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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

ONC Multi-Purpose Room  
Bethel, Alaska  
April 6, 2023  
9:06 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond Oney, Chairman  
Wassilly Alexie  
Jacqueline Cleveland  
Norma Evan  
Myron Naneng  
Henry Parks  
Alissa Rogers  
Richard Slats

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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

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3 (Bethel, Alaska - 04/6/2023)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning everyone.

8 Again, we're starting up our meeting this morning on  
9 our last day, I'll call the meeting to order, the time  
10 now is 9:06 a.m.

11

12 Before we go into the agenda I would  
13 like to call on our Secretary to do a roll call just to  
14 see who all is with us this morning.

15

16 Richard.

17

18 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 Henry Parks.

21

22 MR. PARKS: Present.

23

24 MR. SLATS: Norma T. Evan.

25

26 MS. EVAN: Present.

27

28 MR. SLATS: John Andrew.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Richard, John Andrew is  
31 excused, he had a medical issue this morning.

32

33 MR. SLATS: Okay.

34

35 Walter A. Morgan.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Walter Morgan is

38 excused.

39

40 MR. SLATS: Jacqueline K. Cleveland.

41

42 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.

43

44 MR. SLATS: James C. Landlord.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James C. Landlord is

47 excused.

48

49 MR. SLATS: Alissa Nadine Rogers.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. SLATS: Alissa Nadine Rogers.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. SLATS: Phillip K. Peter.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip K. Peter is

10 excused.

11

12 MR. SLATS: Wassilly B. Alexie.

13

14 MR. ALEXIE: Here.

15

16 MR. SLATS: Raymond J. Oney.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Here.

19

20 MR. SLATS: Myron P. Naneng, Sr.

21

22 MR. NANENG: Here.

23

24 MR. SLATS: Robert J. Hoffman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robert J. Hoffman is

27 excused.

28

29 MR. SLATS: And Richard Slats is here.

30

31 Mr. Chairman, we have seven present,  
32 five absent and excused and one absent.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. We  
35 do have a quorum so we could go ahead and proceed with  
36 our agenda. Before we go into the agenda, Brooke, do  
37 we have any housekeeping things before we get started.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Just a reminder to folks on the line if you could  
41 please mute your phones, star, six or press the mute  
42 button. And, Mr. Chair, I believe we could start with  
43 public comments.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. So  
48 again we'll start off with our public comments on non-  
49 agenda items. First online I see Fritz George will be

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1 calling in. Fritz, are you with us this morning.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Fritz George, are you  
6 online with us this morning to give public comments on  
7 non-agenda items. We will be limiting public comments  
8 to five minutes because we have a 10:00 o'clock a.m.,  
9 call in with the Fish and Wildlife, so if you're on  
10 Fritz I'll give you five minutes.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

15

16 MS. EVAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. I  
17 know we are limited on time, I have -- I'd like to have  
18 a comment for something I am worried about.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, we have you next.  
21 If Fritz don't call in you'll be up next.

22

23 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
28 will send Fritz a text message and see if he's able to  
29 call in if you want to go ahead and let Norma go while  
30 we're waiting for Fritz.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
35 Brooke.

36

37 Go ahead, Norma, you're on and if we  
38 could limit your comments, go ahead.

39

40 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 Through the Chair. Sorry, my voice is a little bit --  
42 I'm going through Covid right now. But I'd like to  
43 talk about something I'm worried about.

44

45 If Calista Corporation is listening,  
46 Calista Corporation is opening a massive rock quarry on  
47 our (indiscernible) Pilcher\* mountain. That mountain  
48 is a feeding habitat for our fall migration for  
49 thousands of sandhill cranes and geese. It's a pit

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1 stop that geese and cranes and come by the thousands  
2 and the cranes they do circle for weeks in our  
3 community to eat there and they're very noticeable. I  
4 did ask other villages if they have that same feeding  
5 habitat and they don't notice cranes as much as we do.  
6 That land on that mountain, they come to forage before  
7 their big flight down to their next habitat.

8  
9 I know some habitat areas in Alaska are  
10 protected. I don't see them feeding near the Refuge  
11 near our community. Pilcher\*Mountain should be  
12 protected for all geese and cranes and it is also a  
13 nesting area. Our mountain is beneficial to our  
14 traditional lifestyle. If there's no berries in our  
15 community walking distance there is always berries on  
16 that mountain. Subsistence users from Marshall and  
17 surrounding villages do come and pick berries. I have  
18 first cousins that come out 200 miles from down river  
19 just to pick berries on that mountain. Will  
20 construction of this massive rock quarry affect our  
21 blackfish habitat. Calista is going to damage our  
22 traditional lifestyle.

23  
24 I think when they came out to speak  
25 about this everybody was -- it was subsistence time and  
26 I don't think anybody went to go speak up for what will  
27 happen if they do come out. They're already planning,  
28 DOWL came out last year and did a land survey. I'm  
29 really against that, it should be preserved as a  
30 habitat for migrating animals and feeding ecosystem.

31  
32 And that's all I could say.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Norma. Your  
37 points are taken so appreciate your comments.

38  
39 Do we have Fritz George online with us.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, I haven't  
44 heard back from Fritz, perhaps we could make an  
45 exception to take his comment later because we had  
46 misplaced his card yesterday during the time for  
47 comments. So maybe if he calls in later we could give  
48 him five minutes.

49  
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1                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.  
2   Hopefully he'll be able to call in when he gets online.  
3   So if we could go ahead and move on to next on the  
4   agenda.

5  
6                   MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7   Perhaps we could allow Dan Gillikin to present since we  
8   skipped over him yesterday.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you, Brooke.  
11   Good morning, Dan Gillikin, if you're online you could  
12   go ahead and make your presentation. Good morning.

13  
14                  (Pause)

15  
16                  MR. GILLIKIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
17   Sorry about that I was on mute. Good morning, Council  
18   members. This is Dan Gillikin. Brooke, do you have my  
19   presentation up?

20  
21                  MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir. If you just  
22   want to say next slide when you're ready for me to  
23   advance we'll take care of it for you.

24  
25                  MR. GILLIKIN: Okay, will do. Thank  
26   you, very much. Council members, I appreciate your  
27   time. I know how valuable it is. I'm just going to  
28   give a very quick refresher on last year's activities  
29   and what we've got planned for this coming year. I  
30   apologize if some of this looks familiar but that  
31   program hasn't changed very dramatically.

32  
33                  So I'm Dan Gillikin, I'm the  
34   Environmental Director and Partners Biologist with the  
35   Native Village of Napaimute. My office is up in Aniak  
36   and I work several different projects in the middle  
37   Kuskokwim region.

38  
39                  Next slide, please, Brooke.

40  
41                  So we have a Natural Resources  
42   Department Division with the Native Village of  
43   Napaimute and it consists of several different program  
44   areas. The Partners and Fisheries Monitoring Program  
45   is one area. We also get funding through the Indian  
46   General Assistance Program, the IGAP EPA funded  
47   program. We have a Brownfield Program up here as well.  
48   We do environmental education, outreach with local  
49   community members, provide technical assistance and  
50

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1 provide review of proposed natural resource projects or  
2 management decisions and provide that analysis to my  
3 council members, tribal members and any other  
4 stakeholders that would be interested in commenting. I  
5 help them with some of those formal comments.

6  
7 We have a couple of Fisheries  
8 Monitoring projects. The Salmon River weir, the Aniak  
9 Test Fishery, and we're helping with the whitefish  
10 project funded through the FRMP Program.

11  
12 We provide support to our other  
13 businesses, such as our Forest prod -- Forest business  
14 where we -- by Kalskag where we harvest firewood and  
15 construct small cabins and we provide support for our  
16 river logistics, both with the landing craft that we  
17 own and barge and winter ice road assistance.

18  
19 The other area that we focus on is  
20 developing partnerships to address the environmental  
21 concerns that our tribe has brought up. We have a plan  
22 in place related to those issues and I go out and I  
23 find partners to help fund different research  
24 activities that can help to address those concerns that  
25 have been raised by community members, tribal members,  
26 council, and the focus as of late has been on stream  
27 temperature monitoring and we have a couple different  
28 projects related to that.

29  
30 And then one of my favorite projects is  
31 the youth outreach that we conduct up here. As many of  
32 you know we have the George River Internship Project  
33 and we have the Math Science Expedition Project. Both  
34 of those involve young people and provide training  
35 opportunities and growth opportunities for them.

36  
37 So next slide please.

38  
39 But to the Partners Program, there's  
40 multiple focus areas of that program. One is to, you  
41 know, help build capacity for us to engage in  
42 monitoring projects. We represent Napaimute's tribal  
43 members when it comes to issues related to fisheries so  
44 we participate in various advisory committee meetings,  
45 like this one, and the working group and the  
46 InterTribal Fish Commission. We provide input back to  
47 managers related to these concerns, both in the form of  
48 our monitoring projects with data that we provide them  
49 and then also any concerns or recommendations that  
50

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1 folks may have. But one of the main areas is to build  
2 capacity with the Partners Program. We do that by  
3 providing opportunities for local tribal members,  
4 community members to gain skills and knowledge to  
5 eventually enter, hopefully, the work force related to  
6 natural resource management and then we also focus on  
7 the young people through our George River and Math  
8 Science Expedition projects.

9

10 Next slide please. So should be on  
11 Slide 4.

12

13 So our fisheries monitoring projects,  
14 as many of you know we operate the Salmon River weir.  
15 We have funding, again, for that this year, and then  
16 I've submitted a proposal to FRMP for an additional  
17 four years of funding for this project. As a  
18 refresher, last year, we had some high water, it blew  
19 the weir out, but we were able to operate sufficiently  
20 to count -- get a good count on the fish that did pass,  
21 you know, 1,600 chinook salmon, 1,000 chum salmon,  
22 1,400 or so sockeye salmon and we have pretty good  
23 estimates of that passage and escapement in the Salmon  
24 River.

25

26 Next slide please.

27

28 So one of the other monitoring projects  
29 is the Aniak Test Fishery. That's also funded by the  
30 FRMP Program. And that provides an index and species  
31 ratio information that we provide to managers in-season  
32 on a daily basis and they use that information to  
33 inform their decisions as to whether or not there needs  
34 to be a closure or some sort of conservation action  
35 taken. Last year our chinook index was a little bit  
36 better than we've seen in previous years but it's still  
37 below the average. Chum salmon, very low. Very low  
38 just as you might expect as it was throughout the rest  
39 of the drainage.

40

41 Next slide please.

42

43 The new project that we're assisting  
44 the FRMP Program with is the whitefish -- broad  
45 whitefish subsistence harvest and spawning abundance  
46 estimation. They tagged -- I don't even remember, I  
47 apologize. But I think maybe close to a thousand broad  
48 whitefish up in McGrath last year and so we'll be  
49 assisting with collecting the tags that people catch in  
50



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1 the subsistence fishery. And that's a picture of a tag  
2 and so keep your -- if you're out fishing for whitefish  
3 keep your eyes open for those tags, it provides  
4 valuable information for the study and you'll be  
5 entered into a pool actually and prizes, so there'll be  
6 a lottery and prizes and cash and gas and things like  
7 that available if you recover a tag and return it to  
8 us. So I encourage folks to keep an eye open and you  
9 can contact us or ONC who's also a partner on the  
10 project or the Fish and Wildlife Office in Bethel  
11 there.

12

13 Next slide please.

14

15 So one of the other areas that's funded  
16 through our EPA Program is we do a lot of water and  
17 environmental type of monitoring. Recently with the  
18 EPA folks, we've been focusing on trying to model water  
19 temperature on the Kuskokwim River. We developed a  
20 model that is salmon specific looking at critical  
21 threshold temperatures and looking at run timing  
22 throughout the entire basin of each species of salmon  
23 that returns and so from that we've kind of been able  
24 to come up with this model that determines, based on  
25 the data set that we're working with, about 40  
26 different sites, when salmon may have exceeded one of  
27 these critical temperatures thresholds.

28

29 And the graphic on the right there,  
30 that's kind of a representation of a number of sites  
31 that we saw that exceeded those critical thresholds.  
32 So, for instance, that second dot over there, what we  
33 saw is about 20 percent, at least, of the sites that we  
34 reviewed had exceeded that 18 degree celsius critical  
35 threshold.

36

37 We're also trying to model stream  
38 temperatures using satellite imagery. It's a  
39 partnership with the University of Montana and AYKSSI  
40 Southwest Partners Assoc -- Partners Association, where  
41 we're taking satellite imagery and actual stream  
42 temperature data from data loggers that we've deployed,  
43 and we put about 55 of them out throughout the  
44 Kuskokwim and Aniak drainage. We've done that for the  
45 last three years. Last year was our last year. We'll  
46 probably -- we still have loggers out so we'll probably  
47 be collecting additional data this year as well. But  
48 we'll use that information to basically train the model  
49 that uses the satellite imagery to then forecast what

50

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1 the -- or predict what the stream surface temperatures  
2 would be. This would be a big win, actually, because  
3 then we would be able to monitor using satellite  
4 imagery stream temperatures throughout the entire basin  
5 in one shot with a certain amount of confidence in  
6 those estimates.

7

8 We also provide assistance to the  
9 National Weather Service. We collect ice thickness  
10 data in the winter and we help out the ADF&G folks, the  
11 sportfish folks with stream discharge measurements  
12 throughout the Aniak drainage.

13

14 Next slide please.

15

16 So as you may recall last year I  
17 mentioned that there was -- I provided assistance  
18 through the local ADF&G Advisory Committee up here on  
19 two proposals. Both of those proposals failed at the  
20 Board of Fish. I believe -- felt strongly about them  
21 the same way you folks did with your recommendations on  
22 them so just wanted to make sure everybody understood  
23 that neither one of those proposals passed the ADF&G  
24 Board of Fish.

25

26 Next slide please.

27

28 So very quickly, you know, our youth  
29 outreach projects like I mentioned before, the George  
30 River Internship, you know, it's a paid internship for  
31 the interns that are signed up. We can accommodate  
32 about 12 of them. It's all about salmon and river  
33 ecology and method -- different methodologies for  
34 measuring important metrics related to river and  
35 hydrology -- river ecology and hydrology and things  
36 like that. The interesting thing from that is we now  
37 have about seven years of data from these long-term  
38 reference sites that we go back to every year which is  
39 going to allow us to start taking this to the next  
40 level and do some analysis of that data to see how the  
41 river's changing and responding to things like  
42 wildfire. So I'm kind of excited about that and  
43 hopefully I can get some students to get more involved  
44 in the analysis aspect of it.

45

46 The other youth outreach project we  
47 have is the Math Science Expedition, and that  
48 accommodates a much larger group. That's funded, in  
49 part, through the Partners in Fisheries Monitoring

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1 Program, and that really focuses more on leadership  
2 building -- building leadership skills in young people.  
3 They do some salmon habitat identification. They  
4 minnow trap at reference sites along the way and  
5 collect juvenile salmon and ID them right down species  
6 and they collect length and weight data that allows us  
7 to then calculate what kind of fitness they're in,  
8 their condition factor. That, we also have about 10  
9 years of data now and that's starting to allow us to do  
10 some analysis of that data to see how fit those fish  
11 are every season and how that may be changing over  
12 time.

13

14 So more to come on that. I've had a  
15 couple of students use some of the data for their  
16 science projects in the high school and it's a very  
17 rich data set and a lot can be done with it.

18

19 Next slide please.

20

21 So my council and our tribal members  
22 place a strong emphasis on developing our work force  
23 and encouraging them to become involved in natural  
24 resource or one of our other, you know, for profit  
25 departments. We've been doing that by providing them  
26 with training and certification opportunities.  
27 Currently we have, you know, five Coast Guard licensed  
28 employees that range everywhere from 100 gross  
29 registered tons, Master's license, down to a sixpack  
30 and able bodied seamen. So with that certification  
31 we're able to provide for hire opportunities to support  
32 research that happens out here all the time because as  
33 many of you know, folks come out here and they need  
34 support, local support, and by having these  
35 certifications that makes us more attractive to them  
36 for chartering our boats and our folks to help them  
37 out.

38

39 Along with that, we have a landing  
40 craft as many of you may know, and barge, and we use  
41 that for various operations -- to support operations  
42 that Napaimute has with our wood business, our cabin  
43 business, things like that, freight for hire, but the  
44 other thing that we've been doing as of late is we've  
45 been doing charters with Donlin Gold, where they're  
46 mapping the bathymetry, the contours or the river and  
47 conducting wave energy studies related to smelt  
48 spawning areas and then we provide support through back  
49 haul operations and removal of hazardous materials from

50

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1 the villages. So those are all areas that are resource  
2 related that we also want to focus more on in the  
3 future and hopefully as we gain more experience at it  
4 and get people that are certified to handle these sorts  
5 of things, which we've been focusing on also, then we  
6 can provide those services on a more regular basis.

7

8 One of the other capacity growth areas  
9 is that we did purchase the old snowmachine shop  
10 actually up in Aniak and we've been renovating it to  
11 convert it into an office and a shop, a bunkhouse area  
12 and a library. That should be completed sometime this  
13 summer and with that facility we'll be able to support,  
14 you know, things like meetings, people coming in  
15 looking for a place to stay, maybe remote offices for  
16 folks if they're interested in basing up here for a  
17 period of time. So it's something that's badly needed.  
18 We're in a very small place right now without any  
19 storage and so hopefully that will help improve our  
20 capacity there.

21

22 Last slide please.

23

24 And I just wanted to do a quick shout  
25 out to my wonderful crew who will be returning this  
26 year along with a couple of ANSEP students, a Bridge  
27 student and then an intern.

28

29 So with that I have nothing further.  
30 If anybody has any questions feel free to ask.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Dan.  
33 Appreciate your presentation. Do we have any comments  
34 or questions for Dan at this time.

35

36 Jackie, go ahead.

37

38 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. And good  
39 morning. I was wondering about your outreach, the  
40 youth program and the floats, and science camp; are  
41 those filled for this coming summer and if not is there  
42 something we could share in our communities about it.

43

44 MR. GILLIKIN: Yes, both those events  
45 are scheduled again for this summer. The GRI happens  
46 at the end -- the George River Internship happens at  
47 the end of July and then the Math Science Expedition  
48 happens about a week after that. And right now there  
49 are applications, and the application period is open  
50

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1 for students. So I can send you some more information  
2 on links to where people can go and get an application  
3 and submit it. So the thing about the George River  
4 Internship, however, is that we usually only select  
5 interns that have had a couple of the Math Science  
6 Expedition trips under their belts just so that they  
7 can -- they're a little bit more mature and know what  
8 the expectations are. So if you know folks that have a  
9 couple of MSE's under their belt and they're interested  
10 in the George River Internship, I really welcome their  
11 applications and stuff.

12  
13 But I'll send Brooke some links to  
14 where folks can apply.

15  
16 MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions or  
19 comments for Dan at this time.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe I have a couple.  
24 Thank you for your presentation. I commend your  
25 organization for doing a lot of work. That should be  
26 done by all the tribes. And your outreach to those  
27 tribes that are looking for assistance, I applaud you  
28 for doing that. I know in our tribe, too, we're also  
29 doing some work -- similar work that you're doing, and  
30 especially with the water temperature. I know Fish and  
31 Wildlife Service, National Pacific Fisheries Management  
32 Council, ADF&G and all those other organizations that  
33 are trying to come up with things like that, I solidly  
34 support what you're doing so that they could look to  
35 you, you know, to gather data that your body started.  
36 So it'd be helpful for them to get that information  
37 because, you know, who better to do it than the people  
38 that are living in-river and are utilizing the  
39 resources that are in their back door, so I commend all  
40 of what you're doing for your people and all the other  
41 tribes that are seeking help from you to do the work  
42 that you're doing. So I appreciate it.

43  
44 My one question that I have because it  
45 came up at one of our people that commented about the  
46 fish size. I know you mentioned that you had a lot of  
47 data from the weir and also 10 year of salmon juvenile  
48 data, have you noticed any fish that are getting  
49 smaller over time?  
50

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1 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you for your kind  
2 words of support, Mr. Chair, I appreciate that. And as  
3 far as the condition factor, the size of the juveniles  
4 go, it depends on which site you're talking about, it  
5 seems a little bit variable. Some of the early  
6 analysis that I had a student working on, we didn't --  
7 on the Salmon River, Aniak River we did not see much  
8 change over time in the condition of the juvenile fish  
9 even running a whole bunch of different variables like  
10 how many fish escaped that year, looking at the halibut  
11 types, discharge, things like that, didn't seem to vary  
12 much on the Aniak River.

13  
14 However, on the George River there was  
15 a significant decline in condition factor of the  
16 juvenile fish on the George River over time. And  
17 precisely what's driving that I'm not certain. We just  
18 did an analysis and looked at it and saw that there was  
19 a strong relation, a strong trend, significant trend  
20 and we need to look into it a little bit further and  
21 see what might possibly be driving that.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. We  
24 look forward to your upcoming report probably at our  
25 next, maybe fall meeting. So if there's no other  
26 questions coming from the Council I appreciate your  
27 presentation.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MR. GILLIKIN: You're welcome, have a  
32 good day.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yours too.

35  
36 I'll call in to see if Fritz George is  
37 available for comment on non-agenda items at this time.

38  
39 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, good morning,  
42 Fritz. Go ahead and give your comments on non-agenda  
43 items. We'll be limiting time due to our tight  
44 schedule for today. At 10:00 o'clock we have another  
45 two calls that are coming in so I'll limit your  
46 comments to five minutes. Go ahead.

47  
48 MR. GEORGE: Qu yana, Mr. Chairman.  
49 It's probably going to be less than five minutes so.

50

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1                   The subject is ANILCA, Title .802 and  
2     .804 regarding like because when the salmon numbers or  
3     any other species on lands and air, that rural  
4     residents will be the only ones to harvest these  
5     species for food. It does not say that the fish that  
6     enter the spawning rivers will be harvested to  
7     commercial fisheries, like interception, trawling.  
8     ANILCA covers every place where the salmon eggs are  
9     laid include when they leave these rivers to oceans to  
10    grow until they reach maturity, to complete their cycle  
11    reproduction. On their journey they encounter  
12    trawlers, interception and various scavengers. Rivers  
13    like the Kuskokwim and the Yukon closed all summer  
14    long. NOAA works with North Pacific Fisheries  
15    Management Council and Board of Fish are breaking this  
16    law. If they do not stop and act correctly we will be  
17    facing the extinction of the salmon species and  
18    possibly force the regulators into hatchery fish or  
19    farmers. Like this hatchery, we haven't experienced  
20    with it yet but it seems like if we can let the eggs  
21    hatch and release them it could probably help out.

22

23                   I want the Council to approach -- or  
24    request the Council to approach the Secretary of  
25    Interior, Deb Haaland, to intervene since nobody is  
26    listening to our concerns.

27

28                   (In Yup'ik)

29

30                   Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Quyana, Fritz,  
33    you calling in and providing your comments. Your  
34    points are well taken.

35

36                   FATHER NICOLAI: Mr. Chairman, how do  
37    we get on to comment, I will be less than five minutes.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Martin it sounds like,  
40    I'll go ahead and give you five minutes. Martin  
41    Nicolai, go ahead.

42

43                   FATHER NICOLAI: Martin Nicolai,  
44    Kwethluk. Yeah, first of all I want to apologize to  
45    Alissa and the Council members for yesterdays remarks  
46    that I made during our discussion on writing a letter  
47    to -- of Area M concerns. I misunderstood. I thought  
48    that you were going to write a letter to the Alaska  
49    Board of Fish Council members, that's why I said the

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1 way I said it. I agree and stated a couple of days ago  
2 that we must not keep quiet about the injustices being  
3 done to all of us. Even though we know that the Board  
4 of Fish does not do anything positive towards us, the  
5 Governor of Alaska and the Commissioner of the Alaska  
6 Department of Fish and Game do not listen to us, the  
7 National Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
8 disregards our concerns and is continuing to allow  
9 thousands upon thousands of salmon and other species to  
10 be destroyed in the Bering Sea.

11  
12 The bycatch committees that the State  
13 and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
14 established the past two years, they have only come out  
15 with recommendations of doing more studies and more  
16 examinations and more research. They still have no  
17 restrictions, or further restrictions on bycatch. They  
18 haven't recommended those things. And it seems to me  
19 that now they -- now that they formed these committees  
20 just to say that they are listening to the people but  
21 they have not done anything and are continuing to allow  
22 destruction of the Bering Sea, wildlife and habitat.

23  
24 And for those of us who have Facebook  
25 there's a group that provides information on trawling  
26 bycatch issues and it's called Stop Alaskan Trawling  
27 Bycatch and it's close to getting 22,000 members and I  
28 think most of them are Alaskans, and it's through this  
29 group that I've learned that not only salmon and  
30 halibut are being destroyed by trawling but they also  
31 destroy different species of crab and their habitat.  
32 They destroy marine wildlife like seals and different  
33 kind of whales and even sharks and all because the  
34 trawling makes money out of pollock and they don't want  
35 to stop. This Facebook is only for information now but  
36 -- and has not doing anything yet but a lot of  
37 information is given to the members and the public and  
38 it may be good to look it up sometimes to get the  
39 current news and additional information.

40  
41 Yeah, Quayana.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Father  
44 Martin. Your points are well taken, too. Quayana.

45  
46 Since we're not hearing any more to  
47 give comments on non-agenda items, Brooke, go ahead.

48  
49 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
50



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1 have about 15 minutes until the Regional Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service office will be calling in to give an  
3 update on the Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative, I  
4 was wondering if it would be okay with you if I put the  
5 Council's comment on Board of Fish, Proposal 173, up on  
6 the screen so we could just go ahead and approve the  
7 language so we could get that submitted since the  
8 comment deadline is due tomorrow.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
11 Brooke. If there's no objections from the Council,  
12 we'll go ahead and take a look at it.

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: I'll go ahead and read it  
17 for the record and then Council can discuss after if  
18 that's okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: So this is a comment on  
23 Proposal 173 submitted by the Native Village of  
24 Quinhagak that seeks to close the Kuskokwim area  
25 District 4 on Sundays and only allow one gillnet to be  
26 operated per vessel in the subsistence and commercial  
27 fisheries between June 1 and July 15.

28

29 So this is the comment that I have  
30 drafted based on what was discussed yesterday.

31

32 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
33 Regional Advisory Council voted to unanimously support  
34 Proposal 173 at their public meeting April 5th, 2023.  
35 The Council supports this proposal because there have  
36 been record low returns for chinook and chum salmon in  
37 the Kuskokwim area and residents of Quinhagak have been  
38 observing low returns in the Kanektok River. Only one  
39 net per boat should be allowed because conservation  
40 measures are needed to help rebuild salmon stocks.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Brooke. Any  
45 comments from the Council.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: I don't think we need a

50

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1 motion since you already voted to submit the comment  
2 yesterday. Since we don't have time to send drafts back  
3 and forth through email, if you just want to state for  
4 the record if you're in support.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, did we take  
9 action on it yesterday?

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, we did. We did  
12 take action on it. We motioned it and we took action  
13 and this is the final wording to be presented. As you  
14 know April 12 is the deadline so we would like to get  
15 it to the office in time. So we did discuss it and we  
16 did motion it already.

17

18 MR. NANENG: Okay, that's what I  
19 thought. I thought we made a comment also that we  
20 supported it to have one net per boat because that's  
21 really a restriction that's been inside the river  
22 systems where they only allow one net of a certain  
23 length, like 60 feet -- no longer than 60 feet. I  
24 don't know but I don't want that restriction of 60 feet  
25 to apply to Quinhagak because that 60 foot length was  
26 only restricted to the in-river systems.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Myron. The  
31 intent of reading the comment was just to verify -- to  
32 make sure you all were fine with the language before we  
33 submit it and it does include what you just said about  
34 only allowing one net per boat because of conservation  
35 concerns.

36

37 MR. NANENG: Okay, thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, if there's no  
40 other comments we'll go ahead and have Brooke submit it  
41 as written. Thank you.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
44 do have just about 10 minutes until Fish and Wildlife  
45 Service calls in so I'll turn it over to you to decide  
46 what you would like to do.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Yeah, I'll go  
49 ahead and ask for a 10 minute break and wait for the

50

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1 call to come in. We'll go ahead and take a 10 minute  
2 break until we receive a call from the office of Fish  
3 and Wildlife Service.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Council, I'll  
12 call the meeting back to order. Next online we have a  
13 teleconference, Gravel to Gravel with DOI -- excuse me,  
14 Keystone Initiative. I believe online we have Sara  
15 Boario. Sara, if you're online welcome.

16

17 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Thank you everyone for having me. Can you hear me  
19 okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're coming in  
22 loud.

23

24 MS. BOARIO: Thank you. Well, good  
25 morning everyone. My name is Sara Boario and I'm the  
26 Regional Director for the Fish and Wildlife Service in  
27 Alaska. I'm calling you today from Anchorage and I am  
28 truly sorry I can't be with you in person. I'm on call  
29 for jury duty this week. And thank you to the RAC  
30 members for having me, and thank you to our wonderful  
31 Staff in the Office of Subsistence Management and,  
32 Brooke, everyone for coordinating my participation.

33

34 For those of you I've not yet had an  
35 opportunity to meet, I've served as the Regional  
36 Director for just over one year and I have been with  
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska for about nine  
38 years and I spent 49 of my nearly 50 years in Alaska,  
39 very fortunate to be raised in villages and small towns  
40 across the state including Yakutat and Wrangell and  
41 Sand Point.

42

43 I'm here today just to share some  
44 background and updates on a new effort and investment  
45 by the Department of Interior and a number of the  
46 Department of Interior Bureaus, including Fish and  
47 Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the  
48 National Park Service to help address salmon declines  
49 and protect habitats in the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton

50

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1 Sound River and water sheds. So this effort, many of  
2 you may have heard about it in the last month. It was  
3 announced by the Secretary of Interior in early March  
4 and then, again, just this last week by the Deputy  
5 Secretary during his visit, Deputy Tommy Budreaux visit  
6 to Alaska. And the effort is called Gravel to Gravel.  
7

8 The Gravel to Gravel Keystone  
9 Initiative is people, salmon and the land. It is one  
10 of the seven Keystone initiatives across the country  
11 that invests in landscape and ecosystem restoration  
12 work with our partners using funds provided by the  
13 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, sometimes you'll hear  
14 that referred to as BIL, and Inflation Reduction Act.  
15

16 Gravel to Gravel emerged from the  
17 number of nation to nation consultations, Congressional  
18 field hearings and other forms, some of which maybe  
19 some of you have been able to participate in. I was  
20 thinking of our Congressional Delegation salmon  
21 roundtable back two Decembers ago, Secretary Haaland's  
22 visit to Alaska last April and then the Assistant  
23 Secretary's who visited Bethel and Fairbanks just this  
24 past October, and, of course, the many existing  
25 partnerships and studies and reports in place for  
26 many, many years between local, State, Federal  
27 collaborations.  
28

29 During the October visits, though, the  
30 ones just this past October 2022, I was in attendance  
31 in Bethel with the Assistant Secretary and we all heard  
32 the call for a gravel to gravel response to the salmon  
33 crises. And so the Department and the Bureaus, we've  
34 all been working together since those hearings,  
35 particularly this last December and January to shape  
36 the beginning of the gravel to gravel initiative, and  
37 there are three components to it. I believe those  
38 three components are outlined in your book but I did  
39 just send along, Brooke, through Amee, so maybe the  
40 Committee can get it, the Council can get it later, but  
41 the one page fact sheet that the Department handed out.  
42

43 The gravel to gravel, the three  
44 components are.  
45

46 There's a co-stewardship component  
47 that, and as the Deputy Secretary announced last week,  
48 in Phase 1 there'll be a \$5 million investment that  
49 will really work on tribal -- tribally led and  
50

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1 developed planning, kind of planning and bringing  
2 people together and shovel ready projects that will be  
3 led directly by tribally representation. And then  
4 there are -- there's \$11 million in Phase I for shovel  
5 ready projects that move through the different bureaus.  
6 And those two different shovel ready buckets are  
7 projects to obviously help salmon, and then shovel  
8 ready projects that are responses to just larger  
9 landscape and ecosystem threats for food security, and  
10 so they will include investments in collaborative  
11 forums for habitat restoration around other species  
12 like migratory birds that we all know are so important  
13 as well.

14  
15 So those three areas again are co-  
16 stewardship, and then shovel ready projects for salmon  
17 and shovel ready larger kind of landscape ecosystem  
18 threats projects.

19  
20 So that's Phase I.

21  
22 What we're working on right now, this  
23 is all -- this kind of opportunity, which we're all  
24 grateful for, emerged pretty quickly and so right now  
25 what we're really working with across all those  
26 bureaus, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land  
27 Management, Park Service, and then with tribal  
28 consortia and tribal leadership to begin to just figure  
29 out what is the right way to start with the  
30 coordination so how do we get coordinated to organize  
31 this because this is just Phase I, so how do we get  
32 coordinated and then really working with the Department  
33 and the Office of Management and Budget to finalize  
34 kind of what the initial Phase I project list looks  
35 like. And those, we're hoping we'll be able to kind of  
36 pull together those next steps in the coordination  
37 structure much more clearly for everybody in the next  
38 two months. So, you know, we do know, obviously those  
39 shovel ready projects will be built off of many, many  
40 existing plans that have been developed over the years  
41 with many partners. So we've got -- and as I'm sure  
42 everyone on this call knows, many years of  
43 understanding of projects and investments that could  
44 potentially be put on the ground out in the region, so  
45 we'll be working from that list while we, in parallel,  
46 work with tribal leadership to develop the forum for  
47 planning that lasts long beyond Phase I and long beyond  
48 just these really one -- you know, potentially one time  
49 investments from these two big pieces of Legislation,  
50

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1 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation  
2 Reduction Act.

3

4 So that's kind of the overview, that's  
5 where we are. A lot of work has gone into just framing  
6 the initiative and gaining the Department and the  
7 Secretary's support for this, and a lot of people are,  
8 including from out in that region, have been so  
9 instrumental in making that happen. And now the next  
10 phase, the real implementation work begins and we're  
11 just at the start of looking at what coordination for  
12 that looks like.

13

14 So maybe I'll just pause there, see if  
15 there are any questions -- and, questions, if I can't  
16 answer now we at least know we'll be able to circle  
17 back with you on.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do we  
20 have any questions for Sara at this time from the  
21 Council.

22

23 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is  
24 Myron.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 And thank you for those comments regarding trying to  
33 rebuild habitat for migratory birds and such. Out at  
34 Hooper Bay we got impacted by Typhoon Merbok and I know  
35 that the nesting grounds for migratory birds got  
36 impacted too. Has anyone from the Department of Fish  
37 and Wildlife Service traveled out to assess or help  
38 working with the village to evaluate how much impact  
39 Merbok has had on those nesting grounds. I think that  
40 there needs to be an assessment done. Because Toksook  
41 Bay, which is north of the village of Hooper Bay is  
42 considered to be one of the prime nesting grounds for  
43 migration birds from all over the world.

44

45 I just have that question.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. BOARIO: Thank you. Was that Myron

50

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1 who was speaking?

2

3 MR. NANENG: Yes.

4

5 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Myron. I don't  
6 have the answer if anyone has been out there. But  
7 that's exactly -- you know, this is exactly the kind of  
8 insight I think as we pool together the kind of larger  
9 coalition to look at, how gravel to gravel moves  
10 forward, these are the kind of things that we need to  
11 hear where -- where do assessments need to be done,  
12 where do we need to understand where more work needs to  
13 be done. So I'm going to write this down for sure, to  
14 make sure it's, one, I'll find out if anyone has been  
15 out there, but if not I will make sure that it's on the  
16 team's list to look at.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. NANENG: Yeah, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any more  
23 questions or comments for Sara at this time from the  
24 Council.

25

26 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry, go ahead.

29

30 MR. PARKS: For the record this is  
31 Henry. I have a comment on beaver populations. You  
32 know back then in '70s or so we hardly had any beavers  
33 back home in my area, so since beaver population has --  
34 since it started in big numbers right here -- right  
35 now, all those creeks and river are being closed by  
36 those beavers and then we used to have a lot of fish  
37 back before the beavers started coming around to our  
38 rivers and creeks back home, and we had a lot of fish,  
39 whitefish, blackfish, but since beaver started to make  
40 dams in those creeks, most of our fish are declining,  
41 too, back home, even blackfish.

42

43 So my question is -- this might not be  
44 related to what you reported but I have a question,  
45 does beaver urine piss, are they hazardous to the fish,  
46 of any kind of fish?

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

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1 MS. BOARIO: Thanks Henry, for the  
2 comment and the question. And I don't have that  
3 immediate answer in front of me. I wonder, Brooke, if  
4 we have -- I mean I know Staff across the state and  
5 other partners have studied it at various times, that  
6 interface of beaver and fisheries. I don't know if we  
7 have someone from our Staff out there right now that  
8 could answer it now or we can definitely get the answer  
9 and get back with you.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Henry, for the  
12 question, and, thanks, Sara for following it up. I'll  
13 open it up if we have any fisheries biologists on the  
14 line, if you're able to answer Henry's question. If  
15 beaver urine has an impact on fish.

16

17 MR. BLIHOVDE: Mr. Chairman, this is  
18 Boyd Blihovde at Yukon Delta.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Boyd, go ahead.

21

22 MR. BLIHOVDE: Thanks, Mr. Oney. Yeah,  
23 again, this is Boyd, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta. Not  
24 a fisheries biologist. But I would like to just share  
25 that our fisheries folks on the Staff at Yukon Delta  
26 shared with me that they've tracked through radio  
27 transmitters and through other tracking devices salmon  
28 on the Kwethluk River way up river in the spawning  
29 grounds, they have tracked salmon in and around beaver  
30 dams. And at least approximately 10 years ago at the  
31 population levels that beavers were at that time they  
32 did not have an impact on the spawning grounds  
33 significantly at that time.

34

35 However, Henry there is correct, we've  
36 seen an increase, you know, a spike if you will and an  
37 expansion of beaver populations in places where they  
38 weren't 10 years ago. So it's definitely something  
39 that we should continue to study because with those  
40 expansion of beaver populations it could certainly  
41 change things for salmon, and so I'm glad you brought  
42 that up.

43

44 We're hearing it a lot, everywhere we  
45 go, that people are seeing beavers where they didn't  
46 see them before and in higher numbers. So something  
47 that we're definitely looking at as well.

48

49 Thank you.

50



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1 MS. BOARIO: Thanks Boyd.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone from the Council  
4 has any questions for Sara at this time.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I'll go ahead and  
9 comment. For the record my name is Raymond Oney. I  
10 thank you Sara for being on the call with us this  
11 morning with the Yukon Kuskokwim River Watershed  
12 Restoration and Resiliency Keystone Initiative. We  
13 appreciate this work that's going to be happening for  
14 our people and I thank you for acknowledging that we  
15 are still here. That we are still here as indigenous  
16 people. And we've here and continue to be here and  
17 over the years we have adapted to things that have come  
18 our way. And recently, within the last 10 years --  
19 I've sat on this Council for a good 20 years or so and  
20 I've seen a lot of elders and a lot of people that come  
21 forward to this Council and gave testimony time and  
22 time and time after time, and also our elder stories  
23 that they've handed down from ancestors to ancestors,  
24 and those stories are still with us.

25

26 And just recently we've been  
27 experiencing a lot of environmental changes. As you  
28 heard, the Typhoon Merbok that hit us last September  
29 and it's the first time we've ever experienced that  
30 type of weather in our area and, you know, it has done  
31 a lot of damage to the river system and has washed away  
32 a lot of the overhanging trees that usually protect the  
33 rivers and has washed back a good 20 -- 10 -- 10 feet  
34 into the trees and being in my area it's all low lands,  
35 and -- and falltime is when we experience the most  
36 storms, it's switching from spring break up -- because  
37 spring break up we usually see a lot of debris that  
38 comes down the river but within the last 10 years or so  
39 we've seen the rivers melt in places before the main  
40 break up hits our area, and we're on the lowest river  
41 of the Yukon, right on the mouth where it spills out  
42 into the Bering Sea. And those are concerning to us.

43

44 And also the impacts, like Myron said,  
45 the bird population, especially the emperor geese. We  
46 just heard a report about a week or two ago from the  
47 Wildlife Conservation group about the declines of  
48 emperor goose and other birds, and also their feed are  
49 not -- are being impacted by the waters that -- marine

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1 waters that affect them. And also from what we heard  
2 is that the birds are migrating further north because  
3 of better feed in that area. And that's the same with  
4 our salmon. Because of the warming of the waters on  
5 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, the migration -- or the  
6 salmon are beginning to migrate further north.

7  
8 So that's concerning to us knowing that  
9 we rely on these species since time and immemorial.  
10 And we want to find some ways to see what it's going to  
11 take to try and rebuild those stocks. I know it's not  
12 going to happen overnight, but I think this is the  
13 first step that we'd like to see because I mentioned  
14 that, you know, I've been here for a good 20 years on  
15 this Council and heard people time and time again about  
16 giving public testimony and it seems like we've been  
17 going around and around in circles so I think this is  
18 the first step in elevating our concerns so that  
19 hopefully this initiative will be the first step to  
20 move forward with our concerns.

21  
22 So I appreciate you calling in and  
23 letting us know about this Restoration and Resiliency  
24 Keystone Initiative.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MS. BOARIO: Thank you. And, yes, and  
29 your stories and the knowledge you and others have  
30 shared over many years, and certainly during the  
31 sessions I was able to participate in over the last  
32 year has been very impactful for me and I know  
33 impactful for others. I am listening. I know Boyd has  
34 been. And gravel to gravel, this effort represents --  
35 like you said, it's the first and important step and we  
36 know there's much work to be done and we want to work  
37 hand in hand to move this forward. So I appreciate  
38 everything you have shared over many years and those  
39 who have continued to speak up and we are listening and  
40 -- and looking forward to working more on this.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 Thank you everyone for having me today.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Go ahead,  
47 Richard. Richard Slats.

48  
49 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3  
4 MR. SLATS: You know those causes that  
5 are being mentioned about our migratory birds and their  
6 nesting grounds and things like this, I just wanted to  
7 point out that storm surges are common in my area.  
8 We're 17 miles inland. We're essentially on a flyzone  
9 for several of the migratory geese. And we hunt and  
10 fish for these geese, spring, and in the falltime. And  
11 as I said, we're in the flyaway. And what I'm saying  
12 about the storm surges, being caught in their -- the  
13 storm surges that are now being common. When the sea  
14 waters are coming up, all the way up to our hill, the  
15 saltwater contaminants the ponds -- you know, ponds and  
16 lakes that these geese need to rest during their --  
17 while they're migrating.

18  
19 So I just want to point that out, that  
20 that, too, is a cause for concern, about when they're  
21 making their route for their survival, the waters that  
22 -- the lands and the waters that they need to rest  
23 during their migration are being contaminated by  
24 saltwater.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Richard, for  
29 sharing that.

30  
31 MR. GILLIKIN: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, state your  
34 name.

35  
36 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you. This is Dan  
37 Gillikin with the Native Village of Napaimute. Through  
38 the Chair, if I may.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Dan, go ahead.

41  
42 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you for your  
43 presentation Sara and thank you for spearheading this  
44 initiative. I think it's going to be wonderful. But I  
45 do have questions about how you're going to decide on  
46 which projects and what entities will be taking the  
47 lead on that. I see that you're going to be partnering  
48 with tribal consortiums and organizations that you  
49 already have agreements for, what is going to be the  
50

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1 process for determining which projects are going to be  
2 funded and are you going to be collaborating or  
3 conducting outreach with tribal organizations to get  
4 feedback to what projects are important in their area?

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. BOARIO: Yeah, thank you, that's a  
9 really good and really important question. And like I  
10 said earlier, we don't quite have it all figured out.  
11 I know our intention and I know the existing  
12 organizations we've worked with very closely were able  
13 to quickly provide insight, like the Kuskokwim River  
14 InterTribal Fish Commission and AVCP, TCC and others,  
15 it is the hope and intention of everyone that with the  
16 co-stewardship dollars we're going to be able to really  
17 understand broad outreach, the planning process. What  
18 other priorities are out there. What other ideas are  
19 out there and be able to work as a collective to  
20 prioritize those. That's the big picture, intention  
21 and hope, and we have a lot to do obviously to figure  
22 out how we make that possible.

23

24 And then with the first round, you  
25 know, of shovel ready projects, is the case often with  
26 major Legislation like this, there are some immediate  
27 outcomes we have to demonstrate importantly and they're  
28 going to be based off of kind of existing plans that  
29 have been developed across that broad region over many  
30 years and they have to fit -- those shovel ready  
31 projects in the first round, they have to fit certain  
32 -- there's like buckets of funding within the  
33 Legislation across activities and so they have to meet  
34 criteria, whether it's like -- I know for some of the  
35 Bureau of Land Management funding, for example, larger  
36 habitat restoration projects, and so we're figuring  
37 out, kind of out of the existing plans we have, which  
38 projects fit in the activity funds associated with the  
39 Legislation and then with the broader co-stewardship  
40 funds which are able to be utilized for larger planning  
41 efforts, that those funds can help us bring people  
42 together to really get the sense of many tribes, many  
43 people's ideas of how we should approach this in the  
44 short and long-term. And my hope is, you know, this is  
45 just Phase I, that we're going to be able, over the  
46 course of building this, to attract additional  
47 investment and support so we can just build on this  
48 first round of investment from the Department.

49

50

0300

1                   So a very good question. We don't  
2 quite have it figured out. But the goal is to figure  
3 it out together.

4  
5                   MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you for your  
6 comments Sara. I really appreciate it. And I'm happy  
7 to offer my services to provide input on some of this  
8 if you ever want to reach out.

9  
10                  Thank you.

11  
12                  MS. BOARIO: Yeah, thank you very much.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Dan.

15  
16                  MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is  
17 Myron, I have a question.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

20  
21                  MR. NANENG: Yeah, I know with our  
22 village of Hooper Bay we have a project that we  
23 initiated with working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service Refuge for a trail project that would reduce  
25 impacts of vehicles on nesting grounds, but the funding  
26 did not come from Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
27 funding came from USDA/NRCS. Is there going to be  
28 coordination of some of these funds with the other  
29 Federal agencies in implementing the gravel to gravel?

30  
31                  MS. BOARIO: That's another good  
32 question. And, Myron, we have reached out to USDA and  
33 NRCS and are looking at, you know, most of these  
34 agencies receive different kinds of pots of fund from  
35 that Legislation, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure  
36 Law and Inflation Reduction Act and so we're looking  
37 at, you know, based on Congressional direction, where  
38 there's opportunity to compliment funding. So, yes, we  
39 -- that outreach has occurred and we're looking at how  
40 do we put these different pieces together, these  
41 different funding pots together as well.

42  
43                  We're also, you know, the \$5 million  
44 that's going into the co-stewardship focus area.....

45  
46                  (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48  
49                  MS. BOARIO: .....the Native American  
50

0301

1 and Philanthropy are providing some matching funds for  
2 that. And so we know there's also a great interest  
3 from the (Indiscernible - coughing) community to  
4 provide support and help where it makes sense and where  
5 they're invited in by tribes to participate. So  
6 there's a lot of interest and we're working to bring  
7 more people to the table for sure.

8

9 MR. NANENG: Okay, thank you very much.  
10 I think that somebody has their phone not on mute. It  
11 would be good to request whoever has his or her phone  
12 to be put on mute.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Myron. Yes,  
17 please if you're on the teleconference and not speaking  
18 please mute your phone, star, six or the mute button.  
19 You all can continue, sorry.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. If  
22 there are no other questions coming from the Council, I  
23 appreciate you, Sara, giving this update and to get  
24 this Keystone Initiative going and we look forward to  
25 working with you as you move along in this initiative.  
26 So thank you, again, for calling in and updating us.

27

28 Thank you, very much.

29

30 MS. BOARIO: Thank you all again, and  
31 really appreciate the invitation and truly a thank you  
32 to everyone out in the region, including everyone here  
33 today. You know the foundation of gravel to gravel  
34 really does come from the voices in the region who have  
35 been asking for this and know the conditions on the  
36 ground very well. So thank you for your leadership in  
37 helping make this happen as well.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, again.

40

41 We'll go ahead and continue with our  
42 agenda. Next online we have Orutsararmiut Council  
43 update with Janessa Esquible. ONC.

44

45 Brooke.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I don't think  
48 Janessa is available to call in today. I'd just ask if  
49 anyone else from ONC was wanting to give a  
50

0302

1 presentation. There is a handout that Janessa  
2 submitted, it's in your supplemental materials on Tab 5  
3 and she was going to update us about indigenizing  
4 salmon science and management project that they have  
5 going on. If we don't have anyone from ONC online the  
6 Council could review that information.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, since there's no  
11 one here from ONC that could give us -- to make this  
12 presentation, we could also recommend that we take it  
13 up in the fall when she's available, so, thank you  
14 again for making this available to the Council.

15

16 Moving on, the next item we have is the  
17 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association update with  
18 Gabe Canfield with YRDFA.

19

20 MS. CANFIELD: Hello, I'm on the line,  
21 can you hear me?

22

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're nice and  
24 loud.

25

26 MS. CANFIELD: Okay. One minute, I'm  
27 just going to open up our document real quick so I can  
28 read off of it. But I can do introductions first while  
29 I'm doing that. My name is Gabe Canfield. My Inupiaq  
30 name is (In Inupiaq). I am the Policy  
31 Coordinator/Program Coordinator for the Yukon River  
32 Drainage Fisheries Association. I am currently calling  
33 in from Anchorage where I work in my home-base. I was  
34 supposed to make it out to Bethel but I didn't make it  
35 due to a conflict of a couple meetings -- there's a  
36 couple different meetings happening in Anchorage that  
37 I've been running back and forth from. But, yeah, I  
38 will go ahead and give my report.

39

40 Good morning, Madame Chair [sic] and  
41 members.....

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Gabe, sorry.....

44

45 MS. CANFIELD: .....of.....

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry Gabe. Before you  
48 start, this is Brooke, Council Coordinator. I just  
49 want to direct the Council members to your report

50

0303

1 that's in their meeting materials. If Council members  
2 want to turn to Page 95 in your meeting books and then,  
3 Gabe, you can continue. Sorry about that.

4

5 MS. CANFIELD: Yeah, no worries.

6 Thanks for that. Thanks for the opportunity to present  
7 to the Eastern Interior [sic] Regional Advisory  
8 Council. I'm pleased to represent the Yukon River  
9 Drainage Fisheries Association. I'd like to bring  
10 your attention to the report and this will give a  
11 series of updates and activities on our key since we  
12 last met in October at the fall.

13

14 First and foremost I will be giving a  
15 Board update. This is very new news to us. So the  
16 YRDFA annual meeting that was set to be April 17 and 18  
17 is going to be postponed. We were going to have a  
18 board-wide meeting in Fairbanks in conjunction with the  
19 pre-season meeting. So the pre-season meeting that  
20 YRDFA hosts each year will still be happening and that  
21 will be on April 19th and 20th. But the Board meeting  
22 is probably going to be postponed to later in May,  
23 maybe at the end of May. We'll post some later updates  
24 on our socials and our newsletter and through other  
25 channels soon. But the Yukon River pre-season meeting  
26 is scheduled in Fairbanks at the Wedgewood Resort. It  
27 will be a two day meeting instead of our usual one day  
28 meeting and YRDFA will cover travel for one  
29 representative from each tribe to attend the preseason  
30 meeting. This meeting will be very informative in  
31 regards to the recent Board of Fisheries meeting as  
32 well as the current meetings that are going on with the  
33 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The  
34 meeting will also be made available virtually. An  
35 agenda will be available in a few weeks before we head  
36 up to Fairbanks.

37

38 I'll give a fisheries disaster update  
39 for the years 2023, 2022. The second spend draft plan  
40 comments were due February 15, 2023. The estimated  
41 loss for the 2020 to 2021 Yukon River commercial  
42 chinook and chum salmon due to the fishery disaster is  
43 \$5 million with a proportion loss total at 5.3 percent  
44 and a proposed allocation from the disaster funding is  
45 \$28,500,000 for the 2020 to 2021 Yukon River  
46 subsistence estimated loss is \$28 million with a  
47 proportion loss of 26.7 percent and the allocation is  
48 \$12,600,000. The way that this estimated loss due to  
49 the fisheries disaster was calculated is by subtracting  
50



0304

1 the gross revenue value of the fishery in a disaster  
2 year from the previous five year average gross revenue  
3 value for the species of salmon included in the  
4 disaster. You can find the draft spend plan for this  
5 on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. The  
6 2022 Yukon River Fisheries Disaster is pending with the  
7 Department of Commerce and is unsure when that will be  
8 approved.

9  
10 Teleconferences. The 2023 in-season  
11 teleconferences will begin on June 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.  
12 Alaska standard time and 2:00 Pacific daylight time in  
13 Canada. The community posters will be sent to all the  
14 communities and First Nations in Canada and will be  
15 posted by our surveyors to the salmon program that  
16 YRDFA puts on each year.

17  
18 Area M, our Board and Staff attended  
19 the Board of Fish, (Indiscernible) Aleutians and  
20 Chignik Fishery meeting on February 20th, 2022 [sic].  
21 Many of our Board members and our Staff gave testimony  
22 to help support the Yukon River salmon gain passage  
23 time in the Area M fishery. Unfortunately Proposal 140  
24 has failed and any other efforts to incorporate reduced  
25 fishing time in additional proposals as well.

26  
27 YRDFA is involved with a coalition with  
28 other organizations from Chignik, Bristol Bay,  
29 Kuskokwim, Yukon and Norton Sound. We are continuing  
30 to have weekly meetings to discuss next steps on this  
31 issue. Our debrief meeting has been scheduled and  
32 completed and we have ongoing meetings on Thursdays.  
33 If you're interested in participating on these weekly  
34 calls please provide us with your name, email and  
35 organization. We often discuss Area M and bycatch  
36 issues especially amongst the meetings going on for the  
37 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

38  
39 On February 16th and 17th of 2023 we  
40 had the first annual Yukon River virtual symposium  
41 hosted by YRDFA. We had six presentation throughout the  
42 Yukon River watershed and three breakout sessions on  
43 multiple projects ranging from traditional ecological  
44 knowledge, education, science and data and salmon.  
45 Over the two days we had over 50 participants join us.  
46 The symposium will soon be uploaded to our YouTube  
47 channel if you're interested in seeing any of it. We  
48 plan to continue the Yukon River symposium, including  
49 the potential of having it in person next year.

50

0305

1                   The local and traditional knowledge of  
2 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats. This FRMP funded  
3 project has been completed and it is included in the  
4 packet, the final summary sent to the communities. In  
5 this project YRDFA partnered with the communities of  
6 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie, the Tanana Chief's  
7 Conference to update the Anadromous Waters Catalog. We  
8 used a combination of traditional knowledge and Western  
9 science techniques to document anadromous fish and make  
10 nomination to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

11  
12                   I'd like to update you as well on our  
13 project of Elders Warnings Project. We are in the  
14 final year of this project in which we are partnering  
15 with three young adults from the TCC Emerging Leaders  
16 Program. They have been digging through the archives  
17 and conducting interviews with elders throughout the  
18 Yukon River. Some of them have attended the recent  
19 Board of Fish meetings and interviewed participants.  
20 They will be creating some short videos and other  
21 products and will begin sharing these results later  
22 this year. This project goes through March of 2024.  
23 Our final year will be focused on summarizing what we  
24 have learned, producing outreach materials and giving  
25 presentations about the project.

26  
27                   The project in connection with the  
28 local and traditional knowledge of anadromous fish is  
29 funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund and is a  
30 partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska Department of  
31 Fish and Game with a goal of expanding documentation of  
32 fish presence in life stages on a section of the Yukon  
33 and Tanana Rivers. We sent out a project summary to  
34 the communities for their review. During the summer of  
35 2022 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game team  
36 conducted biological fieldwork via a riverboat and  
37 helicopter surveys to document fish presence, rearing  
38 and spawning in the locations identified through the  
39 LTK interviews. They had three trips planned from  
40 Nenana to Tanana to document the different fish species  
41 in the Tanana River and its tributaries in early June,  
42 late July and the end of September. They floated the  
43 Tanana River from Nenana to Tanana in early June and  
44 traveled to Tanana to conduct field surveys by boat and  
45 helicopter in July. They had planned to also travel to  
46 Nenana and Manley Hot Springs for the July work, but  
47 the fires in the area required them to abbreviate their  
48 work. For this reason we have extended this project  
49 through June 30 of 2024 and we will return to complete

50

0306

1 the fieldwork during the summer of 2023.

2

3

4 Nominations to the Anadromous Waters  
5 Catalog were made for waterbodies supporting anadromous  
6 fishes such as least cisco, broad whitefish, humpback  
7 whitefish, coho salmon and chinook salmon. In total we  
8 caught 16 species during our 2022 field season. The  
9 ADF&G team will return to finalize their fieldwork July  
10 24 to 28 of 2023 and they will operate via helicopter.  
11 YRDFA Staff plans to return to the communities of  
12 Manley, Nenana and Tanana during their final year of  
13 the project with a presentation of the preliminary  
14 results and to gather feedback from the communities.  
15 The final submissions will be made to the AWC and a  
16 final report will be written and shared widely.

16

17

18 Talking about the In-Season Subsistence  
19 Salmon Survey Program our surveyors informed us that it  
20 would be easier to do their job if people could fish  
21 and wanted to participate in this survey. They said  
22 some people were reluctant to give any information,  
23 afraid that they would be shutdown or restricted from  
24 any kind of fishing. We, at YRDFA, are learning that  
25 we need to find ways to put people at ease and from the  
26 updates that our surveyors provided at the end of the  
27 season survey we at YRDFA are working on doing updates  
28 through a survey that include and encompass traditional  
29 ecological knowledge alongside our harvest information.

29

30

31 Also launching this survey season is a  
32 digitalization process of our survey which has  
33 previously only been done in paper format. So we are  
34 partnering with the Aleut Tribe of St. Paul to  
35 implement an app format of our survey through the  
36 science program to help support our surveyors and allow  
37 for additional information that can be included when  
38 our surveyors interview fishers. This will allow for  
39 more detailed information on fish species that might be  
40 caught or seen, environmental conditions including  
41 temperature, water temperature and level, debris,  
42 weather, unusual disturbances or factors in fisher  
43 questions about what needs are being met or unmet. We  
44 will have a training at our pre-season meeting with our  
45 surveyors and then do a pilot season with surveyors who  
46 are interested this summer. This will take place at  
47 the same time as the teleconference surveys and we will  
48 report and give updates on this project.

48

49

50 Finally the Yukon River Clearinghouse

50

0307

1 Project is being launched soon and in partnership with  
2 the Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council is a  
3 culturally responsive monitoring program that will  
4 culminate in a digital clearinghouse where traditional  
5 ecological knowledge and scientific materials on the  
6 Yukon River will be accessible. The hiring process for  
7 the Clearinghouse Project is underway and we have sent  
8 out job descriptions for local hires across the Yukon  
9 River to do water quality monitoring and testing as  
10 well as training to do traditional ecological knowledge  
11 interviews. Training and onboarding will be taking  
12 place around the hiring (indiscernible) hiring in  
13 Anchorage from May 15 to 18.

14  
15 More information on other YRDFA  
16 projects and programs are included in your supplemental  
17 materials and we would be happy to answer any questions  
18 about our report, projects or current local hiring  
19 opportunities.

20  
21 Thank you for the opportunity to attend  
22 the meeting and provide this report.

23  
24 If you have anything else, please let  
25 me know.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Gabe, for  
28 your presentation with YRDFA. Do any of the Council  
29 have any questions or comments for Gabe at this time.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you  
34 very much for your presentation and all the work that  
35 you're doing. We'll look forward to any updates that  
36 will come in during the fall meeting and continue to  
37 work with the people up and down the river to find some  
38 ways to address the declining salmon stocks, chinook  
39 stocks, and other species that we rely on. So we thank  
40 you very much for all the hard work that you're doing,  
41 thank you.

42  
43 MS. CANFIELD: Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you we'll  
46 continue with our agenda. We have to keep an eye out  
47 for our 11 a.m., call from the Department of Interior,  
48 Indian Affairs. So at this time I'm 'going to call on  
49 2023 Yukon River salmon fisheries outlook with Gerald  
50

0308

1 Maschmann of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Gerald if  
2 you're with us you have the call.

3

4 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Chairman and  
5 Council. This is Gerald Maschmann. I'm the Assistant  
6 Federal Manager for the Yukon River. Holly Carroll,  
7 the Federal Manager, sends her regards. She's actually  
8 at the Yukon River Panel meeting right now discussing  
9 salmon with our neighbors up in Canada. So I'll keep  
10 it brief. I believe my handout is on Tab 6 of the  
11 supplemental materials. Maybe Brooke can direct you to  
12 that.

13

14 We'll start with the forecast. It's --  
15 again, it doesn't really look good. Starting with  
16 chinook maybe -- we have a forecast range of 62,000 to  
17 104,000, a chinook salmon run of that size is not  
18 expected to meet any escapement goals, and  
19 unfortunately it's not forecasted to meet our Border  
20 obligations, getting chinook salmon across into Canada.

21

22 The summer chum forecast is maybe a  
23 little better than last year, however there's a lot of  
24 uncertainty with the summer chum forecast. We got a  
25 range of 280,000 to 900,000 fish and our escapement  
26 drainage-wide escapement goal range is between 500,000  
27 and 1.2 million summer chum. So, you know, if we come  
28 in better than expected and we get closer to that upper  
29 end of the range -- upper half of the range, there's  
30 the potential for some summer chum harvest but, again,  
31 there's a lot of uncertainty with that estimate. And  
32 if folks can remember, back in 2019, there were a lot  
33 of high temperatures on the Yukon and so that has an  
34 impact on the expected four year old summer chum that  
35 are returning.

36

37 Similar, the fall chum salmon run is  
38 forecasted to be between 112,000 and 602,000 fish and  
39 we have a drainage-wide escapement goal for fall chum  
40 of between 300 and 600,000 fish. So, again, a lot of  
41 uncertainty with the fall chum run. If the fall chum  
42 come in better than we anticipate and it comes in on  
43 that upper end there's, you know, maybe a chance for a  
44 little bit of harvest on fall chum but, again, a lot of  
45 uncertainty.

46

47 And coho salmon is forecasted to be  
48 below average but, again, there's a lot of uncertainty  
49 with the coho run.

50

0309

1                   What this means for fishermen and what  
2 they should probably expect is, you know, fishers  
3 should expect limited salmon fishing again for 2023.  
4 They should expect closures for salmon, particularly  
5 early in the season and if the runs continue to be poor  
6 should probably expect salmon fishing to be closed for  
7 all season and they should try to harvest other fish  
8 species if they can.

9  
10                   We'll be watching the lower Yukon test  
11 fishery and Pilot Station sonar as well as listening to  
12 local fishermen reports to assess the strengths of the  
13 incoming runs and like I said if they come in better  
14 than anticipated, you know, fishing opportunities may  
15 be implemented based on whatever surplus is available.

16  
17                   Public outreach and tribal consultation  
18 meetings are ongoing this spring. We have invited  
19 Yukon River tribal governments to a government to  
20 government tribal consultation meetings this spring.  
21 I'd encourage you to encourage your tribal leaders to  
22 participate in these government to government meetings  
23 if they so wish to.

24  
25                   And, again, like I said, the Yukon  
26 River Panel was held in Whitehorse Canada April 1st  
27 through the 5th, so they're just getting back from  
28 that.

29  
30                   YRDFA will be having their Board  
31 meeting April 17th and 18th and the public pre-season  
32 fishermen's meeting will be held April 19th and 20th  
33 and I would look out for that invitation from YRDFA.  
34 And sometime around the 1st of May, the Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game will be sending out the  
36 colored information sheet that contains the outlook and  
37 potential management strategies for the season so keep  
38 an eye out for that in the mail. And as usual we'll  
39 be, you know, participating in the weekly YRDFA  
40 teleconferences. Information will be shared on the  
41 ADF&G Facebook page as well as through the regular  
42 advisory announcements and news releases. Daily test  
43 fish counts and fishery announcements can be found on  
44 ADF&G's toll free hotline. That can be found on any  
45 news release or on any of the outreach materials.

46  
47                   And those who haven't heard, the North  
48 Pacific Fish Management Council meeting is being held  
49 April 6th through the 11th in Anchorage so if any of  
50

0310

1 you have a chance to tie into that. I believe there's  
2 a YouTube channel where you can watch the proceedings  
3 and I think provide testimony if that opportunity comes  
4 up.

5

6 And, lastly, there's a couple of  
7 projects that we're doing on the river this year. One  
8 is we're continuing our ichthyophonus study on the  
9 river working with ADF&G as well as some tribal  
10 entities with the village of Rampart and Fort Yukon.  
11 That will be ongoing again. And the Alaska Department  
12 of Fish and Game will be tagging -- radiotagging  
13 chinook salmon on the river this year. And those of  
14 you who remember, you know, back in the early 2000s  
15 there was -- we radiotagged chinook and we learned a  
16 lot about their migratory routes and where they go to  
17 spawn and so this will be a follow up and hopefully  
18 will shed some light on -- you know there's been  
19 discrepancy between the number of fish we've seen at  
20 Pilot Station and then what we're actually seeing at  
21 the Eagle Sonar and at the spawning grounds up river.  
22 So it's hoped that this tagging study might shed some  
23 light on what's going on with the king salmon. So be  
24 aware that we'll be tagging king salmon.

25

26 And I'm sorry I couldn't be there in  
27 person. I wanted to be, but I had a travel snafu and  
28 we have some handouts for the ichthyophonus and tagging  
29 project. I don't know if Brooke has those for you to  
30 hand out, but we'll try and get those to you if she  
31 doesn't have any copies.

32

33 So if there's any questions we'll take  
34 them now and if there's anyone with the Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game who wants to add  
36 information or clarified, this would be a good chance  
37 for them to do that.

38

39 So, thank you, sir.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
42 Gerald, appreciate your report. Is t here any  
43 questions or comments coming from the Council at this  
44 time for Gerald.

45

46 Wassilly, go ahead.

47

48 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is  
49 Myron.

50

0311

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Wassilly and then  
2 Myron.

3  
4 Wassilly, go ahead.

5  
6 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 just have a comment on the tagging for fish. Is that  
8 going to happen around the Russian Mission area on the  
9 Yukon? And the other things is on.....

10  
11 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, sir, I.....

12  
13 MR. ALEXIE: I know we had a lot of  
14 complaints from people about why are they doing tagging  
15 when we can't go out and get fish for our families.  
16 And, you know, we can't go out and disturb the fish  
17 but, yet, they still come in and pull the fish out and  
18 tag the fish and throw them back in.

19  
20 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, sir, through the  
21 Chair. Councilman Wassilly. Thank you. The first  
22 question is we're going to be -- it looks like the  
23 Department's going to be tagging near Emmonak. And in  
24 the past they've tagged in Russian Mission just due to  
25 the commercial fishery that was in Districts 1 and 2,  
26 you know, any commercial fishing and, you know, even  
27 subsistence fishing seems unlikely this season so  
28 they're tagging in Emmonak this year.

29  
30 And you make a good point, sir.  
31 Similar to the ichthyophonous, some people think we  
32 should not be disturbing the fish but there are other  
33 fishermen who are supportive. They want to know what's  
34 going on with the king salmon and this may be something  
35 that will shed some light on where the fish are going,  
36 maybe why we're not seeing the fish up river like we  
37 might see them down river.

38  
39 So I think you make a good point and we  
40 appreciate your input on that.

41  
42 One thing the Department is doing is  
43 they're cutting back on their Emmonak test fishery so  
44 -- and many of the test fisheries on the river are  
45 cutting back to try and cut back on mortality in the  
46 test fishery. So that's one of the ways, you know,  
47 we're mitigating for the tagging.

48  
49 MR. ALEXIE: Okay, thank you. I just  
50



0312

1 had one more comment on, you know, looking for other  
2 species of fish to cover for the salmon is we have few  
3 streams that the salmon don't go up and spawn, yet  
4 we're not allowed to set net in those sloughs. We're  
5 allowed to use only 4 inch nets and it's like fishing  
6 for sardines in the little slough that the fish don't  
7 go up and spawn.

8

9 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.

10 Thank you, sir. And, yeah, that's a common comment  
11 that we get from a lot fishermen. So I think you're  
12 out of District 1; is that correct?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. MASCHMANN: Sir, I think you're out  
17 of District 1 in the lower Yukon -- yeah, I think pre-  
18 season, you know, we'll be talking with the managers  
19 and hopefully letting people use some -- a little bit  
20 larger mesh gear early in the season for, you know, the  
21 sheefish run. And then most likely one of our  
22 strategies would be to allow that early in the season  
23 and then as the fish start coming in reduce it to four  
24 inch. But if you feel like maybe there are some  
25 sloughs that, you know, don't have a lot of salmon and  
26 would maybe like to use a larger mesh gear, I think  
27 that's a good thing to propose to the managers this  
28 spring and maybe at the first YRDFA teleconference.  
29 You know we're always open to considering ways that we  
30 can, you know, get people the fish that they need,  
31 particularly during these times that we're having right  
32 now.

33

34 So appreciate that comment.

35

36 MR. ALEXIE: Okay, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Myron.

39

40 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Thanks for letting us know that the high temperature  
42 had impact on chum salmon back in 2019. And for 2018,  
43 I think we did not have that phenomenal high  
44 temperature water having an impact on chum salmon. Is  
45 it possible to take a look at what may have caused the  
46 2022 chum salmon return to be low. Was it interception  
47 or bycatch? And that way by having that information  
48 we'd have a better understanding of why chums are  
49 returning at lower numbers in 2022 when we anticipate  
50

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1 in 2019 impact will have on 2023.

2

3 So I'm asking if there's potential  
4 review of that so that we can have a better  
5 understanding, low returns of chums when there usually  
6 was a high number of chums returning to the Yukon  
7 River.

8

9 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, sir. Through the  
10 Chair. Thank you, Councilman Naneng. That's a really  
11 good question and there's a lot of smart people who are  
12 smarter than me who are trying to answer that. You  
13 know certainly, you know, bycatch was something that  
14 happened and occurred in those years. I think most  
15 folks are looking at something happened in the Bering  
16 Sea that hit that particular age class, or the last  
17 couple of age classes pretty hard so we don't know for  
18 sure what happened for the chums but it seemed to hit a  
19 lot of folks -- a lot of runs in a lot of different  
20 rivers so it seems like something happened in the  
21 Bering Sea that year that hit those particular age  
22 classes. So, again, I can't foresee the future but the  
23 folks that sample the juvenile chum out in the Bering  
24 Sea -- you've probably heard Sabrina Garcia give these  
25 reports in the past, they've been seeing pretty good  
26 indicators of juvenile chum, healthy, you know, large  
27 healthy juvenile chum, you know, in their surveys so  
28 that kind of gives us some hope that as far as the chum  
29 salmon go maybe we'll be coming out of this.

30

31 But, again, we don't know what comes  
32 back until they come back.

33

34 MR. NANENG: Yeah. My question also  
35 related to the fact that there's interception of the  
36 chums bound for the Yukon, and I was wondering if there  
37 was any relation to the intercept by Area M fisheries  
38 for chums that are returning to our river systems.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, excuse me, we  
41 have a call coming in from Department of Interior, and  
42 we're kind of pressed for time at this time. It is now  
43 two minutes after 11, maybe if we could hold your  
44 comments to maybe after or if we have time we could  
45 pick it up again in the fall because I'm sure we'll  
46 hear from you again in the fall.

47

48 So thank you, again, Gerald, for giving  
49 us an update in regards to the outlook for this summer.

50

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1 So thanks again. We look forward to your updates in  
2 the fall. And, thank you, again, Council members for  
3 your comments.

4  
5 At this time I will go ahead and call  
6 the Department of Interior, Indian Affairs Briefing  
7 Regarding Office of Subsistence Management. If you're  
8 on, go ahead, you could go ahead and introduce  
9 yourself.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. GARRIOTT: Hello, can you hear me?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're nice and  
16 loud, thank you.

17

18 MR. GARRIOTT: Great. Great. Well,  
19 thank you. Hi, my name is

20

21

22 MR. GARRIOTT: Hi, my name is Wizipan  
23 Garriott, I serve as the Principle Deputy Assistant  
24 Secretary for Indian Affairs here at the Department of  
25 Interior, and the Assistant Secretary Brian Newland was  
26 not able to join today so I'm filling in on his behalf  
27 and I also think that Raina -- are you on?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. GARRIOTT: So my -- she might not  
32 be on but I think she was going to try to join. Raina  
33 Fiel\* who is the Senior Advisory to the Secretary for  
34 Alaska Affairs. I really appreciate the Council taking  
35 the time today to speak with you about one of our  
36 proposals from the Department of Interior and we're  
37 here to provide information on the Department of  
38 Interior's proposal to move the Office of Subsistence  
39 Management from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the  
40 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.  
41 This proposal was included in the President's fiscal  
42 year '24 which was recently released.

43

44 As a lot of you know, last year the  
45 Department, working with the Department of Agriculture  
46 and NOAA participated as well hosted three tribal  
47 consultations and listening sessions on how to improve  
48 the Federal Subsistence Program so that we could better  
49 meet the needs of Alaska Native -- of subsistence

50

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1 users. And by far the top ask from the participants  
2 was to OSM from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the  
3 direct supervision of the Office of the Secretary of  
4 the Interior. And that is what this proposal does.  
5 Moving OSM from Fish and Wildlife Service -- and, you  
6 know, so a lot of this is really aimed at trying to  
7 figure out and to think about how we can do our job  
8 better. And you should know better than anybody,  
9 subsistence practices are essential, they're vital to  
10 the life ways of Alaska Native, communities and people  
11 as well as to many non-Native rural Alaskans. Alaska  
12 Native peoples and others, you know, really depend  
13 heavily on subsistence for subsistence life ways and  
14 practices to meet all of their needs, their nutritional  
15 needs, their social needs, economic, traditional and  
16 cultural needs.

17  
18 And, you know, in the comments from the  
19 consultation that we held last year it really pointed  
20 to, you know, one of the adverse impacts that climate  
21 change is having -- and I got to listen in for a couple  
22 of minutes on -- as we were waiting for this, and what  
23 some of those impacts are and especially with Native  
24 Alaska people, you know, who are front lined to  
25 witnessing these impacts, and that doesn't only impact  
26 the Alaska Native community but it really impacts all  
27 subsistence and a lot of what we heard during the  
28 consultations highlighted the need to expand tribal  
29 partnerships and to improve on the incorporation of  
30 indigenous knowledge into our management programs.

31  
32 Elevating, you know, OSM to the level  
33 of the Assistant Secretary within the Office of the  
34 Secretary will help ensure that these Program needs are  
35 met, and that the Program gets a really higher level of  
36 attention and visibility and access to the resources  
37 that it needs to better carry out its mission.

38  
39 You know, in addition to moving the  
40 office we also have proposed to increase the budget for  
41 OSM by 2.5 million. This is broken down into 1.5  
42 million in additional funding for the Fisheries  
43 Resource Monitoring Program, which will allow the  
44 Fisheries Resource Management Program to expand its  
45 capabilities through various active partner agreements  
46 and we're also proposing that an additional 1 million  
47 to create a new Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program,  
48 something that's similar to the Fisheries Monitoring  
49 Program to really help get more information needed for  
50

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1 the Federal Subsistence wildlife management.

2

3 If the program is adopted, OSM will  
4 continue to provide support to the Federal Subsistence  
5 Management Program for the benefit of all rural users  
6 within the Program, while, you know, really continuing  
7 to focus on fulfilling the requirements of Title VIII.  
8 The Department, you know, really believes that this  
9 will strengthen the program and all users will benefit  
10 from the additional opportunities that this move will  
11 make so that we can better leverage indigenous  
12 knowledge and enhance the program's partnership and  
13 collaboration with tribes.

14

15 Under the proposal all of OSM's  
16 functions and funding would move from Fish and Wildlife  
17 Service to the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

18

19 All Staff would retain their positions  
20 and continue their responsibilities unless they chose  
21 to remain with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

22

23 We mentioned some of the -- that \$2.5  
24 million increase in the proposal and we wanted to also  
25 make sure that folks understood that this proposal  
26 would not go into effect unless it was enacted by  
27 Congress in the Fiscal Year '24 Appropriations Bill.  
28 That proposal is now before Congress and, you know,  
29 we'll be continuing to work with Congress over the next  
30 year and in the coming months to see if we can get a  
31 budget passed.

32

33 But I will stop talking, but before  
34 that I want to really thank the Chair and the rest of  
35 the Board for taking the time to hear from us today and  
36 I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, very much  
39 Wizipan Garriott. Do we have any comments or questions  
40 for Wizipan at this time from the Council.

41

42 Jackie, go ahead.

43

44 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. And, welcome,  
45 my name is Jackie. I was wondering, after going to a  
46 Native relations training last month, I believe, or a  
47 month and a half ago, for Alaska, which I thought was a  
48 really helpful tool kit for people from outside of  
49 Alaska who are coming in to leadership positions in

50

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1 Alaska, working with tribes, I saw that it was most  
2 beneficial to them on best practices, in like going to  
3 rural villages and how to communicate with Native  
4 relations. So I was wondering if there was anything  
5 like that on the National level and, if not, if there's  
6 plans to maybe incorporate something like that in this  
7 program.

8  
9 Thanks.

10  
11 MR. GARRIOTT: Thanks, Jackie,  
12 appreciate that question. Just for clarification, are  
13 you referring to, when you say the National level, are  
14 you talking about kind of just whole Department of  
15 Interior, overall, training for kind of working better  
16 with Native communities or -- is that what you're  
17 asking?

18  
19 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes, that's what I  
20 meant. Thank you.

21  
22 MR. GARRIOTT: Yeah, absolutely. So  
23 the quick answer is yes and I think there's a couple  
24 ways in which we're looking at doing that. One is the  
25 Department has a new tribal consultation policy that  
26 was passed, or adopted in November, and, you know, so  
27 we have a new tribal consultation policy and, you know,  
28 we have the policy but, you know, a lot of folks still  
29 don't know about it. And so we're going to be working  
30 over the next year, the entire Department, to get  
31 training and more information to our Federal Staff on  
32 how to better implement that policy so that's something  
33 that's National. And then another area, that's real  
34 important is, you know, use and utilization in a  
35 respectful manner, you know, kind of really guided by  
36 tribes and Native communities on the use of indigenous  
37 knowledge. The Department issued a new chapter, a  
38 Department Manual chapter on that, it's a draft chapter  
39 that's gone out for consultation and so we're hoping to  
40 hear from folks on how we could do that.

41  
42 So those are two specific ways in which  
43 we're doing that.

44  
45 And then I also just want to  
46 acknowledge that, you know, over half the tribes in the  
47 country are from Alaska and so we try to make sure that  
48 we put a lot of time, attention and energy to reinforce  
49 our obligations, you know, up in that area and to also  
50

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1 understand that it's different, and it's a unique area  
2 with unique needs that are specific and different from  
3 the rest of the country. And so we have to make sure  
4 that we're aware of that and doing our job there.

5

6 MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions or  
9 comments for Wizipan at this time from the Council.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, my  
14 question is -- for the record, Raymond Oney. Once this  
15 move is accepted and the proposal goes through and the  
16 outlook should start in 2024 we still have to go  
17 through the process of getting our concerns and our  
18 comments made, I think it still has to go through the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board to reach you?

20

21 MR. GARRIOTT: Yeah, so, you know,  
22 obviously if there's any questions, comments or  
23 concerns, you know, folks can reach out to us at any  
24 point and we'd be happy to answer those questions or  
25 address those concerns. And, you know, that door  
26 remains open. Full transparency is something we really  
27 believe in so, you know, again that's part of why we're  
28 having these meetings with all of the Regional Advisory  
29 Councils and, you know, I think that kind of -- that  
30 baseline question, can you reach us, you know, is one  
31 of the reasons for the move, is to kind of elevate  
32 these issues so that they can be kind of better, more  
33 easily addressed and so that's with this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. I  
36 feel that it's been a long time coming. I know we've,  
37 over the years, heard a lot of comments and a lot of  
38 concerns with the resources that we depend on in our  
39 back door and I think it seems like we've been going  
40 around in circles all these years. So happy to hear  
41 and hopefully we move in that direction to better meet  
42 the needs of subsistence users and to address through  
43 the Secretary of the Interior to see that our needs are  
44 met.

45

46 So, again, if there's no other  
47 questions or comments.

48

49 I believe Myron may have a comment.

50

0319

1 Myron, go ahead.

2

3 MR. NANENG: I was listening. I don't  
4 have a comment. But I'll just ask this question.

5

6 Like Ray just asked about the same  
7 process of getting to the Department of Interior. I  
8 know that proposals have to go through the Big Board  
9 before it gets to the Department of Interior to take  
10 action. And I'm wondering if the emergency -- if  
11 there's going to be an emergency request by any of the  
12 villages, will that have to go all the way to  
13 Washington, D.C., or is it going to say at the local  
14 area managers because right now we know that there  
15 really isn't a Department of Fish and Wildlife or BIA  
16 offices in our office in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and  
17 the office that they have is located in Anchorage.

18

19 That's my question.

20

21 MR. GARRIOTT: Yes, just to make sure  
22 that I'm understand and I'm answering the question.  
23 You know, I guess a couple things.

24

25 One, we're not moving this to the  
26 Bureau of Indian Affairs, it's to the Office of the  
27 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. And our  
28 office, we oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the  
29 Bureau of Trust Fund Administration and the Bureau of  
30 Indian Education as well as a number of other offices  
31 like the offices.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -  
34 participants not muted - yelling)

35

36 MR. GARRIOTT: .....that are kind of  
37 managed directly from our office, which would be Office  
38 of Indian Economic Development, Office of Indian  
39 Gaming, and a few others and so this would be right  
40 there, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary and so  
41 it would be with any of the Bureaus, which is at the  
42 start -- how it would be elevated, the program.

43

44 And from a practical, you know, kind of  
45 every day business standpoint, you know, the employees  
46 that are there in the field would remain, any of the  
47 offices that are there in the field would remain, and,  
48 you know, so from a daily operational standpoint, you  
49 know, those things would remain the same but any

50



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1 concerns or recommendations, et cetera, those would  
2 just be elevated. So that's how we think that it would  
3 end up playing out.

4

5 MR. NANENG: Follow up question. We  
6 don't have a Bureau of Indian Affairs office per se in  
7 Bethel, if the YK Delta RAC needs to come up with an  
8 issue that needs to be addressed right away, you know,  
9 the office for practically the whole state of Alaska  
10 for Bureau of Indian Affairs is there in Anchorage. So  
11 that's why if there's going to be (indiscernible -  
12 interference - breaking up)

13

14 MR. GARRIOTT: I'm sorry, can you say  
15 that last part again it cut out.

16

17 MR. NANENG: Okay. Because the  
18 statewide office of Bureau of Indian Affairs is here in  
19 Anchorage and I'm not sure if they still have an office  
20 up at Fairbanks, but we don't have what I'd call  
21 offices that used to exist, like they used to have one  
22 in Bethel before, and they no longer exist there, and  
23 my question is if that villages, or the subsistence  
24 users had an emergency request to address a subsistence  
25 concern, I know they'd probably have to go into  
26 Anchorage and make that request, once the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management is moved to the Bureau of Land  
28 -- or Bureau of Indian Affairs.

29

30 MR. GARRIOTT: The current process that  
31 you have right now would remain the same.

32

33 MR. NANENG: Okay. Okay, thank you.  
34 That answers my question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Is there any other  
37 questions or comments at this time from the Council.

38

39 Richard, go ahead.

40

41 MR. SLATS: Yes, this is Richard Slats  
42 with the Regional Advisory Council. Just to be clear,  
43 the Department of Interior is moving the Office of  
44 Subsistence Management Council to the Secretary of  
45 Interior, main offices, or am I -- is that -- you know,  
46 maybe I'm getting my -- is there a specific department  
47 that the Office of Subsistence Management people are  
48 going to be moving to or can you elaborate on that  
49 because I'm getting a little -- mainly because we've --

50

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1 over the years we've developed a working relationship  
2 with the people from Office of Subsistence Management  
3 and they've been -- you know, like we have this working  
4 relationship and this is new to me that -- that the  
5 Department has a new tribal consultation policy and  
6 I've never heard about -- anything about that until  
7 today.

8  
9 So I just wanted to ask those. And  
10 there's usually a transition period and how long is  
11 this going to take?

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MR. GARRIOTT: Yes, absolutely and  
16 appreciate. I work at Interior and sometimes our  
17 organization can be very confusing.

18  
19 So to kind of maybe help shed some  
20 light on that, so you have the Secretary of Interior  
21 and, you know, she has her office, which is the Office  
22 of the Secretary. Within the Office of the Secretary,  
23 that directly oversees a number of other offices and  
24 they're all kind of part of this, they're divisions or  
25 parts of this one office. So you have the Office of  
26 Fish, Wildlife and Parks, for example, which oversees  
27 the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service. And we have the office of Indian Affairs, and  
29 there's several others. And so, you know, in moving  
30 this to the Office of the Secretary is being done by  
31 moving it to the Office of Assistant Secretary for  
32 Indian Affairs. And what that means is, you know,  
33 currently everyone who is in the Office of Subsistence  
34 Management is overseen by the Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service, and what this would do is it would make it so  
36 they're overseen by the Office of the Assistant  
37 Secretary for Indian Affairs. There would be no change  
38 in the employees, you know, or any office locations and  
39 so all of those relationships that you have and have  
40 built and developed over the years would remain the  
41 same and the same people doing the same job but, you  
42 know, really what this would do is if there were any  
43 concerns it'd make it easier to elevate those concerns  
44 to higher up leadership we hope in a more quick and  
45 efficient way too.

46  
47 So, you know, it's not going to be new  
48 people, it's not going to be new locations, all of that  
49 is going to continue to remain the same.  
50

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1 MR. SLATS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard. As  
4 you mentioned earlier, that if this proposal is adopted  
5 then that's when the process will begin and that will  
6 bring us one step closer to fulfilling Title VIII,  
7 which many of our tribal members have been bringing up  
8 from time to time. So we appreciate all the  
9 information that you're providing to the Council.

10

11 I'll go ahead and reach out to the  
12 audience at this time, if you could limit your  
13 comments. We have Tim, if you could introduce  
14 yourself.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, very much for  
17 your presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chair for  
18 recognizing me.

19

20 REPORTER: Tim, move to the other mic,  
21 please.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Is this better.

24

25 REPORTER: No, but it will be, go  
26 ahead.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
31 Chair. Thank you for your presentation. My name's  
32 Timothy Andrew. I'm not a Council member, I'm just one  
33 of the interested parties participating in the meeting  
34 today. And the comment that I'm about to make is not  
35 any reflection on the current employees of the Fish and  
36 Wildlife Service that we have serving our RAC.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -  
39 participants not muted - yelling)

40

41 MR. ANDREW: But it really sounds  
42 promising about the move from Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 to the Assistant Secretary level in order to make  
44 things more efficient to reach the Secretary with our  
45 concerns, subsistence concerns. But it's not only  
46 subsistence concerns it's also access concerns.

47

48 As you probably might have heard in the  
49 past, Yup'ik is the second largest spoken language in

50

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1 Alaska and is still quite prevalent within the region.  
2 We have an interpreter here at this meeting and at so  
3 many other proceedings. We used to have a Yup'ik  
4 speaking Council Coordinator that lived here in Bethel  
5 for quite some years, Alex Nick, then the position got  
6 moved to Anchorage, and access got a little bit harder  
7 for people that speak only Yup'ik to get their concerns  
8 to the Fish and Wildlife Service to be forwarded to the  
9 RAC and other departments and what not. So it is my  
10 hopes that within.....

11  
12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted - yelling)  
14

15 MR. ANDREW: .....this move we will see  
16 the Council Coordination come back to Bethel, come back  
17 to the region, come back and be accessible to the  
18 people that this body affects mostly.  
19

20 And thank you for your time and  
21 consideration.  
22

23 Thank you.  
24

25 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you for that  
26 comment. I think I might have failed to mention,  
27 Brian, the Assistant Secretary to Indian Affairs, he's  
28 been up to Alaska to a number of Native villages  
29 several times and we're planning to go back up there  
30 here soon and, you know, I've been to Bethel and it  
31 doesn't make me an expert in any way, shape or form,  
32 but really appreciate, you know, a lot of the life  
33 ways, the challenges that you face but also the  
34 strength and beauty that your way of life has and it  
35 really resonates with me. You know I'm a tribal member  
36 from a tribe in South Dakota, so hunting is big for us  
37 in being able to go out and gather, you know, various  
38 plants and medicines is real important to us. It's  
39 different but just as indigenous people we know there  
40 are some similarities there.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: If there's no other  
43 comments or questions coming from the Council, we  
44 appreciate you coming on board and giving us a briefing  
45 regarding the Office of Subsistence move and, again, we  
46 look forward to hearing in the future if the proposal  
47 is adopted and we look forward to see what we can do  
48 from here. Thank you for giving us the update and the  
49 briefing. So appreciate you calling in and giving us  
50

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1 that information.

2

3 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
4 thank you to the rest of the Council.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thanks, again.  
7 Okay, before we move on with our agenda, go ahead,  
8 Brooke, you have some announcements to make.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 We're coming up towards the end of our agenda items  
12 today and I just wanted to let you know I did receive a  
13 handout from AVCP Natural Resources Department. They  
14 weren't able to present to us at this meeting but I  
15 will pass that out to you shortly for your information.  
16 They do note on there that they have been working on  
17 the gravel to gravel init -- they have been involved  
18 with the gravel to gravel initiative planning efforts  
19 that Director Sara Boario shared with us earlier so  
20 I'll pass that out shortly.

21

22 The second item I wanted to make you  
23 aware of is that we did receive a proposal from a  
24 member of the public today to open muskox hunt in Unit  
25 18. That would go potentially along with the C&T  
26 proposal that you submitted yesterday, or voted to  
27 submit yesterday. And I just wanted to bring that to  
28 your attention in case the Council was interested in  
29 continuing that discussion. If you are interested in  
30 submitting a muskox hunt proposal or if you think we  
31 should go forward with submitting the proposal  
32 submitted by the member of the public.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, you had comment.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. And I just want to  
40 emphasize that your request for the Board to recognize  
41 customary and traditional uses of muskox and this  
42 proposal to initiate a hunt is for the main land area  
43 only, it doesn't include Nelson Island or Nunivak  
44 Island. I'm sure that was on purpose. We're just  
45 talking about the main land area.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 (Pause)

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. I guess I'm  
2 just making sure that the Council does not want to  
3 submit their own proposal for the muskox hunt and that  
4 was all I was hoping to clarify.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,  
7 Brooke. What is the wish of the Council.

8  
9 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, this is Myron.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

12  
13 MR. NANENG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I make a  
14 motion that we submit the proposal to open the main  
15 land muskox and submit it to the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board for support. I make that motion.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.  
19 There's a motion on the floor to submit a proposal for  
20 main land hunt for muskox, do I hear a second.

21  
22 MR. ALEXIE: This is Wassilly, I'll  
23 second it.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Seconded by  
26 Wassilly. Discussion.

27  
28 I'll go ahead and take Tim and then  
29 Chris Tulik. Go ahead, Tim.

30  
31 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Timothy Andrew. Just for my point of clarification,  
33 Myron's motion is for the RAC to submit a proposal?

34  
35 MS. MCDAVID: (Nods affirmatively)

36  
37 MR. ANDREW: Okay. Yeah, I submitted  
38 one last night and, you know, it's not going to hurt my  
39 feelings if the Council comes up with their own  
40 proposal but at least serves as a foundation for the  
41 start and to move forward.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Chris Tulik.

46  
47 (Teleconference interference -  
48 participants not muted)

49  
50

0326

1 MR. TULIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
2 just have a quick question about this. So if this were  
3 to go through will it be -- will the hunt be open to  
4 the general public or will it be just for the  
5 Federally-qualified users or -- that's my question. So  
6 I think that's something that needs to be addressed,  
7 too.

8  
9 Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Chris. We  
12 have Pippa? Brooke, go ahead.

13  
14 MS. MCDAVID: Perhaps since Myron  
15 introduced the motion he could clarify if he wishes  
16 this to be for Federally-qualified users only. Thank  
17 you.

18  
19 MR. NANENG: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
20 Chair. Tim we're supporting your proposal is what I  
21 intended to say when I made the motion, that the RAC  
22 submit this in the hopes that it would move quicker.  
23 So that's the clarification to Tim. I believe that if  
24 it's a RAC proposal that it would go to Federally-  
25 qualified subsistence users because right now the  
26 majority of the people that are -- the hunts that  
27 happen down at Nelson Island as well as Mekoriak,  
28 there's a lot of people that would like to go hunting  
29 but are unable to do so because it's open to the  
30 general public.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pippa.

33  
34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, very much, Mr.  
35 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. And I don't  
36 mean to ignore Myron but I'm just answering Chris  
37 Tulik's question. So my.....

38  
39 REPORTER: Pippa hold up, can barely  
40 hear you.

41  
42 MR. NANENG: I can barely hear you.

43  
44 MS. KENNER: Thank you, court reporter.  
45 I was just told to move to a different microphone.

46  
47 MR. NANENG: Thank you.

48  
49 MS. KENNER: So I don't want to ignore  
50

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1 Myron's question but the previous question, my memory  
2 and, Brooke, let me know if I'm correct, the proposal  
3 for the Federal Subsistence Board to recognize  
4 customary and traditional uses of muskox in the main  
5 land area is for residents of Unit 18.

6  
7 MS. MCDAVID: (Nods affirmatively)

8  
9 MS. KENNER: She's nodding her head.  
10 So that's already been defined in the proposal that the  
11 Council voted on yesterday and it will be submitted.  
12 My question for Myron is, do you want it to be  
13 different than that, or does that work for you?

14  
15 MR. NANENG: It works for me as long as  
16 it gives an opportunity for people in the villages,  
17 that it's open, instead of having to travel to one  
18 location to try and get a permit like they do -- like  
19 they open a few number of permits that are open for the  
20 general public especially those that live in the  
21 villages, they open only a limited number of permits in  
22 Bethel -- for people that live in Bethel and they also  
23 restrict and limit the access to the additional permits  
24 by locating it into one of the villages for the current  
25 hunts that occur down in Nelson Island as well as  
26 Mekoriak or Nunivak, but if -- I'd like to see it for  
27 the Unit 18 representatives, that they have access to a  
28 permit, if it's going to be a permit hunt, instead of  
29 restricting it to just a certain number of people that  
30 may have better access than some of the hunters from  
31 other villages that may decide to go hunting for  
32 muskox.

33  
34 I hope that clarifies it.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

37  
38 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Myron, for  
39 providing that clarification. So what I am hearing,  
40 just to confirm, is that you would like to see that  
41 folks out in the villages that are outside of Bethel  
42 will have sort of an equal opportunity to access a  
43 permit or whatever the hunt structure might end up  
44 being, just -- that they don't have to travel to Bethel  
45 in order to get their permit.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

48  
49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50



0328

1 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. I was wondering, is  
2 there a point where Tim Andrew's proposal is going to  
3 be read so the Council can consider it. The question  
4 about permits and how they're distributed, it's a  
5 little bit further down the road than what we're  
6 considering now. That kind of permit distribution  
7 issue will -- you know it really depends on how many  
8 people want one and how many animals there are. So  
9 just for clarity and transparency I wanted to let Myron  
10 know that but his concerns are on the record, and I  
11 think his concerns will be everybody's concerns who  
12 want to participate. But it really helps me, when I  
13 hear those statements on the record.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa.  
18 Yeah, I think for the record I think we do need to hear  
19 how the proposal is written. I don't know if we have a  
20 copy in front of us or I don't know if you want to come  
21 forward and read it for the record so that all the  
22 Council members can understand where this -- how the  
23 proposal is written. Thank you, Tim.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: Yeah.

26  
27 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

30  
31 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Tim did submit one written copy. I also have a copy  
33 that he sent me via email that I can put up on the  
34 screen if you'll give me just one minute to pull it up  
35 and then I'll give this copy to Tim so he can read it.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. We'll give you a  
38 couple of minutes.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, if it's okay  
43 with you I have the proposal draft pulled up on the  
44 screen and we could go ahead and let Tim proceed. Also  
45 for Myron and Alissa and Norma, I did email you a copy  
46 of Tim's proposal this morning if you would like to  
47 follow along.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

0329

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: You have a copy in  
2 front of you, Tim. Okay, Tim, go ahead and proceed.

3  
4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Timothy Andrew for the record. After much discussion  
6 about the State proposal that was submitted yesterday  
7 and a lot of the discussion that occurred within the  
8 Council about a Federal proposal that needed to be  
9 submitted, I went ahead and drafted one last night and  
10 submitted it to Brooke for the Federal process and  
11 Federal consideration for muskox in Unit 18 main land.  
12 One thing that I did not do was excluded the muskox  
13 population from Nunivak Island and also Nelson Island,  
14 this is for Unit 18 main land so that people will  
15 understand it's outside from those two islands, and  
16 outside those two populations and looking at the  
17 various herds that we have -- or known herds that we  
18 have within the region, you know, the ones in Kuslivak  
19 and Mudd Volcano, Eskinuks (ph), the Kilbuk Mountain  
20 Herd and also the Kalskag Hill Herd. There may be  
21 other herds that might not be mentioned here because  
22 this is something that I -- I don't really know too  
23 much about and I don't know what other herds may be  
24 existing within the region.

25  
26 But if you look at the current  
27 regulation there is no Federal subsistence priority and  
28 there is no Federal season within the Federal  
29 management structure. So -- and understanding where  
30 Pippa's coming from, and Pippa can correct me if I'm  
31 wrong, that there is no customary and traditional use  
32 determination for main land muskox population so there  
33 is no subsistence priority for that herd at the time,  
34 and at the moment and so, therefore, no Federal season  
35 was opened for muskox.

36  
37 But I would like to see happen and  
38 occur that given the limited population of the main  
39 land muskox and we don't know exactly how many are out  
40 there at the moment, that we would proceed a new  
41 regulation that would allow for limited -- a limited  
42 registration hunt or a permit hunt of the known herds.  
43 And this is probably not going to come out immediately  
44 but hopefully with consultation with Fish and Wildlife  
45 Service and also Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
46 this body, and the tribal councils we would be able to  
47 identify the specific herds and open, you know, at  
48 least a harvestable population from those areas. You  
49 know it may be extremely limited at the moment or early  
50

0330

1 in the development of this hunt, it may just be one or  
2 two from these populations, so it cannot be -- I don't  
3 envision it as a general hunt because -- or taking a  
4 look at the entire main land population, because if we  
5 open it for a general hunt we can easily eliminate all  
6 these animals that we have built up over the years to  
7 develop this huntable population. So an extremely  
8 limited hunt at the moment until these herds are able  
9 to build up on the main land.

10

11 But they have mig -- the muskox have  
12 migrated from Nelson Island from Nunivak Island over  
13 the years and in talking with people from the villages  
14 and posts on Facebook and other social media indicates  
15 that the main land population is starting to increase,  
16 even between here and the tundra villages. We have had  
17 15 muskoxen settle right here out in front how many  
18 years ago until the Kusko 300 fireworks started going  
19 off and then they -- just like any other wild animal  
20 they just took off and never did come back to the  
21 island.

22

23 And we've seen sightings here in  
24 Bethel. My wife, Joanna and I, we live up in Tundra  
25 Ridge, there's one right outside of our house, it  
26 stayed there for a few hours and posed for everybody to  
27 take pictures and people are starting to have those  
28 encounters. In fact one of the muskox came into one of  
29 the villages. I don't know if it was escaping  
30 predators or if it was just felt more comfortable in  
31 the village, it stayed there for 10 days, 15 days -- a  
32 couple of weeks, and then finally ran off. So these  
33 muskoxen are starting to be seen in quite different  
34 areas.

35

36 The muskoxen has a long history. I mean  
37 they're pre they're Ice Age animals that have been here  
38 for quite some time and somewhere in the late 1800s  
39 they were extirpated from -- or their populations were  
40 brought down to extinction or severely extirpated until  
41 the year 1900 and in 1930 the United States Congress  
42 appropriated \$40,000 to the Bureau of -- U.S.  
43 Biological Survey, and what they did was they took the  
44 money, they went over to Greenland, they captured a  
45 total of 34 muskoxen, 19 female, 15 males, they made a  
46 journey from Greenland to Athenia New Jersey, they were  
47 quarantined there for 33 days, brought to Seattle via  
48 railway on a seven day journey up to Alaska, up to  
49 Seward and then brought up to Fairbanks on a four day  
50

0331

1 rail trip to Fairbanks, they were brought down from  
2 Fairbanks to Nenana and Nenana to Marshall where they  
3 changed boats, went to St. Michaels and then barged to  
4 Nunivak Island. They were accompanied by a gentleman  
5 who worked for the Survey by the name of Charles Roust.  
6 Once they arrived in Nunivak Island the muskox  
7 population thrived and expanded exponentially, and then  
8 from that population on the Nunivak Island they were  
9 exported to various places in Alaska including the  
10 Arctic Plains, Kotzebue Sound, and also the Norton  
11 Sound areas, and those areas currently have excellent  
12 muskox populations. They've developed, they've settled  
13 in, they've determined their food sources, their  
14 appropriate defensive mechanisms from predators and are  
15 able to support a hunt for those -- for that area.

16  
17 And it's really -- you know, I took a  
18 lot of thought into considering a possible general hunt  
19 but if we take a look at the entire population of -- or  
20 the observable count that had occurred in 2013 of a  
21 total of 174 animals, those numbers were not  
22 expedientiated, or they were not statistically expanded  
23 to give us an estimate of what the true population may  
24 be within Unit 18 main land, and -- and also does not  
25 consider the possible growth that had occurred within  
26 the -- within the period of 1919 to the current  
27 population.

28  
29 So in consideration of limited  
30 population on the main land, that's why I moved towards  
31 the registration and permit hunts to limit the impact  
32 on those specific populations.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tim, for  
39 introducing that proposal.

40  
41 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any  
44 questions or comments for Tim at this time.

45  
46 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry, go ahead.

49  
50

0332

1 MR. PARKS: For the record, Henry. I  
2 have a question to the Fish and Wildlife. Since Unit  
3 18 is a big unit and then there's muskox that are  
4 scattered all over our main land, I have a question --  
5 do you guys happen to have a count on like way up north  
6 in Yukon area and what's the difference between the  
7 counts that are scattered in muskox in the main land,  
8 near, around or from the west -- from the Nunapitchuk  
9 village to the western part of the main land and  
10 further up north like I said earlier, in Yukon area,  
11 way up north?

12  
13 MR. TULIK: Thank you, Mr. Parks.  
14 Chris Tulik for the record. Personally I have no  
15 knowledge of that. But the people at our Refuge that  
16 have been working with the Department of Fish and game,  
17 they have been doing an aerial survey count, but at the  
18 moment they are not here. So I will certainly ask our  
19 Staff members on that. That's all I can answer.

20  
21 Quayana.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

24  
25 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 Just to follow up on what Chris said. Henry, we did  
27 also ask in our annual report, or we sugg -- we let the  
28 Board know that that is something we do want more  
29 information on, better enumeration of the various  
30 herds.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Tim, go ahead.

35  
36 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair. This presentation is basically introducing the  
38 proposal that I submitted. There's going to be some  
39 time to develop a more, clearer picture of what the  
40 current main land population is and it's going to  
41 provide an opportunity for Fish and Wildlife Service,  
42 and probably the State to work together to do another  
43 survey, to do a better count, to statistically expand  
44 what information that we have at the moment and, you  
45 know, if there is an initial start and customary and  
46 traditional use determination that'll get the process  
47 going. What needs to happen, what needs to be done,  
48 what you all need to do in the fall meeting, or the  
49 meeting after before the Federal Subsistence Board  
50

0333

1 considers this proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any  
4 questions or comments for Tim at this time in regards  
5 to the draft proposal.

6

7 Brooke, go ahead.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
10 did also want to let the Council and Tim know that our  
11 wildlife Staff will be working to help create the final  
12 draft of the proposal for submission and we will make  
13 sure that our Chair of this Council gets a chance to  
14 review that before it's submitted.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Tim, you had a comment.

19

20 MR. ANDREW: (Shakes head negatively)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: No. Richar.....

23

24 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, for a moment I  
25 got disconnected.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, okay. Richard,  
28 you had a comment, go ahead.

29

30 MR. SLATS: I just have a question, if  
31 were going to be working on this are we going to  
32 include customary and traditional uses for the main  
33 land, mainly because I'm asking is as Myron, or I  
34 thought Myron was saying, if it were opening this to  
35 the general public, the people that are going to be out  
36 hunting, going to go hunting for muskox will have to  
37 travel somewhere to get their permits. Because in the  
38 past my (In Yup'ik) from Nelson Island who married into  
39 Nelson Island traveled here to Bethel and then had to  
40 stand -- there's -- had to stand in line down at the  
41 BNC Office Complex. A line had already been formed a  
42 day or two prior. He came in to my (In Yup'ik) office  
43 with a sleeping bag over his shoulder and, yeah, I got  
44 a ticket, but there was a line that had already formed.  
45 But, you know, just like people standing in line to go  
46 to a concert, you know, like that.

47

48 So I just want to point that out, if  
49 we're going to include customary and traditional use

50

0334

1 for hunting.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

4

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Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Yeah, so one of the reasons why permits and permit distribution kind of ends at the anthropologist because it's strictly about managing people. So we tend to deal with what people are doing and how people are affected. And so the distribution of permit you're bringing up is a really important consideration, and because it's so difficult to predict exactly what method of distributing opportunity to hunt these animals because of how difficult it is. The in-season manager, the Refuge is going to have a lot of say in how that is done. We might put into a regulation you need a permit, but it might not be clear exactly how you get that permit and we are welcoming comments from the Council and the public to help direct us in the way you would like that.

I hear you would like a wide distribution of permits.

One of the reasons why the Alaska Department of Fish and Game creates a situation where you have to go a long way to get a permit is because it discourages people from outside the area from coming and getting a permit. And it's a way to allow opportunity for local people. It's almost like allowing a preference, it's not, it's legal, but it's almost like offering a priority for local people. That's why people have to travel so far to get some of those permits.

Thank you.

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is Myron, I have a question.

0335

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

2

3 MR. NANENG: Yeah, my question that I  
4 have so if -- you may end up having customary and  
5 traditional use of muskox because of the fact that you  
6 may have previously hunted muskox with a permit system  
7 that has been allowed for Nelson Island or Nunivak and  
8 sometimes we see those sportsmen shows and outdoor  
9 shows that show people that have good sponsors to fly  
10 up here to Alaska, are they going to have customary and  
11 traditional use because of they've documented their  
12 muskox hunt based on the TV shows that they show.  
13 That's the question that I have, that's the reason why  
14 I'm having some issues regarding customary and  
15 traditional use. Even though they try to limit it to  
16 local people but there's still some guides that pick up  
17 permits and allow for these people on TV shows to show  
18 that they've been muskox hunting.

19

20 So I think -- I don't oppose submitting  
21 the proposal for customary and traditional use, but if  
22 it's going to be -- if it's not going to be open to  
23 people that live in Unit 18 -- that's the reason why  
24 I'm kind of asking these questions and need  
25 clarification.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Pippa, go ahead.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
30 question, Myron. Through the Chair. This is Pippa  
31 Kenner with OSM. So what you're asking me to do is to  
32 finish what I was saying, I neglected to add the next  
33 part, and that is that the Alaska Department of Fish  
34 and Game doesn't have an easy way to limit the  
35 participation in these hunts to only local people  
36 because all residents of the state are considered  
37 subsistence user eligible for all resources around the  
38 state. Whereas the Federal Program, we only provide  
39 oppor -- we provide opportunity for only Federally-  
40 qualified users. And you define who those users are in  
41 your request. In this case the Council has requested  
42 that eligible users will only be residents of Unit 18.  
43 How the permit is distributed will likely not be you  
44 have to come to Bethel to get one. There are other  
45 ways of distributing permits that will probably be  
46 talked about. Thank -- if permits need to be  
47 distributed.

48

49 Thank you.

50



0336

1 MR. NANENG: In that case, Mr. Chairman  
2 -- this is Myron again.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

5  
6 MR. NANENG: I would support asking for  
7 a customary and traditional use, move this Board to the  
8 Federal Subsistence Board as long as you're a resident  
9 of Unit 18 and a Federally-qualified subsistence user.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.  
12 Jackie, go ahead.

13  
14 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana. I had a  
15 question when you guys brought up permits and how to  
16 register. One thing that I would keep in mind is to  
17 maybe make it to where it will be the most beneficial  
18 for the rural communities that live in Unit 18 meaning  
19 -- or, well, for example, if we did an online, first  
20 come, first serve permit system, we would -- we would  
21 lose there because of our internet connections at home,  
22 which are sometimes non-existent, so just keep that in  
23 mind, maybe don't make it an online registration process  
24 until we all get Starlink or something.

25  
26 Thanks.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I'm sure once --  
29 the -- the main thing is to get this into the  
30 regulations, into this book, and that'll be the first  
31 process and I'm sure it'll take time to get it going.  
32 But, you know, comments like this will be very helpful  
33 to move forward with this. And the hunt, you know, I  
34 don't see it happening any time soon until we know for  
35 sure that there's sufficient -- to make it a qualified  
36 hunt for qualified users and -- and as far as options  
37 on how -- how we can do it, you know, that's still  
38 open, you know, that's still open until the time comes.  
39 I'm sure we'll be working on this for awhile. And  
40 those will come before us, to this Board, on how we  
41 want to maintain -- what process we want to use to make  
42 it a hunt for our qualified users. And aerial surveys,  
43 you know, need to be completed, you know, we don't know  
44 about the muskox in Nome area. I know that population  
45 is growing too and we just heard, just recently, a  
46 person that got killed by a muskox right in the  
47 village, so that population is growing. That's what we  
48 need to look into and to see if those are migrating  
49 down south from Nome area.  
50

0337

1                   So there's a lot of work that needs to  
2 be done and the meantime is to be able to get the  
3 customary and traditional use of muskox into our  
4 regulations. That's the first step. And that process  
5 will take time. And I'm sure we're going to be  
6 involved. Once it's forwarded to Fish and Wildlife  
7 then the process is started, you know, then we could  
8 start looking at options once the Office of Subsistence  
9 Management makes that available to us.

10

11                   So we appreciate all the good work,  
12 Tim, for putting this forward to us and it's my  
13 understanding is that we'll be supporting Tim's  
14 proposal for Unit 18 for qualified users.

15

16                   Brooke, go ahead.

17

18                   MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 And you made some really great points there.

20

21                   I did just want to circle back because  
22 Myron did make a motion to submit this proposal that  
23 Tim brought to us and I'm not sure if I heard a second.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, there was a  
26 second.

27

28                   REPORTER: Yes.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm not sure.....

31

32                   MS. MCDAVID: There was, could you  
33 remind me who seconded it.

34

35                   REPORTER: Wassilly.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Wassilly did  
38 second the motion.

39

40                   MR. ALEXIE: I did.

41

42                   MR. SLATS: Wassilly seconded it.

43

44                   MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Wassilly  
45 seconded it.

46

47                   MR. SLATS: Wassilly seconded it, yes.

48

49                   MS. MCDAVID: And we have noted down

50

0338

1 all your great discussion for the record and at this  
2 time I believe we could entertain a motion -- or sorry,  
3 a question.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MR. NANENG: I call for the question on  
8 the motion.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

11  
12 MR. NANENG: This is Myron.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron makes a motion to  
15 ask for the question. All those in favor of supporting  
16 Tim's proposal for Unit 18 muskox for C&T signify by  
17 saying aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose  
22 signify by saying nay.

23  
24 (No opposing votes)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
27 carries. Thank you, appreciate all your comments.  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 Moving on where we might be on the  
31 agenda, I'm a little bit confused.

32  
33 MR. SLATS: Go to lunch.

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Brooke, go ahead.

38  
39 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
40 believe we have come upon our last agenda item and we  
41 will have an update by the Office of Subsistence  
42 Management from our leadership team.

43  
44 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Chair.  
45 Council members. Thank you. It's very nice to be here  
46 in person finally. I'm going to give you a short  
47 report on our OSM, Office of Subsistence Management.

48  
49 First of all I would like to thank each  
50

0339

1 and every one of you Council members. We've had an  
2 exceptional work week this week and on behalf of the  
3 community and user groups we just thank you. We value  
4 all your expertise in the matters that came before you.  
5 Your contribution of knowledge and experience in the  
6 regulatory process also.

7

8                   Quyana. Thank you, very much.

9

10                   Last fall we held our first in-person  
11 Regional Advisory Council meetings since the beginning  
12 of Covid 19 three years ago. All 10 Councils were able  
13 to meet as scheduled in rural and hub communities  
14 across the State. It's been a tremendous honor, of  
15 course, to work with each and everyone of the RACs and  
16 members, our Council volunteers, OSM Staff and our  
17 multi agency colleagues in subsistence to accomplish  
18 our goals of informed subsistence management and the  
19 implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA. We plan to  
20 repeat this success for the winter of 2023 Council  
21 meetings as we are and we're so very happy to work with  
22 you all face to face again.

23

24

25                   The topic of RealID over the past few  
26 years. We have reminded Council members about the  
27 change in requirements for U.S. travelers who must have  
28 RealID compliant to board domestic flights and access  
29 certain Federal facilities. Beginning May 7th, 2025,  
30 every air traveler will need to present a RealID  
31 compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of  
32 identification, also a passport to fly within the  
33 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on  
34 small commercial Bush carriers. Please note that all  
35 Council members will need to make sure they have  
36 required RealID for travel to the fall 2025 Council  
37 meetings. You can find more information on RealID  
38 requirements on the State of Alaska's Division of Motor  
39 Vehicles website.

40

41                   The Federal Subsistence Board recently  
42 held the fisheries regulatory public meeting in  
43 Anchorage the week of January 31st, 2023. This was the  
44 Board's second in-person meeting and first regulatory  
45 meeting since the Covid 19 pandemic. The Board had a  
46 packed agenda addressing fisheries proposals and  
47 closure reviews, deferred wildlife proposals and agenda  
48 items touching on important subsistence and regulatory  
49 issues across the State. We also listened to you, the

50

0340

1 Councils, through your involvement and representatives  
2 at the meeting. The Board is always better informed,  
3 always better informed by your experience, your  
4 comments.

5

6 Next I'll share with you OSM staffing  
7 currently. As for changes in staffing at our office,  
8 OSM, there's not much new information to report since  
9 the last time we met. OSM is advertising for a  
10 cartographer position to help with our mapping needs.  
11 The closing date for applications was February 24th.  
12 We hope that during the fall meetings we'll be able to  
13 announce the hire of this new and important team  
14 member.

15

16 While there have been no new additions,  
17 there has been one very large subtraction. Mr. Tom  
18 Kron, the great Tom Kron retired in early February  
19 after more than 22 years with the program. Tom's been  
20 an institution at OSM and his generosity and wealth of  
21 knowledge will be greatly missed.

22

23 Mr. Chair. Council members. That  
24 concludes my report for OSM. I will answer any  
25 questions if I can.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,  
28 Orville, for the update.

29

30 MR. LIND: Quyana.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any  
33 questions or comments for Orville at this time.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you  
38 very much for your update, appreciate it.

39

40 MR. LIND: Quyana.

41

42 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

45

46 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 Could we write an appreciate letter to Mr. Tom Kron and  
48 in all his years of service. I believe he deserves a  
49 good recognition and a Quyana from us.

50

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Alissa.

4 We'll follow up on that. Appreciate your thoughts to  
5 go ahead and submit a thank you letter to Tom. Thank  
6 you, again.

7

8 I believe -- go ahead, Brooke.

9

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

11 Just to be on the safe side, maybe if Alissa, could you  
12 make a motion, please for the Council to send the  
13 letter to Tom. Thank you.

14

15 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair. Through the  
16 Chair. I so move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, there's a motion  
19 on the floor by Alissa to send a letter to Tom Kron  
20 thanking him for all his years of service. Do I hear a  
21 second.

22

23 MR. SLATS: Second. Richard.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Richard  
26 Slats. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose,  
31 signify by saying nay.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion  
36 carries. So we will submit a thank you letter to Tom.  
37 Thank you, again, Alissa.

38

39 If there's no other matters that need  
40 to be brought before the Council I believe we are on  
41 the closing comments. I will leave it open to any  
42 Council member that want to provide closing comments.  
43 I'm not going to point at anyone or go down the line,  
44 but if any of you want to provide closing comments I'll  
45 give you this opportunity.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is

50

0342

1 Myron. I'd like to (In Yup'ik) everyone for being here  
2 and also would like to thank Staff and also our Council  
3 Coordinator for having done a good job in putting  
4 together the agenda and the presentations that were  
5 made by the people that make the presentations.

6  
7 Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

8  
9 (Applause)

10  
11 MR. NANENG: And Happy Easter.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Happy Easter.

14  
15 MS. MCDAVID: Quyana, Myron. Happy  
16 Easter.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Anyone else.

19  
20 (Pause)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Wassilly.

23  
24 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, this is Wassilly  
25 Alexie. Thank you guys for allowing me to attend.  
26 This is my first experience with the whole board and I  
27 enjoyed meeting these old people, our elders, I learned  
28 a lot, especially from John, all his stories that he  
29 was telling.

30  
31 Thank you guys.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard.

34  
35 MR. SLATS: Yeah, first of all I want  
36 to thank all the rest of the Council members for being  
37 here away from your families and taking the time to  
38 work with us. I especially want to thank the people  
39 from the Office of Subsistence Management, for all the  
40 work that you do and, you know, being here for us and,  
41 you know, being with us. U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
42 people, I appreciate all the work that you do.

43  
44 I always like listening to Tim Andrew.  
45 He's always been supportive of, you know, like with us  
46 when we work on subsistence issues. I've known him for  
47 years and I appreciate the work that he does too.

48  
49 So I just want to thank everybody for  
50

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1 being here with us. You know I know it's hard to sit  
2 like all day for three days but thank you for your  
3 diligence and the heart to be here. I appreciate  
4 everybody. And all of you online.

5

6 Everybody Happy Easter and God bless  
7 all of you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Henry.

10

11 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman, Henry for the  
12 record. I just want to say a big thank you to all the  
13 agencies here for all your hard work and especially to  
14 our Coordinator here, Brooke, and all the Council  
15 members. And may the Good Lord, for all of his  
16 blessings upon us. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing no other --  
19 Brooke, go ahead.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 know I'm not a Council member but I did want to just  
23 say Quayana to all of you on the Council for your  
24 dedication to addressing subsistence issues in your  
25 region. Without you all the Federal Subsistence  
26 Management Program would be at a great loss and we do,  
27 as you noted earlier, rely highly on you all to make  
28 recommendations and bring issues to our attention. So  
29 thank you for taking time out of your daily lives to  
30 come here to Bethel and I think you all had a really  
31 productive meeting and there's lots of things to take  
32 care of and we'll definitely look forward to seeing  
33 everyone again in the falltime.

34

35 Quayana.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing no other  
38 Council members, I'll go ahead and put my two cents in  
39 too.

40

41 So, again, thank you. Thank you all,  
42 Council members, for showing up to this meeting. I  
43 know I wasn't here last fall because of family issues,  
44 personal issues and I'm very happy to be here with you  
45 all and thank you for your trust in me to lead this  
46 organization, this Council and I'll try my best to work  
47 with you all and those people out there that have  
48 concerns, you know, with issues, we appreciate you  
49 coming forward and providing that information to us so  
50



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1 that were able to work together to elevate those  
2 concerns to the higher level now that we know that  
3 there's an opportunity that we have in addressing these  
4 concerns to the next higher level, which is the  
5 Secretary of Interior. We're hearing your crys. We're  
6 hearing your concerns. And this is the forum that we  
7 see in order to elevate those concerns.

8

9 So thank you, again, everyone, for  
10 being here. We want to thank OSM Staff and our  
11 Coordinator. And I've known Tina for along time, so  
12 like I said I've been here for many years and thank you  
13 to her, and appreciate her presence. And also our  
14 interpreter, we thank you for being here to interpret  
15 for those that speak Yup'ik for the audience that are  
16 here.

17

18 So, again, I want to thank everyone and  
19 I wish you Happy Easter and a good spring and hopefully  
20 you have a good spring, good break up, good summer and  
21 outlook for the summer hopefully will be prosperous for  
22 us all. So thank you, again. God Bless you all.

23

24 (Applause)

25

26 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, if there's  
27 no other business I'd like to move to adjourn the  
28 meeting and wish everybody a safe trip back home.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion  
31 on the floor.....

32

33 MS. EVAN: Mr. Chair, this is Norma.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Norma, and then I'll  
36 take Jackie.

37

38 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Brooke, Pippa,  
39 Mr. Chair, thank you Council members for being our  
40 observers and speakers for our subsistence issues in  
41 our region. I'd like to remind everybody, it looks  
42 like we'll be entering an ElNino summer, this will  
43 affect our berrypicking season. Our last heat spell  
44 was around 110 to 118 degrees for about three weeks  
45 around Marshall. It will be sad to see if we have  
46 another heatwave, to see all the wasted salmon again,  
47 we will have another hard year if it's too hot to pick  
48 berries. So get your berrypicking done early. We're  
49 expecting to have a early heat -- maybe late April and  
50

0345

1 into May, like last year, and I'd like to wish  
2 everybody a Happy Easter.

3  
4                   Quyana. (In Yup'ik) You guys are our  
5 leaders and I really appreciate hearing and learning  
6 from all of you guys and have a safe geese hunting  
7 season.

8  
9                   Thank you.

10  
11                   Bye.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Norma.

14  
15                   Jackie.

16  
17                   MS. EVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19                   MS. CLEVELAND: I also want to mention  
20 that I do learn a lot from this group as well. I feel  
21 like I'm still kind of in the younger portion of the  
22 group but -- so I know we're all here because we  
23 genuinely care for our issues at home and for our  
24 people and our food security. And I just think this is  
25 a good way to have our voice heard and our indigenous  
26 knowledge to be known.

27  
28                   There's a lot happening in Quinhagak  
29 this year, I feel like with our -- with our proposal,  
30 so we're looking forward to finding out results of  
31 things that we're doing in Quinhagak and we'll report  
32 again next time.

33  
34                   Thanks everyone.

35  
36                   Everyone does such a good job here.

37  
38                   Quyana, and see you guys next fall.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Hearing no  
41 other comments your motion still stands. Do I hear a  
42 second.

43  
44                   MS. CLEVELAND: Second.

45  
46                   MR. SLATS: Second.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Jackie. All  
49 those in favor signify -- ending our meetings, signify  
50

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1 by saying aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed say nay.

6

7

(Laughter)

8

9

(No opposing votes)

10

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: We are adjourned at

12

12:29 p.m. Thank you, again, have a good trip.

13

14

(Applause)

15

16

(Off record)

17

18

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 ) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_ through  
12 \_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
13 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
14 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME III taken  
15 electronically on the 6th day of April;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and  
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and  
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and  
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and  
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10TH  
27 day of May 2023.

28

29

30

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Salena A. Hile  
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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