that
5 tested positive.

6

7

Next slide please.

8

9

10 So confirmed here on the Yukon Delta, I
11 sent a lot of birds in to Alaska [sic], so you can see
12 there on the list, black brant, glaucous gulls,
13 shortbill gulls, ravens, sandhill cranes, chickens and
14 then we also had live birds during some sampling of one
15 mallard and four pintail and those were live birds that
16 we had sampled that were asymptomatic and so we didn't
17 realize they were. So it was -- we did find a lot of
18 dead birds on the landscape that we either sent in
19 whole birds or we swabbed their mouth and their
20 (indiscernible) in order to test for them -- test for
21 Avian influenza and sent in the swabs which made it a
22 lot cheaper and easier to collect more samples than
23 sending in more birds.

23

24

Next slide.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

We did also sample live birds in order
to get a better idea of the spread and potential
immunities that birds may have to Avian influenza. And
so we already had all these birds in-hand during my
research and so we also collected blood and oral
(indiscernible) swabs, so the oral (indiscernible)
swabs will tell us if the birds have Avian influenza at
the time we're handling them. The blood collection
will tell us if they have immunities so they previously
had Avian influenza of some strain that then provides
an immunity for this strain. And so we collected blood
from 50 emperor geese, 60 black brant, 63 cackling
geese, and 6 spectacled eiders. All of these swabs
have been analyzed already and surprisingly not a
single one had Avian influenza when we handled the bird
and given all those species had positive cases of dead
birds that we had found it was a little bit surprising
that none had positive cases. The blood has not yet
been analyzed, they're working on it, I should have the
results by December hopefully. And then we did swab
225 ducks as well and there were 5 that were
asymptomatic that had positive infections.

Next slide please.

0294

1 And so I also provided a lot of
2 outreach this year because there was a lot of questions
3 from users and so we put out some FaceBook posts. If
4 you don't follow our FaceBook page, I recommend it. I
5 went on KYUK four times during the summer to discuss
6 Avian influenza. I posted on the local environmental
7 observer network. I was sending email updates to
8 Jennifer Hooper at AVCP. And then I also presented
9 much of this information at the Waterfowl Conservation
10 Committee meeting. And if you guys are interested in
11 more waterfowl management and research I recommend you
12 sit in and attend those meetings.

13

14 Next slide please.

15

16 So the big thing is what is the risk to
17 humans, that's more what we worry about when we talk
18 about this stuff. We worry about the populations of
19 birds but also being subsistence users we worry that
20 they're a big subsistence resource. And so thankfully
21 this outbreak, the risks are considered low to humans
22 and that doesn't come from Fish and Wildlife, that
23 actually comes from the CDC. There have been two
24 reported cases in the world, one in the U.S., both had
25 mild symptoms, both people actually worked at chicken
26 farms so they're in hen houses with infected chickens
27 in close quarters and that's who got it, it was not
28 people out in the communities and what not. So the
29 likelihood of subsistence users getting it would be
30 even lower.

31

32 Next slide please.

33

34 So the risk to humans and hunters, just
35 like all flu viruses they can be killed with heat. So
36 there was advice that was created for subsistence users
37 with the tribal and State health agencies, which is
38 very similar to USDA advice for hunters. The main
39 takeaway is to make sure that you cook the game and the
40 eggs thoroughly to an internal temperature of 165
41 because that's what kills the virus for sure and also
42 don't harvest game that appears sick or found dead. We
43 did get reports of birds swimming in circles with their
44 heads going crazy. It's a neurological disorder and
45 once it gets into their neurological system it's 100
46 percent mortality rate and so those birds we know had
47 it so it's important that people do not harvest those
48 birds. And then we -- a lot of our outreach was
49 similar to how you'd handle Covid, right, so in the

50

0295

1 very beginning wear gloves, protect yourself, don't eat
2 or smoke when you're handling the game, just to limit
3 the transfer to your mouth or eyes and then keep it
4 away from yourself and make sure you cook it.

5

6

Next slide.

7

8

9 Risk to other animals. There have been
10 a lot of other species that have been -- that have
11 contracted this surprisingly. A lot of them have been
12 scavengers. And the current outbreak has been detected
13 in two red foxes in Alaska. I believe they've both
14 been on the Aleutian Chain. Then in North America,
15 raccoons, skunks, possums, bobcats, coyotes, and then
16 harbor seals on the East Coast, grey seals and mink.
17 And, once, again, that could just be an availability
18 bias and may occur in other species, we just haven't
19 found any and sampled those species. It has not been
20 detected in any dogs in North America, but dogs that
21 eat infected carcasses may be at risk just like foxes
22 and other scavengers. It has not been detected in
23 marine mammals in Alaska, although Avian flu viruses
24 can be found in marine mammals and this one was
25 detected in seals in Maine. And so the National Marine
26 Fisheries Service has tested for it and there archiving
27 the samples and they're monitoring -- I don't think the
28 samples have been run yet.

28

29

Next slide.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So the expectations for fall and
winter, we really don't know. There's a lot of
variables that we can't control. But we do know that
this strain of Avian flu likely won't go away and
that's based on multiple migration cycles in Europe,
it's been two years and it's still around. And so we
figure that it's still going to be around here for at
least another year to two years. And then as a they
migrate south, which they're doing now, they stage in
coastal lagoons and estuaries and winter on the Alaska
Peninsula which may result in additional mortality
because they are coming together in higher densities
and then the drought in California will also
concentrate the winter birds in remaining wetlands
which may result in additional mortality. But what we
hope is that birds that have survived an infection may
be immune so additional mortality might not occur if a
lot have immunities, which is why we collected the
blood to see how many birds in our samples had the

0296

1 immunities.

2

3

Next page please.

4

5

6 So how long does Avian influenza
7 survive in the environment. So for people it can be
8 removed from clothing and surfaces by detergents and
9 disinfectants and heating and drying will inactivate
10 them, so basic cleaning of surfaces, your clothes,
11 things like that will inactivate the flu. However, the
12 virus do persist in soil, feces, and pond water for
13 varying amounts of time especially in cool wet
14 conditions, which we live in cool and wet conditions
15 out here and so it can persist for many years and other
16 studies have shown that it can last in the water for
17 two to three years in high amounts. So if you're
18 looking for one small benefit of Typhoon Merbok on the
19 Coast it definitely diluted all the AI on the Coast and
20 it doesn't survive very well in saltwater so in the
21 high density nesting areas on the Coast it's all
22 diluted now so it's likely not in the environment there
23 so that's one tiny benefit if you want to look for one.

23

24

Next.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So here's just some resources to learn
more or get more information about Avian influenza.
And so there's a handful of pages. There's the Alaska
-- I'm not going to go in order on there, but there's
an Avian influenza page, the DHSS page, the third one
down, then there's also the fifth one down, the AFIS
(ph), National APAI case counts in wild birds, that's
for the whole North America but if you type in Alaska
it will come up with just all the Alaska birds if
that's what you're interested in.

Next.

And then, once, again, just if you find
dead birds or sick birds you can call in on the hotline
or go on to the email and report them and then I put my
information on that slide in case you have any
questions or want to talk anymore about Avian influenza
I'd be happy to.

So thank you for your time.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you, Bryan.
They said you were going to leave at 4:30 so I'll give

0297

1 you an opportunity to leave.

2

3 MR. DANIELS: Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: One question.

6

7 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana Chair. I was
8 wondering of the 163 birds found dead in Alaska, is
9 that right, they were found dead, how many of those
10 were from this area, from the YKDelta, if you happen to
11 know? Thanks.

12

13 MR. DANIELS: So I think of -- on that
14 list those are -- those are the count birds that we
15 actually sent in for testing, those don't actually
16 count the birds that we found dead, yes, that total --
17 that's actually in August so that's an older number,
18 but just in one of our study areas we found over 100
19 individual dead birds, but it seemed to be like there
20 was a core area where Avian influenza hit harder and
21 then as we moved further north on the Yukon Delta Coast
22 it became less apparent. There were still dead birds
23 but there were less intense and so I know -- I have a
24 map -- I'm trying to write kind of a storyline of what
25 happened on the Yukon Delta for Avian influenza in
26 Western Alaska and it seems like around Nelson Island
27 was the most intense and then as you moved further
28 north it was less and so that does not include every
29 single bird that was found dead it's just what was sent
30 in and tested.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more

33 questions.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: One more.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Make it short.

38

39 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Bryan, for your
40 presentation. I was wondering if this will affect
41 small birds like -- like our sparrows and our ones that
42 stay around year-round because we -- there were a
43 couple of birds that were dead over by the house and we
44 didn't know our kids picked them up and I was like
45 freaking out so does it affect the really small ones
46 too?

47

48 MR. DANIELS: I cannot say with any
49 confidence. Once, again, that's more availability

50

0298

1 bias, right, so the birds are really small, they're
2 harder to find, people don't detect them as much and
3 then people assume they ran into a window or something
4 else happened and they don't send them in or call and
5 get tested and so unless they get tested we can't say
6 but as of this point, in Alaska, there have been no
7 passerines, so small birds, chickadees, robins,
8 sparrows that have tested positive. I know a couple
9 tree swallows have, so that's one thing but I don't
10 know of how many others have been tested, personally.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Was there someone
13 online with a question.

14

15 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
16 Stanislaus Sheppard.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Stan.

19

20 MR. SHEPPARD: Quyana, through the
21 Chair. Bryan, with all this Avian influenza with the
22 other birds getting infected and some of the animals,
23 does the Department of Health ever document any humans
24 getting this flu? That's my question. Quyana.

25

26 MR. DANIELS: Thank you. Through the
27 Chair. Yes, there have been two people that have been
28 documented. One in the United States, one in Europe.
29 Both of which work in chicken farms in high numbered --
30 or high density bird areas that had tested positive but
31 there have been no positive cases in humans outside of
32 those two.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any
35 more questions.

36

37 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, very much.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
40 questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If not we'll go
45 into the next agenda item and I'd like to call upon
46 Donlin Creek to make a presentation. But before they
47 come on I have to make a disclosure, I'm a Calista
48 Corporation Board of Director member and Donlin is
49 working closely with Calista, so just to let everyone
50

0299

1 know.

2

3

MR. FERNANDEZ: Hi. For the record my name is Enric Fernandez and I am the Permitting and Environmental Manager for Donlin Gold and sitting next to me.

7

8

MS. WILMARTH: Good afternoon. My name is Rebecca Wilmarth, Community Relations Supervisor for Donlin Gold. Thank you.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

R-K.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Hi. For the record my name is Enric Fernandez and I am the Permitting and Environmental Manager for Donlin Gold and sitting next to me.

MS. WILMARTH: Good afternoon. My name is Rebecca Wilmarth, Community Relations Supervisor for Donlin Gold. Thank you.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And also just know that on the phone we also have our biologist Marguerite (Indiscernible) with outreach in case there are some questions.

MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, before you folks get started I just wanted to point out to everyone there is some information in the meeting book on Page 238 that our presenters provided and there's also a copy of the presentation on the back table.

Thank you.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. So we were invited here today to speak about some topics of importance to this Council.

Next slide please.

Next slide please.

MS. MCDAVID: My computer's froze so.

REPORTER: What was your name?

MR. FERNANDEZ: E-N-R-I-C.

REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. FERNANDEZ: The pressure is on.

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah.

(Pause)

REPORTER: Rebecca is it Wilmark, M-A-

0300

1 MS. WILMARTH: T-H at the end, W-I-L-M-
2 A-R-T-H.

3
4 REPORTER: Thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I do believe the
7 Council members have a presentation in front of them,
8 we can.....

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Do you have one?

11
12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah. We can go
13 ahead and start.

14
15 MR. FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. So
16 I'll just use the numbers on the slides.

17
18 So, yeah, we were invited here today to
19 speak about some topics of importance to this Council.
20 I'm looking at Slide No. 2.

21
22 Specifically Donlin Gold's barging
23 plans and potential impacts, also to provide a summary
24 of rainbow smelt studies completed by Donlin Gold and
25 to introduce the Donlin Gold Advisory and Technical
26 Review and Oversight Committee, or DATROC. These are
27 large topics that deserve an in-depth discussion and
28 given that we only have 15 minutes today we will only
29 be able to present information at the high level but I
30 want to ensure this Council that we would love the
31 opportunity to continue the conversation in the future
32 in more detail and with more time.

33
34 Donlin is conducting multi-year studies
35 to increase our knowledge of the river system. And by
36 doing so we can make informed decisions about how to
37 minimize potential impacts from our barging operations
38 with input from the stakeholders.

39
40 Slide No. 3.

41
42 Donlin Gold has proposed development of
43 an open pit gold mine approximately 10 miles north of
44 the village of Crooked Creek. The mine is located on
45 Alaska Native Corporation lands owned by Calista
46 Corporation and the Kuskokwim Corporation to develop
47 the project in a safe and environmental manner
48 including minimizing risk to the Kuskokwim River and
49 subsistence activities. And all this while providing
50

0301

1 jobs to Calista, incorporation, shareholders and their
2 families and create economic opportunities for the YK
3 region. Donlin Gold has not started construction or
4 barging operations. Donlin Gold's owner companies is
5 Nova Gold and Barrick Gold have not decided on whether
6 the project will be constructed or not. At the
7 present, project activities are focused on advancing
8 permitting, drilling, project design optimization,
9 community outreach, work force development and
10 continuing environmental studies.

11

12 Slide 4.

13

14 The project includes three components.
15 First the mine site. Second, a pipeline from Cook
16 Inlet to the mine site to transport natural gas that
17 will be used to generate electricity to power the mine.
18 The pipeline will be buried and roadless. And, third,
19 a transportation system to bring diesel fuel and
20 supplies to the mine site including the barging.

21

22 So let's start with the barging.

23

24 The cargo for the project will be
25 shipped from Pacific Northwest ports via ocean barges
26 towed by tugs to Bethel, cargo would be offloaded at
27 Bethel and loaded into river barges where barges would
28 then take supplies from Bethel to a new port up river
29 near Crooked Creek that will be named Jungjuk Port.
30 Supplies would then be offloaded at the Jungjuk Port
31 and trucked a 30 mile road to the mine site. And then,
32 of course, the reverse process for goods leaving the
33 mine site.

34

35 Next slide.

36

37 Barging plans are sized to match the
38 activity and needs of the project. During construction
39 of the project, which is expected to last approximately
40 four years there would be 30 barges per season arriving
41 to Bethel from ports in the Pacific Northwest, then we
42 would need 69 river barge trips from Bethel to Jungjuk
43 Port to transport all goods. I should note that during
44 the first two years of construction there would also be
45 a need for 20 river barges trips per year to Red Devil,
46 which is just above Stony River to support construction
47 of the natural gas pipeline. After construction is
48 complete we would move into the mine operation phase,
49 which is expected to last approximately 27 years. Our
50

0302

1 plans during operations account for 26 ocean barges
2 arriving to Bethel from Pacific Northwest ports and 122
3 river barge trips up river to Jungjuk Port per season
4 annually. Each barge roundtrip is expected to take
5 about 81 hours. So if a person were to stand 24 hours
6 on the bank of the river that person would see three
7 barges per day passing, one up, two down, or two up,
8 one down, some combination of that.

9

10 Next slide please.

11

12 The river barge fleet includes four
13 sets or tugs and barge sets, two for general cargo and
14 two for diesel fuel transport. Each cargo barge
15 includes on pusher tug and four rear barges, like the
16 one shown in this illustration. The fuel barges will
17 also include one pusher tug and four doublehull barge
18 -- doublehull river barges. The barges would be
19 designed as shallow draft barges and operate 24 hours
20 per day, seven days per week during the barging season
21 which is normally May through September.

22

23 The potential impacts from barging to
24 aquatic life and subsistence activities in the
25 Kuskokwim River was considered through the planning of
26 the project and the environmental analysis conducted by
27 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One of the things
28 that Donlin did to minimize barging effects was to
29 include in the project design the natural gas pipeline
30 which greatly reduced the number of barges in the river
31 that were for transfer of fuel. The environmental
32 analysis looked at issues like spill, erosion, effects
33 to fish and potential fish stranding, impacts to
34 rainbow smelt spawning habitat or potential conflicts
35 with subsistence activities in the river. This is not
36 a comprehensive list but show the key concerns
37 analyzed. Generally after careful evaluation and
38 consideration of environmental controls and operational
39 plans, these were considered to have little effect.
40 Rainbow smelt and barging conflict are two of the
41 greatest concerns that we hear from communities and I'm
42 going to talk more about it here.

43

44 For rainbow smelt which generally
45 spawns near Upper Kalskag, the concern is barges could
46 disturb the sediment where they spawn. The EIS
47 determined that this would be depth of less than 10
48 feet or about depending on the substrate whether it's
49 fine sediment or gravel. Studies show us that the

50

0303

1 smelt only spawn near Upper Kalskag and then down from
2 there and most places in the channel not likely to be
3 affected by the barge operations. Donlin is committed
4 to continue studying the rainbow smelt and monitoring
5 effects after operations would start.

6
7 And with regards to potential
8 interruptions to subsistence, we talked to barge
9 operators that are currently working in the river and
10 also operators from other rivers and we also talked to
11 people that usually are involved in subsistence and
12 generally agreed that when there are issues that occur,
13 they are due to a lack of communication. With that
14 knowledge we worked with the communities and barge
15 operators and developed a barge communication plan.

16
17 Next slide.

18
19 Actually that's a good one there.

20
21 So let's start talking about the
22 rainbow smelt. Donlin is continuing to learn about the
23 rainbow smelt to increase the understanding of this
24 species lifecycle in the river including work --
25 including when they spawn, where do they spawn and how.
26 We're also looking at potential effects of barging on
27 rainbow smelt. The Corps of Engineers completed a
28 thorough review but we are continuing to work with more
29 refined work. It's important to continue to evaluate
30 potential ways to minimize effects to the rainbow
31 smelt.

32
33 Next I will show a summary of the work
34 completed so far to understand the life history of the
35 rainbow smelt, and also other studies that we have
36 started to -- that we're also working to understand the
37 navigation of the river and also to continue to
38 evaluate the effects on the rainbow smelt.

39
40 Next slide.

41
42 So this map shows the general location
43 of the rainbow smelt spawning, you can see Upper
44 Kalskag and this includes records between 2014 and 2020
45 and you can see just from a little bit above Upper
46 Kalskag to around, you know, 27 miles below.

47
48 Next slide.

49
50

0304

1 We started the rainbow smelt studies to
2 support the environmental impact study. At the time
3 there was very little known about the rainbow smelt.
4 We gathered all the traditional knowledge information
5 that we could from folks and started working on the
6 fish. We studied the timing, place of spawning, we now
7 have seven years of data. In 2014 and 2015 we studied
8 the type of habitat where they like to spawn. Then we
9 started coming up with more questions like, you know,
10 for example, how old are the fish, which could be
11 useful for monitoring in the future. And last, but not
12 least, last year we did the most ambitious work yet and
13 conducted a study to determine when the rainbow smelt
14 hatch and how the larvae completes their out-migration
15 to the Bay.

16
17 So these are some of the major
18 conclusions.

19
20 Spawning migration occurs mid- to late-
21 May and spawn the last week of May. They spawn in a 27
22 mile range from the Bluffs up stream of Bogus Creek to
23 just up stream of Upper Kalskag. They like to spawn on
24 the sides of the main navigational channel between
25 eight and 24 feet depth. The eggs incubate for
26 approximately two to three weeks before hatching and
27 the bulk of the larvae out-migrate down the Kuskokwim
28 over a period of four days, though low densities may
29 continue to hatch and be found in the river over the
30 following two weeks. Most of the spawning adults,
31 adult fish are three years old and I'll let you know
32 that the larvae report is still in draft mode and we'll
33 be happy to share that with you when it's complete.

34
35 Next slide.

36
37 There are other studies in the river
38 that we continue to work on, for example, this year we
39 resurveyed the narrow points in the river that were
40 originally surveyed in 2010. We want to know how the
41 river is changing at those points. This is something
42 that it's important for the safe passage of the barges
43 and also to prevent stranding. We're also doing a
44 bathymetric survey -- well, we just finished it -- we
45 also did a bathymetric survey of the rainbow smelt
46 habitat which we will use to model the propeller and
47 vessel effects on the majority of the habitat so if we
48 can see if there is other ways that we can minimize
49 potential effects of barging to the rainbow smelt.

50

0305

1 Next slide.

2

3

4 So we have a barge communication plan
5 to inform regular users of our activities. This plan
6 is not final. It was prepared with the input of
7 residents and barge operators and will be updated ahead
8 of the start of barging. People will be able to know
9 when the barges will go by. There will be
10 informational meetings before and after the barging
11 season. People will be able to look at the schedules
12 via multiple ways, internet postings, phone apps.
13 Subsistence fishers will also be able to communicate
14 with the barges, via VHS, cell phone, et cetera. And
15 there will be a process to resolve issues if those
16 occur. There will be designated people that will be
17 able to receive concerns and work to resolve the issues
18 and there will also be a way to elevate those issues if
19 they don't get resolved.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

Rebecca.

MS. WILMARTH: Next slide. All right,
thank you Enric. You all requested some information on
the Subsistence Community Advisory Committee. The SCAC
is one of Donlin's Advisory Technical Review and
Oversight Committee. We are forming a variety of
committees the first of which will be the subsistence
committee. As Enric mentioned in the beginning, Donlin
Gold is located on Calista and TKC lands and in those
agreements with the land owners there's a requirement
to form the DATROC. It includes members of Calista,
TKC and Donlin Gold and then below the DATROC there are
these various subcommittees and we are actively looking
for members to join the subsistence committee. The
purpose is to -- they function a lot like this Council
here, you all meet and make recommendations to the
Federal Subsistence Board or Fish and Game's Advisory
Committees, this will be much of the same thing, folks
from the public have an opportunity to speak and share
concerns and those all get elevated to the project
owners and the land owners. And so we encourage anyone
who is interested and who wants to have a voice during
the project operation to apply. There will be
additional committees following the subsistence
committee but we know that subsistence is a big
priority.

So if you go to the next slide there's
some information on how to apply. There's a website

0306

1 there, it's a very simple application process.

2

3 MR. FERNANDEZ: And the barging is
4 something that will be covered under the subsistence
5 advisory committee.

6

7 MS. WILMARTH: Next slide.

8

9 MR. FERNANDEZ: I think that's it.

10

11 MS. WILMARTH: That's it.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Quyana for
14 the presentation. Any questions from the Council
15 members.

16

17 Jackie.

18

19 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. Through the
20 Chair. In the beginning did one of you mention that
21 you're focusing on the erosion as well?

22

23 MR. FERNANDEZ: Yes, that was something
24 that was looked into. We're looking at the erosion.
25 Part of the -- part of the work that we'll actually be
26 doing with -- once we get the bathymetric data
27 processed for the river that we collected this summer,
28 we're going to be using software that was developed for
29 the Corps of Engineers, you can actually get a, you
30 know, a model, a vessel passing by and see the -- kind
31 of the wave effect. And then we also have a monitoring
32 station that we'll put in Kalskag, Upper Kalskag,
33 there.

34

35 MS. CLEVELAND: Thanks.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
38 questions from Council members.

39

40 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

49

50

0307

1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Turn off your mic
4 over there. I was wondering why his voice that way.
5 Go ahead, Henry.

6

7 MR. PARKS: Yeah, Quyana. I have a
8 question. You said you guys will have a subsistence
9 committee members, how many members will that be, how
10 many committee members?

11

12 MS. WILMARTH: I believe it's 12. 12
13 -- I believe it's 12 person, so there's different
14 region -- so the TKC villages will have a seat, the
15 lower river will have a seat, the upper river will have
16 a seat so there are different regions for which you can
17 qualify for. Does that answer your question.

18

19 MR. FERNANDEZ: The minimum is 8, the
20 maximum is 12.

21

22 MR. PARKS: Okay.

23

24 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

29

30 INTERPRETER: he's going to speak in
31 Yup'ik so put your headsets on.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: If you guys want to put
34 on your headsets, please.

35

36 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, go ahead.

39

40 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: Our Kuskokwim River, it's
43 my -- that's where I was born and became aware living
44 on the river ever since I was a baby, a boy. And I
45 know the fish that are swimming up river to other
46 rivers. I know of the rivers. And I've gone into all
47 the rivers when I was a young child, a young man. And
48 also -- and I know where they spawn.

49

50

0308

1 The Kuskokwim River is different now.

2

3

4 Long time ago it used to be full and
5 the current was strong, it was like one river. That's
6 how I became it was one river and it had strong
7 current. And the high waters were to receive Akiachak,
8 Kwethluk, Akiak, Tuluksak, they would have water come
9 up to the villages, high water.

9

10 And also its main river nowadays in our
11 time, it is changed. From Akiak to -- up to Kwethluk,
12 Bogus Creek, Bogus Creek. Since from there it has
13 changed, the old Kuskokwim up to (In Yup'ik) above
14 Kuskokwim, the river that goes through to Yukon, it has
15 a Yup'ik name (In Yup'ik) and from there it reaches
16 Whitefish Lake below Kalskag, the lake below Kalskag
17 and there are giant whitefish, that's where we get
18 whitefish and the smaller whitefish. People from my
19 village still go get whitefish from that Whitefish
20 Lake, the big whitefish. And from there on, when you
21 go further up there's -- and then after you pass the
22 Whitefish Lake you go on to a clear river, and then
23 below Brown Slough there's two rivers, old rivers,
24 those two are -- we need to be careful around them,
25 there's danger -- it's a dangerous area because if you
26 enter it the wrong -- if you don't enter it through the
27 main river when you -- when you go back you will reach
28 shallow water and get stuck. And from there on you go
29 into another river that has strong current and you
30 reach Crooked Creek and it's a good river. And below
31 Amakaski (ph), it's around Chuathbaluk, they call it
32 Amakaski (ph) and when you go further up you'll get to
33 Napaimute right across Napaimute there's a river called
34 (In Yup'ik), these rivers have Yup'ik names, (In
35 Yup'ik) is there.

36

37

38 I know these things, that's why because
39 for the concerns of the rivers I know where the fish
40 swims up river. I've gone to Holitna and HoHolitna.
41 When I went up Holitna River I reached a lake and there
42 was like a -- like weir made out of wire at the end of
43 Holitna and there was so many fish. The fish that are
44 getting ready to go spawn and the coho fish and when
45 the biologist came, when they opened the gate -- the
46 gate I went to have coffee with them.

46

47

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Phillip.

48

49

MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

50

0309

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Yes, I have a question.

6 If the barges keep going up river, when will the barges
7 start heading up river and going up non-stop when this
8 -- when this becomes -- when this passes through, how
9 many times are they going to go up river, up and down
10 the river with a full barge, heavy barge. You said
11 when you -- when you go very fast -- when you go full
12 forth with a barge it makes giant waves, maybe three or
13 four feet. When we go after a barge we go through the
14 waves, how fast are the barges going to go?

15

16 This is it for now because I am afraid
17 -- afraid for our fish and for the smelts because --
18 because in May we fish for the smelts. My wife hangs
19 the smelts to this day.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: (In Yup'ik)

22

23 MR. PETER: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: I want to ask this
26 because you said you would go 24 hours seven days a
27 week that you're going to keep going back and forth.

28

29 My question.

30

31 Are you going to go back and forth 24/7
32 or is it something different?

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Can you answer
35 his question?

36

37 MR. FERNANDEZ: So your words are
38 spoken from the heart and they speak of a lot of
39 wisdom, we'll make sure that they're heard by Calista
40 and TKC and the owners too. To answer your question
41 about the barges, they will be going 24/7 in operation.
42 Now there is -- there are times if the river is -- when
43 it reaches to a certain flow that the barges will not
44 be navigating, okay, they will stop barging, I think it
45 was 36,000 cfs, it could be (indiscernible) measured in
46 the Crooked Creek USGS station, okay, so that is one of
47 the lower boundaries that we have right now as long as
48 we get more flow beyond that we will be barging.

49

50

0310

1 Did that answer your question, sir.

2

3 MR. PETER: Yeah.

4

5 INTERPRETER: That's my question about
6 them going back and forth. Oh, and how fast are you
7 going to be going with the barge because earlier he
8 said when you go full speed you make big waves.

9

10 MR. FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I can't tell you
11 exactly the speed. I know the barges will be operating
12 very slow and moving very slow up the river that's why
13 it takes 81 hours to go from Bethel to Jungjuk so I --
14 I can't remember exactly the speed but I can get back
15 to you on that.

16

17 MR. PETER: Yeah, Quyana.

18

19 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

20

21 MR. FERNANDEZ: Quyana.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Jackie, did you
24 have a question.

25

26 MS. CLEVELAND: No,

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any more
29 questions from the Council members.

30

31 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. ROGERS: I have comments that I
36 would like to make. Thank you for your presentation.
37 Thank you for being here. It has literally has taken a
38 very long time for you to finally meet so I really
39 appreciate you guys being here in person because I've
40 been fighting for you guys to come to these meetings
41 and be here to hear us out especially when it came to
42 the times of -- when you guys were asking for what is
43 very important for subsistence users and users out here
44 in the region and we weren't being heard. We wrote
45 letters. We talked to the Federal Subsistence Board to
46 advocate on our behalf. We sent in on the EIS. We sent
47 in information in regards to your deadlines and we
48 still haven't heard anything. So I really appreciate
49 you guys being here in person because it really means a
50

0311

1 lot to finally put a face to what's been asking so much
2 from us.

3

4

5 With that being said, I don't believe
6 that barging and rainbow smelt is the only
7 representation of our concerns because we have a lot of
8 concerns. We have been advocating for our people, for
9 their rights to the land, the water, the air when the
10 mine was just a whisper in someone's ear and someone
11 decided to whisper into someone else's ear and say,
12 hey, by the way a mine is coming, you better prepare.
13 There is a lot of missing details in the information
14 you have given us even though it is a very
15 comprehensive one, we still don't -- we still have more
16 concerns outside of barging and rainbow smelt.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

There is a -- and I don't feel that our
people, our concerns, our worry, our fear for our
children has been heard.

In the NEPA process and the EIS
actually was misused against our people. The people
have advocated for our region and they also didn't want
Donlin Gold to continue the development of the mine.
As the people had advocated many times in our meetings
that they rely on subsistence to survive and this is
their homestead, this is where they've decided to
reside, in the communities that they chose as their
ancestors did for millennia.

Our natural resources is supported by
the ecological aspects and sensitivity of the renewable
sources. We are a subsistence economy and therefore
are directly linking our people to the land and water.
They have to go subsistence gathering to sustain their
lives. As I remind again that we are the poorest and
the largest here and we don't have any other economy to
sustain or (indiscernible) these people. And not only
is that, we have to go subsisting, gathering to sustain
our lives because look at us right now, we have no
caribou, we have no fish, families are starving, people
are hurting, we're relying on other resources that may
not be able to sustain the type of, and/or amount of
subsistence that we need to survive, we see family
struggling with alcohol and drugs, we see families now
that are breaking apart because it's hard for men to
see their families suffer so they take it out on
themselves and they become destructive.

0312

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: As Chair, if you
2 have a question regarding what they.....

3
4 MS. ROGERS: I said it was a comment.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No, if you have a
7 question, I'd prefer to have that as a question because
8 I want to get out of here before 6:00 o'clock. I don't
9 want long speeches, I want you to have a question
10 that's to the point.....

11
12 MS. ROGERS: Okay, I'll get to my
13 question.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR NANENG:because
16 we've -- because we've talked about the issues that are
17 affecting our people, the subsistence and, you know,
18 I'd like to get out before 6:00 o'clock so I can go to
19 the bank and pay myself for being here.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So if you have a
24 question I'd appreciate it, if not I don't mean to cut
25 you off but as the Chair I'd like to get done with the
26 meeting as soon as possible, we've got other agenda
27 items to cover. And for some of these agenda items
28 we're going to have to postpone them to the next
29 meeting.

30
31 MS. ROGERS: Okay.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay.

34
35 MS. ROGERS: Really quick. So as we
36 are recognized by the United Nations Declaration of
37 Rights of Indigenous Peoples, how would you say or how
38 -- and you can get back with me on this question, but
39 how does that apply in us being recognized by the UN,
40 defines the individual and collective rights of our
41 people, including the ownerships to our cultural
42 ceremonial expressions, identify, language, employment,
43 health and other issues when we aren't -- when you're
44 saying that we're only being concerned about bargaining
45 and smelts when we have so much more to lose.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you,
50

0313

1 Alissa. Any more questions regarding the presentation.

2

3 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

6

7 MR. PARKS: I have one quick question,
8 thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that this is going to be
9 a big, big issue that Donlin Gold, if it happens to go
10 forward. Okay, now, I have a question. Now, they will
11 build a dam in that creek, right, okay, so will there
12 be like a secondary dam? The reason why I ask this is
13 because sometimes during breakup season, springtime,
14 breakup time, the water level is really high, you know,
15 it can mess -- it can go up to the riverbank and
16 overflow all over the river up there, even creeks.

17

18 So that's my question.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. FERNANDEZ: So the project will
23 include seven small dams -- sorry, seven dams, some of
24 them small, some of them bigger, you know, the dam that
25 I'm sure that you're referring to though is probably
26 tailings dams, okay. So the tailings dams will be
27 located on a creek that is named Anaconda Creek, which
28 is a tributary of Crooked Creek and, of course, Crooked
29 Creek is a tributary to the Kuskokwim. Anaconda Creek,
30 just to put it in kind of context is a small creek,
31 right, you can jump over, hop over, it's very shallow.
32 But the dam will be designed to the highest standards.
33 It's also designed to, you know, account for extreme
34 flood events. Okay, yeah.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thank you.

37

38 MR. FERNANDEZ: If I could just make a
39 comment.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. FERNANDEZ: People don't have to
44 choose between subsistence and the mine, you can have
45 both.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you, very
48 much. I've got one person that is on the line that
49 wanted to make a presentation. I thank you for your
50

0314

1 presentation. I'm sure we're going to hear a lot more
2 reports on this and a lot more comments.....

3

4 SOPHIA: Question.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG:between the
7 time that they may start so it's an ongoing thing, it's
8 going to be a long time before, if it ever happens. So
9 keep in mind that a final decision has not been made.

10

11 TUNTUTULIAK: Mr. Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So as Chair I'll
14 go on to the next item on the agenda.

15

16 Yes.

17

18 REPORTER: You got somebody on the
19 line.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Before I
22 go to the radio, I'll recognize that young lady for her
23 question. And make it short.

24

25 : Quyana, Mr. Chair. And thank you
26 both for being here and presenting. I just had a quick
27 question. I'm really excited.....

28

29 REPORTER: Would you identify yourself
30 please.

31

32 SOPHIE: Oh, yes, sorry. I am Sophie
33 (Inaudible) and I'm from Bethel. So I was wondering --
34 I know that this has began with the subsistence
35 advisory committee for -- since 2018 and the seats have
36 not been filled but I just would like to request that
37 everybody on this Council sitting right here today
38 receive a copy of the HIA that went into creating the
39 EIS and I just want to mention for everybody here as
40 well that the methane mercury hair concentrations is a
41 negative impact in that HIA statement, or assessment,
42 and it says, increased mercury released into sources of
43 ground water or surface water above accepted levels,
44 then methane mercury concentrations in residents could
45 experience small but important increase for a period of
46 time after the events if fish consumption patterns do
47 not change. It is saying that we need to change how
48 much fish we are consuming and I think that this HIA
49 has very important information and I do kindly request
50

0315

1 that everybody has access to that information.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. Go
6 ahead.

7

8 MR. FERNANDEZ: I would like to note,
9 too, that the HIA was based on some mercury emissions
10 for the project that were very conservative and there's
11 new mercury emissions for the project that are more
12 realistic as well as still conservative.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Question
15 on the line.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Anyone online
20 with a question.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 REPORTER: I guess he changed his mind.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Recognize Tim
27 with a question.

28

29 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
30 thank you for the presentation. Timothy Andrew,
31 subsistence user. I was just wondering how -- is there
32 going to be -- like for example, we have a lot of
33 subsistence fishing occurring throughout the entire
34 river through various times of the summer, and some
35 points are pretty narrow, like for example right down
36 here, down here at the choke point, and various other
37 choke points, and with vessels coming into Bethel and
38 also departing Bethel up to the port up in Crooked
39 Creek, how is the vessel avoidance going to occur with,
40 you know, as far as the subsistence user is concerned?

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Go ahead.

45

46 MR. FERNANDEZ: So when we talked to
47 the captains of the vessels, you know, one thing they
48 mentioned is communication, right, when you get to very
49 congested areas, so being able to communicate with the

50

0316

1 people that are doing subsistence at the time, to
2 arrange the passage of the barge is important. So the
3 vessels would have a pilot, a smaller, a pilot vessel,
4 okay, that can be deployed in heavily congested areas
5 and it can go ahead of the barges and communicate with
6 folks that, you know, hey, there is a barge coming and,
7 you know, kind of coordinate that passage. So that's
8 one of the techniques.

9

10 Of course, like I said before, also the
11 people will have the capabilities of being able to talk
12 to the barge operators, they'll have a cell phone,
13 they'll have VHF, that people can talk to them.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thank you.

16

17 MS. WILMARTH: I just have one final
18 closing comment and Enric mentioned it briefly but we'd
19 love to present on more topics. Those were the three
20 topics that we were told were of the most importance to
21 present on and we only had 15 minutes and so we'd love
22 to sit down with all of you another time to talk about
23 everything.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I think there
26 will be opportunity in the future to talk more about
27 this issue and sharing of information. So with that
28 thank you very much.

29

30 MR. FERNANDEZ: Quyana.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: One comment.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you all for your
39 presentation. Council members, if there are certain
40 topics that you would like to hear about from folks at
41 Donlin, I'm happy to relay those and see if they can
42 present on them at future meetings just please let me
43 know as we start planning for the next meetings.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Quyana.
48 We'll go off the agenda, there is one person that's
49 asked to make a report on snowy owl and then we have

50

0317

1 two action items to report on. So I know that there's
2 Wildlife Refuge reports, two of them BLM and Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence, so I'd like
4 to get those done as soon as possible. If you have a
5 question, direct it on the issue. Make sure you don't
6 go on a long speech talking about an issue without a
7 question.

8

9 So Coordinator, you got any comments?

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir. I just wanted
12 to update you and the Council. AVCP Natural Resources
13 has let me know that they're unable to present just
14 because we've gone over time tonight and they'll
15 present at the next meeting.

16

17 Additionally, the Anchorage Field
18 office of BLM, they said they don't need to give an
19 oral presentation, there's handout and information in
20 your meeting book on Page 252 that you can review, and
21 if you have any questions they can address them at the
22 next meeting. There's also information from BLM in
23 there about the Veteran's Land program that you all
24 requested.

25

26 If there are any agencies, such as our
27 friends at the Refuges, or Fish and Game that would be
28 willing to move their presentation to the winter
29 meeting, I believe that the Chair would like to
30 entertain that.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes. Okay, do we
35 have a snowy owl presentation.

36

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Hi, is Steve Lewis on the
41 phone with us.

42

43 MR. LEWIS: I sure am, can you hear me?

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: We can, Steve. One
46 moment while I pull up your presentation.

47

48 MR. LEWIS: Okay, great. And, you
49 know, I'm happy to give this later if you guys are in a
50

0318

1 hurry, I don't want to stop anyone from getting to the
2 bank.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, Steve, we'd like to
7 go ahead with your presentation. I have your first
8 slide up on the screen, you can just let me know when
9 to advance. Thank you.

10

11 MR. LEWIS: Okay, great. Well, thanks
12 for letting me talk to you about snowy owls. I'm
13 Steven Lewis, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S.
14 Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska and I specialize in
15 raptor biology.

16

17 Okay, next.

18

19 Okay, so this should say the YKDelta
20 RAC question on top, yes?

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Correct.

23

24 MR. LEWIS: So first I wanted to start
25 with the request that came to me from the RAC about
26 snow owls. The Council's heard that there was
27 declining snow owl sightings throughout the Yukon
28 Kuskokwim Delta and wanted a report on population,
29 assessment and migration. Recognizing that snowy owls
30 are important for subsistence communities in the
31 YKDelta and an important indicator of overall ecosystem
32 health and the Council wondered if snow owls were
33 declining due to lack of prey, they'd observed declines
34 in the Arctic hare or jackrabbits, and supported
35 proposals to reduce subsistence harvest of Alaska hare
36 as a conservation measure, and also wondered if there
37 was conservation measures needed for snowy owls.

38

39 Next.

40

41 So I want to go through a little bit
42 about snowy owls biology first, kind of in general, and
43 then a little bit about what we know in Alaska and then
44 try and focus into the YKDelta itself. So this is a
45 distribution map from the birds of the world species
46 account. What it shows, basically the orange color is
47 breeding range and the blue is winter range of owls.
48 It's probably likely inaccurate on a smaller scale,
49 like in Alaska, for example we know that snowy owls
50

0319

1 have breed in the YKDelta and it says wintering area
2 but it shows the overall owls circumpolar distribution.
3 So snowy owls are nomadic and they're irregular summer
4 visitors in Alaska, particular south of their home
5 which is the Northern Arctic Coastal plain. For
6 example around Utqiagvik.

7

8 Next please.

9

10 So this is a map from a website called
11 ebird.org and it's basically a website where people
12 enter sightings, a list of when they go looking for
13 birds and animal sightings. So the darker the purple
14 the more sightings that have been turned in shows snowy
15 owls. So, you know, what it shows is kind of similar
16 that they're up on the North Slope of Alaska is when
17 you have a lot of -- you know, more sightings of snowy
18 owls but they do occur in lots of other places. And,
19 of course, this map is a little biased because you
20 don't have people going to all these very empty spots
21 but, you know, it does just show basically that, you
22 know, where we have snowy owls in Alaska is up on the
23 North Slope for the most part and the Coastal Plains
24 and then they make appearances further south.

25

26 Next please.

27

28 So this is a photo on the right from
29 Utqiagvik area showing some typical breeding habitat.
30 Snowy owls breed on open Arctic tundra from near
31 treeline to the edge of the polar seas, they use
32 hummock and rocks and other low provinces for nest
33 sites, roosting and hunting and sparse low vegetation
34 and dwarf shrubs and lichen. They also use low and
35 salt marshes and poorly drained freshwater meadows.
36 So, in general, they breed in areas that have a
37 plentiful supply of Arctic or sub-Arctic rodents.
38 Usually it's at elevations below 300 meters and in many
39 areas they nest along coastlines or not very far away
40 from the coastlines. For non-breeding it's mostly snow
41 covered and open water within the ice pack, south to
42 range lands, farm lands, coastlines, marshes, islands,
43 forest clearings in cities and towns that are bordered
44 by open habitat. Their diet is primarily -- during the
45 Arctic breeding season is lemmings and various species,
46 they're capable of feeding on whatever are most
47 abundant and usually captured in different habitats
48 during each season. So breeding adults will supplement
49 their lemming diet with hatchlings of waterfowl,
50

0320

1 shorebirds, passerines. Those that are not breeding,
2 and those that winter on islands.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted - on hold)

6

7 MR. LEWIS:that are free of
8 animals may subsist on other prey such as birds.

9

10 Specifically referring to Arctic hares,
11 it's likely not a large component of the snowy owls
12 diet because they're kind of too large of a prey item
13 but if they are in the diet it's most likely young
14 hares, that are what snowy owls are eating.

15

16 Next please.

17

18 In terms of movements of snowy owls --
19 so this map shows a figure from a paper by Frank Doyle
20 and others in 2017 and this shows snowy owls that are
21 marked with satellite tags on Banks Island in Canada
22 and then their subsequent moving from 2008 to 2010 so
23 there's some green stars and that shows -- the stars
24 show settlement areas in the summer so where birds
25 spent the summer after they were trapped (ph) and the
26 circles show winter (indiscernible) area. So what I'm
27 trying to show is that these birds do move around quite
28 a bit and birds that might have -- oh, sorry, and it
29 shows four -- the different colors of points in line
30 there's four different birds. So birds are trapped on
31 Banks Island in one summer may end spending the next
32 summer on the Arctic Coast of Alaska and then they
33 winter in different areas as well. So you see one of
34 these birds, the orange bird, ended up actually coming
35 down and wintering in Yukon Delta area, so they do move
36 around quite a bit. They don't have any strong inter-
37 annual site fidelity to summer or winter areas and they
38 can travel widely in search of breeding and wintering
39 areas. In fact they also spend time on sea ice in the
40 winter usually associated with (indiscernible), which
41 is where sea ducks and seabirds will congregate.

42

43 Next please.

44

45 So in Alaska there has not been a lot
46 of work on snowy owls except around the Barrow area.
47 There's many people that do work on shorebirds and
48 waterfowl and they often monitor snowy owls along with
49 the other predators. But there's been one specific

50

0321

1 snowy owls study done by the Owl Research Institute and
2 a biologist named Denver Holt. So it's in the
3 Utqiagvik area and he's been doing this for a little
4 over 20 years, or about 20 years, and he found 277 nest
5 sites, really low elevation, you know, the mean 7.3
6 meters, they nest on these polygonal lakes, near them,
7 shallow ground and underlying permafrost areas on these
8 little mounds. And overall what he has seen is a
9 decline in nesting in his study area over this time
10 period.

11

12 Next please.

13

14 The other data we have on snowy owls is
15 from the Fish and Wildlife Service who has done an
16 Arctic Coastal Plains survey. So this is an aerial
17 survey done for waterfowl over -- and this is dated
18 from -- up to 2017, but it's up to -- the data is from
19 1986 up to now and they also count snowy owls. So this
20 map -- this figure shows basically the index, which is
21 the number of sightings and then sort of calculated
22 into their index of pairs over this time period. And
23 what I wanted to show is basically that over sort of
24 the long period, sort of about level in the last --
25 they changed their techniques from 2008 to 2017 so
26 there was some decline in nesting but the main point
27 being looking at the fluctuations over the years. So
28 in some years there's almost no snowy owls seen in the
29 area, some years there's very many snowy owls seen. So
30 it kind of goes in with their whole, snowy owls, you
31 know, use the landscape and they're nomadic and they'll
32 just go to one area where there's good prey and then
33 the next year they may not be there or may not be there
34 for many years.

35

36 Next please.

37

38 In terms of what we know for the
39 YKDelta area, at least in terms of the literature, so
40 near Hooper Bay -- and this is from 1924, snowy owls
41 apparently nested commonly and this is from a paper by
42 (Indiscernible) in 1929 so she counted like 40 nests in
43 that area. But despite extensive activities of
44 biologists in decades following, particularly in the
45 '70s concentrations comparable to those in 1924 have
46 not been reported and breeding records are virtually
47 non-existent. The only other subsequent report of
48 large numbers on the YKDelta was in 1963 when perhaps
49 as many as several dozen, some nesting were detected at
50

0322

1 the eastern end of Nelson Island, which you can see in
2 this figure here near the (Indiscernible) Hills. And
3 then in late summer of 2000 Yukon Delta National
4 Wildlife Refuge Staff flew a series of surveys, aerial
5 surveys to document fall staging of bristle-thighed
6 curlews, so these took place during July to September
7 and they detected between 15 and 27 owls, depending on
8 the survey, so resulting in estimates of 79 and 230
9 owls seen in this area. So that was just in one year,
10 and then in -- finally, I spoke with Brian McCafferty,
11 a former Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
12 biologist, some of you may know, and talking about his
13 recollections of snowy owls and one thing he told me is
14 he thought he had seen more snowy owls in one summer
15 that he spent near Utqiagvik than he did in his whole
16 time in the Yukon Delta. So snowy owls seem to be
17 relatively rare in that area. So there has been
18 declines. It's something that likely took place --
19 well, I mean maybe probably 60 or 70 years ago.

20

21 Next please.

22

23 So the International Snowy Owl working
24 group was initiated in 2007 during the Fourth World Owl
25 Conference in Holland and the group was established to
26 collect and share information on snowy owls biology and
27 to initiate ideas for studies to better understand the
28 ecology, patterns, habitat needs, population,
29 conservation issues. So this group actually has
30 estimated that there's probably 14,000 pairs of snowy
31 owls worldwide. This is much lower, like orders of
32 magnitude lower than what was initially thought over
33 previous estimates. I think this is due likely because
34 of the nomadic nature of these birds, where researchers
35 thought they were counting different populations over
36 time but actually maybe one population that moves
37 around quite a bit. And they also noted a declining
38 trend in the species. They have significant challenges
39 due to climate change, which is primarily due to the
40 effects on their primary prey, which is lemming, caused
41 by warming climate and increased rain events. So
42 increased rain events caused the lemming cycle -- the
43 lemming highs to be not nearly as high and things like
44 snowy owls rely on that, that super abundance of prey
45 to have young. This group highlights the importance of
46 indigenous peoples knowledge for understanding the
47 iconic species and recommend gathering information on
48 subsistence harvest across the range and to decrease
49 levels of subsistence harvest depending on what those
50

0323

1 are.

2

3

4 So in conclusion, the snowy owl is a
5 migratory species that breeds across Northern Alaska
6 and Canada, mostly where high Arctic tundra and wetland
7 habitat are found. They're a nomadic bird that only
8 seems to breed in open habitats where high numbers of
9 micro (indiscernible) is found. Because they're so
10 strongly tied to rodent cycles there's concern that
11 warming climate may affect the cycle thus changing the
12 ability for this bird to breed. Population estimates
13 put their number well below previous estimates and
14 there's concerns due to climate change that will have
15 negative effects on the species. And, finally, we lack
16 a good understanding of the magnitude of subsistence
17 and the effect that that could be having on this
18 species.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So that's my last slide, just for questions, and thank you for your time. And I look forward to finding ways to collaborate, you know, with interested parties on how to learn more about the species. And if there is other data sources or information sources in terms of people's sightings or anything like that I'd be interested to hear about those.

Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you so much for your presentation Steve. Members of the Council, I'm sure Steve would love to hear from you if you have observations about snowy owls that you've noticed in the region. I can put you in touch with him if you want to reach out to me about that.

I'll turn it over to Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay, thank you, Steve. If we see a snowy owls we'll let you know.

(Laughter)

MR. LEWIS: Awesome, thank you.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah, thank you very much. Since one of the Council members says he has to go check in, we've got a couple of action items that we need to take care of while we have a quorum,

0324

1 and I'll turn it over to Brooke for the presentation.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Council members the Chair has asked that we move to
5 confirm our winter 2023 meeting dates and locations.
6 If you open your meeting book to Page 264 you'll see
7 the calendar for the next meeting. And, currently, the
8 Council has the meeting dates of April 3rd and 4th,
9 that's a Monday and a Tuesday and the meeting location
10 was chosen as Alakanuk. So the Council could discuss
11 if you would like to meet in Alakanuk on those dates,
12 if you would like to change those dates or that
13 location you could do that now. I would also suggest
14 if you are going to choose a rural village to meet in
15 that you have a back up location that would be hub
16 community.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 I'm sorry that I was not your
21 Coordinator when Alakanuk was chosen as the location,
22 and our two Council members from Alakanuk are not here
23 with us so unfortunately it doesn't allow us to discuss
24 that very much. But you may also request, if you wish,
25 to have a three day meeting and OSM will try to honor
26 that request.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. So the
31 first request is to have an alternate site in case we
32 don't make it to Alakanuk, and at a hub like Bethel.

33

34 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, like Bethel, here if
35 you're making it Alakanuk, maybe here.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah. Alakanuk
38 as primary and Bethel as an alternate.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: Our spring meeting.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: That's -- no,
43 it's not two meetings, for the April 3rd and 4th
44 meeting, Alakanuk as the primary location and Bethel as
45 an alternate in case we can't make it out, but weather
46 will keep some people out of Bethel.

47

48 Okay, go ahead.

49

50

0325

1 MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to mention
2 to the Council, if you want to have a three day
3 meeting, I would recommend for it to be the fall
4 meeting because your agenda is much busier in the fall
5 than the winter, in the winter you probably can get
6 done in two days without too much stress. But unless
7 you have a lot of wildlife proposals in mind already
8 for your winter meeting, that you want to put in, you
9 know, but in the fall you will be discussing all the
10 wildlife proposals that are original proposals and the
11 crossover and if there's any statewide. So if you --
12 and the other request that I have for the Council, when
13 you select your dates, if possible, please don't select
14 Friday. It's like other days of the week are better.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Brooke.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: One other thing I wanted
19 to point out to Council members.....

20
21 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Alissa, just one
24 thing real quick. You're currently meeting on a
25 Monday, your meeting will start on a Monday so that
26 means you would be traveling on a Sunday and I want to
27 make sure that would be okay with everyone, if you
28 would rather shift the meeting so that you'd be
29 traveling not on a Sunday you could do that at this
30 time.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Was somebody
33 online.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay.

38
39 MS. ROGERS: Hi, Mr. Chair, yeah, it's
40 me, Alissa.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Alissa go
43 ahead.

44
45 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Through the Chair. I'd like to make a motion that we
47 have our spring meeting in Alakanuk on the 4th, 5th and
48 the 6th so that we are traveling on Monday, have the
49 meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and probably fly
50

0326

1 home that Thursday afternoon, because we should be
2 concluded by that third day.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. Is there a
7 second to the motion.

8

9 MR. PARKS: I second, Mr. Chair. Henry
10 Parks.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Okay. The motion
13 is made and seconded. Any further discussion on the
14 motion.

15

16 Jackie.

17

18 MS. CLEVELAND: I guess it's too late
19 to switch the location if it's been voted on in the
20 last meeting.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: No, you can change it.

23

24 MS. CLEVELAND: I don't know about the
25 rest of the Council but I think Bethel is the most
26 central place for all of us, yeah. So I'm not sure how
27 that was chosen but if it were up to me I think for the
28 Council's sake and some people will have to go many
29 legs to get there. I guess for me, I like the three
30 day, but in Bethel.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Just to follow up on
35 Jackie's comment there. Some Councils really like to
36 occasionally meet in a rural village because it gives
37 an opportunity for community members who wouldn't
38 normally be able to come to your meetings, to attend
39 the meetings, and that may be why that was chosen.
40 There also could potentially be an opportunity to
41 perhaps charter a plane from Bethel, we would have to
42 explore that and see if it would be viable, but that
43 would save some of those legs of travel for you all.
44 Just some things to consider.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes, go ahead.

49

50

0327

1 MS. KENNER: I think Monday was chosen
2 because the Alakanuk flight from Bethel I think is on
3 Sunday. The other thing is is that with the -- what we
4 used to do is St. Marys is the hub on the Yukon and so
5 there'd be a meeting in Bethel and then a meeting in
6 St. Marys or, you know, wherever the issues were. So I
7 was just telling a member that that -- because we are
8 the Yukon/Kuskokwim, we try to have meetings up there
9 too, not necessarily in Alakanuk.

10

11 This is Pippa for the record.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. So go
14 ahead.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Well, there is a motion
17 on the table but if the Council wanted to withdraw that
18 and change the hub instead of Bethel to St. Marys you
19 could do that.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Is there any
22 objections to moving to Bethel -- or moving Bethel to
23 St. Marys as an alternate site for the April meeting.

24

25 (No objections)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any objections.

28

29 (No objections)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any objections.

32

33 (No objections)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So the primary
36 place will be Alakanuk and alternate site being St.
37 Marys. And also the motion's made to have it for three
38 days, I don't like to go beyond 5:00 o'clock meetings.
39 Usually meetings don't last this long as far I know
40 unless you're attending an AVCP or an AFN Convention.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So is there any
45 objections to having a three day meeting.

46

47 (No objections)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: And that can be

50

0328

1 shortened based on the agenda for -- on the agenda
2 items, if we get done on the second day we get done on
3 the second day, but the third day is an alternate for
4 taking care of as many agenda items as possible.

5

6 And the other request is to have people
7 that are going to be making presentations to be there
8 in person. Because we've had a lot of delays and
9 hassles with the technology that delayed our meeting,
10 we could have been done about a half hour ago. So that
11 would be my request on top of that three day meeting.

12

13 Any objections from the Council.

14

15 (No objections)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: No objections.
18 So put that as a note as a request from the Council.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So just to confirm
21 the Council would like to meet April 4th and 5th, which
22 is Tuesday and Wednesday, possibly a third day, maybe a
23 half day on April 6th. The primary meeting location
24 would be Alakanuk, and if that is not possible or the
25 community cannot accommodate us the back up would be
26 the hub of St. Marys.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: And then the next
29 item would be the fall meeting of October --
30 tentatively the dates of October 17th and 18th, 2023 in
31 Anchorage for the fall meeting. So make a motion.

32

33 Go ahead.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted to make
36 sure Council members are looking at the updated copy of
37 the calendar that I just passed out to you, that would
38 be next fall, so a year from now. And Ms. Rogers
39 suggested that the meeting location be in Anchorage on
40 October 17th and 18th, if we wanted to make a third day
41 on to that, because it will be a fall meeting, you will
42 be taking up regulatory wildlife proposals, Ms. Rogers,
43 I think the Chair would be willing to entertain a
44 motion from you now.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

49

50

0329

1 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. I so move.

2

3 MR. PETER: Second.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Motion made and
6 seconded. Any discussion on the motion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. PETER: Question.

11

12 MS. CLEVELAND: It's during AFN.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair. On discussion
15 -- Mr. Chair, thank you. On discussion I'd rather
16 early part of October. I don't want to get to the
17 middle part or the latter part when the weather gets
18 iffy. I'd rather like to make a friendly amendment to
19 make it the 3rd and 4th.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you, John,
24 for your suggestion. It's also going to be about the
25 same time as the AFN Convention, usually has their
26 convention in that timeframe so I would support John's
27 recommendation even though there's a motion to have it
28 on the 17th and 18th in Anchorage.

29

30 Go ahead.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Mr. Chair. So if
33 you look at your fall calendar, there are already two
34 RAC meetings scheduled for that first week of October.
35 OSM can -- because we're not very many Staff we can
36 kind of only handle two meetings in one week, the week
37 of October 10th, that second week of October.....

38

39 MR. ANDREW: Make it on 3rd and 4th --
40 make it on 3rd and 4th please. Because on 17 and 18 it
41 will be the week of AFN. There will be too much
42 traffic by that time.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: We could probably
45 have it scheduled for October 9th, there's no Columbus
46 day in Alaska. So I really would like Fish and
47 Wildlife Service and State agencies to honor the fact
48 that that's Indigenous Day instead of Columbus Day. So
49 let's schedule -- let's put it on for October 9th and
50

0330

1 10th, for that week.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. MCDAVID: Could I just get clarification from OSM leadership, are we able to schedule a meeting during a Federal holiday. Unfortunately, no, would be able to travel on that day and have the meeting begin on Tuesday?

MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the Chair. What would be your recommendation for days that you can travel and that will work that's currently leftover for us to choose from then?

MS. MCDAVID: I can respond to Ms. Rogers, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

MS. MCDAVID: So Alissa, I'm sorry you don't have the calendar in front of you. The week of October 2nd is -- we already have two RAC meetings scheduled that week so unfortunately that's not available. The following week, Monday is a Federal holiday, we're unable to meet that day, but the rest of that week, the 10th through the 13th would be available. It sounds like folks don't want to meet in the latter half of October due to conflicts with AFN. The other option would be to meet earlier before October but I know that's also moose hunting season. So unfortunately when we have these later -- when you're one of the later meetings on the calendar the other RACs have chosen their meeting dates. You could meet earlier, like mid-August, very early, but that's up to you all if it doesn't conflict with other subsistence activities.

We can overlap with one other meeting so that's why October 11 and 12 Western Interior's meeting, that's okay, you can just ignore that because there's only one meeting that week. But we could meet, potentially the same days as the Western Interior meeting so up to you guys.

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: October 9th and 10th will probably be the best -- or the 10th and 11th would be the best time. So if there's no objections we'll put that on the calendar to meet at that time.

MS. WESSELS: You should have three

0331

1 days during the fall.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yeah.

4

5

6

MS. MCDAVID: So a suggestion, 10th through the 12th for a three day meeting.

7

8

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Yes.

9

10

11

12

13

MS. MCDAVID: And primary location of choice would be Anchorage, would you have a back up location -- or we can probably accommodate that because it's a large city.

14

15

16

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: If we can't make it to Anchorage we'll have it here in Bethel.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you. I'm sorry, I can't remember if there's a motion on the table, if somebody -- Alissa, if you made that previous motion, if you would be willing to withdraw that and make a new motion for October 10th through 12th in Anchorage, back up Bethel.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

28

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I believe we'll take.....

29

30

MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

31

32

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, Alissa.

33

34

35

36

37

MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the Chair. I'll go ahead and make the motion for the meeting to be held in Anchorage on October -- please correct me if I'm wrong, 11th, 12th and the 13th.

38

39

40

MS. MCDAVID: I think they would like the 10th through the 12th, 10, 11 and 12.

41

42

43

MS. ROGERS: Okay, thank you. October 10th, 11th, and the 12th.

44

45

46

ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Is there a second.

47

48

MR. ANDREW: Second.

49

50

0332

1 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Seconded. Any
2 further discussion on the motion.

3
4 MR. LANDLORD: Question.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Question's been
7 called. All in favor say aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Those opposed say
12 no.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Meeting dates
17 confirmed for October 10th through 12th, Anchorage,
18 back up Bethel.

19
20 Mr. Chair, we do have one other action
21 item that we did yet get to and that was the annual
22 report topics.

23
24 It would be nice if we could at least
25 put a couple down now, you'll get a chance to revisit
26 this and finalize it at your winter meeting but it's
27 important now that we get a draft started now before
28 then.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Would you take
33 suggestions and recommendations from the Council to the
34 report if you could draft it and they could review your
35 draft and make additional comments?

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir, that's what we
38 need to do. I gather topics of concern from you all at
39 this meeting and then work between this meeting and the
40 next meeting to provide a draft that you review at your
41 next meeting. So unfortunately you wouldn't be able to
42 review a draft at your next meeting if you didn't come
43 up with topics at this meeting.

44
45 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead, John.

50

0333

1 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 I have a couple of items I'd like to put on the annual
3 report for next year.

4
5 The first one is if we are still in a
6 salmon conservation mode next summer we'd like to see
7 it being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, not
8 with Fish and Game for the summer. As long as we have
9 conservation for certain species, salmon species.

10
11 The second one is last couple years
12 we've been having bears raiding our fish camps and most
13 of our smokehouses. It's getting bad every year. So
14 the old people used to hunt them or do predator control
15 on them are gone or are aging out. That's the second
16 one. Because not just the smokehouse, they're even
17 raiding our cabins. In some fish camps they said they
18 were broken into about three times the whole summer
19 starting from spring.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. Any
24 other items.

25
26 MS. CLEVELAND: What did we do last
27 time if you don't mind?

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: One moment, Council
30 Member Cleveland asked about what the topics were last
31 time. I'll pull that up here real quick.

32
33 There were eight topics.

34
35 Donlin Gold was one. Whitefish
36 declines. You had a request about sockeye salmon
37 impacts. Increase seeing sockeye salmon impacts to
38 other species. You had the catastrophic low returns of
39 salmon to Kuskokwim and Yukon. You had the bycatch and
40 Area M intercept fisheries. Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
41 Increase moose harvest opportunity for lower Yukon.
42 And request for information about snowy owls.

43
44 So your report doesn't always have to
45 be that long but we do want to capture the main
46 concerns that you would like the Federal Subsistence
47 Board to know about.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Go ahead.

50

0334

1 MS. CLEVELAND: It feels kind of like
2 pressuring to do it this way. That's why I asked what
3 we did last year. And I think, from what it sounds
4 like those are still concerns, I mean besides the snowy
5 owls, we got the update on that. So this is the only
6 way to do it, like we can't -- I feel like we're not
7 given enough time to think about it?

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: I'll ask that our OSM
10 Leadership weigh in. But I believe, you know, we can
11 at least start with these two topics, if you all concur
12 that Mr. Andrew brought up, and since we are rushed
13 here at the end of the meeting -- we'll let Robbin
14 weigh in, but we can probably add additional topics at
15 the next meeting. And I'll remind everyone ahead of
16 that meeting to think about what they would like to
17 add.

18
19 Robbin.

20
21 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Through the Chair. I'll remind you that the annual
23 report is your way also to keep the Board informed of
24 the most important issues in your regions and on your
25 mind. It can be informative as well as a concern. Any
26 information that you think the Board might need to make
27 informed decisions.

28
29 That being said.....

30
31 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Alissa may have some, it
34 sounds like she's trying to speak as well. But really
35 quick, Alissa, before you make your comments.

36
37 There's been some really weighty and
38 substantial discussion and it could be that each of you
39 might forward an issue relevant to your discussions on
40 the record. And if you forward something that you have
41 already discussed on the record then we have the
42 material to pull together a topic for your report. If
43 it's out of left field, I would suggest waiting until
44 you're all together again in the winter.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Jackie.

49
50

0335

1 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana, Chair. I guess
2 one that just sticks out right now is Typhoon
3 (Indiscernible), I mean since it just happened, and
4 maybe, you know, there'll be research -- further
5 research and findings by the time we have our next
6 meeting and who knows maybe that could have something
7 to do with our subsistence lifestyle.

8
9 Quyana.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Any other
12 discussions.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Alissa.

17
18 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Through the Chair. I apologize, I've been having GCI
20 technical difficulties getting in. So I was taking
21 notes throughout the meeting and action items that
22 could be brought to our Federal Subsistence Board from
23 our discussions that we had with everyone and
24 especially pulling from the public comments that we
25 had and our Subsistence Council subsistence reports.

26
27 For the first one we should put some
28 emphasis on the trout including perhaps Jackie would be
29 able to give more description and information in
30 regards to what she can give to Brooke and give her
31 information in regards to protecting her trout.

32
33 As for Area M, would be the second
34 bulletin point in regards to Bering Sea trawling. We
35 need to keep putting emphasis on Area M because it is a
36 very strong point for our resources, for our salmon.

37
38 The third one would be the information
39 would be the information you gave in regards to Hooper
40 Bay tomcods and the halibut. I concur with what you
41 said. And we should have -- we should reach out more
42 and get more information in regards to the history and
43 then an action item that we would like to see come out
44 of Hooper Bay so that we can increase those tomcods and
45 also increase the availability of halibut harvesting.
46 Because I can tell you first hand that when we first
47 started finding halibut in Hooper Bay and we started
48 the commercial fishery for halibut in that area and
49 then all the way down to Nelson Island, we did not
50

0336

1 anticipate the halibut would take off the way it did,
2 but as anything, whatever we put our minds to someone
3 else has another idea for it and takes off with it.

4

5 So the next bulletin would be a
6 reduction -- we want to keep an emphasis that we're
7 seeing a huge reduction in whitefish due to the gear
8 type size that we have. The four inch mesh is
9 definitely wiping out our whitefish and since we're
10 harvesting more whitefish than we normally would it is
11 a high concern. Using the four inch mesh gear gill
12 restrictions that we have from our -- both on Yukon and
13 Kuskokwim.

14

15 Another one would be to get more
16 emphasis on the Asian hatchery salmon that they're
17 seeing. If they're a dominating issue as recorded in
18 the juvenile study that we had gotten yesterday, we
19 should emphasize more information in regards to that.
20 If the Asian hatchery is fighting for resources,
21 grounds and habitat survival with our wild salmon maybe
22 we need to go International, back to Asia like our
23 predecessors did and see if we can come to a salmon
24 agreement again like we have before in the past.

25

26 And for the next bulletin, A and B
27 seasons, both measures to avoid chum salmon. In her
28 presentation in the bycatch she only had presented that
29 only B season is being affected and not A season. So
30 we need to add A season into that and both A season and
31 B season is being monitored for that bycatch issue to
32 avoid chum salmon.

33

34 The next one on the line is to continue
35 putting Fukushima as a monitoring force so that we can
36 keep track of what's happening out there and how it's
37 affecting, and make sure we have it in our back packet
38 because that we know if something does happen to our
39 fisheries that -- our fisheries, our mammals, or
40 what's happening in our river systems, that it may be
41 linked to Fukushima since our salmon go down to the
42 Gulf and all those areas and then come back, and then
43 our mammals, our killer whales and sharks they migrate
44 between the two oceans -- or sorry, between the two
45 Gulfs.

46

47 And the last -- second to the last one
48 that I have on here, from Tim Andrew and what we heard
49 from Norma, and multiple times that we've heard from

50

0337

1 the Yukon communities is the eels, the lampreys, and we
2 need increased lamprey studies so that we can
3 understand what's going on with the lamprey. And
4 seeing if the correlation between the lamprey decline
5 is also in relationship to why our salmon are declining
6 and seeing if there's a connection between the two and
7 hopefully that if there is a connection that we can not
8 only assist the salmon to come back but assist with
9 ways we can help the lamprey return to our rivers.

10

11 And that's all I have, thank you, Mr.
12 Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Quyana. I would
15 like also to add that some of the non-spawning streams
16 that are near the mouth of the Yukon be included as
17 part of the discussions that need to be addressed. If
18 we can have them here on the Kuskokwim, why couldn't
19 they have it on the Yukon.

20

21 So with that, is there any more
22 additional comments, or if there's no objections we'll
23 go through that list. I'm sure that we wouldn't be
24 able to get all of them done in one season and like we
25 didn't get all of the things done here at this meeting
26 but that's too long a list and we'll pick up some of
27 them as important at the next meeting, it may have to
28 be the Chairman that decides what topic to discuss.

29

30 So with that, that's what I would
31 recommend.

32

33 Any comments.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
36 I just -- is it my understanding that the Council would
37 like to -- for me to draft your annual report with all
38 of the topics that were just discussed and brought up
39 by various members of the Council and we will review
40 that draft at the next meeting, and I don't have to
41 read through those again unless you want me to.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: I believe
46 suggestions and comments can come back to you so you
47 may have to redo that draft.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0338

1 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I would just ask
2 OSM Leadership if we need a motion to approve these
3 topics or.....

4
5 MS. WESSELS: You don't have to have a
6 motion.

7
8 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: She's been given
11 a directive by the Staff that -- or by the Council that
12 she should put them all in writing and we will review
13 the draft and highlight the ones that we want to raise.
14 Because even though each and every one of them is
15 important, some are more important than the others.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: And, Mr. Chair, just to
18 follow up.....

19
20 MS. WESSELS: I just want to say you
21 don't need to have a motion since you're not approving
22 this report right now. When you review the draft
23 report and approve it that's when you will need to have
24 a motion. Right now we're just having a discussion on
25 the record.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Katya, for
30 clarifying that. And, Mr. Chair, just to follow up on
31 what you said. We can always include all of these
32 topics in your annual report but only choose to address
33 some of them through presentations and updates at the
34 following meeting.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: yes. Because I
37 know that some of those are ongoing concerns that we've
38 been -- we just got through talking about yesterday and
39 today and I'm sure they'll come back again, and next
40 fall and we'll try and get status of updates of what's
41 been addressed since then. So that's my comment.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Mr. Chair.
44 Keeping us on track, I think we're through all of our
45 action items that were required and you'd be willing --
46 if you'd be willing you could entertain closing
47 comments or not and then you could make a motion to
48 adjourn.

49
50

0339

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Well, I know that
5 we've all been sitting here so everybody's been waiting
6 for closing comments all day.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: So with that I'd
11 like to thank everyone for participating and all the
12 Staff that has been involved in making the reports from
13 both Fish and Wildlife Service and OSM as well as Fish
14 and Game. You know, we didn't want to be disrespectful
15 in any of the comments but we have our own personal
16 opinions of how we view some of the things, should be
17 done, but sometimes we never get our way, at times
18 we're just wishful thinking.

19

20 So with that I'd like to thank everyone
21 for being here so thank you very much for participating
22 and thank you, Brooke, for putting up with the heat
23 from the Council members, and our court reporter for
24 doing a good job in keeping the IT things going despite
25 the technicalities.

26

27 So with that entertain a motion to
28 adjourn.

29

30 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman. I so move to
31 adjourn.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Phillip has
34 moved, is there a second.

35

36 MS. CLEVELAND: Second.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: There's been a
39 second. All in favor say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: You better not
44 oppose, say no.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 ACTING CHAIR NANENG: Thank you. And

0340

1 everyone enjoy your meeting.

2

3

MS. MCDAVID: Quyana everyone.

4

5

(Off record)

6

7

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48
- 49
- 50

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
 STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA Federal SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 28th day of October;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 12th day of December 2022.

Salena A. Hile
 Notary Public, State of Alaska
 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26