

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - Alaska
October 6, 2020
9:15 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alissa Rogers, Chair
Thomas Alstrom
John Andrew
James Landlord
Carl Maxie
Raymond Oney
Phillip Peter
Richard Slats

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 10/6/2020)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Good morning and thank you all for joining us this morning. I greatly appreciate all of your participation as we host this meeting via teleconference due to Covid19. The health of our families and our well-being of our communities is the safest option that we have available to us at this time. So I appreciate your patience and I appreciate you joining us today via teleconference. I know we're going to have technical difficulties so please patience with us as we work through these issues of having a meeting over teleconference. Please let Eva know if you're having any difficulties and we'll try to make the adjustments as we go along with our meeting.

Good morning and welcome you all to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Today is October 6th, 2020. We usually start our meetings at 9:00 o'clock but due to technical difficulties we are 15 minutes behind. Due to our heavy agenda that we have with everything that encompasses our meetings, we would like to make a few notes that for public comment, due to the time constraints that we currently have, we'll make our public comments anywhere between five and 10 minutes and public comments are always available at the beginning of the meeting after the first day. I also want to make note that if you aren't on mute in teleconference, please star six to mute your phone, star six to unmute, or please use your telephone or your cell phone to press the mute button, unmute when you're ready to speak. All the background noise that we are receiving makes it hard for those to hear and cause static which makes it difficult for people to understand what's going on. To be respectful and to be participation in the meeting we'd like to keep our lines as clear as possible for those who are speaking. I greatly appreciate for your patience.

And we'll go down to the beginning of our agenda is the invocation.

Mr. Landlord or Mr. Slats would you be so kind to join us with an invocation.

1 MR. SLATS: Yes.
2
3 (Invocation)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
6 Slats. I'm going to hand it over to Ray Oney for our
7 roll call.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Good morning, Madame Chair,
10 everyone. Roll call for membership at this meeting.
11
12 John Andrew from Kwethluk.
13
14 MR. ANDREW: Here.
15
16 MR. ONEY: Thomas Alstrom from
17 Alakanuk.
18
19 MR. ALSTROM: Present.
20
21 MR. ONEY: James Landlord, Mountain
22 Village.
23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Here.
25
26 MR. ONEY: Alissa Rogers, Bethel.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Present.
29
30 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter, Sr.,
31 Akiachak.
32
33 MR. PETER: Present.
34
35 MR. ONEY: Carl Maxie, Sr., Napaskiak.
36
37 MR. MAXIE: Present.
38
39 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, here.
40
41 Robert Aloysius, Kalskag.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MR. ONEY: Absent.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Good
48 morning, Council members. Bob sends his love, he's
49 doing well but he will not be joining us for the
50

1 meeting.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

6

7

Richard Slats, Chevak.

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MR. SLATS: Richard Slats is present.

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MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, we have eight present, one absent. We have a quorum.

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MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Oney, I greatly appreciate it. Well, I'm glad a majority of us could be here. My best wishes and loves go out to those who couldn't make it. Pray for better health and well-being.

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All right, we'll go ahead and -- standby.

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(Pause)

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MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: If you're on a telephone or on a cell phone, please hit the mute button or star six to mute your phones.

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(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

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MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. We'll go ahead and move right on to welcome and introduction. I want to welcome you all to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. We greatly appreciate your participation today knowing that our matters that we speak of today in the Federal is very important and the subjects and matters that we speak of today, we pray that we are having good discussions and well thought out discussions during this meeting.

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Our Regional Advisory Council consists of the YK-Delta region, all of the Federal lands that encompass the Yukon Wildlife Refuge area.

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All right, we'll go ahead and start with introductions. I'll go ahead and let my vice Chair, Mr. Philip, go ahead and introduce himself then we'll move to the Secretary and then we'll go ahead and

1 follow down with the rest of the Council members.

2

3

Go ahead, Peter.

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Phillip Peter,
8 we're going to do introductions go ahead and introduce
9 yourself.

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MR. PETER: My name is Phillip Peter
from Akiachak. I've been in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee for years. I
would like to thank all of the Board members and also
the Staff. Even though we have Covid in our area, I
been (indiscernible).

Thank you.

MR. ONEY: Yes, good morning everyone.
Ray Oney here, Secretary from Alakanuk. Quyana.

MR. ALSTROM: Hello, good morning.
This is Thomas Alstrom from Alakanuk. I'm a new
member. I've been on for, this is my, I believe second
year, first year on so new to the RAC Committee.

MR. LANDLORD: I am James Landlord from
Mountain Village. This is my third year -- excuse me
-- my term is up for reelection this year in 2020.

Thank you.

MR. MAXIE: Good morning. This is Carl
Maxie, Napaskiak. This is my third year, too. I'm up
for election too. I hope everybody's been well here.

Good morning.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, are we
missing anybody else.

MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew from
Kwethluk. I've been involved with this group since
'92, first as a coordinator for eight years, and as a
member I've been here for a long time. Hopefully I'll
last two more years.

Quyana.

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
2 Andrew. Are we -- anyone else.

3
4 MR. SLATS: This is Richard Slats. I'm
5 from Chevak. I'm also on my third year of sitting on
6 this Council.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I
9 want to make sure I'm not missing anyone else.

10
11 GABRIEL: Gabriel from Alakanuk Tribe,
12 just listening and learning.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: My name is Alissa
15 Nadine Rogers. I grew up in Bethel. My mom's side of
16 the family is from Alakanuk, my dad's side of the
17 family is from Hooper Bay. I've been on this Council
18 since 2017 and since 2017 I've been sitting as the
19 Chair, since my first year, I was elected.

20
21 Thank you for joining us today. I
22 greatly appreciate you all being here again. And I
23 hope that we have a great and wonderful meeting today.

24
25 All right. Let's go ahead and move
26 into the introductions of the public. Eva, did you
27 want to go ahead and take over for introductions of the
28 public and agencies.

29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Mike Williams, Chief of
35 Akiak Native Community dialing in. Thank you.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Good morning everyone.
38 This is Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the YK-
39 Delta RAC. I'd like to welcome everyone here. Thank
40 you for joining us today and, again, we really
41 appreciate everyone to be able to participate and
42 communicate with the Council by teleconference to keep
43 everybody safe.

44
45 We do -- as you know we would normally
46 have simultaneous Yup'ik interpretation which we do for
47 all of our YK-Delta RAC meetings. We weren't able to
48 come up with a way to do that by teleconference for
49 this meeting. Hopefully we will in the future if we
50

1 meet by teleconference again. But just want to welcome
2 everyone and I think maybe Council members might be
3 able to help each other out and help the public out to
4 interpret if anyone from the public would like to
5 request that.

6
7 So thanks everyone for calling in. And
8 maybe we'll begin with our OSM Staff that we have on
9 teleconference today.

10
11 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning everyone.
12 This is Greg Risdahl. I am the Office of Subsistence
13 Management Fisheries Division Lead and I am very
14 pleased to be here and thank you all for taking the
15 time to meet with us all today and the hard work you're
16 doing, especially in these very difficult times.

17
18 Again, thank you very much.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa
21 Kenner. I'm an anthropologist with the Office of
22 Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

23
24 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. This is
25 Cory Graham and I'm a fisheries biologist with OSM in
26 Anchorage.

27
28 MR. KRON: This is Tom Kron. Thank you
29 for participating and good morning.

30
31 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald
32 Maschmann with the Fish and Wildlife Service in
33 Fairbanks.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Gerald. And
36 we'll open it up, feel free to jump in and introduce
37 yourselves.

38
39 MS. CONITZ: Good morning, this is Jan
40 Conitz, I'm also with Fish and Wildlife Service in
41 Fairbanks.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

44
45 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madame Chair
46 and Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with
47 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and I'll be representing
48 this afternoon today at this meeting.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary DeCossas,
4 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

7

8 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is
9 Serena Fitka, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
10 Association, Executive Director.

11

12 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair and members of the Council. This is Jeff
14 Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
15 here in Fairbanks. I am the Yukon area fall season
16 manager.

17

18 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is
19 Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
20 Game, the summer season assistant manager, also here in
21 the Fairbanks office.

22

23 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, good morning.
24 This is Catherine Moncrieff with the Yukon River
25 Drainage Fisheries Association.

26

27 MS. MILLION: Good morning. This is
28 Bonnie Million. I'm the field manager for the Bureau
29 of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office.

30

31 MR. WHITWORTH: Good morning. This is
32 Kevin Whitworth, biologist for Kuskokwim River
33 InterTribal Fish Commission.

34

35 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is
36 Carol Damberg with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
37 I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator and the
38 InterAgency Staff Committee member.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. PELTOLA: Good morning, this is
43 Mary Peltola calling from Bethel. I'm the Executive
44 Director of the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
45 Commission.

46

47 Good morning.

48

49 MR. MOOS: Good morning, this is Kenton

50

1 Moos. I'm the Refuge Manager for Togiak National
2 Wildlife Refuge in Dillingham.

3
4 MR. GRINALDI: This is Todd Grinaldi.
5 Good morning. I'm with the Department of Fish and
6 Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation and Region 4
7 oversees the management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

8
9 MS. ESQUIBLE: Good morning. This is
10 Janessa Esquible in Bethel.

11
12 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch. Department of
13 Fish and Game.

14
15 REPORTER: So can Fish and Game re-
16 announce themselves. I got you, Janessa, this is Tina,
17 the court reporter. Could the last Fish and Game
18 please resay your name.

19
20 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch with the
21 Department of Fish and Game.

22
23 REPORTER: That's what I thought, but
24 thank you.

25
26 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good morning. This is
27 John Chythlook with Department of Fish and Game,
28 Sportfish Division calling in from Fairbanks.

29
30 MR. LARSON: Good morning. This is
31 Sean Larson with the Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is
34 Nicholas Smith with the Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game.

36
37 MR. GRAY: Good morning. This is Ben
38 Gray with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39
40 MR. BORN: Good morning. This is Ray
41 Born with Yukon Delta Refuge, Deputy Refuge Manager at
42 Yukon Delta.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is
47 Marcy Okada with the National Park Service calling from
48 Fairbanks.

49
50

1 OFFICER MCDONALD: Good morning. This
2 is Federal Wildlife Officer Matt McDonald. I'm the
3 officer for Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
4

5 MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning. This is
6 Mary Martinez with Chalista Corporation.
7

8 MR. TULIK: Good morning everyone.
9 This is Christopher Tulik with Yukon Delta National
10 Wildlife Refuge. I'm a Supervisory Refuge Information
11 Technician.
12

13 MR. BLIH OVDE: Good morning. This is
14 Boyd Blihovde. I'm the new Refuge Manager at Yukon
15 Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Happy to be here.
16 Thanks so much. Good morning.
17

18 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. Jennifer
19 Hooper, AVCP.
20

21 MS. JONES: Good morning. Page Jones
22 with AVCP.
23

24 MS. PITKA: Good morning. This is
25 Rhonda Pitka, Federal Subsistence Board Public Member.
26 I'm just listening in today, thank you.
27

28 MR. OWEN: Good morning. This is Moses
29 Owen Akiak Native Community, I'm a tribal Council
30 member, and I eat all the resources.
31

32 Good morning.
33

34 (Pause)
35

36 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
37 Is there anyone else that has joined us on
38 teleconference this morning that has not yet had an
39 opportunity to introduce themselves.
40

41 MS. BLACK: Good morning, this is
42 Caroline Black.
43

44 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, Caroline, I
45 couldn't quite hear your full name.
46

47 MS. BLACK: Caroline Black. I'm at
48 ONC.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Caroline.
2 Welcome.

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. This is
5 Mike Williams again. Bobby Williams just told me there
6 was capacity -- due to capacity, and he tried to phone
7 in so we'll have Robert Williams, James Nicolai from
8 Akiak Native Community dialing in.

9
10 Thanks.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mike.

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 MS. SCHOMOGYI: Hi. This is Terese
17 Schomogyi from the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
18 Commission.

19
20 Good morning.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Okay, good morning
23 everyone. Anyone else who's joined us on
24 teleconference this morning.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MS. PATTON: Okay. Well, welcome
29 everyone. I'm glad you're all able to join us today.
30 Just a friendly reminder to hit either star six or your
31 mute button on your phone so that we can reduce the
32 background noise and then hit star six to speak again.
33 So especially for Council members, just jump in and
34 speak up so we know that you're trying to address the
35 Council. And if we've heard from everyone that's
36 joined us this morning we'll go ahead and review and
37 adopt the agenda.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
44 All right, so welcome to everyone. I'm so thankful
45 that you guys are all here and able to participate in
46 our meeting today even though it's via teleconference.
47 I appreciate your patience and, again, if we continue
48 to -- just let you guys if we're having technical
49 difficulties, and apologies in advance for them.

50

1 All right.

2

3 So we'll go ahead and review and adopt
4 the agenda. The review of the agenda of our -- can I
5 get a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda so we can
6 make discussion and changing items in here on record.

7

8 MR. PETER: Madame Chair. This is
9 Phillip Peter from Akiachak. I'd like to make a motion
10 to accept the agenda.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: To review agenda?

13

14 MR. PETER: Yes.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Quyana,
17 Phillip. Can I get a second.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair. This is
20 John Andrew, I second the motion.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
23 Trapper. All right, so there was a few suggestions to
24 be made to the agenda. One is that we make public
25 comments anywhere between five and 10 minutes, no more
26 than 10 minutes. And then also when we go to review
27 and approval of meeting minutes that we have a
28 underlying discussion about the OSM restriction to our
29 meeting minutes for five pages, at minimum [sic].
30 Typically our meeting minutes range anywhere from 15 to
31 20 pages to review over 600 to 700 documents and our
32 tools for our meeting minutes is very important for us
33 to review what's happening and what's going on during
34 our meeting. So I just want to keep those in mind,
35 those two that were brought up.

36

37 And another topic was that we --
38 instead of having public and tribal comments on non-
39 agenda items available each morning, it was suggested
40 that we add it when we return back from lunch. And
41 also at the end of the day, just because we don't know
42 when, where, how, or who's going to be attending our
43 meeting, based on their availability. And because
44 we're on teleconference we can't really use blue cards
45 or comment cards as we did in the past. So giving the
46 public and tribal comments an opportunity to
47 participate throughout the whole meeting as long as we
48 capture their voices it was suggested we bring that up
49 for discussion as well.

50

1 All right. Anyone else have changes to
2 the agenda they would like to make.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
5 If I may, we have a couple updates and requests from
6 presenters that we would like to try to accommodate.
7 One is Todd Grinaldi with ADF&G who was going to
8 provide the Mulchatna Caribou Herd update, which I know
9 is very important to the Council to hear, he's
10 available today but not tomorrow under agency reports.
11 And so wondering if we could squeeze that report in
12 towards the end of the day, you know, by 4:00 p.m., so
13 he would have an opportunity to share that information
14 with the Council.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, Eva is that
17 under.....

18
19 MS. PATTON: That's under agency
20 reports so it would have normally come on Day 2 of the
21 meeting under ADF&G Wildlife Division.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, I see it.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Normally that would come
26 late afternoon tomorrow on the agenda for agency
27 reports.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, for
30 Council members, go to Page 3, the first line item,
31 under C, ADF&G Wildlife Division, and that's with Tom
32 Grinaldi.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Todd Grinaldi.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Todd, my
37 apologies.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. And
42 you said you wanted him at 4:00 o'clock this afternoon.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Yeah, if it's possible for
45 the Council to get to that by the end of the day that
46 way we can still work through the Council's action
47 items and the fisheries proposals and then be able to
48 take up the Mulchatna Caribou Herd report by the end of
49 the day.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

2
3 MS. PATTON: And then we did have one
4 other request too. We have a couple of students that
5 will be presenting to the Council and they are students
6 and so they're working in between their classes. We
7 have Avery Hoffman who is going to co-present with ONC,
8 and also we have Liam who's presenting on the sonar
9 project with ADF&G Fisheries. And the timing for Avery
10 worked out well tomorrow afternoon. We were hoping
11 maybe we could take up his report after lunch, you
12 know, at 1:30 tomorrow and that would give him a chance
13 to present to the Council in between his classes.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Council
16 members on Page 2 under No. 11 Agency reports under
17 tribal governments, line item A, Orutsararmiut Native
18 Council Janessa Esquible, it'll be Wednesday at 1:30
19 for Avery Hoffman.

20
21 Thank you, Eva.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And we have
26 just a couple edits. So the agenda has to be developed
27 early and due to some of our Title VIII compliant
28 requirements with the website, the agenda often as
29 additional updates after it gets printed in the meeting
30 books since that goes out a couple months in advance.

31
32 We have just one person who wasn't able
33 to confirm, so Yukon River InterTribal Fisheries
34 Commission, they did not confirm for presenting for the
35 meeting.

36
37 And then we do have, as we get to the
38 presenters, we have more information who will be
39 presenting as well so we'll highlight the folks who
40 will be joining us for the presentation. Not
41 everybody's name made it into the agenda. So we'll
42 update those folks and welcome and introduce them when
43 we get to those presentations.

44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
48 Any other Council members have any additions or
49 deletions for the agenda at this time.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty hearing
4 none. We have a motion on the floor to review and
5 accept the agenda. If there's no more comments or
6 discussion or concern about the agenda, I'd like to
7 close the motion.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Call for the motion.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Someone want to
12 call for the question.

13

14 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord,
15 call for the question.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, John Andrew, call
18 for question.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. With
23 all the edits and reviews and discussions that we have
24 made at this time the motion on the floor to accept,
25 review and adopt the current agenda as is, all those in
26 favor say aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
31 opposed, same sign.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,
36 we'll go ahead and move on to the reports. We'll start
37 with Mr. Secretary Ray Oney, would you be so kind to
38 call our roll call. We'll go ahead and start with the
39 vice Chair, the Secretary and the remaining Council
40 members.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
43 believe we still have meeting minutes to adopt.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, yep, I missed
46 it, I have writing all over it. My apologies. No. 6,
47 thank you, Mr. Secretary.

48

49 Review and approve previous meeting

50

1 minutes. Can I get a motion on the floor.

2

3 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, for the
4 record, Ray Oney. I think I just see some typos on
5 attendees on the first page, on Page 5, teleconference
6 spelling of names - Native Village of Alakanuk, Paul
7 Cassole it's supposed K-A-S-S-O-C-K. And the next one
8 is George Pasture, should be George Peter, P-E-T-E-R.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
11 other.....

12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ray, for those
14 spellings.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Council members
17 that would be on Page 5, for those changes, towards the
18 bottom of the page.

19

20 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
23 Andrew.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.
26 On Page 12 going on attendees, if you could get down to
27 Native Village of Kwethluk, we have Evan Nicolai, Frank
28 Ashepak (ph), not Frank Nicori, and then we have Martin
29 Nicolia, not Mark Nicori, those three that I see right
30 away, thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
33 Andrew. It's on the same page right above where Native
34 Village of Alakanuk.

35

36 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair. Carl Maxie,
37 Napaskiak.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Maxie.

40

41 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, that last meeting we
42 had with Donlin Mine update, I thought they were -- are
43 we missing them, or I thought they were going to have a
44 member with their team at this meeting, the fall
45 season.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Hi, Carl.

48

49 MR. MAXIE: Good morning.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Hi, Carl, good morning,
2 this is Eva. Yes, thanks for bringing up that question.
3 As we were developing the meeting agenda for this fall
4 meeting, the Council had requested for Donlin Mine to
5 come back and present again and the -- all the critical
6 fisheries discussion that was happening for this fall
7 meeting, we weren't able to squeeze them in.

8
9 MR. MAXIE: Oh, okay.

10
11 MS. PATTON: So they are -- they do
12 have, you know, an extended invitation that we would be
13 able to fit them in for sure for the winter meeting
14 when the agenda is a little less full at that time.

15
16 MR. MAXIE: Okay, good morning.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Carl.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are there any
21 more additions, deletions, corrections that we need to
22 do to the previous meeting minutes.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty, hearing
27 none, let's go ahead and, let's see we have a motion on
28 the floor -- motion -- we need a motion on the floor to
29 approve the previous meeting minutes as corrected.

30
31 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair, this is John
32 Andrew. I make a motion to approve the minutes of
33 March 16 and 17, 2020.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
36 Andrew. Can I get a second.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Second. Ray Oney.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
41 Oney. Are there any further comments, or questions or
42 discussion to be made. If not, can we get a question
43 to be called.

44
45 MR. PETER: Question.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
48 Phillip. All right, all those in favor to accept the
49 previous meeting minutes as corrected, all those in

50

1 favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
6 opposed, same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
11 guyana. All right, we'll go down and move into No. 7
12 with reports. We'll go ahead and go through the
13 officers first, our vice Chair, our Secretary and then
14 following Council members after.

15

16 Mr. Oney, would you be able to keep
17 track of who's next in line for us.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Oney.

20

21 MR. ONEY: Okay. Who do you want to
22 start with?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We'll go ahead
25 and start with Mr. Phillip, the Vice Chair.

26

27 MR. ONEY: Okay. Mr. Vice Chair, we
28 can hear your report. Thank you.

29

30 MR. PETER: Quyana. Do we have the
31 Yup'ik interpreter. I want to speak in my own
32 language.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip, this
39 is Eva. And unfortunately we weren't able to figure
40 out a way to get the Yup'ik translation over the
41 teleconference, so we don't have the professional
42 interpreters joining us today but I would welcome you
43 to speak in your language and if there might be other
44 Council members who would be able to help translate
45 that would be helpful.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. PETER: Okay. This summer -- I'm

50

1 going to speak in English here on my report.

2
3 Concerning about, first, about the
4 subsistence fishing in summer. And we have only two --
5 two salmon subsistence opening, and after that the
6 Department of Fish and Wildlife, they delayed that
7 subsistence fishing for chinooks for almost two weeks,
8 they denied them for two weeks. And I'm subsistence
9 fisherman, I know my river, I know the fish, that delay
10 was -- two weeks were delayed. They were not coming in
11 in -- heavy run in June, but they delayed and I know
12 that we had pretty good high water in the river. It's
13 -- I know that those chinooks were delayed for fishing.
14 And on the end of the June or July we had the third
15 opening and fish in July, the last opening, which
16 Federal management take over -- the Federal management
17 take over. Some catch only a few -- few like king
18 salmon, including myself. And when the State take over
19 in July I went out there the fourth opening, it's State
20 of Alaska take over and I did pretty good.

21
22 But (indiscernible) season, they're
23 hitting us, you know, every year the season changes.
24 This year it was -- the chinooks were kind of late,
25 they're not low, we always worry about the data, the
26 data and escapement. We're targeting on so much on
27 chinook for subsistence, what about the rest of the
28 salmon like chums and reds. The chinooks and -- I mean
29 chums and salmon -- red salmon are doing okay. We
30 catch quite a few -- I catch quite a few of them. Look
31 like every year they going to let us idle -- let us
32 fish for a couple of openings and idle for two weeks
33 because of those chinooks. We're using only chum
34 salmon up in six and a -- six inch, we're targeting the
35 -- we're targeting the chinooks -- those chinooks were
36 really small and medium size, which I catch with my six
37 inch, 25 fathom net. I know that we're killing them,
38 we're killing them because of small size six inch net,
39 we're choking them. I know that, we're choking them.

40
41 And it's my report.

42
43 And second one. We're doing good, fall
44 season moose hunting. Everybody in my community and in
45 my unit they're doing good -- we're doing good, we're
46 catching male moose this fall,

47
48 So we need to do something with fishing
49 next year. We need to change. We need to change the
50

1 subsistence way of life for fishing. And too much
2 restrictions on us and we've been pushing for, you
3 know, mesh size net. Everybody knows -- everybody
4 knows -- those who fish since teenager with the
5 (indiscernible), with the (indiscernible) and too much
6 concentration on the chinooks, too much -- too much
7 concentration and nobody do -- nobody's doing something
8 to help us. All we're going to talk, talk, talk, no
9 action. We need to work together for subsistence
10 fishing. We need to meet this -- we're not -- and I
11 don't think we never met our data, which is 40-plus
12 thousand for -- to catch the chinook for subsistence.
13 And I got really upset when we have first opening in
14 the morning at 6:00 a.m., opening everybody in my
15 community and rest of community to go down go fishing,
16 lot of people, and we had to wait for our chance to
17 drift. We need to like -- I want -- I'm going to tell
18 the truth, my grandma used to tell me, you go down to
19 the river to fish, not to catch too many king salmon.
20 My net was only 20 fathoms and 40 mesh, eight inch.
21 Couple of drifts I catch 20 and then I go home and my
22 grandmother satisfied. That's what I used to do when I
23 was a young man. Each household in my community, fish,
24 not the whole family or this -- you know this year our
25 population is growing. We need to do something -- we
26 need to do something to control the subsistence
27 fishing.

28
29 Thank you. Thank you, Ma'am.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
32 Phillip. I greatly appreciate everything that you said
33 and we'll definitely get something in the works and
34 keep working forward to continue taking care of the
35 land, the people, the fisheries and come up with action
36 items that we can follow through and hopefully have
37 historical record that we could trace and use as what
38 worked, what didn't work, that way we're not repeating
39 our history.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 Mr. Oney.

44
45 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Thank you, everyone, for calling in to participate in
47 this annual fall YRDFA meeting. For the record my name
48 is Raymond Oney from Alakanuk, Secretary for the RAC,
49 Council.

50

1 All I can say from the beginning, I
2 guess fisheries has been on top of our minds all
3 summer, as you know, since break-up we've been looking
4 forward to the summer fishery as far as providing our
5 food security for the winter. We had a real good
6 break-up. Water was high. Again, the fish came in
7 late. Fish came in late and if people had an
8 opportunity to fish before the restriction windows went
9 into play, that's the opportunity that most -- majority
10 of the users on the Yukon got their fish, but as the
11 days went down, weeks went down, people were wondering,
12 you know, where's the fish. There's been no fish on
13 the Yukon pretty much all summer from the headwaters
14 all the way down the mouth of the Yukon. People were
15 talking about no fish spawning in the spawning grounds.
16 We had no reports of bears in creeks where they usually
17 go and get their fish for the -- to fatten up for the
18 winter. People were reporting of creeks that used to
19 be filled up with fish but due to the climate change
20 and decline of salmon people were beginning to report
21 of seeing these creeks with no fish. No activities
22 going on pretty much all through the summer as far as
23 trying to get food for the winter.

24
25 It's probably the worst fishing season
26 that I've seen in my lifetime. We do need to figure out
27 how we could address the climate change because I don't
28 see anything happening any time soon as far as trying
29 to rebuild the fish. As you know climate change is
30 going to be with us for a long time and that's the
31 reality of it. Things have been going so quick, like I
32 mentioned one time that we were on a train going 50
33 miles an hour and seeing these things happening right
34 before our eyes and we can't stop it. And that's why
35 it's important why we need everyone at the table, when
36 it comes to issues like this, we need to make sure that
37 everyone that harvests fishes while it be in-river or
38 in the high seas. They need to see what we're going
39 through and trying to rebuild the stocks on the river.
40 If we're going to do that then we need everyone on the
41 table. Either that or call for a moratorium. If we
42 can't seem to get anywhere then we need to put our foot
43 down and let agencies and fisheries know that we cannot
44 let the chinook salmon be extinct. We need to be
45 serious about what we're seeing. The agencies need to
46 come to terms and start working with us and address
47 that to those people that need to.....

48
49 (Teleconference interference -
50

1 participants not muted - typing)

2

3 MR. ONEY:make a change for us,
4 for what we are seeing. And hopefully that will be
5 able to come together and work together to address this
6 climate change in trying to rebuild our chinook salmon
7 for the Yukon, and also the other species such as the
8 cohos and the summer chum salmon that has been absent
9 all summer.

10

11 I don't know what it's going to do for
12 our food security. We are fortunate that we have moose
13 in our area. We're fortunate to have that moratorium
14 that we did 20 years ago to be able to see the end
15 results of it. I think that's one of our best things
16 that we did for the Yukon was to rebuild the moose
17 population. I'm sure we could do it for the chinook
18 and summer chum salmon too if we get everybody on the
19 table.

20

21 And I thank all those people who have
22 given us reports and those that have participated all
23 summer in trying to wonder where the fish are. So
24 hopefully there will be better days ahead of us.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 Next will be John Andrew and then
29 Thomas Alstrom.

30

31 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair, this is John
32 Andrew. I'm from Kwethluk.

33

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

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: I'll start off with last
40 spring during spring hunting, migratory bird hunting
41 there was hardly any birds coming in. By the time we
42 had break-up the water was high, nice and high almost
43 normally, a lot of logs drifting down. But the birds
44 were pretty scarce there, they were just scattered all
45 over. And our elders used to say when you don't have
46 snow, snow cover the birds will be slow and scattered
47 and they say and by the time we were whitefishing back
48 in the lakes we were a little -- even whitefish and
49 pike were coming in late to the lake. For the first

50

1 part of the spring and summer we don't fish the main
2 stem, we go back into the lake on our backyard.

3
4 The fish -- the salmon, like chinook,
5 were late, our chinook were late and they were small.
6 We hardly see any chums. If I get a few chums I'd give
7 it to my neighbors because we rarely see chums this
8 summer and the water level was low. When they go out
9 there I didn't bother to but setnetting that four inch
10 gear because I'm always disappointed with using the
11 small mesh gear we have a high drop-off, rate, they --
12 if you use a thin one they tear up your net and they
13 get away and they don't make it to the spawning
14 grounds. They die on their way up there. If there was
15 -- we fish with four inch gear all the way up to six
16 inch (indiscernible - breaking up) we see drifting down
17 the river.

18
19 Then I appreciate what Mr. Phillip
20 Peter brought up -- Ray Oney and I can see that. I'm
21 seeing it over here too.

22
23 And the salmon were pretty sporadic.
24 Some days they did and other days there were hardly
25 any. Like the last few years, we look back, the coho
26 always come in late now the last few years.

27
28 Then moose season in September. One of
29 my neighbors wanted whitefish, I set a whitefish back
30 on one of the two creeks and I ended up with a little
31 over 40 silvers and only a few whitefish, I had to pull
32 it out the next day. So the silvers incidentally catch
33 with a four and a half. And, again, we.....

34
35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Andrew,
39 sorry, standby. Mr. Andrew standby.

40
41 REPORTER: John.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hold on, John.

44
45 REPORTER: John, this is the court
46 reporter, could you please hold just for one minute for
47 Alissa. Go ahead, Alissa.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Mr. Andrew

50

1 to interrupt you. But I have some background noise in
2 the background that's making quite a bit of noise and
3 it's really hard to hear you.
4

5 Can you please star six mute your
6 phone, we want to be respectful to Mr. Andrew giving
7 his Council report. Whoever's typing or texting on
8 your phone we can hear you texting your phone. Hit
9 star six to mute your phones, there's a loud background
10 noise. Go ahead and star six to mute your phones,
11 again, we still have some white background noise so if
12 it's possible to start six to mute your phones it's
13 greatly appreciated.
14

15 I'm sorry, Mr. Andrew, go ahead.
16

17 (No comments)
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Andrew, did
20 we lose you.
21

22 MR. ANDREW: I'm still here. And then
23 the whitefish were really slow this year. Like I said
24 I was trying to catch whitefish for my neighbor and I
25 ended up with too many silvers. And I noticed the last
26 few years, after the water gets flowing (ph) then the
27 fish start moving in, after we have a little of that
28 southwest wind blow them in. But most of the summer
29 they were kind of sporadic in between. Some days
30 there's a lot -- a lot on the river, the next day there
31 were hardly any. And I talked with test fishery by the
32 Y in the village below us and that's what they noticed,
33 too, and they were fishing with small fish gear, like
34 four inch, even herring gear, and they never -- I don't
35 think they catch too many whitefish but they were
36 catching some, but not too many. And I noticed that
37 they were catching really pretty small red with the
38 small whitefish gear. It was small, not too many, not
39 like the high numbers in the past.
40

41 Qu yana.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
44 Andrew. I would like to request again to star six to
45 mute your phones and if you're on a touchtone phone go
46 ahead and push the mute button, or push the mute button
47 on your cell phones. We are getting some background
48 noise.
49

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair, I forgot one
2 thing.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: Our moose season was
7 excellent. That moratorium we did in this area helped
8 and there was moose everywhere, we even seen them right
9 on our airport road, even at the villages, too many
10 cows and calves.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 REPORTER: Alissa, hi, this is Tina.
15 You can go ahead with your meeting but I'm going to
16 talk to an operator about at least trying to clean up
17 the static we seemed to have developed all of a sudden
18 on this line, on top of the typing and other noise. So
19 just letting you know, yeah, but it won't be recording
20 while I do that. Yeah, you're welcome.

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted - calling operator)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Alstrom.

26
27 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 I'll give my report here. I'm located in Alakanuk.
29 The Yukon Delta is made up of three main rivers, maybe
30 -- I believe 30 miles below Mountain Village, the
31 Middle Mouth -- the North Mouth -- which usually has
32 calm waters and then there's the Middle Mouth and
33 there's no villages located on the Middle Mouth,
34 however the South Mouth here on the Yukon Delta is the
35 main river with three villages located on it. But in
36 regards to the chinook and summer chum that we were --
37 they were waiting for the strong currents from the
38 spring to melt down to wash out the -- I believe the
39 salmon were out in the -- outside the Coast waiting for
40 the strong currents and high water to subside and by
41 the time there were -- this is me -- this is kind of
42 what I was thinking the fish were doing, was maybe
43 moving north to the Norton Sound in cold -- waiting in
44 colder waters because -- and finally when the water
45 subside -- subsided, the salmon being in colder water
46 entered the Yukon Delta through the North Mouth, the
47 North Mouth Slough which is located from Little Apune
48 Pass up towards the mouth of Kotlik and I believe the
49 ADF&G does monitoring -- or I mean test fishing in both
50

1 the South Mouth area and the Middle Mouth area,
2 however, there's no test fishing done in the North
3 Mouth River and that's the smallest river out of the
4 three; so the South being the biggest, the Middle being
5 much smaller, and the smallest river amongst the three
6 main rivers on the Delta, the North Mouth going from
7 Little Apune Pass to Kotlik. And what I was thinking,
8 maybe the salmon is -- by the time the water subsides
9 and the currents kind of slow down the salmon are all
10 waiting up in Norton Sound and by the time they enter
11 they all enter into North Mouth Slough. Then as far as
12 I could remember the test fishery, ADF&G's test fishing
13 doesn't do any test fishing in the North Mouth, it's
14 from -- if I could remember. They do in the Middle and
15 the South. But if I was -- I'm kind of thinking if I
16 was a salmon and I was waiting for the current to
17 subside I'd want to wait in maybe colder water up in
18 the North Mouth and then I'd enter through the North
19 Mouth and then all the way up to Apune Pass and I could
20 make it past the test fishing nets and then I could
21 make it up to Mountain -- Mountain past the Andreafsky
22 River and then finally make the Pilot Station sonar.

23
24 And lately the last how many years
25 we've been getting a lot of salmon or what I've been
26 hearing from friends and relatives that live up towards
27 the Kotlik area is that they did a lot -- they're
28 starting to notice that they're getting more salmon up
29 in the North Mouth Slough than that of the Middle and
30 the South. So when we're not getting any salmon down
31 here in the South Mouth -- the South Mouth District and
32 they're coming in heavily up in the North Mouth, maybe
33 we might want to consider monitoring the salmon that
34 are coming in through the North Mouth more because -- I
35 know this past summer due to the Coronavirus, ADF&G
36 didn't do any monitor -- what I had seen is they
37 weren't doing any monitoring in the Little Mouth,
38 however they were do -- having local residents do the
39 test fishing in the South Mouth, and the North -- while
40 the salmon -- we weren't getting any salmon, both us
41 and some -- the friends and relatives from Emmonak that
42 go up towards Middle Mouth and fish in there, they
43 weren't getting any. However, towards the Middle --
44 once the river start -- when the current started
45 subsiding, the high water lowered little enough and the
46 current -- the strong current subsided and we start
47 getting what used to be the up river ice after the --
48 after the flood. By the time the up river ice reaches
49 down here in the Delta there's no -- there's no ice,
50

1 it's just all up river logs. By the time the up river
2 -- up -- way up above Tanana ice come -- reach down
3 here to the Delta, the ice had already -- the ice
4 already melts and it's just coming down with strong
5 currents and logs and the sticks and debris. Little
6 bit of black ingress (ph) here and there so got to be
7 careful when driving around the -- they're usually
8 located on the driftwood but after that -- after the
9 strong currents subside and the salmon are still out at
10 sea waiting for the tide to lower and the current to
11 subside they had moved -- I believe they had moved
12 further up towards the Norton Sound and then in colder
13 waters and then they come in through the North Mouth.
14

15 So just this past summer when we did
16 have some subsistence openers we weren't getting any --
17 the subsistence harvesters around here they weren't
18 getting much salmon, both here and -- both here in
19 Alakanuk and Numan'Iqua and Emmonak, however, towards
20 the middle, right when the water started slowing down
21 the friends in villages up in Kotlik in the North Mouth
22 area started -- said they started hitting very heavily
23 up in the North Mouth area. So we might want to look
24 up that way a little more.
25

26 But even -- not only the summer -- the
27 chinook and the summer chum salmon they come to the
28 North Mouth. The fall -- we've also noticed in the
29 past several years that fall chum and cohos started
30 coming heavily through the North Mouth area. So they
31 might have a different enter -- entering -- maybe the
32 salmon haven't learned the new route over the years to
33 come through the North Mouth and the North Mouth is
34 much narrower and so they're more easier to target. So
35 the chinook and the summer chums not only come in
36 through the North Mouth but fall chum and cohos are
37 also coming into the North Mouth.
38

39 Other than that the Alakanuk, just this
40 past week here on the coastline a lot of people here,
41 subsistence harvesters for (In Yup'ik), which I believe
42 is the bering cisco said the (In Yup'ik) has been
43 hitting really thick down here on the coastlines, a lot
44 of people have been catching. I haven't gone out to
45 try for any yet but a lot of friends and family been
46 reporting and saying there's a lot of (In Yup'ik)
47 located far out on the coastline with the -- along the
48 coastline.
49
50

1 But other than that the past few --
2 besides the.....

3
4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted - typing)

6
7 MR. ALSTROM: We've been getting some
8 snow geese also coming from the north heading towards
9 the south so we're just beginning to start seeing
10 flocks of snow geese fly, make their southbound trip so
11 starting to get some snow geese here. A lot of the
12 other geese, the Canadians and other geese are starting
13 to group up and getting ready to head south.

14
15 A lot of residents here in Alakanuk I
16 think have been getting their moose, yeah, and that's
17 pretty much it.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Alstrom, hold
20 on. I'm sorry to interrupt you. I hear a lot of
21 typing in the background, can you please star six to
22 mute your phone or press mute on your background. It's
23 creating a background noise and it's hard to hear what
24 Mr. Alstrom is saying.

25
26 Go ahead, Mr. Alstrom, I apologize for
27 the interruption.

28
29 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, yeah, okay. So I've
30 been seeing a lot of residents, not only from here in
31 Alakanuk but surrounding villages as well getting their
32 moose and their seals. They get the bearded seals
33 here, the spotted mukluks. Also there's been some
34 beluga whales. I took a ride out to the Yukon, maybe
35 three, four days ago out to the middle of the Yukon, I
36 seen a couple of beluga whales swimming up river. So
37 beluga whales going in and out of the Delta here.

38
39 There's a test -- I believe there's
40 fish in the -- the Arctic lamprey, they're the eels
41 here at the Delta are grouping up and head up the
42 river. I believe once it starts freezing they start
43 their bound up the Yukon River. So we're getting a few
44 out here on the Delta, some Arctic lamprey.

45
46 So let's see, other than that, yeah,
47 other than that that's pretty much it.

48
49 MR. ESTENSEN: So, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, say
2 your first name, last name and your affiliation.

3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair.
5 This is Jeff Estensen with the Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game, Yukon area fall season manager. Could I
7 just provide a point of clarification to Mr. Alstrom.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please.

10
11 MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

12
13 MR. ESTENSEN: You know that the
14 Department does actually, in fact, monitor the salmon
15 that are coming in the North Mouth. The North Mouth
16 will confluence with the Middle Mouth, and we do have a
17 camp, and we do our test fishing below that confluence,
18 so we do monitor fish in both the Middle Mouth and the
19 North Mouth, just as a point of clarification.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

24
25 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, this is Thomas
26 again. All right, thanks. Thanks for that input.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
29 Alstrom.

30
31 All right, Mr. Oney, who do we have
32 next.

33
34 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, we have James
35 Landlord from Mountain Village, then Carl Maxie from
36 Napaskiak.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Landlord.....

39
40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:are you
43 there? Go ahead Eva.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Yeah, Madame Chair and
46 Council, this is Eva. James Landlord had to step off
47 the call for a little bit here. He has a medical call
48 to make at 10:30. He expected to be back on at about
49 11:00 a.m., and will rejoin us then. So we'll pick
50

1 back up with James Landlord when he rejoins us for his
2 report.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
7 you, Eva. We'll go ahead and wait for Mr. Landlord to
8 come back on at 11:00. Mr. Maxie, are you still
9 available on line?

10
11 MR. MAXIE: Yes, good morning, this is
12 Carl Maxie, Napaskiak. Did I get unmuted?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, you're
15 good.

16
17 MR. MAXIE: Okay.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. MAXIE: Well, this past season
22 during king season there were fish here and there. I
23 had to -- I always had to kind of look where we used to
24 cut our fish -- set our -- I mean drift our set there
25 -- we had to kind of move around where fish are coming
26 in. They kind of move around channels.

27
28 And when I went down to check the Bay
29 down at the mouth of the Kuskokwim there were a lot of
30 sand bar islands or whatever, that current channel
31 changes every year so different fishing -- every year
32 that I do kind of look around where a good spot for
33 fishing and they were kind of -- they were a little
34 less this year but they're a little bigger king fish
35 here.

36
37 And that long break that we had for,
38 opening for July so that we could have a little here
39 and there for everybody but that we had that long break
40 for reds and chums for month of June there. But
41 everybody's happy for their stocking up fish for the
42 winter.

43
44 And seen lots of seals coming in this
45 Kuskokwim River down to our area here.

46
47 And seems like all the whitefish are
48 moving up towards Delta, where I go catch mine I got a
49 little less but fortunately they're still there.

50

1 And the moose population in our area is
2 -- there's lots here and I'm kind of wondering if
3 moratorium should be uplifted or not, or something that
4 we need to look into.

5
6 And both the -- every year before the
7 opening for subsistence gathering we saw meat -- or
8 before fishing starts have kind of like get a plan
9 ahead for opening for first part because like gathering
10 spawning areas for -- I'm kind of wondering if the fish
11 that are coming along the cycle, migration are -- are
12 being picked up and less coming in for gathering or
13 spawning there. That'd be my question for awhile now
14 because they're getting less and less it seems like for
15 everything around here. Other than that it seems like
16 the fish are have little spotties in their body too
17 there. And fishing season's been gathering -- been
18 good, some rabbits, and both Phillip and John and Oney
19 -- I mean what's his -- Alstrom said a lot there.

20
21 And I hope we get through this pandemic
22 thing and get over with it and hope everybody stays
23 well here.

24
25 That's all I have, good morning.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 MR. MAXIE: Hello.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, thank you,
32 Mr. Maxie. Okay, Mr. Oney, who do we have up next.

33
34 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. We have
35 Richard Slats and then James Landlord when he gets
36 back.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
41 Oney. Mr. Slats.

42
43 MR. SLATS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Will you give me a minute to introduce myself proper,
45 formal.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please do.

48
49 MR. SLATS: (In Cup'ik)

50

1 I'm Richard Slats I'm from Chevak. I'm
2 Cup'ik. Our river has two -- when our people moved
3 from Kajunik to Chevak they made two canals on our
4 river and that's our Cup'ik name for our community is
5 Chevak.

6
7 I didn't have really much to report
8 this time because mainly I had gear issues, you know,
9 at the onset of this summer and injuries prevented me
10 from jumping on, you know, the boat.

11
12 Traditionally ptarmigans have always
13 been our first red meat and then when the geese come we
14 take what we need to, you know, what we need when the
15 geese are here. So ptarmigans and geese are our first
16 red meat.

17
18 When the fish first comes in we either
19 fish off of Hooper Bay, we come out of our river to go
20 down to those two other rivers south of us to fish and
21 that's where the fish camps are traditionally been set
22 and alongside this river, our river. So there was some
23 fishing this summer and, you know, people do their fish
24 camps here and along those rivers south from us.
25 Because I've had gear issues, I would, you know, like
26 date and time I'm going to resort to the geese that I
27 -- you know, that I catch. And then this winter I'll
28 be doing winter, you know, whitefish under ice and
29 pike, jigging for pikes.

30
31 But even throughout these times I've
32 been trying to keep myself abreast of what's going on
33 in our area. And I read that fish are still washing
34 up. And then at one time when we were doing our face
35 to face meetings there was one of those people from the
36 meeting that they -- they are observing from their
37 childhood to this day that kings are shrinking, shrunk
38 in size from the times -- since the time that they
39 were, you know, in their childhood. And there's an
40 article that I read they are -- they are -- kings are
41 shrinking. And I don't even know what would be causing
42 that. Because climate change is here to stay, you
43 know, all of these -- what a lot of those people that
44 spoke before me, were saying that climate change still
45 poses a hardship for the subsistence user.

46
47 But then this thing came up out of
48 nowhere, this pandemic and so for a lot of us food
49 security is now a priority. So one of the points --
50

1 the point that I wanted to make about that is that when
2 we make any decisions for the subsistence users, that
3 we need to keep in mind that there is a pandemic that's
4 now on us, to add on to the climate change hardships
5 that we've been going through, so keep that -- that
6 pandemic and our food security is now a priority.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
11 Slats. And, Quyana for the reminder. We know how
12 important subsistence is out there and getting supplies
13 out to the villages and out to the communities that
14 surround our hub. It's been pretty tough and with Ravn
15 no longer being a part of our fleet crew transporting
16 pallets of goods out to the villages has been getting
17 harder and the quality of food that's being transferred
18 out there is not as good as it used to be. So we
19 really got to take in consideration how important
20 subsistence is to our communities, our people of our
21 area and everyone out there that relies on subsistence
22 food to sustain themselves and survive.

23

24 So, thank you, Mr. Slats, I really
25 greatly appreciate you for bringing that.

26

27 MR. SLATS: Quyana.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
30 have Mr. Slats on line -- I mean, sorry.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry. Mr.
35 Landlord.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: James Landlord,
40 are you back on line with us yet?

41

42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
43 this is Eva. James thought his appointment might last
44 about a half an hour so he thought he might be back on
45 a little after 11:00. We can do Chair's report and see
46 if he's joined us after that or go on to public and
47 tribal comment, and we'll connect with James when he
48 joins us again.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Usually
4 we'll have the Council member's reports first before
5 the Chair's report. So at this time we'll go ahead and
6 move along to the agenda in respect for Mr. James
7 Landlord to give his report prior to the Chair's
8 report.

9

10 We'll go ahead and move on to Agenda
11 No. Item 8, public and tribal comment on non-agenda
12 items. Again, we're going to try to keep it limited to
13 five to 10 minutes per person. When you speak up go
14 ahead and say your first name, your last name and your
15 affiliation or organization or if you're representing
16 yourself. And if you could, right after you're done
17 speaking, go ahead and star six to mute your phone or
18 press mute on your phone that way we can reduce the
19 background noise.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry, hold
24 on.

25

26 OPERATOR: Excuse me, this is the
27 conference coordinator, I pulled your line, did you
28 need assistance.

29

30 REPORTER: Alissa, hold one while I
31 talk to the operator.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

34

35 REPORTER: Thank you.

36

37 (Pause - didn't wait while on phone
38 with Operator)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:had also
41 included added it to beginning after we come back from
42 lunch. And also at the end of the meeting, if we have
43 any public comments at the end of the meeting.

44

45 All right, I'll go ahead and open up
46 the floor to public comments. We have Mike Williams on
47 line.

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, my name is Mike

50

1 Williams, Sr. I'm the Chief of the Akiak Native
2 Council and I really appreciate the comment period.

3
4 First of all I'd like to thank the
5 Federal Subsistence Board for approving our SAR for --
6 ever since we submitted that and we really appreciate
7 that. And also this year we did it with Organized
8 Village of Kwethluk and Lamont Albertson and we'd just
9 like to thank that support, to continue that. And I'd
10 like to thank YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council for
11 your unwavering support along with the Western RAC as
12 well. It made a big difference. And thank you to the
13 in-season managers from Kuskokwim River InterTribal
14 Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
15 in-season manager we have in Bethel to execute the
16 fishing periods this past summer and -- and these past
17 summers that went by. I think they've done a very good
18 job and also the -- thank the Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game for the sonar and the Bethel test fishery that
20 we depend on to monitor the fishery in these times of
21 budget constraints and et cetera.

22
23 I think this past summer it was, you
24 know, we started off with the projections of chinook
25 and -- and it was, you know, those projections were
26 good but I think the issue of the uncertainty is always
27 there, we never know what's going to happen even though
28 we do projections over the long years that I've been
29 involved on the river. But I think we all need to be
30 prepared for those changes and we heard the climate
31 change impacts and the high seas fishing and commercial
32 fisheries, et cetera. So I think for the next year, I
33 think we need to continue that effort to make sure that
34 our conservation efforts are meaningful and also --
35 also we prepare to rebuild our stocks while we are
36 honoring our food security for our people on the river.

37
38 Lastly, Akiak Native Community passed a
39 resolution to AFN to declare disaster for all of those
40 areas that did not meet their subsistence needs. And
41 we submitted that disaster declaration to AFN for their
42 consideration. And we know that Southeast has
43 experienced some, you know, bad returns, and also the
44 Cook Inlet and also the Yukon River, and also the
45 Kuskokwim River with our shortages for -- not every
46 family got their food. So we submitted that for the
47 Governor to consider declaring disaster so we can have
48 relief for the Yukon and for the Southeast and for
49 others that we need to include in the Kuskokwim. We
50

1 didn't see much chums as well. So I think we need to
2 do an assessment and take care of everybody that needs
3 to have food on the table in the cold winters.
4

5 And, again, thank you very much YK RAC
6 for your continued support for our SAR. Every year
7 we've submitted that. And also like to thank Kuskokwim
8 River InterTribal Fish Commission for their hard work
9 and our in-season managers.
10

11 Thank you, that's all I have.
12

13 Quayana.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
16 Williams. Do you have any comments or questions for
17 Mr. Williams.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
22 Williams. The floor is open.
23

24 MR. EPCHOOK: Mr. Chairman -- I mean
25 Madame Chairman.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
28

29 MR. EPCHOOK: Yes, I'm Chariton Epchook
30 with Kwethluk Incorporated. I have a couple things
31 here.
32

33 One is the -- we are -- and to me there
34 should be no dual management within the Refuge and I
35 think that Yukon Kuskokwim Delta -- or the U.S. Fish
36 and Wildlife should continue if there is a next year
37 with managing fishing and hunting inside the Refuge.
38

39 I heard the comments from the very
40 beginning regarding salmon being late, and I agree with
41 those comments. I've seen late arrival of chinook up
42 in the Kasigluk River just recently.
43

44 And the other portion is the moose
45 hunting, again, Zone 1 and 2, it's working all right
46 but we are inside the Refuge, there should be no Zone 1
47 or 2 within this Refuge. So I just wanted to have
48 direct -- submit a proposal to do away with the Zone 1
49 and 2 and keep it at that.
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
4 Epchook. Did you have specific type of language you
5 want to see in the proposal?

6

7 MR. EPCHOOK: For the moose hunting
8 portion within this side of Unit 18, the Zone 1 and 2,
9 I don't know what portion of -- I haven't seen that
10 language for Zone 1 and 2, but, you know, about how
11 many years back we were told that if we get into the
12 moratorium that hunting season will be open for moose.
13 At that time we didn't discuss that there will be Zone
14 1 and 2 within this side of Unit 18. So if it's just
15 one unit, no zones, that would be great.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
20 comments or questions for Mr. Epchook.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may
23 respond to Chariton's request for submitting a
24 proposal.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Eva.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Hi, good morning,
29 Chariton. Just wanted to provide an update for
30 everyone, the next call for Federal subsistence
31 wildlife proposals will be initiated this coming
32 winter, there'll be a call going out. And all are
33 welcome to submit proposals. Any person from the
34 public, tribe, individual or agency, it's wide open to
35 all who would like to submit a proposal. So at the
36 winter meeting the Council will be discussing that call
37 for proposals, and then all proposals that are
38 submitted come back before the Council to consider and
39 make recommendations on as well. And so we'll have
40 more updates on that process at the winter meeting for
41 the regular regulatory cycle. And then both Council
42 and Staff are available to assist with developing those
43 proposals as well.

44

45 So just wanted to provide that update.

46

47 Thank you, so much.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

50

1 Any further comments or questions for Mr. Epchook.

2

3 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
4 Born.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr. Ray
7 Born.

8

9 MR. BORN: Yeah, just a point of
10 clarification. I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager here at
11 Yukon Delta. Zone 1 and Zone 2 in Unit 18 kind of
12 divide between -- Zone 2 is the Federal lands on Unit
13 18, that portion of Unit 18, and Zone 1 is generally
14 speaking State land. So that's the reason for those
15 two different zones there. And the opportunity for
16 Zone 2 is to provide additional opportunity for people
17 as we've done this year. So that's the intent of
18 having a Zone 1 and a Zone 2. So some of the intent
19 behind where that came from.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Ray
24 Born. Any further comments or questions for Mr.
25 Epchook.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none, the
30 floor is open.

31

32 MR. OWEN: Madame Chair, this is Moses
33 Owen from Akiak Native Community.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
36 Owen.

37

38 MR. OWEN: Yes, thank you, Ma'am. It's
39 good to hear a lot of people expressing their
40 appreciation for what we're going through. But like a
41 couple people mentioned here, the challenges are
42 getting greater on us and like I want to thank the
43 people that are working under that -- the Fish and Game
44 Management Program for giving us the opportunity to
45 practice our way of life out here. Especially during
46 this season, you know, we're limited to doing anything
47 basically now. And in a way I appreciate what's going
48 on within the State and Federal government, because
49 it's allowing our people to realize that we have a lot

50

1 of resources out here that need to be protected for our
2 way of life, especially for the people that don't have
3 any income and that live off the land.

4
5 And I recall some time back while I was
6 growing up and I've been on the tribal council on and
7 off for some time now, but the State of Alaska has
8 pretty much been the oversight for our fish and game
9 out here. But it was brought to our attention that,
10 you know, when Russia apparently sold -- I don't know
11 what portion of the land here -- but there was an
12 agreement in there, in that sale, that the Yup'ik and
13 the original people from this land, subsistence way of
14 life would not be hindered in any way. And I
15 appreciate that and I look forward to practicing that
16 right as long as I live and for all people out here,
17 especially when you talk about people with limited
18 income. We have no choice but to live off the land.

19
20 That's our way of life. And I'm glad
21 our young people are getting exposed to this,
22 especially with this pandemic and everything is kind of
23 limited and it's not like it used to be, we'd order
24 food and then it would be here, or if we order from
25 Anchorage it would be here within two or three days but
26 that's not the case now. So with limited
27 transportation and everything we're having to depend on
28 the land more. But appreciation for the people that
29 overseeing our subsistence way of life, our thanks go
30 to them and to you people that are appointed to see our
31 rights being protected.

32
33 Thank you very much, Ma'am, you have a
34 good day.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
37 Owen. Do we have any comments or questions for Mr.
38 Owen.

39
40 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, Ray Oney here.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Oney.

43
44 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 For the record Ray Oney. Thank you, there Mr. Owen for
46 your comments. I think those are very strong words
47 that I'm hearing from you and also from Mike Williams.
48 Definitely our resources need to be protected and those
49 are the concerns that we bring to the table each and

50

1 every time we have this RAC meeting. And I concur with
2 you that climate change has a devastating effect to our
3 way of life and that's what the Fish and Game and Fish
4 and Wildlife need to recognize that because we do
5 depend on the resources because of our limited income
6 and the people need to really listen to us about what
7 you're trying to say, like I mentioned earlier.
8 Everybody that needs to talk about fisheries needs to
9 be at the table, every -- whether it be from the
10 spawning grounds or to the high seas and we need to
11 make that case and make it known.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 Appreciate your comment.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.

18
19 MR. OWEN: Yes, and I think I can add
20 to that -- Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

23
24 MR. OWEN: When we do -- even before we
25 do subsistence we've always had our elders giving us
26 guidance, you know, looking at the season because they
27 know what's happening out here, they don't need to be
28 meteorologist, or biologist or anything, they live off
29 the land here and we approach them for guidance as to,
30 you know, what we need to do in any situation, whether
31 it's fishing or moose hunting or anything to do with
32 our livelihood out here. We look to our elders for
33 guidance and that's one resource that we need to
34 protect also, is our elders.

35
36 Qu yana.

37
38 Thank you, very much.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
41 further comments or questions for Mr. Owen.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, the
46 floor is open.

47
48 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, can you
49 repeat Mr. Owen's name.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Moses Owen.

2
3 MR. SLATS: Thank you.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
6 Slats.

7
8 REPORTER: Thank you, I appreciate that
9 also.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Is this Mr.
16 Williams?

17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mike Williams,
19 again.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: I think we need to get
24 into -- really find out what's happening to our
25 environment, climate change impact, and I think we need
26 to forge some research with the people out here and
27 also the scientists to come up with some of these
28 answers that are lingering in our minds. It's
29 affecting us big time in our villages. And although we
30 supported Kwethluk's special action request to open up
31 hunting for our people during these times of pandemic
32 and food security that we depend on and I think that
33 was an issue in the Ahtna region and also in the
34 Southeast, that we've seen those opportunities
35 realized. But we need to all work together to make
36 sure that we have food on the table. And I fully agree
37 with Moses' comment that regardless of how we get it
38 done we have to have fish on our table and our
39 subsistence catches on our table and we gather our
40 berries and et cetera.

41
42 So it's very important that I think we
43 need to spend a lot more time to discuss this, not just
44 in these meetings, but do some extensive research to
45 really make sure that those questions are answered.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
50

1 Williams. Any further comments.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, if
7 you're on the cell phone please push the mute button so
8 that we can reduce the background noise, and if you're
9 on a touch dial phone go ahead and push star six to
10 mute your phone, that way we can reduce the phone and
11 be respectful to those who are talking and to those who
12 are trying to listen in to the teleconference.

13

14 All right, we're going to open the
15 floor back up to public comments. Is there anyone else
16 who would like to make a comment, please state your
17 first name, your last name, and your affiliation.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Again, if you're
25 on teleconference land go ahead and press mute. We are
26 hearing some background noise and coughing.

27

28 All right, we'll go ahead and open the
29 floor up for anyone else who wants to give a public
30 comment or a testimony.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I just
35 want to remind everyone that public and tribal comments
36 on non-agenda items will be available at very beginning
37 of our meeting and we'll also return after lunch and
38 we'll open up the floor to public comments. Because
39 we're on teleconference, it's hard to hear and see who
40 wants to make comments so we're going to have more
41 opportunity. But due to constraints and no one else
42 coming forward I want to see if Mr. James Landlord is
43 back on line.

44

45 REPORTER: So this isn't James, this is
46 Tina.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

1 REPORTER: But if I could remind
2 everybody, if you could look down on your phone right
3 now, take just like 10 seconds and check and see if
4 you're on mute because we are getting a lot of paper
5 scratching, and typing so somebody's not muted. So if
6 we could all just take that few seconds and check and
7 that way we can hear each person as they talk.

8
9 Thank you, Alissa.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Tina.

12
13 For folks in teleconference land, we
14 now have some background TV noise, it sounds like it's
15 an afternoon news report going on. If you could please
16 star six to mute your phone. Or if you look down at
17 your phone, your cell phone or your land line phone and
18 make sure that the mute button is turned on, we greatly
19 appreciate it.

20
21 Do we have Mr. Landlord, James
22 Landlord, are you back on line?

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I'm back on line.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, great,
27 wonderful. Thank you. Qu yana for coming back to us.

28
29 MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We're going to go
32 ahead and continue with your Council member report and
33 this will be your subsistence report to the Council.
34 Whenever you're ready.

35
36 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. This summer
37 subsistence report, fisheries report.

38
39 Unusual summer this summer. We had
40 high waters most throughout the summer. The chinooks
41 came in and just when we started fishing we heard
42 someone caught fish, king salmon, so some community
43 members went out fishing. And my sons and my brother-
44 in-law went out and caught, I think maybe about seven,
45 and we passed them out to some elders and some
46 villagers. We kept a few. Right after that we heard
47 closures were going to be -- windows were going to be
48 open -- to either dipnetting or six inch and below
49 mesh.

50

1 Chums were kind of slow coming in.
2 Even as of last month there were some people that still
3 didn't get enough fish to put away. There was more
4 than three or four families I think, well, five, maybe
5 families never got any fish put away. They might have
6 had three, but it wasn't enough. But my daughter, we
7 went out fishing because my sons were working, we put
8 away enough fish as we did last year. We didn't fish
9 in one spot, we went to different spots and we were
10 dipnetting, we were able to catch three at a time and
11 each time windows were open.

12
13 The fall chums were very slow too,
14 hardly any fish come in in fall chum. There's one big
15 different, this summer's weather, we hardly had any
16 wind, mostly calm conditions. Our dad used to say the
17 only time when fish can come in when it's (In Yup'ik),
18 that's when it's really windy -- high wind mix up the
19 water at the mouth. And whenever there was a little
20 wind fish would come in this summer. But we had a real
21 calm summer seems like, hardly any south wind and
22 barely any west or northwest wind.

23
24 With moose, I think everybody caught
25 their moose here in the village. There's still plenty
26 moose to catch. They started off as soon as it was
27 open so we have good amount of moose for everyone.

28
29 That's my report for the summer.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
32 Landlord. Do we have any comments or questions for Mr.
33 Landlord.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
38 Landlord for your subsistence report.

39
40 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair, Carl Maxie,
41 Napaskiak.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead,
44 Carl.

45
46 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, that Mr. Landlord
47 reminded me that was a good -- my grandpa and my dad
48 used to always tell me that whenever there's a south
49 wind, weather ready, that that's the time to fish,

50

1 that's when the time fish that are coming in big time
2 to Kuskokwim and Yukon. And that was good there, Mr.
3 Landlord.

4
5 Good morning. Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Maxie. Any further comments or questions for Mr.
9 Landlord.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Landlord, for your subsistence report.

15
16 Well, every one of the Council members
17 have given their subsistence report we'll go ahead and
18 move on to the Chair's report.

19
20 My name is Alissa Nadine Rogers. I
21 grew up here in Bethel my whole life. And also on my
22 mother's side in Alakanuk and also my dad's side in
23 Hooper Bay and traveled all over the place learning the
24 land and fishing and my family members all over the YK
25 Delta. Not one weekend was I not in a different
26 village, every -- almost every weekend I was in a
27 different village meeting people and going hunting and
28 fishing with them.

29
30 My subsistence report, I guess we'll
31 start with the fishing season.

32
33 Our sheefish this year, we didn't get
34 very much sheefish this year. They were running later
35 than normal and it felt like it was a really short run
36 this year compared to previous years. Usually they'll
37 come in, trickle in and then hit really hard and then
38 trickle out, but they seemed like they just were
39 trickling in and then they continued to trickle
40 throughout the beginning of the chinook season. And
41 then there was like absolutely nothing in the river for
42 like one to two weeks. And it was really unusual
43 because our fisheries will have like -- they'll have a
44 season when they come in, then they'll be like two to
45 three days late and then the next one would be coming
46 in but it was really unusual.

47
48 We definitely have been seeing a lot
49 more blackfish this year. They're pretty big and
50

1 plentiful and we're seeing blackfish in areas we've
2 never seen blackfish before. They might have been
3 there historically, but to me it's new.
4

5 We didn't go fishing for chinook salmon
6 this year. I haven't gone fishing for chinook salmon
7 since 2005. That's just a personal choice that me and
8 my family have made over the years ever since the
9 chinook salmon first started crashing.
10

11 We did go rod and reeling for reds and
12 dipnetting, not much luck, but we -- it was pretty fun
13 though, something new, something different.
14

15 From the fish that we did catch this
16 year during the summertime the meat was pretty soft,
17 which indicates to me that during the times that we
18 were fishing it was pretty warm out. The water was
19 warm. The temperature was warm. As soon as we pulled
20 them out they became kind of like slushy and so we had
21 to put them on ice right away.
22

23 Silvers this year. When we went out
24 fishing it was pretty plentiful for silvers this year
25 for us. We didn't try very hard as we did in the
26 previous years. This year we only went out twice and we
27 got our number of fish and they were really really
28 nice. I've never seen the nicest silvers in a long
29 time. There was no marks on them. No scars. The meat
30 was pristine. And we didn't have any trouble with them
31 being soft or any abnormalities in the fish.
32

33 When I heard about the fisheries coming
34 in and being late and the abundance numbers that they
35 are, I did follow up False Pass all the way up to the
36 ocean and following that trail and migrational route
37 that they come in from the ocean to the Bristol Bay and
38 to the Yukon and Norton Sound area and it seems to
39 follow the path of pretty much everything that you have
40 from all of the Council members, and all the reports
41 that we have been hearing. There was lots of fish out
42 in the sea, the Bering Sea. Catches on the Coast were
43 -- people were getting a lot of fish out on the Coast
44 right there between the island and the main land.
45 There was quite a bit of fish that were hitting in that
46 area, milling in that area and people were getting
47 their amount of fish that they needed out there and
48 some.
49
50

1 There was also reports of people
2 catching small tiny whitefish size kings or smaller on
3 whitefish hooks. Because usually during the summertime
4 we throw a hook out to catch whitefish and instead of
5 whitefish people were catching small kings and I heard
6 it up and down the river that people were catching
7 really tiny kings on whitefish lines.

8
9 For whitefish, the summer one was slow
10 and instead of catching more whitefish we caught more
11 pike. For the fall whitefish run with rods they're
12 trickling in but we're getting one to two per -- when
13 we check the net, one to two per net time, and now
14 we're getting a little bit more over two. So they're
15 starting to hit up here pretty good.

16
17 For the opening and closures, they
18 didn't coincide very well with weather. The last
19 couple of openers that we had this summer people were
20 losing some fish and they had to replace their fish
21 that they had lost due to weather. It was rainy and
22 pretty moist and humid in some areas and a couple
23 families had completely lost their whole entire catch
24 from that one opener.

25
26 Lamprey, here's a good one. Lamprey
27 were being seen swimming on the surface in early spring
28 before the sheefish came in, which was unusual to me,
29 because usually I only hear about lamprey coming
30 through here more towards the summer/falltime. And we
31 were fishing at the sea wall for whitefish and sure
32 enough there was a huge bubbly, bubbling in the water
33 and when you looked at it it looked really like
34 something different I'd never seen before, it looked
35 like snakes, lots and lots of snakes in the river. And
36 as this big bulge of bubbly water got closer and closer
37 and closer to the sea wall, we looked down and sure
38 enough there was a whole bunch of lamprey just swimming
39 on the surface of the water headed up river. And so
40 that was something different, for me.

41
42 For waterfowl. There was lots of geese
43 this year. Lots of cranes this year flying around in
44 our area. Not so many swans or mallards as we usually
45 saw. We saw a lot more smaller ducks and a lot of
46 spooners and a lot of the smaller ones, pintail. Snow
47 geese, we haven't seen any snow geese coming in this
48 year yet because -- I don't know if they're running
49 late or if they're just not here yet. Usually we see
50

1 snow geese -- I saw one flock really late at night but
2 that was pretty much about it. We didn't have any snow
3 geese land in our backyard this year or fly over our
4 dog.

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I did -- I have
10 been seeing geese flying in circles. Like they'd be
11 coming from one direction and then the next moment
12 later they'll turn around and start flying the
13 direction they came back from. So I just feel like the
14 geese migration right now is leave -- waiting for the
15 right time to leave.

16
17 For small birds this year we haven't
18 seen as many small birds this year as we used to.
19 Swallows, for instance, swallows came in and they left
20 fairly early. Usually they would stick around until
21 end of silver season but they left very, very early
22 this year which was really weird because we usually
23 have them hanging around our house for a long time but
24 they just -- all over town they got up and just left
25 one day and that was the weirdest thing I've ever seen.

26
27 For berries. Blueberries were really
28 big this year. We had some that were big as your
29 thumbnail. They were really juicy but pretty sour, but
30 they were still really good. The weather this year was
31 great for berries. Really, really red salmonberries,
32 meaning that there was a lot of sun -- sun that hit
33 those berries and ripened before they could turn. Not
34 very many raspberries this year. They're not as
35 plentiful as they were the years before. And for high
36 bush cranberries, we're seeing a lot more high bush
37 cranberries down in this part of the river. We came
38 across quite a bit of patches of high bush cranberries
39 that were really really plentiful in those areas.

40
41 We had muskox in our backyard this
42 year. There was one wandering muskox. It also was
43 sighted behind the Bethel airport, too, so it was not
44 too far.

45
46 Seals. I only saw a few seals this
47 year. We really had to go looking for them. We didn't
48 get any this year here on the Kuskokwim. I don't know
49 if they're running late or if they're just not coming

50

1 all the way up here like they used to.

2

3 For moose hunting we went twice this
4 year due to weather and covid. There was lots of
5 hunters when we went out, we were seeing lots of people
6 out there. So we're just going to wait until
7 wintertime until we see moose. But there's moose all
8 over my backyard. We have three different families of
9 females who have anywhere from two to triplets, two
10 calves to triplet moose in my backyard and they rotate
11 every week. So we see one family and then the next one
12 comes in the next week, and then the next one comes in
13 the next week.

14

15 There's lots of mouse food caches
16 everywhere. We didn't have to look very hard for mouse
17 food, it seems like they're really plentiful this year
18 and really gathering up on harvesting for their caches,
19 because their caches are a lot bigger so I'm trying to
20 figure out what that's supposed to mean for this coming
21 winter, if it's going to be a rough winter for us.

22

23 On another note, now that we are doing
24 gardening and having a chicken coop, more modernized
25 backyard for outside of our land land, gardening this
26 year, our top gardens were doing pretty poor due to the
27 weather. We're still producing in our garden. A lot of
28 our more hearty vegetables are still growing. We did
29 really good on potatoes, everything under ground did
30 amazing, it was just the top side of the garden that
31 wasn't doing very well. Now, this year, we tried out
32 having chickens and turkeys. We're averaging anywhere
33 from 14 to 16 eggs per day. It usually takes chickens
34 anywhere from 16 to 20 weeks to mature, so we have
35 that.

36

37 And, again, with the unusual spring,
38 summer and fall season, due to Covid, a lot of my
39 fishing and hunting partners that I usually take a lot
40 of fish with, we didn't go out very much this year due
41 to Covid, times and everything just didn't match up and
42 we were really being careful with Covid this season, so
43 we didn't get out very much as usually do. But we
44 definitely did try.

45

46 All right, thank you. That concludes
47 my Chair report.

48

49 I want to see if the Council -- how do

50

1 you guys feel about lunch break and when would you guys
2 want to take a lunch break.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may,
7 this is Eva.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Maybe a suggestion for the
12 Council to think about. We're on the agenda now at old
13 business and that's a brief update on the Federal
14 Subsistence Board actions from their April meeting for
15 the Council, and that would be a brief update. And
16 also under old business just a brief update on RAC
17 appointments and nomination process, if the Council
18 would like to take that up prior to lunch.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That sounds like
21 a good idea, Eva.

22
23 Okay, let's go ahead and move on to No.
24 9, old business. I'll go ahead and pass it over to
25 Eva, Council coordinator for the .805(c) report and
26 information update on Federal Subsistence Board actions
27 and including next winter's agenda item for nominations
28 and electing Council member -- or officers.

29
30 Thank you, Eva.

31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34
35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
36 and Council members. On Page 13 of your meeting book
37 you will find the .805(c) report and that's .805(c) of
38 ANILCA. The Federal Subsistence Board.....

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MS. PATTON: Excuse me. We've got
44 somebody typing again so just as a reminder to everyone
45 to please mute your phones. Star six to mute or push
46 your mute button on your phone.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 So Section .805(c) of the Alaska
2 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII of
3 ANILCA provides that the Board will accept the
4 recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory
5 Council regarding take for the harvest of subsistence
6 fish and wildlife unless;

7
8 1. The recommendation is not supported
9 by substantial evidence;

10
11 2. The recommendation violates
12 recognized principals of fish and wildlife
13 conservation; or

14
15 3. Adopting the recommendation would
16 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence
17 needs.

18
19 And so when a Council's recommendation
20 is not adopted, the Board is required by the Secretary
21 of the Interior to essentially write a letter, set
22 forth the reasons for for their decisions.

23
24 And so that's what this is, is a letter
25 coming from the Board to identify the proposals that
26 they did adopt consistent with each of the Council's
27 recommendations and where there were any proposals that
28 the Board's action differed from the Council's
29 recommendations.

30
31 And this was for the last year's
32 wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board met in April to
33 take action on those Federal subsistence wildlife
34 regulations. There were 54 Federal subsistence
35 wildlife proposals submitted. One was withdrawn and
36 one was deferred by the Board. And of all the
37 proposals that the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
38 Regional Advisory Council had made recommendations on,
39 the Board voted consistent with each of those proposals
40 except for, where you'll find on Page 15, the question
41 of utilizing snowmachine to assist in the taking of
42 caribou, to allow caribou to be shot from a stationary
43 snowmachine. And as you'll see on Page 16, the Bristol
44 Bay Regional Advisory Council, since this was
45 encompassing several RAC regions, the Bristol Bay
46 Regional Advisory Council had supported this proposal
47 and the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory
48 Council had supported this proposal. At the time, the
49 YK-Delta Subsistence Council had opposed this proposal
50

1 out of concerns for the current status of the Mulchatna
2 Caribou Herd. But further testimony from hunters
3 throughout the region, especially within Bristol Bay
4 and documentation of the caribou herd's status and that
5 using a snowmachine was a methods and means that was a
6 traditional subsistence way of hunting and the caribou
7 herd itself would still be managed for conservation
8 through seasons and bag limits, and so the Board did
9 support this proposal in support of the other two
10 Councils and addressed the YK-Delta's RAC's concerns
11 about the recent declines in the caribou herd. The
12 Board highlighted, again, that this is a methods and
13 means proposal and does not pose a conservation concern
14 because the caribou harvest will still be managed
15 through seasons and harvest limits.
16

17 So that was the only proposal outside
18 of the one that was deferred, that the Board did not
19 take action consistent with the Council and that's
20 their justification there on Page 13 -- I'm sorry, on
21 Page 16.
22

23 Any questions from the Council.
24

25 (No comments)
26

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

30 MS. PATTON: Was that a question or
31 somebody just coughing.
32

33 (No comments)
34

35 MS. PATTON: Okay. If there's no
36 questions just the other quick update is the Federal
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council applications. So
38 as you recall at the previous meeting we were still
39 encouraging Council applications to fill the current
40 vacant seats. Again the past few years the Secretary
41 of the Interior has not appointed all of those seats on
42 a number of the Councils, so there are current
43 vacancies. We did get ample applications from
44 throughout the YK-Delta RAC region. The Council has
45 been encouraging a broad range of applications to have
46 representation from both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim
47 and the Coastal regions also getting down into the
48 Togiak side of the RAC region for Goodnews and
49 Quinhagak so we did a lot of outreach to encourage
50

1 applications so that there would be an opportunity to
2 get good applicants from throughout the entire region
3 and hopefully be able to have a balanced membership on
4 the Council with the next appointments.

5
6 So those applications were referred to
7 the Board and the Board made the recommendations at
8 their August meeting to the Secretary of the Interior
9 and the nominations now are in the Secretary of the
10 Interior's office. Normally they are due by mid-
11 December. In the past few years they have been quite
12 delayed and sometimes we haven't received them until
13 March. So we will definitely be keeping everybody
14 posted as soon as we get the appointments from the
15 Secretary's office, anticipating that'll come by the
16 end of December, January, hopefully.

17
18 In the meantime because it is a long
19 application process, we're just initiating a new round
20 of applications for the next year. Those application
21 packets are due to arrive back from the printer any day
22 now and we'll be mailing those out to communities
23 throughout the region and encouraging applications
24 again for the next year. So this would be for the
25 seats that are expiring in 2022.

26
27 But we'll keep everybody posted and
28 I'll be in touch -- every year there is three seats
29 that expire on each Council so I'll be in touch with
30 both of you whose seats are expired so we can get your
31 reapplication as well.

32
33 Any questions on that.

34
35 MR. SLATS: This is Richard.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Yes, hi, Richard, go
38 ahead.

39
40 MR. SLATS: Okay. Did we get enough
41 applicants or nominations to fill all or most of the
42 vacancies?

43
44 MS. PATTON: Yes. There was plenty of
45 applications and highly qualified individuals to fill
46 all the vacant seats.

47
48 MR. SLATS: Okay. Okay.....

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: So the.....

2
3 MR. SLATS: Thank you.

4
5 MS. PATTON: The step we're waiting on
6 now is for the Secretary of the Interior to appoint
7 those seats.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted - coughing)

11
12 MS. PATTON: So we'll keep everybody
13 posted. We'll keep everybody posted. Again, that's
14 due by the end of December but sometimes the
15 Secretary's office is delayed but we'll keep everybody
16 posted as soon as we get those appointments in to let
17 you know.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
22 Do we have any more comments or questions for Eva at
23 this time.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Then.....

28
29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

32
33 MS. PATTON: If there aren't any
34 further questions, just given where we are on the
35 agenda right now I'm wondering -- I know we had talked
36 about having Todd Grinaldi with ADF&G address the
37 Mulchatna Caribou Herd at the end of the day, just
38 given the timing of where we're at now, what's next on
39 the agenda is fisheries proposals, and I'm wondering if
40 Todd Grinaldi was available if -- if now might be a
41 good opportunity to have the caribou report and that
42 way once we get into all the action items and the
43 fisheries proposals we can continue that through the
44 rest of the afternoon.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
47 Really quick reminder for those of you on
48 teleconference to please star six to mute your phone.
49 If not, please check your cell phones and push the mute
50

1 button, it's the one with the little mic on it and it
2 has a line crossing over it. Go ahead and press your
3 mute button.

4
5 All right.

6
7 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is March
8 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game. Did I
9 understand correctly that you were looking for Todd
10 Grinaldi right now?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That is.....

13
14 MS. PATTON: Hi, Mark.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:correct,
17 we.....

18
19 MS. PATTON: Thanks -- thanks for.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:were going
22 to see if he was.....

23
24 MS. PATTON:thanks for chiming
25 in. Yeah, we're just reaching out to see, given where
26 we're at on the agenda, if the timing worked out better
27 for Todd to present, you know, now or immediately after
28 lunch, then a chance for him to get in without having
29 to wait for the end of the day and then we would resume
30 with all the action items in the afternoon. If -- if
31 he's available and -- and the Council's amenable to
32 that, thought I'd check in and see if that would work
33 out better.

34
35 MR. BURCH: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
36 Mark again, if it's okay. I do believe he signed off
37 for the moment but I may be able to get a hold of him
38 and I'll let you know if he'll be available after
39 lunch, if that will work.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That sounds good
42 with me, thank you.

43
44 MR. BURCH: Thank you. Of course, we
45 appreciate you accommodating his schedule as well.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're.....

48
49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mark, and.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:welcome.

2

3 MS. PATTON:and thanks to Todd, I
4 know this is an important -- important report for the
5 Council and the public.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, without
10 further adieu, now that we are about 10 minutes away
11 from lunch break, would it be okay with the Council if
12 you guys want to go ahead and take a lunch break now
13 and then we could come back on line at 1:00 o'clock.

14

15 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I don't mind having
16 lunch now -- lunch break.

17

18 MR. MAXIE: Yes.

19

20 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, move for
21 lunch.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, sounds
24 good. We'll go ahead and be taking our lunch break.
25 Everyone else please be back here at 1:00 o'clock --
26 1:00 o'clock.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, we have all
33 of our Council members back on line except for Phillip
34 Peter, Sr. We have a little bit of a tight squeeze
35 because Todd has another meeting at 1:30 so maybe we
36 could get started with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
37 report and I'll text Peter and see if he can join us.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you,
40 Eva. Todd, is this enough time for you to give your
41 report. I know it's a time constraint between 20
42 minutes and 10 minutes, but I just want to see if this
43 is enough time for you to give an update on the
44 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

45

46 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, it is. There's
47 three pieces I'm going to touch on. One is the
48 Dillingham area biologist. Two, is a Game Board of
49 Proposal that's germane to this RAC. And, also to give

50

1 an update on the Mulchatna Caribou. It'd probably only
2 take 10 minutes give or take questions.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

5
6 MR. GRINALDI: Although I'm long-winded
7 and I apologize for that in advance.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No, that's fine.
12 Go ahead, you have the floor.

13
14 MR. GRINALDI: Okay. Well, thank you
15 -- thank you, very much all of you for not only
16 inviting us but working with my crazy schedule to fit
17 in this update. I guess I'll introduce myself again.
18 My name is Todd Grinaldi, I'm the regional management
19 coordinator for Region 4, which is the Southwest and
20 South -- portions of Southcentral Alaska, so Unit 17,
21 Unit 9, Unit 10, 11 and 16 are the areas that we
22 oversee, and obviously this region oversees the
23 management of the Mulchatna Caribou.

24
25 As most of you know we haven't had a
26 Dillingham area -- we've had a -- we've had a new
27 Dillingham area biologist last year, come in last
28 summer, although she did not make it a full year out
29 there and left us in April. We've just finished up
30 multiple rounds and a nationwide hunt, actually a 60
31 day nationwide hunt, to find a qualified candidate and
32 we selected a candidate a couple weeks ago, his name is
33 Brian Riley, and he'll be moving up to Dillingham on
34 November 16th and he's extremely excited. He's been in
35 the area, he's played and also worked in the area
36 before. He's excited not only to get back to
37 Dillingham, but to get back to Alaska as well. So
38 he'll be coming on on the 16th and so we're pretty
39 excited about that.

40
41 In the interim, we were able to
42 complete a photo census this summer. The primary
43 objective of the activity, is to not only estimate
44 abundance by obtaining a minimum count, so the minimum
45 number of animals we observe on the landscape, but also
46 we can then take what we know about the locations, the
47 group size and the number of collars and we can
48 actually develop a statistical estimate that comes out
49 from that. And, in theory, the statistical estimate
50

1 should be more precise or more accurate. And so these
2 trends and abundance, they're really important
3 components to our wildlife management program and
4 particularly when we have to estimate harvestable
5 surplus and managing for sustained yield, which is part
6 of our Constitution.

7
8 As you know the amount necessary for
9 subsistence on the Mulchatna Herd, through the full
10 range, the full 40,000 mile range, so 18, 9, portions
11 of 19, portions of 17 is actually 2,100 to 2,400
12 caribou. That is different than the harvest objective.
13 Because there is also the Board of Game has adopted a
14 positive finding on the Mulchatna for intensive
15 management of caribou and so they've set population
16 objectives at 30,000 to 80,000, and I understand that
17 these are numbers that you've probably seen or heard
18 before, but -- and the harvest objective is 2,400 to
19 8,000. And you'll notice that the ANS is less, or not
20 equal to the harvest objective, and the harvest
21 objective is the full breadth of potential harvest that
22 we can maintain under sustained yield. The 2,100 to
23 2,400 is the amount that we need to maintain as surplus
24 animals for subsistence needs. And that doesn't mean
25 they need to be harvested, it means that we need to
26 manage that population so that there's that number of
27 animals at a minimum to be able to offer for
28 subsistence food.

29
30 The Mulchatna Caribou Herd's pattern of
31 aggregation during the post-calving population
32 estimate, and that's another thing, so we do some post-
33 calving work, unfortunately we weren't able to do much
34 productivity and survival work this May due to the
35 pandemic and the limitations on travel and field work
36 and the absence of a Dillingham area biologist, but we
37 were able to get this post-calving photo census off.
38 And it hasn't -- the aggregations really haven't
39 changed in the last eight or nine years. The
40 aggregations that we've been seeing, at least, the
41 locations of the aggregations in the eastern portion
42 and the western portions, they pretty much remain the
43 same. So that actually helps it, a little bit easier
44 in defining some of the herd. You know we came up with
45 a pretty low estimate last year with 13,448 plus or
46 minus 900 or something like that. Then there was a lot
47 of concern, not only by Department Staff but by our
48 fellow agency partners and members of the public that
49 there was a good chance that we missed a lot of caribou
50

1 and it was certainly one of our concerns. And we do,
2 we spend a considerable number of days and considerable
3 number of airplane days flying around 18 and 19 and
4 portions of 9 and mostly 17 to try to locate all the
5 groups of caribou we know about that are assigned to
6 the Mulchatna and we also radio-track the 70 -- 69
7 collars that we have currently in the herd. But that
8 number is about to change dramatically, we're about to
9 put in another 60 GPS satellite collars out on to that
10 herd. So we spend a lot of time. And this year,
11 because of the surprise number that we had last year,
12 we spent even more time going out there, we had five
13 planes flying for a number of days before the survey
14 locating all the herds, all the small little bands, all
15 the little stragglers and we were really confident in
16 the survey this year. As we located -- we located 67
17 or 68 of the 69 collars, so that helps the population
18 assessment for precision and accuracy. As I mentioned
19 before the number of groups of caribou are very similar
20 to what's been observed and documented both in the
21 previous 2019 and other years, and these group sizes,
22 as you guys probably have seen out on the landscape,
23 they range from about one animal to, you know, three,
24 four or 5,000 animals.

25
26 The western groups are more widely
27 spread and they did contain fewer animals when compared
28 to eastern groups in past years, however, this year it
29 changed a little bit. We documented 4,800 caribou in
30 the east and just about 4,000 caribou in the west. And
31 that gave us a total minimum count this year of 8,700
32 caribou in the Mulchatna. The minimum count in 2019
33 was a little bit higher, it was at 9,294.

34
35 So when we put the data into the model,
36 the really interesting thing that came out is we came
37 up with the exact same estimate, 1,348 caribou. Now,
38 the standard error, the measure of variance and other
39 factors like that are different, but the point estimate
40 from the model actually comes out to be pretty much the
41 same, and that's -- I think there's a really high odds
42 in that not happening.

43
44 And the 2020 population estimate
45 remains under the population objective of 30,000 to
46 80,000 so we're still at 13,500 but we have a
47 significant -- significant level of confidence in that
48 number now. So we are very confident that the herd is
49 actually where it's at and, unfortunately we're not
50

1 meeting the ANS of 2,100 to 2,400 or the harvest
2 objective for that matter.

3
4 So as a result, we issued an EO this
5 fall limiting the hunt and it was a collaborative
6 effort with us and our State partners. We limited the
7 RC503, the Mulchatna registration caribou permit to
8 only the fall hunt period and our Federal partners did
9 the same. There is no fall or winter hunt for
10 Mulchatna Caribou across the range this year and that
11 is due to the conservation concerns. We did allow some
12 harvest this fall based on historic levels of reported
13 harvest and the -- and our bull to cow ratio, we felt
14 that we could provide some subsistence opportunities,
15 relegated to bulls only for that fall hunt period. We
16 felt that we could still provide that while still
17 allowing for herd growth.

18
19 And so that's where we've left it.

20
21 We have plans to develop a Mulchatna
22 Caribou Herd working group in the future. We also have
23 plans to conduct range and habitat analysis, except
24 that's going to be pretty far off. It's going to
25 require a substantial amount of time and a substantial
26 amount of money but it is on our to do and our want
27 list, so we're going to move ahead with that. And as I
28 mentioned before, we're also putting out 60 GPS collars
29 with a goal of putting out 100 GPS collars out on the
30 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and those GPS satellite collars
31 will allow us to get information from those collars
32 from the desktop. It will require less effort to go
33 out into the field to download those collars and to
34 track them, so it will really help our assessment and
35 understanding of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
36 aggregations and movements.

37
38 So there's one other thing I wanted to
39 bring up related to the Mulchatna Caribou. And I just
40 wanted to mention that, you know, since 2011 the
41 Mulchatna Caribou have been under intensive management
42 as I've mentioned before and that intensive management
43 program identifies the Mulchatna Caribou as an
44 important big game food source, and such they've
45 imposed IM management, intensive management objectives
46 for us to work for. The management approach has been
47 to limit predation by wolves on caribou calves,
48 specifically targeting the core calving areas for wolf
49 removal. In 2017 this area was expanded to the full
50

1 10,000 square mile control area that the Board of Game
2 designated for us, and it encompassed all the core
3 calving areas in Unit 17. But in August 2019, we took
4 additional -- as I mentioned, we took the additional
5 conservation measures by reducing the bag limits from
6 two caribou to one caribou and then later closing the
7 hunt.

8
9 So the reason why I'm bringing this up
10 is because also this past year, in the winter of 2020,
11 the Secretary of the Interior communicated to the
12 Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
13 that the Division of Wildlife Conservation should draft
14 a plan for predation control on Federal lands in Unit
15 17 and 18 to address declining caribou population. So
16 there is a Board of Game proposal, it's Board of Game
17 Proposal 21 that seeks to establish additional
18 predation control areas by expanding the current
19 authorized limit of 10,000 square miles for
20 implementation on Federal lands. Now, there's a caveat
21 here because the proposal does require concurrence from
22 the Department of Interior for implementation on
23 Federal lands. We haven't heard much from them so we
24 are moving ahead with this Board of Game proposal, but
25 we haven't had additional correspondence from the
26 Department of Interior about the subject. But I wanted
27 to raise that as a topic of discussion for you guys and
28 make sure that you're all in the know.

29
30 And that being said, I will be happy to
31 take some questions.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I
34 just had a couple of quick clarifications. What was
35 your harvest objective for 2020?

36
37 MR. GRINALDI: So we don't have -- we
38 didn't have -- the harvest objective remained the same.
39 It's in codified, it's been designated under the
40 intensive management protocol for Unit 17. So the
41 harvest objective 2,100 to 8,000 caribou. We didn't
42 set an objective this year, a quota -- a quota would be
43 the more finer scale harvest objective, so we didn't
44 set a quota but we understood the quota, based on
45 reported harvest over the last couple of years and the
46 available bulls that we had on the landscape, we were
47 expecting a harvest of 250 to 400 caribou, and I can't
48 give you -- the reports are super slow to come in. In
49 fact, I'd actually put the request out. We're missing
50

1 400 reports from last winter. So if you know folks
2 that haven't yet to make their report on their RC503
3 we'd love to get those additional 400 reports. But I
4 can find that number for you, I'm guessing that we're
5 probably in the 300 caribou range at this point.

6
7 Actually I'll pull it up while you're
8 asking more questions, if you have more.

9
10 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, who is
13 speaking?

14
15 MS. PELTOLA: This is Mary, can the
16 public ask a question?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We'll take up
19 Council members first and then public. Thank you,
20 Mary.

21
22 MS. PELTOLA: Okay.

23
24 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
25 Phillip.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead Peter,
28 thank you for joining us.

29
30 MR. PETER: You mentioned that those
31 caribous in Unit 18 and Unit 19, those are all
32 Metlakatla herds?

33
34 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, those are -- I
35 don't think -- you know, that would be a question for,
36 you know, Region 5 Staff to answer. Yeah, there is
37 additional -- there are additional caribou herds in
38 Unit 19 including the Rainy Pass Herd. We see very few
39 -- I'm getting all my herds get mixed up now -- we see
40 very few Mulchatna Caribou in Unit 19 as of the last
41 few years. There is portions up about the south side
42 of 19 where they calve in the summer but the bulk of
43 the herds are still defined as the Mulchatna based on
44 where they calve and these are the traditional
45 Mulchatna calving areas. So the two aggregations that
46 we do see, the one in 17 and the one in 18 we ascribe
47 to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

48
49 MR. PETER: And, you know, I used to
50

1 hunt caribous in Unit 19, which is in -- is that the
2 Holitna, and HoHolitna.

3
4 MR. GRINALDI: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. PETER: One time I asked my uncle
7 about that, you know, those, but he mentioned that --
8 when I talked to him about big caribous, they're not
9 small, like a two year old -- or, yeah, two year old
10 bull moose size, and he mentioned that there's some --
11 they're the real caribou, those are timber (ph) caribou
12 he said.

13
14 MR. GRINALDI: Oh, yeah, the.....

15
16 MR. PETER: Yeah, with those horns.
17 Yeah.

18
19 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, there's always
20 been a discussion about which caribou herds actually
21 have the genetics of woodland caribou and which herds
22 have the genetics of Barren ground caribou, and I can't
23 really speak to that.

24
25 MR. PETER: Yeah. Yeah. My son catch
26 inside Holitna and I was really surprised that they're
27 really big.

28
29 MR. GRINALDI: Hum.

30
31 MR. PETER: And almost size of a two
32 year old bull.

33
34 MR. GRINALDI: Wow. Yeah, we haven't
35 -- and I don't know if Josh Pearce, who's the area
36 biologist out there in 19, I don't know if he's weighed
37 any caribou or caribou calves out that direction but
38 that would be really interesting to know if there's a
39 -- we haven't captured any caribou in 19 as of the last
40 few years, but that would be really interesting to know
41 other outlying areas if the calves are being produced
42 are larger than some of the other populations.

43
44 MR. PETER: Yeah, that's what he told
45 me. He -- there are some. And they eat it too. And
46 you mentioned on your report about fall hunt, which
47 units are open on the fall hunt?

48
49 MR. GRINALDI: So I won't necessarily
50

1 speak to the Federal because I don't want to misquote
2 anything but I'm kind of comfortable, we've been
3 working together, I know what's available. Right now
4 the only thing that I believe is available for caribou
5 is on the Nushagak Peninsula, RC501 is the State and
6 Federal registration -- we're not issuing our 501 this
7 year, the Feds have issued a number of -- well, I'm
8 speaking on their behalf, but I was part of the
9 meeting, the Feds issued the number of permits to New
10 Stuyahok, I believe, but as of this conservation we
11 have no plans, and I don't believe the Federal partners
12 have any plans of opening up any Mulchatna Caribou
13 opportunity this winter in Units 18 or in Unit 17.

14
15 So there will be some moose
16 opportunities, the typical moose opportunities in Unit
17 17, but I can't speak to the opportunities in Unit 18.

18
19 MR. PETER: Yeah, okay. That's all I
20 have for a question for you. Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

23
24 MR. MOOS: May I say something?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Are you -- your
27 first name and last name, and your affiliation.

28
29 MR. MOOS: Sure. It's Kenton Moos.
30 I'm the Refuge Manager in Dillingham for Togiak
31 National Wildlife Refuge.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Kenton.

34
35 MR. MOOS: And I have to apologize I
36 had to step out for something here but I just wanted to
37 clarify on the Nushagak Peninsula, that there is a
38 Federal permit that was issued -- there was only five
39 of them issued and they were issued in the village of
40 Manokotak and that is currently closed as well. So
41 that was a very, very limited opportunity. It's a very
42 small herd. And that is currently closed as well. So
43 just for clarification on that.

44
45 MR. GRINALDI: Thank you, Kenton. See
46 I only had to speak a little bit and I still screwed it
47 up.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
2 Phillip again.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
5 Phillip.

6
7 MR. PETER: I forgot one more.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
10

11 MR. PETER: On your report, Sir, you
12 mentioned collar -- collaring the caribou on the Unit
13 18.....

14
15 MR. GRINALDI: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. PETER:is that correct?
18

19 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah. So what they're
20 going to want to do, they've got these 60 collars and
21 this is in addition to the 60 collars that are out
22 there, but these are newer GPS satellite collars.
23 They're going to try to distribute those collars evenly
24 throughout all the groups and all the satellite groups.
25 In the past we've kind of used some of the collars to
26 help guide other collar opportunities and that can
27 potentially introduce some bias so we want to make sure
28 that we avoid any bias by using other collars to deploy
29 new collars. So we're going to -- in fact, it's going
30 to happen next week. And I guess as an aside, the
31 Mulchatna Caribou composition survey is currently
32 happening as we speak. So we'll have some composition
33 information available for you at the next meeting, but,
34 yes, to answer your question. Those collars will be
35 spread out Unit 18 and Unit 17.

36
37 MR. PETER: And also how long is it
38 going to be on there.
39

40 MR. GRINALDI: Well, the project itself
41 is funded for a number of years. Because the Mulchatna
42 Caribou Herd is our number 1 priority in this region, I
43 don't think we're going to lose funding or we're going
44 to shut down our investigations. These caribou collars
45 with the GPS collars, I think you can get two or three
46 years off of that battery so what we'd want to do is
47 probably try to replace those. And what we do try to
48 do is we try to get known age animals so we can start
49 with a known aged animal and we can watch the whole
50

1 life history. But I think you can get two or three
2 years out of that. But overall the research that we
3 need to do, the continuation of the productivity, the
4 calf survival stuff, you know we're still doing some --
5 we're still looking at predation and mortality of
6 calves in Unit 17, range analysis and habitat
7 evaluation, all these things will be ongoing for the
8 next five to 10 years, at least.

9
10 MR. PETER: And it's going to be there
11 for three years and then take off that collar, right?

12
13 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, so -- and the
14 other cool thing about these new collars is that you
15 can program them, in theory, it doesn't always work,
16 but they drop off at a certain time and a certain date,
17 the collar -- a release mechanism releases the collar
18 and although it may not fall off right away, a little
19 jaunt across the tundra, the collar usually falls off.
20 But, no, if the collars have not fallen off or if we
21 have not replaced them, we will be going back and
22 taking them off and making sure that any caribou that
23 is collared has a functioning collar. We don't want to
24 leave collars on older caribou, especially if we're not
25 getting data from them.

26
27 MR. PETER: Okay.

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I apologize for
33 that folks. If you're on teleconference lines please
34 go ahead and star six to mute your phone, if not, press
35 star six on your land line and if you're on cell phones
36 or any other device that has a button with a mute, go
37 ahead and press that mute button. We just got some
38 background conversations in between conversation with
39 our speakers. We want to be respectful to everyone and
40 ensure that we are able to hear what's going on and
41 follow what the teleconference is -- taking place at
42 the time.

43
44 I apologize for that, go ahead, you
45 have the floor.

46
47 MR. PETER: Madame Chair. One more
48 question for that -- I got one more question.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, go ahead.

2
3 MR. PETER: How long -- how long
4 transmission battery lasts for that collar, is it.....

5
6 MR. GRINALDI: Well, I thin -- it
7 depends on -- so one of the things it depends on is you
8 can program these collars to get locations every 15
9 minutes, every 10 minutes, every day, every hour, every
10 six hours, so what we try to do is we try to balance
11 out the life span of that battery with the number of
12 locations that we're getting them. I'm not comple -- I
13 think they've set it for one a day and that should give
14 the battery life of those collars at least two years,
15 which is really impressive. When I used to do this we
16 would get one a day and we'd get like three months out
17 of the collar so battery life has changed dramatically
18 and it doesn't come at a better time.

19
20 MR. PETER: Okay, thank you.

21
22 MR. GRINALDI: You're welcome. Thank
23 you for the questions.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
26 I just want to check in and apologize for the technical
27 difficulties at the start of the conference. I know
28 you did have another meeting coming up, Todd, if --
29 maybe if there's more questions from the Council and
30 the public, I could try to email them or I don't know
31 if there'd be an opportunity to circle back around
32 towards the end of the day, but just we want to check
33 in with you, I know you do have another meeting.

34
35 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, I think Mark Burch
36 is no longer on the line. I did just check the
37 reported harvest for RC503, unfortunately it's really
38 low right now. It looks like about 700 permits were
39 actually issued and we only have about 50 bulls
40 reported as being taken, so I'm guessing there's a lot
41 of -- a lot of reports still out there. And, again, I
42 would just remind people if they do have a report from
43 last year, or you don't even need to have the report,
44 if you think that you did not make a report last year,
45 if you would call our office and just let our Staff
46 know and we can take that report over the phone. We
47 would just like to get better assessment of the
48 harvest. But unfortunately it looks like the harvest
49 rate is slow on that fall segment that we just went
50

1 through. I'm suspected that a considerable number of
2 permits will be coming in in the next month.

3
4 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair. Could I have
5 a quick question, this is Carl Maxie, Napaskiak.

6
7 MR. GRINALDI: Fine with me.

8
9 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, on the calving area.

10
11 MR. GRINALDI: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. MAXIE: Since 2011 have you -- wolf
14 population to present day, and that is my question.

15
16 MR. GRINALDI: So your question was on
17 the calving areas, are we seeing a change in the number
18 of wolves that we're seeing on the calving grounds, is
19 that the question.

20
21 MR. MAXIE: Yes, sir, since 2011.....

22
23 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah.

24
25 MR. MAXIE:to the present day,
26 has the population grown up there.

27
28 MR. GRINALDI: Well, we thought the
29 caribou population was growing, unfortunately it wasn't
30 growing, that was a rude awakening last year. We had
31 all the indications, the nutrition -- or I'm sorry, the
32 productivity, the birthing, the survival, all of that,
33 birth weights, everything looked so good it was hard to
34 understand why the population was not where we had
35 expected it to be.

36
37 One of the challenges with wolf control
38 is weather. So there's two areas for wolf control in
39 Unit 17. One is the greater Mulchatna area, which
40 encompasses the full 10,000 square miles or pretty
41 close to it. We've stretched that out as far as we can
42 to encompass all the calving areas because calving
43 areas can be pretty traditional, but there's subtle
44 variations and obviously when populations change, use
45 areas and calving areas can change too. Much like Unit
46 19, there's just not a lot of caribou using that
47 habitat up there anymore.

48
49 So the other area is the Kemuk area.

50

1 The Kemuk area is down, obviously down in the Kemuk,
2 it's a smaller area within the greater Mulchatna area
3 that doesn't open up until February 1st and we leave
4 that small area closed to predation control through
5 same-day airborne permits to allow hunters and trappers
6 to get out there in December and January and take some
7 wolves on the ground and they do surprisingly well.
8 Because as I mentioned a second ago the biggest
9 obstacle to predation control is getting participation.
10 It's not a hunt, it's a management action so we permit
11 pilots and their pilots have permitted gunners and they
12 go out into these areas and they'll remove wolves. So
13 the years where we have good participation and the
14 weather is good and the snow is good for tracking
15 wolves, we take a fair number of wolves off of the
16 calving grounds and that leads to less wolves on the
17 calving grounds in the spring and although we're not
18 seeing a long-term change, the short-term changes what
19 we can potentially see an increase, you know, at a
20 point in time but we almost can see a relationship
21 between the amount of effort put into wolf control in
22 the winter and the number of calves that survive
23 through the first couple of weeks of life.

24
25 So there's a subtle relationship there
26 but it really depends on having those snow conditions
27 to track, having that participation and the flying
28 conditions to fly. Most of our permitted gunners are
29 not from Dillingham area, they're coming from places
30 like Port Alsworth, a lot of them come from the Kenai
31 and there's some down on the Alaska Peninsula. So that
32 can be challenging.

33
34 But the short answer is, yes, we do see
35 an effect on years where we have high take of wolves in
36 the winter, it usually leads to a slightly higher
37 percentage of calves surviving through the summer.

38
39 MR. MAXIE: Thank you very much for the
40 clarification.

41
42 MR. GRINALDI: Yeah, thanks for the
43 question, appreciate it.

44
45 MR. MAXIE: There was another -- over
46 the years back from -- at last year's meeting, too,
47 that planes been flying up (indiscernible).....

48
49 MR. GRINALDI: Uh-huh.

50

1 MR. MAXIE:yeah, and that's all I
2 have. Thank you.

3
4 MR. GRINALDI: Thank you. I do have to
5 go, though. You can email me with any questions. I
6 can send you any of the memos or documents. I'm hoping
7 most of the folks here on the phone received some
8 information in the mail from Department of Fish and
9 Game talking about the status of the Mulchatna Caribou
10 Herd. We're going to have another Caribou Trails
11 publication coming up and then also keep your ears open
12 for the formation of a caribou working group in the
13 near future.

14
15 Thanks again for your time.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you for
18 joining us. I greatly appreciate your taking time out
19 of your day, busy schedule to meet with us and giving
20 us the latest update on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

21
22 Alrighty.

23
24 Let's go ahead and move into new
25 business, No. 10. Going with OSM fisheries and
26 anthropology, the fisheries proposal on Page 17. I'll
27 hand it over to Pippa and Greg.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Alissa. This
30 is Pippa. Am I -- does it sound like I'm shouting
31 right now.

32
33 REPORTER: No.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Okay, I'm
36 ready to start. Hello, Madame Chair. Members of the
37 Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
38 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
39 Management in Anchorage. The analysis of Proposal
40 FP21-01 begins on Page 19 of your meeting book. In
41 case you don't have it in front of you I'm going to
42 pause a minute giving you time to find it. For the
43 public it's also posted at our Federal Subsistence
44 Management Program web page.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 MS. KENNER: So Proposal FP21-01 was
49 submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

50

1 It requests the Federal Subsistence Board eliminate
2 closures to subsistence fishing immediately before,
3 during and immediately after commercial fishing periods
4 along the Kuskokwim River.

5
6 The proponent states that current
7 Federal subsistence regulations are different than
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations. And
9 these requested changes would align Federal and State
10 regulations. Closure times before, during and after
11 commercial openings are now announced via State
12 emergency order making the Federal regulations
13 potentially more restrictive than the State
14 regulations.

15
16 These regulations are on Page 20 of
17 your meeting book, and I'll read them now. There's two
18 paragraphs.

19
20 One says: In District 1, Kuskokuak
21 Slough from June 1st through July 31st only, you may
22 not take salmon for 16 hours before, and during each
23 State open commercial salmon fishing period in the
24 district.

25
26 In District 2, and anywhere in
27 tributaries that flow into the Kuskokwim River within
28 that district, from June 1 through September 8, you may
29 not take salmon by net gear or fishwheel for 16 hours
30 before or during and for 6 hours after each open
31 commercial salmon fishing period in the district.

32
33 These regulations were adopted by the
34 Board in 1999 when making the initial Federal
35 regulations for fish in navigable waters in addition to
36 non-navigable waters. The purpose of these regulations
37 was to prevent the sale of subsistence caught salmon
38 into the commercial market.

39
40 Now, in 2004 the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game eliminated these similar regulations that
42 closed subsistence fishing immediately before, during
43 and immediately after commercial fishing periods, and
44 replaced them with simpler language that simply says:
45 The Commissioner, may by emergency order close
46 subsistence fishing periods and open to commercial
47 fishing.

48
49 If this proposal, FP21-01 is adopted,
50

1 when closures to subsistence fishing opportunity
2 immediately before, during, and immediately after
3 commercial fishing opening will be managed by emergency
4 order regulations issued by ADF&G.

5
6 Current Federal regulations that close
7 subsistence fishing immediately before, during and
8 after commercial fishing periods in the Kuskokwim River
9 are redundant and confusing and should be rescinded.

10
11 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
12 support the proposal, FP21-01.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
15 the Council. I am ready to answer any questions you
16 might have.

17
18 MR. OLICK: Organized Village of
19 Kwethluk, Evan Olick,

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry, I got
22 disconnected for a minute, Pippa, I apologize.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Hi, Alissa. I finished my
25 presentation and I'm ready to answer your questions.
26 Generally I answer questions from the Council but it
27 sounds like we might have another question from
28 Kwethluk.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. What was
31 your first and last name from Kwethluk.

32
33 MR. OLICK: Evan Olick, Organized
34 Village of Kwethluk.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, Evan. I
37 have you listed under public so we're going to take up
38 the Council comments first and then we'll move to
39 public. Thank you, Evan.

40
41 MR. OLICK: Okay.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have
44 Council -- Council members, do you guys have any
45 comments or questions for Pippa at this time.

46
47 MR. PETER: Madame Chairman, this is
48 Phillip.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. PETER: This proposal, F21-01 [sic]
4 request for closures, am I right?

5

6 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question
7 Mr. Peter. Eva, through the Chair, are you nodding at
8 me, can I answer?

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yes, Pippa, please do go
11 ahead and respond to the Council's questions.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Through the
16 Chair, to Mr. -- to Phillip. So this is actually to
17 eliminate closures.

18

19 MR. PETER: You know I used to be a
20 commercial fisherman in Kuskokwim. The Department of
21 Fish and Game usually announces on the KYUK radio for
22 commercial opening and also announcing the subsistence
23 closures. And I understand -- if I understand this
24 correctly it used to be applied for commercial fishing,
25 before commercial fishing and also for the subsistence
26 fishing and look like this, you know, time -- time --
27 I'm talking about time and this one Kuskokuak Slough
28 from June 1 through July 31, you may not take salmon
29 for 16 hours, what do you mean by this 16 hours? May
30 not take any salmon for 16 hours.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
33 question, Mr. Peter. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.
34 Through the Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Pippa.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Yes. So these are the
39 regulations that were once also in State regulations.
40 And what this regulation says that we still have is
41 that you cannot fish -- you may not take salmon for
42 subsistence for 16 hours before the State commercial
43 fishing opening and you cannot take salmon during the
44 commercial fishing openings and, yeah, in Kuskokuak
45 Slough and that's from June 1st to July 31st.

46

47 MR. PETER: And the other one, same
48 sections, Page 20 in District 2, which is from --
49 above.....

50

1 MS. KENNER: Yep.

2

3 MR. PETER:Aniak, is it above
4 Aniak?

5

6 MS. KENNER: I think it -- yeah, it
7 starts -- this is Pippa again. It begins just above --
8 so District 2 starts between Tuluksak and lower -- in
9 Kalskag and it runs up to almost Chuathbaluk.

10

11 MR. PETER: Okay. And on the bottom
12 says you may catch fish or salmon with rod and reel 24
13 hours per day seven days per week unless rod and reel
14 are specifically restricted by paragraph section (e)(4)
15 [sic], could you explain it to me, difference between
16 -- I cannot fish in 16 hours and then on the -- in
17 commercial fishing but I could use my fishing -- that
18 rod -- rod fishing even though they have a commercial
19 fishing in -- could you explain this, I'm confused.

20

21 MS. KENNER: Thank you again for the
22 question, Mr. Peter. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM,
23 through the Chair. Yes, you're correct. So even
24 though subsistence fishing with net or fishwheel is
25 closed, you may still continue to fish for salmon with
26 rod and reel.

27

28 MR. PETER: Okay. That's all I have a
29 question, Madame Chairman.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Peter.
32 Do we have any Council questions or comments for Pippa
33 at this time, the floor is open.

34

35 MR. SLATS: This is Richard.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
38 Richard.

39

40 MR. SLATS: Okay. Are the hours
41 similar or the -- it says here the same, like 16 hours
42 before -- before commercial and then that's 6 hours
43 after each opening, are they all the same for each
44 area?

45

46 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
47 question, Mr. Slats. This is Pippa, through the Chair.
48 No. The regulations are the regulations that you see
49 here, they apply to District 1, Kuskokuak Slough and

50

1 District 2. The regulations for the different
2 districts are different.

3

4 MR. SLATS: Okay, thank you.

5

6 MR. LANDLORD: Hello, this is James, I
7 have a question. Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, go ahead.

10

11 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. If this -- if it's
12 rescinded, how would the openings be regulated or
13 managed?

14

15 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much for
16 the question, Mr. Landlord. This is Pippa with OSM,
17 through the Chair. The regulations would pivot to
18 State regulations. We would be following State
19 regulations, and that regulation begins on Page 21 and
20 I'm going to read it to you.

21

22 In the waters of Districts 1 and 2, and
23 those waters of the Kuskokwim River between Districts 1
24 and 2, salmon may be taken at any time except that the
25 Commissioner, may, by emergency order close subsistence
26 fishing periods between District 1 and 2 and reopen
27 those waters to commercial fishing.

28

29 In Subdistricts 1A and 1B, the
30 Commissioner, may, by emergency order reopen fishing
31 periods for subsistence fishing will be allowed in
32 portions of waters adjacent to the waters of
33 Subdistricts 1A or 1B open to commercial fishing under
34 this subsection.

35

36 So these regulations that we have in
37 our regulations have been removed from State
38 regulations and instead those openings and closings to
39 subsistence fishing will occur by emergency order. The
40 justification the Board of Fisheries gave for changing
41 the regulation is that they thought that the
42 regulations were too restrictive and that it was better
43 to allow the Commissioner to issue emergency orders
44 closing and opening the subsistence fishery around
45 those commercial openings when it -- when he or she
46 felt it was necessary.

47

48 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. So it would be
49 more advantageous if we followed the State emergency

50

1 opening for subsistence users, fishers.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Yes, this is -- thank you
4 for the question, again, Mr. Landlord, and this is
5 Pippa through the Chair. I think it would be more
6 advantageous, particularly since the Board of Fish's
7 stated justification was to provide more opportunity
8 for subsistence fishing.

9

10 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, thank you. Yes,
11 thank you.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi. For those of
17 you on teleconference land please star six to mute your
18 phone we're hearing some background conversation.
19 Again, that's star six to mute your phone or press mute
20 on your line. We'd greatly appreciate it, thank you.

21

22 All right, do we have any more further
23 comments or questions from Council members at this
24 time.

25

26 MR. PETER: Madame Chairman.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Peter.

29

30 MR. PETER: Madame Chairman. Yeah,
31 this is Phillip again. There are -- we're talking
32 about two issues right there, the commercial fishing is
33 for selling fish to the buyer and the other one is for
34 consumption, to be kept, and I got question is there a
35 way we could separate or delete this subsistence from
36 this -- from this proposal.

37

38 That's my question.

39

40 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
41 question, again, Mr. Peter. This is Pippa with OSM
42 through the Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Pippa,
45 thank you.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Well -- yes, yes. So the
48 purpose of these regulations was to create that
49 separation. And if you rescind the regulation, if the

50

1 State of Alaska emergency orders are more liberal than
2 our regulations, you can always choose to fish under
3 State regulations, more liberal regulations.
4

5 It appears that the Alaska -- the
6 intention of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was
7 not to get rid of all separation between the
8 subsistence and the commercial fishery. It was just to
9 have more flexibility in what that separation will be.
10

11 So for instance in the Kuskokwim River
12 drainage we have a section here that talks about, well,
13 what is happening now, what has the Alaska Department
14 of Fish and Game been doing. And we know that since
15 2015 the only commercial fishermen in the commercial
16 fishery are those who are catcher/sellers and secured
17 their own market and the Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game has not issued any emergency order closing
19 subsistence fishing periods by emergency order around
20 those commercial fishing opportunities.
21

22 I guess one possibility is they decided
23 there was so little participation, closing the entire
24 subsistence fishery around one or two catcher/sellers
25 didn't make sense. And so now in State regulations
26 they have the flexibility to keep that subsistence
27 fishery open during some commercial fishing periods
28 where they think it's appropriate.
29

30 Do you have a followup question, did
31 that make -- does that make sense?
32

33 MR. PETER: My point would be is this
34 -- commercial fishing is different, it's different than
35 subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishing is for us to
36 keep, not to sell. And right now the State and Federal
37 government controlling by hours, they're taking over it
38 by hours just like commercial fishing. In the past
39 when we used to commercial fish inside 24 hours, the
40 State gave it to local non-commercial fishermen to fish
41 for subsistence and we could fish for -- until the
42 announcement came from Department of Fish and Game,
43 announcement for opening. And it seems to me that this
44 is not -- this is not commercial fishing, this is for
45 subsistence -- subsistence has no hour in the past when
46 the State was taking over, we could fish 24 hours until
47 the announcement came from the Department of Fish and
48 Game by KYUK. We all know that in this area.
49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chairman.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

4 Pippa, can I get a clarification to simplify this
5 language. So the meaning of this proposal, is that by
6 removing the restriction will allow for more
7 subsistence opportunity by the State management,
8 correct?

9

10 MS. KENNER: Yes. The State management
11 in recent years since 2015 has been more liberal than
12 our regulations so people have been choosing to fish
13 under the State regulations which have not required the
14 subsistence fishery to close around commercial
15 openings.

16

17 So we think that these regulations are
18 redundant and we don't -- and they're not helpful
19 anymore, they just are confusing.

20

21 And in response to -- and, thank you,
22 Madame Chair, and just a quick response to Mr. Phillip
23 again. That the fishing situation would be the same,
24 that a commercial subsistence fisherman would wait
25 until the emergency order came from Fish and Game that
26 the commercial fishery was about to open. So there
27 would still be commercial fishermen and subsistence
28 fishermen, will still be listening to KYUK, and waiting
29 for that announcement from Fish and Game.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Peter. So these
32 restrictions are -- for this proposal specifically, if
33 you vote yes it will remove current restrictions under
34 the Federal management to allow for more subsistence
35 opportunity by emergency order by Fish and Game, just
36 like we have been fishing these past couple years.
37 Since there's no more commercial fishery they're trying
38 to allow for more subsistence fishery.

39

40 Does that make sense?

41

42 MR. PETER: Alissa, could you repeat it
43 again.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So if you
46 vote yes for this it means that they're going to remove
47 restrictions under the Federal restriction book -- or
48 Federal regulation book, to allow for more subsistence
49 opportunity by emergency order by Alaska Department of

50

1 Fish and Game. So this -- that's all they're doing,
2 they're just cleaning up the language in the Federal
3 regulations book to match the State fishing book so
4 that there's more opportunity available for subsistence
5 fishing.

6
7 MR. PETER: Once the biologist open it
8 for emergency order we could.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, just
11 like.....

12
13 MR. PETER:we could go down
14 fishing until the announcement came from the biologist
15 the opening is stopped -- stop subsistence fishing,
16 okay.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, it's the
19 same thing that we've been doing these past couple
20 years, they're just putting it in the regulation book
21 now.

22
23 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair. I have a
24 question from the public after Evan goes.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you.
27 All right, do we have any more comments or questions
28 from the Council on this proposal.

29
30 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Wait, we had --
35 who was that first one and then Mr. Andrew.

36
37 MR. SLATS: Yes, thank you, Madame
38 Chair. Let me see if my notes are correct. This
39 proposal requests that the closure to subsistence
40 fishing immediately before, during and after commercial
41 fishing periods to be eliminated on the Kuskokwim
42 River, so -- and this proposal aligns Federal with
43 State regulations.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Pippa, would you
46 like to answer.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 This is Pippa Kenner. Could -- who was that and could
50

1 he please restate his question, I didn't quite get it.

2

3 MR. SLATS: I was just going over the
4 notes as I was reading, just to make sure my notes were
5 correct. This proposal requests that the Federal
6 Subsistence Board allow -- oh, wait, wait, I'm on the
7 wrong one. Okay. Request that the closure to
8 subsistence fishing immediately before, during and
9 after commercial fishing and these periods to be
10 eliminated on the Kuskokwim River and this will aligns
11 the Federal with the State laws.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
14 questions and, yes, that's correct.

15

16 MR. SLATS: Okay, thank you.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Yes, you're welcome --
19 this was Pippa.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, Mr. Andrew.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 I was going to help out Peter, I'll do it part of it in
25 Yup'ik. This proposal, FP21-01. Peter.....

26

27 (In Yup'ik)

28

29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: You're welcome.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Was that Mr.
36 Slats.

37

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, do we have
42 any more comments or questions.....

43

44 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, good afternoon,
45 Madame Chair. Madame Chair, this is Carl Maxie,
46 Napaskiak.

47

48 MR. MAXIE: Go ahead, Carl.

49

50

1 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I like this when it
2 kind of work together, both agencies as one unit on
3 behalf of our region and districts for the livelihood
4 here. There's one question, why it -- they have it
5 stopped to Kalskag, let the fish go home to their
6 spawning grounds to -- so they'll come back in four or
7 five years, up to Holitna area where they spawn too.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
12 Maxie. Any further comments or questions by Council
13 members.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
18 hearing none, we'll go ahead and go to the public
19 comments. Evan Olick from Kwethluk.

20
21 MR. OLICK: Madame Chair. My question
22 was answered and had the same question with Phillip
23 Peters. Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome
26 Mr. Olick. Moving on to Mary Peltola.

27
28 MS. PELTOLA: Qu yana, Madame Chair.
29 I'm still struggling with this and I'm embarrassed that
30 everybody else gets it. I guess my question might be
31 for Pippa Kenner or the Refuge, since I think the
32 Refuge is the proponent of this proposal.

33
34 So this references June 1 and before
35 June to July 30th and I don't remember what commercial
36 fishing period during, you know, before June and then
37 June and July. All the coho that I caught this summer
38 were in August, and, you know, thinking back to
39 commercial fishing days silvers run in August. So I'm
40 -- my question is, is this imagining that we will have
41 commercial -- like the run will come back and there'll
42 be unlimited subsistence harvest and enough for
43 commercial harvest and then also having a processor
44 here on the river.

45
46 That's my question.

47
48 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
49 OSM. I'd love to defer to Ray Born. Ray, could you
50

1 respond to that.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MS. KENNER: Okay, this is Pippa
6 Kenner. I'm going to give Ray Born a couple of minutes
7 to get off mute or maybe to get to the phone. So,
8 Mary, the no -- the answer is no. This is not
9 imagining that.

10

11

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MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, Pippa, this is Gary
DeCossas, the fisheries biologist over at Yukon Delta.
The pure intent of this proposal was to match State and
Federal regulations. So when there are commercial
fishing opportunities that's including catcher/seller,
the State has authority -- the State removed that
regulation that's in our Federal regulation in 2004 and
so the State manager in his EO to open a commercial
fishery in the river, he basically has authority to
announce subsistence closures before, during and after
the commercial fishery takes place, while in Federal
regulations it's simply a straight number, 16 hours
before, 6 hours after. So you could get into a
situation where the State manager issues an EO that
announces these subsistence closures before, during and
after subsistence fisheries that are less restrictive
than what is currently in Federal regulations.

That was the general intent of this
proposal.

MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair, can I ask a
quick followup.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. PELTOLA: Okay. Gary, can you
think of an example in the last 10 years where this has
happened?

MR. DECOSSAS: Sure thing. So July
19th of this year there was a catcher/seller
opportunity in the Kuskokwim River, the State issued
that emergency order and they did not put a closure on
subsistence fishing before, during or after that
opportunity -- well, technically because this
regulation -- the Federal reg still exists, Federally-
qualified users, if they chose to fish under Federal
regulation would be -- would have to follow the Federal

1 regulations, rather than the State regulations which
2 were less restrictive.

3
4 MS. PELTOLA: Okay. I thought you guys
5 didn't have Federal management after July 1.

6
7 MR. DECOSSAS: We do not. But the
8 Federal regs are permanent and they can only be changed
9 either through this process that we're going through
10 now, the fishery regulatory cycle, or through Federal
11 special action issued by the Federal in-season manager.

12
13 MS. PELTOLA: Okay, now I understand.
14 Thank you.

15
16 MR. DECOSSAS: No problem.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
19 you. Do we have any more public comments or questions
20 about this proposal.

21
22 MR. OLICK: Hello, Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. OLICK: Yeah, Anthony Olick from
27 Kwethluk Incorporated.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. OLICK: My question would be, would
32 there be a new wording or another proposal or some kind
33 of wording that the Federal -- what they call this --
34 proposal be aligned with the State closures.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes. Pippa,
37 would you be able to reread the proposed language that
38 would replace the one that we're inquiring about.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you, Madame
41 Chair, this is Pippa. I don't know, Gary's got a
42 pretty good -- Gary's doing pretty good. Gary, you
43 want to take that.

44
45 MR. DECOSSAS: Could you repeat the
46 question please. I keep on getting kicked off the
47 phone.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, that's okay,
50

1 Gary. The question was can you read the current
2 proposed language that would be replacing the language
3 we are removing.
4

5 MR. DECOSSAS: So if this proposal were
6 to be supported by the RAC and adopted by the Federal
7 Subsistence Board the only regulation that would be
8 left of this section -- so I think it's Section 3 and
9 Section 5, the only section that would be left is:
10

11 You may subsistence fish for salmon
12 with rod and reel 24 hours per day, seven days per week
13 unless rod and reel are specifically restricted by this
14 paragraph (e)(4).
15

16 They actually have a typo in the
17 executive summary where -- of the document, this
18 fisheries proposal. So section 3 is correct, it's
19 scratched out, so it removed language stating that in
20 District 1, Kuskokuak Slough from June 1 through July
21 31, only, you may not take salmon for 16 hours before
22 and during each State open commercial fishing period in
23 the district. So it removes Section 3 completely, so
24 that'll be gone.
25

26 And then in Section 5 it would remove
27 the first sentence, so if you're looking at the
28 executive summary, it's just that first sentence that
29 talks about in District 2 and anywhere in the tributary
30 that flow into the Kuskokwim River within that district
31 from June 1 through September 8th, you may not take
32 salmon by net gear or fishwheel from 16 hours before,
33 or during and for 6 hours after each commercial fishing
34 period in the district. That part would be removed.
35

36 The only part that would remain in
37 Section 5 is you may subsistence fish for salmon with
38 rod and reel 24 hours per day, seven days per week
39 unless rod and reel are specifically restricted by this
40 paragraph.
41

42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Gary. And,
43 Madame Chair, may I continue.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Pippa, thank
46 you.
47

48 MS. KENNER: I just wanted to add to
49 that, the Kuskokwim River regulations have a provision
50

1 that says that State emergency orders apply to the
2 Federal subsistence fishery. And that is why when the
3 State issues emergency orders, they apply to our
4 subsistence fishery and, therefore, any closures around
5 the commercial fishing opportunities would be managed
6 by Fish and Game through emergency order. Which is
7 basically how people are fishing now. So in general
8 there would be no change from how people are currently
9 fishing for subsistence, because they're already
10 fishing under State emergency orders during times when
11 the river is open to commercial fishing.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
14 Mr. Olick, did that answer your question.

15
16 MR. OLICK: Yeah.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
19 have any more public comments or questions at this
20 time.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
25 hearing none, it sounds like we've got an understanding
26 of this proposal, FP21-01. We'll go ahead and move to
27 making a motion on the floor whenever you're ready.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
30 this is Eva, if I may.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Hello, Council. And we
35 should have done this overview prior to getting into
36 the fisheries proposals but with all regulatory
37 proposals we do have a process to receive formal
38 comments from tribes, agencies and other Councils and
39 Committees. So if you'll look in your meeting books on
40 Page 17 there's an overview of the presentation
41 procedure for proposals.

42
43 So right now we've just done the
44 introduction and presentation of the analysis and then
45 it's the opportunity to have discussion and questions
46 from both the Council and the public to clarify the
47 proposal. And then Step 2 we report on consultation so
48 the Federal Subsistence Board holds tribal and ANCSA
49 corporation consultation on all regulatory proposals in
50

1 advance of the Council's meeting, and then there will
2 be another consultation period for tribal consultation
3 in advance of the Board taking action as well. And
4 then we walk through that process of agency comments,
5 so both ADF&G, Federal agencies, tribal -- any tribal
6 comments participating in this meeting, Advisory
7 Groups, summary of written public comments, if there's
8 any public testimony, public that wants to make a
9 recommendation on this proposal and then we get into
10 the Council recommendation.

11
12 So there's just a few steps to go
13 through here to make sure that everybody is heard prior
14 to the Council's recommendation.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
17 Report on Board consultation from tribes, do we have
18 any tribes that have any comment, question or
19 consultation for.....

20
21 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
22 So on June 11th, the Federal Subsistence Program and
23 the Federal Subsistence Board did conduct tribal
24 consultation regarding the 2020 Federal subsistence
25 fisheries regulatory proposals, we did not get any
26 formal comments at that time on this proposal. And
27 then we do have an opportunity for those tribes that
28 are participating in the meeting to make comments at
29 this meeting as well.

30
31 So no comments that were received
32 during the tribal consultation on June 11th, but we do
33 have an opportunity next if there are tribes
34 participating today that would like to make any
35 comments on this proposal.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

38
39 MS. PATTON: And if there's no tribal
40 recommendations at this time or today then we move on
41 to ADF&G and Federal agency comments.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
44 Do we have any further comments from tribal council or
45 organizations that have not been heard yet.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we'll
50

1 go ahead and move into the agency comments, Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, while we're
7 waiting for ADF&G to come on line do we have a written
8 visualization report from ADF&G that we can reference
9 to in our books.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
12 sorry I was on mute there. You will see on Page 51 of
13 your proposal we get to the executive summary of FP --
14 let's see am I on the wrong one here, I went a little
15 too far.

16
17 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Eva, it's Page 19
18 and there's no comment.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Sorry, I went a little too
21 far, I was on the next proposal. Yeah, so if the
22 Council would turn to Page 19 then we have the
23 executive summary and that shows where comments have
24 been submitted so far and there's no ADF&G comments at
25 this time. And if ADF&G Staff are not available at
26 this time to comment we can move on to the Federal
27 agencies, any comments.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game did you have
31 anything you'd like to add to Fisheries Proposal FP21-
32 01.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
37 hearing none, we'll go on to the Federal agency
38 comments. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

39
40 MR. DECOSAS: This is Gary DeCossas
41 with Yukon Delta. No comments other than what is
42 provided in the document since we did submit the
43 proposal.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
46 you, Gary. Do we have any tribal comments available.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
2 hearing none, we'll go on to Advisory Group comments.
3 Eva, do we have any other Regional Councils that make
4 decisions on this proposal.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
7 No other Councils or Committees have made
8 recommendations on this proposal. Other Councils
9 within the region, so Western Interior does overlap
10 since they are on the Upper Kuskokwim but they have not
11 yet met, so no comments yet from any other RACs or
12 Committees.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
17 have any written public comments that were submitted
18 prior to our meeting today.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
21 This is Eva again. No written comments either.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Just
26 doublechecking and seeing if we had any more public
27 testimony or comments regarding this proposal.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
32 hearing none. We'll go ahead and get a motion on the
33 floor to adopt this proposal.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
36 if I may. Just a friendly reminder for the Council,
37 the discussion and justification on the record is a
38 very important part of the process. And some of the
39 guidance and things to consider when making a
40 recommendation and justifying the support for that is
41 looking to see current fish and wildlife management
42 principles and if the proposal's consistent with that;
43 is the recommendation supported by substantial
44 evidence, such as biological and traditional ecological
45 knowledge; will the recommendation be beneficial to
46 subsistence needs or detrimental to subsistence needs
47 and uses. When it involves closures, is the closure
48 necessary for conservation of healthy fish and wildlife
49 populations, or is the closure necessary to ensure
50

1 continued subsistence uses. And discuss other
2 information that was brought up in the analysis.

3
4 So that discussion and justification
5 from the Council on the Council's recommendation is
6 very important to substantiate the Council's
7 recommendation to the Board. And then we just ask to
8 restate the final motion for the record so it's clear
9 what the Council's intent is.

10
11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
14 All right, for Regional Council recommendations, we
15 always move to the positive and then we make a decision
16 on the final vote on this proposal. Can we go ahead
17 and get a motion on the floor, please.

18
19 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
20 Phillip. I'd like to make a motion on this proposal.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Phillip. Can I get a second.

24
25 MR. MAXIE: Carl Maxie, second.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
28 Maxie. Any further discussion or comments or questions
29 about our discussion on FP21-01.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we'll
34 go ahead -- and if there's no more discussion on this
35 proposal we'll go ahead and move on -- if you guys
36 don't want to discuss this any more and move on to
37 voting I need a question on the floor.

38
39 MR. LANDLORD: Call for question,
40 James.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
43 Landlord.

44
45 All right, Mr. Secretary Ray, would you
46 be doing our roll call vote for us today.

47
48 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair and Council.
49 Roll call.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Okay. Roll call vote for
4 FP21-01.
5
6 John Andrew.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
9
10 MR. ONEY: Thomas Alstrom.
11
12 MR. ALSTROM: Yes.
13
14 MR. ONEY: James Landlord.
15
16 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.
17
18 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.
19
20 MR. PETER: Yes.
21
22 MR. ONEY: Carl Maxie, Sr.
23
24 MR. MAXIE: Yes.
25
26 MR. ONEY: Richard Slats.
27
28 MR. SLATS: Yes.
29
30 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, yes.
31
32 Alissa Rogers.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.
35
36 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. We have eight
37 yes, one absent, motion carried.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
40 Oney. At this.....
41
42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
43 if I.....
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:time I would
46 like to open the floor to Council members to give
47 justification of why you voted yes and we'll start with
48 Mr. Andrew. Can you.....
49
50

1 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, am I on
2 mute, this is Pippa.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Pippa, no,
5 you're not on mute.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Okay. I just wanted to
8 direct people to the justification on Page 47 that
9 might help them with their development of
10 justification.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: In our book it's
13 Page 17 so Council members go to Page 17 under
14 presentation procedures for proposals under Item No. 8,
15 discussion and justification we have five bulletin
16 points that ask questions of what type of justification
17 r discussion questions that they want to hear from you,
18 the Federal Board wants to hear the reasoning why you
19 voted the way you did on this proposal.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 This is Eva. On Page 47 there is also OSM's
23 preliminary justification which touches on a number of
24 topics that the Council was talking about too so that
25 may be helpful as well.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, for
28 clarification, is that the OSM preliminary conclusion
29 to support Proposal FP21-01 justification?

30
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. And
32 that provides kind of the essence of what the effects
33 of the proposal are and may be helpful for the Council.
34 The Council was also discussing -- asking questions
35 about these specific issues as well so it might be
36 helpful for the Council.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So I'm
41 just going to read off the OSM preliminary conclusion
42 on Page 47. OSM justification is in 2003 the Board
43 adopted regulations to coordinate management of fishing
44 actions by State and Federal managers to minimize
45 confusion with the realization that Federal in-season
46 manager can issue special actions if an emergency order
47 is detrimental to Federal-qualified subsistence users.
48 Current Federal regulations that close subsistence
49 fishing immediately before, during and immediately
50

1 after commercial fishing opens in the Kuskokwim River
2 are redundant and confusing and should be rescinded.

3
4 Okay.

5
6 John Andrew.

7
8 MR. ANDREW: Yes. I like that
9 justification, I like the way it's written by OSM.

10
11 Quayana.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.

14
15 Tommy Alstrom.

16
17 MR. ALSTROM: This is Tommy here. Is
18 this for the fishing actions by State and Federal
19 managers to minimize confusion is why I voted yes. I
20 believe the more if we minimize confusion then we're
21 basically trying to get on the same page.

22
23 Yep, that's it, thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.

26 Alstrom.

27
28 Mr. Landlord.

29
30 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. To get on the same
31 page with State where the regulations are less
32 restrictive for the qualified subsistence users, I
33 think would be more advantageous for them to open under
34 emergency order by the State rather than the Federal
35 set was very restrictive, you have to wait so many
36 hours before during and after commercial fishing. That
37 is my justification.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
40 Landlord.

41
42 Mr. Peter.

43
44 MR. PETER: Yeah. We're dealing with
45 two issues there this proposal, one is talking about
46 commercial fishing, the other one is talking about
47 closures for subsistence. And we need to all fix this
48 regulation, separate from the commercial fishing. And
49 I know that if the Federal government has taken over a
50

1 long time ago shouldn't be happening like this and
2 we're dealing with the -- especially those subsistence
3 fishing. And that's my vote, yes. We need to fix
4 these two proposals so that we all understand, it's
5 really important we all understand working together on
6 this proposal. Because these regulations are always
7 change, except our way of life, like myself, our
8 traditional lives never change, it's the same, all the
9 time toward subsistence fishing. Except those laws
10 from the Federal and State government, they always
11 change. And sometimes really confusing to us. Except
12 we know that we have the knowledge in our hearts, you
13 know, the elders -- past elders, you know, they talk to
14 us, they used to mention to me that our laws never
15 change, they're the same. I hope everybody understands
16 when we make these kind of proposals, even though we
17 don't want it these laws, we say yes, except, you know,
18 it's for the benefit, all of the Alaskans, Native
19 Alaskans. So we -- our elders make right decisions all
20 the time, right decision. They don't let us confuse
21 when they make laws. They explain it to us clearly and
22 they used to tell us that -- let us understand what
23 they were -- what they were talking about. You know
24 our motors have -- motors have a jet -- motors have,
25 you know, instructions and we follow them, those
26 instructions by reading them. So that's my comment on
27 this regulation proposal.

28
29 Us Natives, we could make proposals and
30 regulations understandable without using the lawyers.
31 That's how our past elders are, they're really smart.
32 Right now I hope if we're going to go forward let us
33 communicate and work together if we're going to make
34 good proposals to our people, especially on
35 subsistence. I got no comments on the commercial
36 fishing except this subsistence proposal, it's real
37 important to us for survival.

38
39 They gave us so many years heavy
40 regulations for us to be used, heavy. You guys are --
41 you guys understand, we need to understand together.
42 Tell the truth if we're -- tell the truth all the time,
43 like our elders.

44
45 Right now I'm becoming an elder, I take
46 -- when I talk with my both hands I understand, ah,
47 this is how it works.

48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
2 Peter.

3
4 Maxie, your justification.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Move on to Slats
9 do you have a justification.

10
11 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, this is Carl from
12 Napaskiak. Yeah, I like this both State and Fed make
13 it one wording for -- this proposal is for during the
14 time of commercial, that's when they have adequate
15 numbers for subsistence that escape. That's all I
16 have, so there won't be any confusion for communities.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Maxie.

20
21 Mr. Slats, do you have a justification.

22
23 MR. SLATS: Yes. Current Federal
24 regulations that close subsistence fishing immediately
25 before, during and immediately after commercial fishing
26 opens in the Kuskokwim River are redundant. If there
27 is no commercial fishing or if there's not that much
28 commercial fishing going on in the Kuskokwim River so
29 my -- so that subsistence fishermen can fish within
30 that 16 hours prior to commercial fishing and then they
31 can pull it one minute before the commercial fishing
32 starts and they can set their subsistence nets one
33 minute after commercial fishing closes.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
38 Mr.Slats.

39
40 Mr. Oney.

41
42 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
43 Chair. I'm supporting Fisheries Proposal 21-01 for the
44 same reasons that Mr. Slats had mentioned, that will
45 give an opportunity for subsistence users to fish more
46 during times that commercial fishing are open and it
47 will align the regulations with the State so I'll be in
48 support of FP21-01. That'll be my justification.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
4 Oney. For my justification to remove the regulations
5 will allow for more subsistence opportunity while still
6 allowing for conservation, when needed, on species of
7 salmon. And this allows for regulations to align
8 between State and Federal regulations, therefore, if --
9 since they're already currently following the State
10 regulations, this lifts a regulation that could be used
11 against subsistence users since it is in the Federal
12 regulations that they -- people will not be breaking
13 Federal law. If that makes sense. That we remove this
14 so that portion of that Federal regulation does not
15 affect subsistence users.

16
17 All right, thank you.

18
19 Moving on to Fisheries Proposal --
20 sorry, going -- flipping through my pages here, FP21-
21 02. Pippa.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.

26
27 MS. KENNER: You're welcome. Hello,
28 Madame Chair and members of the Council. The analysis
29 of Proposal WP21-02 [sic] begins on Page 51 of your
30 meeting books. And like before I'll pause a minute and
31 give you time to find it. For the public it's also
32 posted at the Federal Subsistence Management Program
33 web page.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 MS. KENNER: So this proposal was
38 submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
39 and it requests the Federal Subsistence Board reduce
40 the required distance between setnets in Kuskokwim
41 River tributaries from 150 feet to 75 feet.

42
43 So the Refuge states that current
44 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations are not the
45 same as the State regulations. And this requested
46 regulation change would align Federal and State
47 regulations. The current Federal regulation is more
48 restrictive than the current State regulation. In
49 addition, the proponent also states that adopting this
50

1 proposal will reduce user confusion and enforcement
2 concerns.
3

4 So last year Alaska Board of Fisheries
5 took action on a proposal submitted by the Organized
6 Village of Kwethluk and it modified the required
7 distance between nets in tributaries of the Kuskokwim
8 to 75 feet. The proponent requested allowing the
9 operation of a setnet gillnet within 50 feet of another
10 set gillnet. But the Board of Fisheries amended the
11 proposal to allow the operation of a set gillnet within
12 75 feet of another set gillnet instead. The members
13 were concerned that nets might get tangled with one
14 another and user conflicts might ensue so they
15 shortened the distance requirement to 75 feet rather
16 than to the 50 feet as requested by the Organized
17 Village of Kwethluk.

18
19 There are limited number of good setnet
20 sites in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River and
21 allowing Federally-qualified subsistence users to place
22 subsistence nets 75 feet will increase fishing
23 opportunities within the tributaries. Harvest will not
24 likely increase as users can already set nets 75 feet
25 apart under State regulations. In addition aligning
26 State and Federal regulations will reduce user
27 confusion.
28

29 And thank you very -- oh, so the OSM
30 preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal.
31

32 And, thank you, Madame Chair, members
33 of the Council and I'm prepared to answer your
34 questions.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
37 Before we go into questioning we'll go ahead and follow
38 the procedure of the proposal that way we don't have to
39 retrack everyone's comments and questions.
40

41 We'll go ahead and go on to the reports
42 of tribes or consultations.
43

44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
45 and Council. Again, the Federal Subsistence Board
46 conducted tribal consultation and ANCSA consultation on
47 June 11th. There were no recommendations specific to
48 this proposal at that time.
49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
4 have any additional comments from Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
8 Again, you'll find the executive summary on Page 51.
9 There were no comments submitted by ADF&G unless we
10 have any ADF&G Staff on line that would like to comment
11 at this time.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
16 hearing none, we'll go ahead and move on to U.S. Fish
17 and Wildlife Service, do you have any additional
18 comments at this time.

19

20 MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, this is Gary
21 DeCossas with Yukon Delta. No, we have no further
22 comments except those listed in the discussion in the
23 proposal analysis.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Gary
26 did you -- I understand that not everyone has a book,
27 but would you be able to bulletin point the main points
28 of that discussion on -- for this specific proposal.

29

30 MR. DECOSSAS: Sure. I'll read word
31 for word from the draft Staff analysis.

32

33 The proponent, which is Yukon National
34 Wildlife Refuge states that current Federal subsistence
35 fishery regulations are not parallel with State
36 regulations. This requested regulation change would
37 allow align Federal and State regulations. The current
38 Federal regulation is more restrictive than the current
39 State regulation. The Alaska Board of Fisheries
40 changed its State regulations during the Arctic Yukon
41 Kuskokwim Board of Fish meeting in January of 2019. In
42 addition, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge also
43 states that the adoption of this proposal will reduce
44 user confusion and enforcement concern.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Gary.
49 Do we have any tribal agency comments from tribal

50

1 members on line.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, this is Mike
4 Williams.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mike.

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: From Akiak Native
9 Community. Yeah, we support consistent social
10 distancing of nets.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's a good
17 one.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Any more
22 further tribal comments.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Eva,
27 do we have any Advisory Group comments.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
30 Eva Patton. No, no Council comments at this time.
31 Again, Western Interior will be meeting next week, I
32 believe, so no comments at this time.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
37 have any written public comments.

38

39 MS. PATTON: No written public comments
40 either. Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I'll
43 go ahead and open the floor to the public for public
44 comment.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
49 hearing none. After we get in further discussion, if

50

1 there's public that want to speak go ahead and say your
2 first and last name and your affiliation and we'll
3 squeeze you in.
4

5 All right. Can we get a motion on the
6 floor to adopt FP21-02 to open up for discussion and
7 justification between the Council.
8

9 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
10 Phillip. I'd like to make a motion to accept this
11 proposal for discussion.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
14 Phillip, is there a second.
15

16 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Second, Ray
17 Oney.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you Mr.
20 Oney. FP21-02 is now open for discussion. Do we have
21 any comments or questions for Pippa Kenner at this time
22 from the Council.
23

24 MR. PETER: I got question.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
27 Phillip.
28

29 MR. PETER: On this proposal. You guys
30 are -- you're talking about setnetting on the Kuskokwim
31 River tributaries, we usually shut the net before
32 subsistence opens but you guys are talking about this,
33 setnet 150 feet or if -- or some people subsistence
34 fishing is open they set their net in the river at the
35 same time they're drifting and this -- that's my
36 question, before it's open -- before it's open
37 subsistence fishing, that's what I'm talking about,
38 where those tributaries, like Kwethluk, Kisaralik,
39 Kasigluk, is talking about between setnets in the
40 Kuskokwim River tributaries on the mouth of the
41 tributaries.
42

43 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thank you for the
44 question, Mr. Peter. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM,
45 through the Chair.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
48

49 MS. KENNER: Yes. Yes, that is
50

1 correct. This is talking about setnets within the
2 tributaries.

3
4 MR. PETER: Is it mouth or inside?

5
6 MS. KENNER: Inside.

7
8 MR. PETER: Thank you.

9
10 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any other
13 comments or questions.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
18 Andrew.

19
20 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, this proposal, I
21 never look it up but when you fish in the tributaries,
22 if somebody sets a net about 50 to 75 feet below you
23 where your set net is, you're not going to catch much
24 because the other guy's corking you.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. ANDREW: And all my life I seen
29 that happen every now and then, and I have some peoples
30 following me, wherever I set, they all start setting
31 right in front of me, that's what happens when they set
32 too close and this one stinks (ph).

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
35 Andrew. Any further comments or questions.

36
37 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, Madame Chair,
38 this is Thomas Alstrom.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
41 Alstrom.

42
43 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, on 21-02 as of right
44 now the -- in the tributary the setnet regulation is at
45 150 feet and how I understand this proposal is that
46 this proposal wants to reduce that distance from 150
47 feet to 75 feet meaning there'll be more nets set
48 closer together in that tributary.

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: Yes, this is Pippa Kenner,
2 through the Chair. That's correct.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's stupid.

5
6 MR. ALSTROM: All right, thank you,
7 Pippa.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
10 comments questions or clarifications from the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, is
15 there any recommendation consistent with established
16 fish or wildlife management principles that the Council
17 wants to address.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Does anybody want
22 to take up and answer the questions, will the
23 recommendations be beneficial or detrimental to
24 subsistence needs and users.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
29 hearing no more further discussion on the floor if
30 we're ready to close this I'm awaiting a question to be
31 called.

32
33 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, I call for
34 question. This is Phillip.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
37 Phillip. Question's been called. Mr. Oney, can you do
38 a roll call for us.

39
40 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 Richard Slats.

43
44 MR. SLATS: Aye.

45
46 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.

47
48 MR. ANDREW: No.

49
50

1 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, yes.
2
3 Thomas Alstrom.
4
5 MR. ALSTROM: No.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Carl Maxie.
8
9 MR. MAXIE: No.
10
11 MR. ONEY: James Landlord.
12
13 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.
14
15 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.
16
17 MR. PETER: No.
18
19 MR. ONEY: Alissa Rogers.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No.
22
23 MR. ONEY: Okay, Madame Chair, it looks
24 like we have four four.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. This
27 proposal.....
28
29 MR. DECOSSAS: Madame Chair.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby.
32 Correction, when we have four to four, this proposal --
33 or this vote fails, correct.
34
35 MS. KENNER: That's correct, Madame
36 Chair. This is Pippa.
37
38 MS. PATTON: Yeah.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighly.
41
42 MR. DECOSSAS: Madame Chair. This is
43 Gary from Yukon Delta.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
46 DeCossas.
47
48 MR. DECOSSAS: I'm thinking there is a
49 little bit of confusion. It is already legal under
50

1 State regs for setnets in the tributaries to be placed
2 within 75 feet of one another. This -- that's my
3 clarification, just in case it was confusing.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Gary.
6
7 Pippa.

8
9 MS. KENNER: I don't have anything,
10 Madame Chair. I'm available to answer questions.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
15 if I may. I'm just rereading the yeas and nays, we
16 actually have -- there were five nos and three yes, so
17 the vote is actually not a tie vote, the motion would
18 fail due to the no votes. But, again, we would like to
19 have a full justification of the Council's vote to
20 concur with the Council's recommendation and so a yes
21 vote was in support of reducing the Federal regulation
22 distance between setnets on tributaries from 100 [sic]
23 to 75 feet and that's currently in State regulation
24 right now. So if adopted, the regulation would be
25 concurrent with State regulations reducing that
26 distance to 75 feet. If the motion fails, then the
27 regulations under the Federal side would remain the
28 same and the distance would remain at 150 feet between
29 setnets. So -- but we -- so it was a no vote --
30 overriding no vote so the motion fails because of the
31 five nos. But we do want a justification from the
32 Council on the record to support that.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

37
38 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa.
39 Particularly from the five no votes and it sounded like
40 Trapper John Andrew gave his justification.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Mr.
43 Alstrom.

44
45 MR. ANDREW: Did you ask for me?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, do.....

48
49 MS. KENNER: Do you want to repeat your
50

1 justification.

2

3

4 MR. ANDREW: The next one there, 50 to
5 75 feet apart the setnet on the upper -- upper end of
6 -- the original setnet is corked by another setnet and
7 they have trouble catching fish because in springtime
8 and early summer all fish go up river, the net below
9 will catch more than the ones -- the first setnet will
10 have trouble catching fish and there are set net sites
11 owned by -- traditionally owned by certain families and
12 then they -- it's pretty hard to explain for me because
13 all families and certain families and relatives always
14 have the same setnets year after year even though
15 sometimes they lose their eddies and they still have
16 that setnet site by the certain families. Because if
17 they set -- several setnets that far apart, that will
18 prefer this one down and all the fish -- the two other
19 -- one or two other nets above it don't basically
20 hardly catching any. If you can rewrite it one way
21 that'll be acceptable but I don't know how to write
22 that one up.

22

23

24

25

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MS. KENNER: Thank you, John. This is
Pippa again. I think if there's no other additions to
that we can move on.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Is
there anybody else who wants to make additional
comments to Trapper's comments.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So my
justification, the tributaries already have
restrictions at the mouth of the river and it's been
known that people try to set as close as they can to
that boundary line at the mouth of the river and if
they reduce, as they had put out there, those
reductions in that 150 to 75 definitely seeing a lot of
crowding in that mouth of that tributary. Not only is
it dangerous for safety of people in boats trying to go
up that river but also piggybacking off of another
person's fish -- set net. And sometimes those
tributaries get so clustered with nets that people,
when they're traveling at night end up running over
those nets and then causing both harm to not only the
net but also people's motors, et cetera, et cetera.

(Teleconference interference -

1 participants not muted - typing)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I've seen it
4 first hand, the difference between 75 feet versus 150
5 feet and Trapper John's totally correct, so that's my
6 additional comments.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted - typing)

10

11 REPORTER: Excuse me -- whoever's
12 typing on line, if you could just check and see if
13 you're muted so we could hear the people talking.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
18 Moving on to Fisheries Proposal 21-03. Pippa.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa again.
21 Pippa Kenner with OSM. And the analysis of Proposal
22 FP21-03 begins on Page 72 of your meeting book and it's
23 also posted at the Federal Subsistence Management
24 Program web page. I'll pause a minute and just give
25 you a little time to find it.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MS. KENNER: So this proposal was
30 submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
31 and it requests the Federal Subsistence Board allow
32 drift gillnets in addition to set gillnets in Kuskokwim
33 River tributaries.

34

35 The current Federal regulation is more
36 restrictive than the current State regulation and
37 implementing this change will align Federal and State
38 regulations.

39

40 The question around this proposal is
41 difficult to explain and when I get done it is very
42 likely that you're going to have questions and the
43 Refuge also may be able to help me with this.

44

45 I'm going to tell you that in the
46 regulation as it's written now says:

47

48 You must attach to the bank each
49 subsistence gillnet operated in tributaries of the

50

1 Kuskokwim River.

2

3 And the change would revise that
4 wording to say:

5

6 You must attach to the bank each
7 subsistence set gillnet operated in tributaries of the
8 Kuskokwim River.

9

10 So in June 2019, the Commissioner of
11 ADF&G under his delegated authority from the Alaska
12 Board of Fisheries proposed to adopt a regulation
13 change correcting errors and omissions, ambiguities and
14 technical deficiencies dealing with certain regulations
15 including this Kuskokwim area regulation. And after a
16 public comment period and without further notice the
17 Commissioner adopted the proposed regulation change and
18 the revised -- the only thing this regulation does is
19 clarify that driftnets are a legal subsistence gear in
20 tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.

21

22 So adoption of this proposal would
23 allow Federally-qualified subsistence users to use
24 driftnets in tributaries of the Kuskokwim drainage.
25 Drifting nets in some tributaries is already a common
26 practice and adoption of this proposal will make it
27 legal under Federal subsistence regulations. Adoption
28 will also align State and Federal regulations.

29

30 Drifting gillnets is a traditional way
31 to fish for salmon and other fish in tributaries of the
32 Kuskokwim River. Harvest would not likely increase as
33 this is already legal under State regulations and has
34 been practiced under Federal regulations. In addition,
35 this regulation change should align Federal and State
36 regulations reducing user confusion and regulatory
37 complexity.

38

39 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
40 support the proposal 21-03.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair, members of the
43 Board. That's the end of my presentation.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
46 All right, Eva, do we have any Board consultation.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 No tribal consultation comments on this proposal.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
4 have any ADF&G who's on line that have additional
5 comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, do you have any
11 additional comments.

12

13 MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary. No
14 additional comments.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Gary.
17 And any tribal members, do you have any agency
18 comments.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mike.

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, this is Mike
25 Williams. We are in support of this alignment of the
26 regulations to have that attached to a bank.

27

28 Thanks. We are in support of it.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mike.
31 Any other tribes.

32

33 MR. EPCHOOK: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, first
36 and last name.

37

38 MR. EPCHOOK: Chariton Epchhook with
39 Kwethluk Incorporated. We just got back on, our lights
40 turned off during the -- that first one, 21-01, or
41 beginning of 21-02. We just wanted to know how 21-02
42 was either passed or not.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
45 Chariton. Welcome back. The Yukon Delta Subsistence
46 Regional Advisory Council had made a recommendation to
47 oppose this proposal because of 50 to 75 feet is not an
48 adequate amount of distance between setnets, which
49 causes other setnetters to be corked and also because

50

1 the restrictions on tributaries are already restricted,
2 that people set too close to the mouth of the tributary
3 which causes over crowdedness and it's also a danger
4 for safety -- for boat safety for people who are
5 driving at night and sometimes run over nets that they
6 can't see due to the overcrowdedness at the mouth.

7
8 We are currently taking up FP21-03 and
9 we just are under tribal comments. Did your tribe have
10 any comments they wanted to make 21-03?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Epchook, did
15 we lose you again.?

16
17 MR. EPCHOOK: Madame Chair. This is
18 Chariton. We got cut off again.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, shucks. So
21 Mr. -- FP21-02, the Yukon Delta Subsistence Regional
22 Advisory Council had opposed that proposal because of
23 the inadequate distance between 50 to 75 feet of the
24 set nets, will be corked -- be corked by another
25 fisherman. And because the tributary already has
26 restrictions at the mouth. People that set net close
27 to the mouth start to overcrowd. And is also dangerous
28 for safety and boat motorists during the crowdingness
29 of that area.

30
31 We are currently on FP21-03 and we're
32 under tribal comments and asking if your tribe has any
33 comments to make on FP21-03.

34
35 MR. EPCHOOK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 We wanted an update on 02.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you.
39 Any other tribal comments on FP21-03.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,
44 Eva, do we have any Advisory comments.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
47 and Council. Again, Western Interior has not met yet
48 and so there's no RAC or Committee comments at this
49 time.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
4 have any written comments.

5
6 MS. PATTON: And no written comments.

7
8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I'll
11 go ahead and open up for public testimony. The floor
12 is open for public testimony on FP21-03.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
17 hearing none, we'll go ahead and move on to putting a
18 motion on the floor to adopt FP21-03 for discussion and
19 justification.

20
21 MR. PETER: Madame Chair. I'll make a
22 motion to adopt this regulation.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
25 Phillip. Can we get a second.

26
27 MR. ONEY: For the record, Ray Oney.
28 Second.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
31 Oney. FP21-03 is open for Council questions, comments
32 or concerns for Pippa.

33
34 MR. PETER: I got question on this
35 setnet, I understand that it's a 50 fathom gillnet,
36 right.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Yes, this is Pippa Kenner.
39 Thank you for the question. I don't immediately know
40 the answer to that. I would like you to continue and I
41 will look it up.

42
43 MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair and
44 Council, while Pippa is looking that up I might just
45 highlight that OSM preliminary conclusion, which
46 provides a nice essence of the proposal that's found on
47 Page 88. So adoption of this proposal would give
48 Federally-qualified subsistence users the opportunity
49 to drift gillnet in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River
50

1 under Federal regulations.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
4 Pippa.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Pippa.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Thank you, for
9 the question, Mr. Peter. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM
10 through the Chair. I'd like a clarification, Mr.
11 Peter, you did ask about depth, correct?

12

13 MR. PETER: Yeah.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Right. It's for -- if you
16 have a net that is six inches or smaller, not more than
17 45 meshes in depth. If you have a net that is 6 --
18 over 6 inches it's not more than 35 meshes in depth.
19 Those are the current Federal regulations.

20

21 MR. PETER: Oh, half of the net, 25
22 fathoms.

23

24 MS. KENNER: So it was 6 inches or
25 smaller, 45 -- oh, fathoms. I -- yes, you may not have
26 a net in excess of 50 fathoms.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mike.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Currently there is 25
33 fathom regulation on the Kuskokwim River, not -- and 50
34 fathom from mouth of Johnson River down to below. So I
35 think the question -- so that 25 fathom is the -- or
36 can we set a 50 fathom net then?

37

38 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
39 question, Mike. This is Pippa Kenner, through the
40 Chair. I'm looking at the HandyDandy, and the
41 HandyDandy for Federal regulation says you may not use
42 an aggregate length of set or drift gillnet in excess
43 of 50 fathoms. So to me that means you can use up to
44 50 fathoms but I am not looking at the codified
45 regulations so Gary DeCossas if you're still on could
46 you help me with this.

47

48 MR. DECOSAS: Hey, Pippa, I'm still
49 on. So this is Gary DeCossas, Yukon Delta National

50

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1 Wildlife Refuge fisheries biologist. Mike, what you're
2 remembering or referencing with the 25 fathom versus 50
3 fathom difference below and above the Johnson is only
4 during the in-season portion when the Federal in-season
5 or the State manager is managing chinook salmon.
6 That's been a pretty common management technique used.
7 Unless otherwise stated by the Federal in-season
8 manager, 50 fathoms or less for drifting or setting in
9 the Kuskokwim.

10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Understood, thank you.

12
13 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Gary. This is
14 Pippa.

15
16 MR. DECOSSAS: No problem.

17
18 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. James
19 Landlord.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, I had
22 trouble getting off of mute, was it Pippa, then Mr.
23 Landlord or.....

24
25 MR. LANDLORD: Pippa.

26
27 MS. KENNER: No, Mr. Landlord first.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Go ahead,
30 Mr. Landlord.

31
32 MR. LANDLORD: This proposal has an
33 issue on Page 73 request the Federal Board allow drift
34 gillnets in addition to set gillnets, does that mean we
35 can drift at the tributaries or we can just gillnet at
36 a set net?

37
38 MS. KENNER: Yes, so, thank you, this
39 is Pippa Kenner. Thank you for the question, Mr.
40 Landlord, through the Chair. So the answer is yes to
41 both. This means that you can drift or set gillnet in
42 the tributaries.

43
44 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. And does that --
45 existing Federal regulations and proposed Federal
46 regulations in Kuskokwim area and the proposer just add
47 set in front of gillnet, it wasn't there in the past?

48
49 MS. KENNER: Correct. It does. And
50

1 that made it confusing because the practice is for
2 people to drift in some of these tributaries.

3
4 MR. LANDLORD: Uh-huh.

5
6 MS. KENNER: But the regulations
7 weren't clear that that was legal. This proposal is to
8 clarify that both drift and set nets are allowable in
9 tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.

10
11 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. So if this
12 proposal is passed you can drift.

13
14 MR. PETER: Yeah.

15
16 MR. LANDLORD: But you could also use
17 the driftnet as a set net?

18
19 MS. KENNER: Yes. There are -- the
20 regulation around setnets are that it must be fished
21 substantially perpendicular to the bank and a
22 substantially straight line.

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Okay.

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
30 more further comments or questions.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
35 Andrew.

36
37 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew at
38 Kwethluk. I see a lot of problems with this one. In
39 all the Kuskokwim tributaries 50 fathom, 25 fathoms way
40 too long, most of them are pretty narrow, and shallow,
41 unless you want to sacrifice a net getting snagged here
42 and there, unless you have a very short, shallow, 28 --
43 27 or 29 mesh deep net. And the other problem is that
44 every year, ever since that we start having a chinook
45 conservation, all these body rivers are close to any
46 sort of (indiscernible - cuts out) no gillnetting at
47 the mouth or in the river from -- from the time they
48 start running all the way up to July 25 every year now.
49 We got to think about that.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. DECOSSAS: Madame Chair, this is
4 Gary DeCossas.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. DECOSSAS: If I can help clarify
9 that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Gary,
12 please.

13

14 MR. DECOSSAS: Sure. So although up to
15 50 fathoms of gillnet can be used in the river, there's
16 also a general regulation that applies that a gillnet
17 cannot obstruct more than half of a stream and that's
18 primarily for, you know, navigational hazard, public
19 safety reasons. So although you could set a 50 fathom
20 gillnet in a relatively small tributary, you couldn't
21 if it blocked more than half the width of the tributary
22 in question.

23

24 The other portion that John talked
25 about is, and it's an important clarification, is that,
26 there's in-season regulations that are provided by the
27 in-season manager through his delegation of authority
28 letter for Kuskokwim River fisheries, and there's also
29 a permanent Federal regulation that was passed the last
30 regulatory cycle that allows for fishing above 100
31 yards in the non-salmon spawning tributaries as well.

32

33 So that's my clarification.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 MR. PETER: Hello.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Tina.....

41

42 MR. PETER: Hello.

43

44 REPORTER: So can we all check and see
45 if our line is muted and I'll try to talk to the
46 operator.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So for those of
49 you on teleconference land please star six to mute your

50

1 phones or press mute. We are getting some duplication
2 and also some loud background noise again, static
3 noise. That could also be a technical difficulty and I
4 apologize for the technical difficulties at this time.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
7 this is Eva. I did hear, Tina was going to check and
8 see if the operator would be able to identify that
9 static and see if we can eliminate that noise, it's
10 electronic static so it may not be related with people
11 being on mute or not. So maybe we'll just give it a
12 minute and see if we can remove the static and then
13 we'll go from there.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. We'll get
16 the static taken care of, we'll meet back here at 4:00
17 o'clock, a 10 minute break. We'll meet back here at
18 4:00 o'clock.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 MR. PETER: We have a majority of the
27 Council members except John Andrew. Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
30 Oney. While we're waiting for Mr. Andrew, we'll go
31 ahead and continue on with FP21-03 since we do still
32 have a quorum.

33
34 We left off with Council comments and
35 questions and discussions on FP21-03. We just concluded
36 with Mr. Landlord. Do you have anything else you'd
37 like to add Mr. Landlord.

38
39 MR. LANDLORD: On Page 87, effects of
40 the proposal. If this proposal's not adopted it said
41 it would make it illegal to drift a gillnet in the
42 tributaries.

43
44 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Landlord.
45 This is Pippa Kenner, through the Chair. Yes, it will
46 be illegal to drift a gillnet in the tributaries of the
47 Kuskokwim River under Federal regulations, yep. It
48 will be legal under State regulations, so how it would
49 actually affect people is a little bit complicated. So

50

1 when there's a closure in waters of the Kuskokwim River
2 drainage that are closed to the harvest of fish except
3 by Federally-qualified users, the Federal regulations
4 wouldn't apply in those areas, so you could not fish
5 with a gillnet in the tributaries. In areas that are
6 not closed you would be able to fish with a gillnet
7 under State regulations but not Federal regulations.
8

9 MR. DECOSSAS: Through the Chair. Hey,
10 Pippa, could I give a clarifying example of what
11 Pippa's trying to say.
12

13 MS. KENNER: Oh, please.
14

15 MR. DECOSSAS: So this is Gary DeCossas
16 with Yukon Delta. This is a really confusing issue and
17 so an example I can give you is like right now if
18 somebody from let's say Tuntutuliak were to go and want
19 to go catch some whitefish or some pike in the Tunt
20 River. Right now if they went out and drifted to get
21 some fish for dinner or for lunch, currently in Federal
22 regulations with the way that the regulation that we're
23 talking about is written, it is possible for a law
24 enforcement agent to read that regulation and say that
25 drifting is illegal in the tributary and then cite said
26 person from Tunt fishing in that river for pike or
27 whitefish for illegally drifting in the tributary.
28 Now, of course that's not common practice, people are
29 allowed to drift in tributaries in instances in which,
30 like Pippa said, the river isn't closed for
31 conservation of let's say chinook salmon or chum salmon
32 or sockeye, there is an in-season component and a not
33 in-season component.
34

35 Hopefully that helps out a little.
36

37 MS. KENNER: Yeah, and this is Pippa
38 Kenner again. Just to add to that, it is common
39 practice for there to be some drifting in the
40 tributaries, what's not common practice is for that to
41 be enforceable. However, if you explicitly state on
42 the record that you wish drifting to be illegal in the
43 tributaries then it will become enforceable. Meaning
44 drifting in the tributaries would be illegal.
45

46 MR. DECOSSAS: Except during -- this is
47 Gary again. Except during the Federal in-season, you
48 know, announced opportunities that occur and have
49 occurred recently with chinook salmon. There was a
50

1 proposal passed by James Charles -- well, by the Board
2 that was submitted by James Charles last fisheries
3 regulatory cycle that made it to where if the Federal
4 in-season manager doesn't announce that a tributary is
5 closed to harvest of chinook salmon to non-qualified
6 users, then a 100 yards above the mouth of the rivers
7 he did not name, and those are like the non-salmon
8 spawning tributaries, the Johnson, the Galic, the
9 Genuk, the Viklet (ph) slough area by Gweek, the Gweek,
10 those areas remain open above 100 yards during the in-
11 season management part and that's because of the
12 permanent Federal.....

13
14 MS. KENNER: No, to -- open to the use
15 of gillnets.

16
17 MR. DECOSSAS: Correct.

18
19 MS. KENNER: So this is Pippa Kenner
20 again. This is such a complicated situation. The --
21 one of the aims of the Refuge when they made this
22 proposal was to clarify that gillnets in the
23 tributaries is legal unless it's stated that it's not.
24 Right now we have a situation depending what's closed
25 and what regulations we're using sometimes you can, and
26 sometimes you can't, and it's very confusing.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: This is Alissa
29 Rogers. At this point I feel kind of confused and a
30 little bit at loss right now so if we can call a point
31 of clarification of the proposal at hand and -- sorry,
32 I don't want to say start over from the proposal
33 but.....

34
35 MS. KENNER: No, Madame Chair, I know
36 what you're talking about. Let me cut to the chase.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

39
40 MS. KENNER: So the way the regulations
41 have been written, it appears as if gillnets are not
42 legal in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River except for
43 a few situations that Gary has mentioned. But let's
44 just say in general, the way the regulations are
45 written it appears in State -- it appeared in State and
46 Federal regulations that gillnets weren't allowed in
47 the tributaries, however, the Alaska Department of Fish
48 and Game has always allowed gillnets in the tributaries
49 and when the Federal program came along it did too,
50

1 they recognized that this was legal. And so finally
2 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game decided to clean
3 up its regulation and to specifically state this is
4 legal to clarify. And so what the Refuge is saying
5 now, we have this difference between State and Federal
6 regulations, the State has clarified that it is legal
7 and now they're saying that we should now clarify that
8 it's legal so that, not only our regulations are the
9 same and less confusing, but there is a logic to when
10 you can and cannot use gillnets.

11
12 So what the Refuge is saying is that,
13 let's make it legal in both State and Federal
14 regulations, the use of drift gillnets in the
15 tributaries and then it will be legal unless it's
16 stated that it's not in a particular tributary or in a
17 particular situation. Because that's the only way we
18 can straighten out this disconnect between the two
19 regulations to make it make sense.

20
21 So, again, this is Pippa, I'm not
22 surprised you're confused.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Does
25 anybody else have any questions or comments or concerns
26 and understanding of this proposal.

27
28 MR. BLIHOVDE: Madame Chairman, this is
29 Boyd from Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Mr. Boyd,
32 welcome to our meeting. Welcome to Alaska.

33
34 MR. BLIHOVDE: Thank you. Yeah, I'm
35 new here as well to Alaska so I think it's easy to be
36 confused for me as well. I would hope that maybe Gary
37 or Pippa could just very quickly explain what each
38 Council member would be voting for. If they vote yes
39 what does that mean, if they vote no what does that
40 mean. I think I could explain but I don't want to be
41 wrong.

42
43 MS. KENNER: Okay, I'll take a first
44 stab because I think that no matter what Gary or I say
45 the other's going to have to kind of fill in some
46 holes.

47
48 So if you support this proposal, it
49 will clarify the fact that in State regulations it's
50

1 legal to use a gillnet -- a drift gillnet in the
2 tributary of the Kuskokwim River.

3

4 If you oppose this regulation, it will
5 make using a drift gillnet in tributaries of the
6 Kuskokwim River illegal. Now, there's going to be some
7 exceptions to that but it will generally be illegal.

8

9 But the problem is currently it's
10 understood that it's legal even though it's not in
11 regulation. So by voting this down, you will be
12 actually changing regulations and making what is now
13 legal not legal by clarifying that you specifically do
14 not want gillnets used in the tributaries.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
17 Does everybody else understand what Pippa just said.

18

19 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
20 Phillip.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
23 Phillip.

24

25 MR. PETER: This proposal, it's new --
26 it's new proposal, right, it's new proposal to be
27 worked on and this is the first time I see a proposal
28 in Kuskokwim River tributaries but long time ago I used
29 to see only one net on the mouth and one -- one net
30 inside the mouth. And ever since we been conservation
31 on chinook salmon nobody go up there to set their net
32 and set net or driftnet up there on those tributaries.
33 Because the Federal and -- Federal and State government
34 agencies close that -- close the tributaries, all four
35 of them. I'm from Kuskokwim area, I know those rivers
36 up there. I used to see quite a few, only -- only not
37 much in the Kwethluk River. And empty in Kasigluk. I
38 used to see a couple nets, one on the mouth, one on the
39 inside but on the Tuluksak River I used to see a net on
40 the mouth, only on the mouth, not inside the river.
41 Only I see a gillnet setting, it's only a whitefish net
42 that I used to see. Why are we trying to open
43 Kuskokwim River tributaries for setnetting even though
44 we con -- even though we have a conservation on the
45 chinooks. Everybody knows that when this Kuskokwim
46 area close by, all four units in my region knows and
47 our elders from four units, especially from my
48 community, they never go up there -- fish only when
49 they're needed. I'm opposing this. I'm opposing this
50

1 regulation because we're conservation -- in
2 conservation mode right now, chinooks. If we do that
3 we wipe out the chinooks in one year, a couple years.
4 Those rivers are really important spawning area, so
5 that we could have all kinds of fish.

6
7 Why this Yukon Delta National Wildlife
8 Refuge come over to our region and present this
9 proposal in front of us.

10
11 MS. KENNER: I don't want to -- I don't
12 want you to -- to cut you off, Mr. Peter, but I would
13 like to respond, this is Pippa.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.

16
17 MS. KENNER: Oh, thank you, Madame
18 Chair. Yes, Mr. Peter, through the Chair. So you make
19 some really good points and they are correct, what you
20 are saying is correct. And that is why when we are in
21 a conservation situation, for instance, as we have been
22 with chinook salmon, the Federal in-season manager, the
23 Refuge Manager has been closing these salmon bearing
24 tributaries to the use of driftnets, all driftnets.
25 You can't put a set net in for a whitefish, it's been
26 closed to all nets, all driftnets. So these
27 regulations, many of our regulations don't apply when
28 we're in conservation mode, right, because the Federal
29 manager is actively managing and he is making it so you
30 can't use some of these methods.

31
32 The reason why the Refuge Manager --
33 the Refuge is giving us these regulations is that
34 they're trying to help clarify what the regulations
35 say.

36
37 Now, it's fine if you disagree with
38 that, I'm just saying he is -- they are actually trying
39 to help and they are trying to help people understand
40 -- what's illegal and when they're going to get fined
41 and, you know, when they're going to get fined, and
42 that's basically what the Refuge is trying to do. I
43 know that because I've read their proposal, however, I
44 don't want to speak for them, and maybe the Refuge
45 would like to respond additionally as to why we're
46 received this proposal.

47
48 MR. BLIHOVDE: Yes, Ma'am.

1 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
2 Born.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I didn't
5 catch anyone's name, sorry, who was going to be
6 speaking first.

7
8 MR. BLIHOVDE: This is Boyd at Yukon
9 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and that's correct,
10 that's the intent of the Refuge is to try to simplify
11 regulations or to eliminate regulations where we can,
12 where there's conflict or redundancy or confusion. And
13 we believe these are examples of that. And we're
14 striving wherever we can to make it easier on the
15 public and hopefully the public won't need a Ph.D. in
16 English literature to read regulations and understand
17 them. That's my perception from these proposals from
18 Staff, that I think are good to make regulations more
19 consistent and less confusing.

20
21 So Pippa is correct.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Mr.
24 Peter, is it clear -- a little more clear for you now.

25
26 MR. PETER: Yes. Yes.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anyone
29 else have comments or questions or concerns or
30 clarifications.

31
32 MR. DECOSSAS: Madame Chair, this is
33 Gary.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gary.

36
37 MR. DECOSSAS: Just to clarify once
38 again this would not affect any in-season management
39 actions that have been regularly occurring in the river
40 since 2014.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Let me try
43 and see if I can summarize this really quick. FP21-03
44 is adding language set in front of gillnet in
45 tributaries. This proposal is cleaning up current
46 language between Federal and State language. As of
47 right now in State language it is legal and in Federal
48 language it is illegal. By supporting this proposal we
49 are making it legal on both State and Federal because
50

1 State already has this language in their regulation
2 book. If we oppose this language subsistence users
3 under the Federal management will be illegally fishing,
4 whereas the State regulations would be legal.

5
6 So we're trying to avoid someone -- for
7 an example, if someone went fishing they would be cited
8 a Federal ticket, but would be allowed on the State so
9 what we're trying to do is make sure that no one's
10 going to be fishing illegally and that's the purpose of
11 this proposal.

12
13 Am I correct?

14
15 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 This is Pippa. You are correct. I would like to add
17 that you would be legal fishing with a drift gillnet in
18 a tributary.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Does the
21 rest of my Council understand this proposal. Yes? No?

22
23 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair. James
24 Landlord.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, James, go
27 ahead.

28
29 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, Pippa, how long has
30 the State (indiscernible - cuts out) in the
31 tributaries, has it been forever or just.....

32
33 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
34 question, Mr. Landlord. That is such a good question.
35 So through the Chair, this has been legal, fishing in
36 the tributaries with a driftnet always under State
37 regulations. The State regulations have not always
38 stated that. But that has been the understanding.
39 Just recently last year, the State added that to their
40 regulations that using a drift gillnet in tributaries
41 is legal.

42
43 MR. LANDLORD: Okay, thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
46 comments, questions by the Council.

47
48 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair. Can I see if
49 my notes are in line with everybody else?

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please, go
2 ahead.
3

4 MR. SLATS: Okay. Thank you, Madame
5 Chair. FP21-03 requests the Federal Subsistence Board
6 to allow drift gillnet in addition to set gillnet on
7 the Kuskokwim River tributaries. If adopted the word
8 set would be inserted before gillnet. If adopted would
9 allow Federally-qualified subsistence users to use
10 driftnets in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim River
11 drainage. If not adopted it would make it illegal to
12 drift a gillnet in the Kuskokwim River tributaries.
13

14 Am I in line with everybody?
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: As far as my
17 understanding, yes. Pippa. Gary. Is that your
18 interpretation.
19

20 MS. KENNER: I just have one
21 clarification, or not even a clarification but to say
22 that it would be legal for people to continue using
23 drift gillnets in tributaries.
24

25 MR. SLATS: Then I would say it would
26 be illegal to drift a gillnet in the Kuskokwim River if
27 not adopted.
28

29 MS. KENNER: Correct. This is Pippa,
30 correct.
31

32 MR. SLATS: Okay, thank you.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Anyone
35 else.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
40 hearing none, if you guys are ready we can go ahead
41 and.....
42

43 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair. Madame
44 Chair, Carl Napaskiak, I have a question.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
47 Maxie.
48

49 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, on this Kuskokwim
50

1 River drainage, it goes all the way up to 21 -- Unit 20
2 and 21, does that include their tributaries along with
3 our Unit 18 tributaries so.....
4

5 MS. KENNER: Oh, wow, thank you so much
6 for that question Mr Maxie -- I'm sorry, are you done?
7

8 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am.
9

10 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa, through the
11 Chair. No, okay, so this would apply to the Federal
12 public waters of the Yukon [sic] River drainage, those
13 waters are generally understood to be the river and its
14 tributaries from the mouth up stream to Aniak and
15 approximately 30 miles of the Aniak River.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Maxie, did
18 she answer your question for you?
19

20 MR. MAXIE: Yes, Ma'am. Are they
21 included too with our -- with this proposed regulation,
22 and with having gillnets, I think we won't have any
23 conservation there -- I mean we're at conservation of
24 -- but I prefer for our livelihoods here first. I'm
25 kind of little confused here too on this proposal.
26

27 Thank you, that's all I have.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
30 Maxie. What's -- I just want to make sure that you
31 guys understand what this proposal is about -- Mr.
32 Maxie, what part did you need more clarification or
33 help you to understand this proposal. I don't want you
34 guys voting on something you don't understand.
35

36 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
37 Phillip. I got a question, Madame Chair.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.
40

41 MR. PETER: What about if we table it
42 for now since everybody's confused on this regulation.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Pippa,
45 Eva, is that a possibility to table this and then take
46 it up at another teleconference meeting so we can get a
47 little more justification and time to dive into this if
48 needed.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Thank you, Madame Chair, this is Eva. Right now the
3 Council's opportunity to make a recommendation on this
4 proposal is at this meeting. We could table it until
5 tomorrow if the Council wanted to review more. Recently
6 we've been directed to -- essentially we're not allowed
7 to have followup meetings for the Council at this time
8 and so this would be the opportunity for the Council to
9 take action. The next Council scheduled meeting would
10 fall after the Federal Subsistence Board takes action
11 on the proposal. But if the Council does have the
12 opportunity to adopt a proposal, adopt with
13 modification, Council can decide to take no action on a
14 proposal. But certainly if the Council.....

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

17
18 MS. PATTON:wants to discuss
19 it.....

20
21 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

22
23 MS. PATTON:a little more you
24 could continue tomorrow.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
27 Andrew.

28
29 MR. ANDREW: I call for a question on
30 this motion, FP21-03.

31
32 Qu yana.

33
34 MS. KENNER: So we already have a
35 motion to adopt, it was made by Phillip Peter and
36 seconded by Ray Oney. This is Pippa.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So John the
39 question from Mr. Phillip is if we table this and our
40 option is we can hold off on voting on this and table
41 this specific proposal until tomorrow and that would be
42 our last.....

43
44 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:opportunity
47 to.....

48
49 MR. ANDREW: We had enough discussion
50

1 on it, it took us a long time to get this far, I think
2 we're ready to vote.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
7 Andrew. Anyone else, should we vote or should we hold
8 off, I just want to make sure I hear from everyone
9 before we actually follow through with the action item.

10
11 MR. ANDREW: I asked for a question on
12 the motion. We should go for a vote.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, sorry, I
15 didn't hear your question. Okay. All right, since the
16 question has been called, Mr. Oney, would you enlighten
17 us with a roll call, please.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, this is Eva.
22 Did we lose Ray Oney.

23
24 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.

25
26 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

27
28 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

29
30 Thomas Alstrom.

31
32 MR. ALSTROM: Yes.

33
34 MR. ONEY: James Landlord.

35
36 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Phillip Peter.

39
40 MR. PETER: Yes.

41
42 MR. ONEY: Carl Maxie.

43
44 MR. MAXIE: Yes.

45
46 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, yes.

47
48 Richard Slats.

49
50

1 MR. SLATS: Yes.

2
3 MR. ONEY: Alissa Rogers.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

6
7 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. Five yes,
8 zero no. Motion carries.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
11 Oney. There has been quite a bit of discussion on this
12 so I won't go into justification, there's been -- I
13 think we've had enough discussion justification for our
14 vote. So we'll go ahead and move on to the next
15 proposal.

16
17 Pippa.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 This is Pippa. Actually I'd like to introduce our new
21 fisheries biologist, he's not new to Alaska, but he's
22 new to our Fisheries Division and his name is Cory
23 Graham and he is going to present these fishery
24 closures.

25
26 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, Madame Chair and
27 members of the Council. As Pippa just said my name is
28 Cory Graham and I'm a fisheries biologist with the
29 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. The
30 analysis for Fisheries Closure Review 21-04 begins on
31 Page 91 of your Council materials. And I'll give you a
32 second to find the analysis.

33
34 And before I get started I would like
35 to briefly explain the Federal Subsistence Board's
36 closure policy.

37
38 So this policy provides a process for
39 the review of regulatory closures to the harvest of
40 fish and wildlife. All closures are periodically
41 reevaluated to determine whether the circumstances
42 necessitating the original closures still exists and
43 warrants continuation of the closure. Our policy is
44 that all closures are reviewed every four years by
45 presenting them to affected Regional Councils during
46 the normal regulatory proposal process in the form of
47 proposals to maintain, to modify or to eliminate
48 individual closures.

49
50

1 And with that in mind I'll now present
2 Fisheries Closure Review 21-04, which concerns the Jim
3 River in the Yukon drainage in the Western Interior
4 region. Residents in your region who reside in the
5 Yukon drainage have a customary and traditional use
6 determination to harvest fish from the entire Yukon
7 drainage and this is why we're presenting this analysis
8 to your Council.

9
10 Jim River is a tributary of the upper
11 Yukon River. Jim River, including Prospect and Douglas
12 Creek is closed to subsistence fishing for all species
13 year-round under both Federal and State regulations.
14 However, sportfishing is currently allowed under State
15 regulations.

16
17 At the beginning of the Federal
18 Subsistence Program in 1992 the Federal Subsistence
19 Board adopted this closure from State regulation and it
20 has not been reviewed or modified since.

21
22 Three miles of Jim River exists within
23 the outer boundary of the Kanuti Refuge boundary and
24 are under management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
25 Service. The Dalton Highway crosses and provides
26 access to the Jim River, it's corridor consists of five
27 miles on each side of the highway, which is under BLM
28 jurisdiction. The Jim River is closed to subsistence
29 fishing under State regulations but sportfishing is
30 open. It's likely that some Federally-qualified
31 subsistence users have taken fish under these sport
32 regulations but no reliable data exists.

33
34 Coho, chum and chinook salmon all spawn
35 in the Jim River. And while there's no escapement goal
36 for any salmon species within the drainage, aerial
37 surveys were conducted sporadically from 1960 to 2015
38 to count chinook and chum salmon. Over this time
39 period there was an average count of 120 live chinook
40 salmon, and 13 carcasses, summer chum salmon averaged
41 278 live fish and 116 carcasses and fall chum salmon
42 averaged 103 live fish and 41 carcasses.

43
44 And when focusing on the more recent
45 data that were collected from 2009 to 2012 and in 2015,
46 on average there were 183 chinook salmon and 462 chum
47 salmon counted each year.

48
49 The predominant non-salmon fish found
50

1 in the Jim River drainage include Arctic Grayling,
2 burbot, round whitefish, and slimy scopin. Population
3 estimates for Arctic grayling in Jim River were
4 conducted in 1995 and 1997. In 1995 the population
5 estimate came from a 6.2 mile stretch near the Dalton
6 Highway and indicated there were between 5,100 and
7 5,400 Arctic grayling. A similar study was conducted
8 in 1997 estimating approximately 12,000 Arctic grayling
9 in a 13.2 mile section of the river located near the
10 Dalton Highway.

11
12 Communities in the vicinity of Jim
13 River include Wiseman, Coldfoot, Evansville and
14 Bettles. And people also live along the Dalton Highway
15 Corridor.

16
17 So if this closure is maintained Jim
18 River will continue to be closed to all subsistence
19 fishing for all species for year-round but sportfishing
20 by rod and reel will remain open.

21
22 If this closure is eliminated,
23 subsistence fishing would be allowed in the Jim River,
24 including Prospect and Douglas Creeks under the
25 regional Federal subsistence regulations for the Yukon
26 area.

27
28 Federal subsistence fishing schedules,
29 openings, closings and fishing method would be the same
30 as those issued under State management unless
31 superseded by a Federal special action.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 modify the closure to allow the use of rod and reel
35 only for subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified
36 users.

37
38 The justification for this is that
39 currently this drainage is closed to fishing by
40 Federally-qualified users and remains open to other
41 uses, which does not allow for a subsistence priority.
42 There is likely a small amount of harvest under
43 restricted State sportfishing, predominately near the
44 Dalton Highway.

45
46 This system should be open to limited
47 subsistence harvest under rod and reel. OSM recommends
48 that the full closure to subsistence fishing be removed
49 but that subsistence harvest be restricted to rod and
50

1 reel only in order to protect healthy populations in
2 the system. Under OSM's recommendation, subsistence
3 rod and reel harvest limits would match those of State
4 sport regulations.

5
6 The Council's options are to recommend
7 that the Board maintain the closure as it is, modify
8 the closure whether according to OSM's recommendation
9 or to another modification, or to recommend that the
10 closure be eliminated altogether.

11
12 That concludes my presentation for
13 FCR21-04 and we are prepared to take any questions.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. And
16 welcome to the YK RAC, and to OSM. At this time we'll
17 go ahead and move into a motion so we can go into
18 justification and discussion with the Council. Can I
19 get a motion on the floor.

20
21 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. I move to
22 adopt Proposal FCR21-04.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
25 Oney. Can I get a second.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
28 Pippa. Do you want to go through the public -- public
29 testimony process first.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'll defer to
32 Eva, she has two different ones. She has one for
33 regular proposals and then she has another one for the
34 closure review process.

35
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
39 and Council. And the closure review process is a
40 little different from the full regulatory proposals.
41 So we -- we don't have -- there's no written public
42 comments and direct agency comments that were submitted
43 in advance but we still have an opportunity for public
44 to -- and tribes to comment at the meeting right now,
45 if there are those that would like to comment or make
46 recommendations or any agency Staff attending today
47 that would like to make any comments or
48 recommendations.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: And then we would look to
4 the public that's on line or tribes that are attending
5 on line right now.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
8 We have a motion on the floor, I need a second.

9

10 MR. PETER: Second.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
13 Peter. We'll go ahead and move on to public comment
14 and tribal comments.

15

16 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, James.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

19

20 MR. LANDLORD: Are we going to use the
21 procedure proposal on Page 17 or 18?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We are using the
24 review process for presentation procedure for closure
25 review and right now we're at the Regional Council
26 discussion and justification and Eva has said that we
27 could get public comments and tribal comments at this
28 time.

29

30 MR. LANDLORD: Oh, okay.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, if we
33 don't have any more public comments or tribal comments
34 at this time -- last call.

35

36 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. LANDLORD: We can't defer this to
41 the RAC up river.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We can do
44 whatever you feel like.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. LANDLORD: Because it's way way up
49 the river. I don't even know where it is.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Madame
2 Chair and Council members. So this is a proposal
3 that's considered, you know, a crossover proposal.
4 There are communities within the YK-Delta that do have
5 customary and traditional use for fish in that area.
6 The Western Interior Council will be taking up this
7 proposal, and other Councils with C&T. It's at the
8 Council's discretion if you would like to take action
9 on the proposal or if you would like to take no action
10 and defer to the -- sometimes what's referred to as the
11 home region Council. So those are your options as
12 well.

13
14 Thank you for the question, James.

15
16 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, Ray Oney here.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

19
20 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
21 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney. I wish we could at
22 least know what they're going to do so, you know, if we
23 can I would like to support them. If they're in
24 support of this proposal, I mean just to strengthen
25 that proposal I think I would be in support of it if
26 they are in support of it.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
31 Oney. Eva, that brings up a really good question. Is
32 there a possibility to have that written in the
33 comments some way, some how, because we had our meeting
34 prior to their meeting. Has that ever been done in the
35 past that we were able to do that.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Madame
38 Chair. The Council has done that before to suggest,
39 you know, that the Council looks to the home region
40 Council and concurs with whatever their recommendation
41 may be because they feel their knowledge is greater in
42 that region. So we've had comments like that before
43 where the Council defers but makes it clear that you're
44 supporting the recommendation that they would make
45 since they're meeting after the Council does.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
48 That's a good idea, Ray. If the rest of you guys are
49 on board, what do you guys want to do.

50

1 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, this is
2 James. I just reread on the pages and it -- I think
3 they want to fish for chum salmon, is that correct?
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: OSM, do you guys
6 have an answer for Mr. James.
7

8 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 This is Cory again. Removing this closure would allow
10 fishing for all species of fish, so chum could be
11 included in that if they wanted to fish for chum.
12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)
15

16 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
19 Oney.
20

21 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
22 Chair. For that guy that's presenting this, I just
23 lost my train of thought here, I was going to mention
24 -- oh, gosh it just slipped my mind.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, I think our
27 brain's a little over filled right now.
28

29 MR. ONEY: Yeah, it's getting late in
30 the day. Gosh, I just had it here. Hopefully it'll --
31 let me chase myself back again.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's fine.
34

35 (Pause)
36

37 MR. ONEY: Oh, yeah, on the -- if we do
38 pass this proposal, then that area will need to start
39 gathering data as far as chinook or whatever species of
40 fish enters that river for conservation purposes, to my
41 understanding, that there's nothing of that right now
42 in that river, and if we do allow subsistence fishing
43 in that area, then we will need to start gathering data
44 as far as, you know, the species of fish entering that
45 river. Can you correct me if I'm wrong.
46

47 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. I think
48 you make a really good point and yeah that will be to
49 decided in the future. But there are some data for
50

1 this system. They have done aerial surveys in the past
2 so whether.....

3
4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6
7 MR. GRAHAM:they start doing
8 those again, yeah.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
11 further comments or questions about this proposal.

12
13 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, this is
14 Richard.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
17 Slats.

18
19 MR. SLATS: Yes. For FCR21-03 it was
20 my understanding or with my reading that area is closed
21 for subsistence activities, am I correct?

22
23 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, that is
24 correct. It's closed for subsistence activities.....

25
26 MR. SLATS: Okay.

27
28 MR. GRAHAM:both under Federal
29 and State regulations.

30
31 MR. SLATS: Okay. And then when you
32 were presenting you mentioned that there were options
33 that were opened to us. Can you repeat those?

34
35 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. The
36 only options that would be open are through the State
37 sportfishing regulations.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
42 comments or questions.

43
44 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
45 Pippa, may I add to that?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, Pippa.

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

50

1 Yeah, through the Chair. I'd just like to point out
2 that the OSM suggested modification is to limit the
3 subsistence fishery to rod and reel fishing only. And
4 these rod and reel harvest and possession limits would
5 be the same as in the State sportfishing -- the State
6 sportfishery. The way our regulations are set up is
7 that this Federal rod and reel fishery would have the
8 same harvest and possession limit as the State
9 sportfishery. And also the State does not monitor the
10 number of fish that are being taken through the
11 sportfishery right now, they have a statewide mail-in
12 survey that is not very precise when it comes down to
13 individual drainages. And so one would want to look
14 at, in response to Ray Oney -- I think one would want
15 to think about would the Federal harvest increase the
16 overall take from this area, or are people --
17 Federally-qualified users who want to fish there
18 already fishing under State fishing regulations.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any further
23 comments or questions on this.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
28 hearing none, what does the YK RAC want to do with this
29 closure review?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We can vote on
34 it, we can defer to the up river or home Council that
35 are up in that area or we can take no action.

36

37 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair. I recommend
38 that we defer to the Western Interior RAC.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
41 Oney. If we're going to defer to it, Eva, do we need a
42 vote on it?

43

44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
45 Yes, that would be helpful to make the Council's
46 recommendation clear and that it's the vote of the
47 whole Council to defer to the Western Interior RAC.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva. I
2 greatly appreciate the clarification. Mr. Oney, would
3 you like to do a clarification of deferring to the
4 Western Interior RAC.

5
6 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
7 Chair. This is Ray Oney for the record. Because we're
8 not familiar with this area, however, we do not want to
9 make any mistakes on this proposal so we are deferring
10 this proposal to the Western Interior RAC for their
11 consideration. Would that be good enough.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
16 and Ray Oney. Thank you. Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. If
19 there's no more further discussion we'll go ahead and
20 get a question on the roll call vote.

21
22 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, I call for
23 question.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
26 Peter. Question has been called. Mr. Oney, would you
27 enlighten us with a roll call vote, please.

28
29 MR. ONEY: To defer the proposal FCR21-
30 04.

31
32 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

35
36 MR. LANDLORD: Or Eva. If we vote yes,
37 did Ray motion to -- how are we going to vote is my
38 question.....

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

41
42 MR. LANDLORD:what are we voting
43 on.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
46 and Council. Through the Chair, this is Eva. And a
47 yes vote with Ray's motion on the floor to defer to --
48 this proposal to the Western Interior Council, a yes
49 vote is in support of deferring to the Western Interior
50

1 Council.

2

3

MR. LANDLORD: Okay. Okay, thanks.

4

5

6

MS. PATTON: Thank you for the
clarification.

7

8

MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, Ray Oney.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

11

12

13

MR. ONEY: Yeah, can we just vote aye
or nay rather than roll call on this?

14

15

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, sir, we
definitely can. All those in favor of deferring to the
Western Interior home round -- home unit, sorry,
Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

19

20

IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
opposed, same sign.

24

25

(No opposing votes)

26

27

28

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty, thank
you. Moving on to the next closure review.

29

30

31

32

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair
and members of the Council. I will now present
Fisheries.....

33

34

MR. SLATS: Who seconded Ray Oney.

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: State your name.

37

38

39

MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, can you tell
me who seconded Ray Oney's motion?

40

41

42

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby. I have
Mr. Phillips, is that correct?

43

44

MR. PETER: Yes.

45

46

MR. SLATS: Thank you.

47

48

49

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You're welcome,
Mr. Slats. All right, we'll go ahead and proceed on if

50

1 there aren't no further comments or questions.

2

3 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, when are we
4 going to have a break?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I was hoping we
7 would get through one more, just one more that way we
8 have a little more time to discuss other matters
9 tomorrow, unless you guys want to break now, we can,
10 it's totally up to you guys what you want to do.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
13 this is Eva, if I may just jump in here quick. So
14 there is only one more fisheries proposal left, it's
15 another closure review that Cory would be presenting.
16 So they may be a little bit similar in the nature of
17 the closure reviews, if the Council wanted to take up
18 that one last proposal. At your wish.

19

20 Thank you, very much.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
23 I guess for a really quick clarification, both these
24 proposals, is it a similar general area just under a
25 different name, correct?

26

27 MR. GRAHAM: This is Cory. Thank you,
28 Madame Chair. It's actually -- they're not in the same
29 general area, this one is in the Eastern Interior
30 region. It's about 50 miles north of Fairbanks.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I guess this
33 would be a question for OSM. We have ANS in -- way up
34 in the Eastern Interior?

35

36 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa. I
37 think Cory's got that.

38

39 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair. So this is
40 in the Nome Creek, which flows into Beaver Creek which
41 flows into the Yukon River.

42

43 MS. KENNER: And so the people on our
44 Council who reside in the Yukon drainage have C&T in
45 the Yukon drainage, including the Eastern Interior
46 region.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair. This is
49 Pippa.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
2 I guess I'll leave it to you, Ray, if you want to do
3 the same thing that we did with the other one and
4 stuff, on the Eastern Interior. I'll leave it up to
5 you, Council, what's your cup of tea.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
10 Would the Council be interested in a brief overview of
11 the proposal from Cory?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Cory, if you
14 would like to go ahead and do a brief overview we'd
15 greatly appreciate it.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 So Nome Creek is a tributary of Beaver Creek which
21 flows into the Yukon River. Nome Creek drainage is
22 closed to subsistence fishing for grayling year-round,
23 similar to the last closure review. So this closure
24 was adopted from State regulations at the beginning of
25 the Federal Program in 1992.

26
27 Nome Creek is in the White Mountains
28 Special Recreation Management Area which is
29 administered by the Bureau of Land Management and is
30 about 50 air miles north of Fairbanks.

31
32 Nome Creek is also closed to
33 subsistence fishing under State regulations because
34 it's located in the Fairbanks non-subsistence area.
35 Sportfishing is allowed, however, all grayling must be
36 released. Sportfishing is limited to unbaited
37 artificial lures, flies with no hooks from April 1st to
38 May 31st. A mark/recapture study in 2000 estimated
39 abundance at 419 grayling in the upper section of Nome
40 Creek. Abundance in the lower section was estimated to
41 be between 878 and 4,522 grayling.

42
43 One option would be to eliminate the
44 subsistence fishing closure for grayling. If the
45 closure is eliminated subsistence fishing for grayling
46 would be permitted by Federally-qualified subsistence
47 users and those users would have a subsistence priority
48 over sportfishers in the area who would be continued to
49 be limited to catch and release only. Another option

50

1 is to close grayling fishing to all users. There still
2 wouldn't be a subsistence opportunity for grayling but
3 sport catch and release would also be closed.
4

5 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
6 maintain the closure.
7

8 If this closure is maintained Nome
9 Creek will continue to be closed to subsistence fishing
10 for grayling year-round, the only fishing for grayling
11 will continue to be catch and release under State sport
12 regulations. The justification for maintaining the
13 closure is that grayling are susceptible to over-
14 exploitation. Further, Nome Creek is road accessible
15 allowing for easy access and harvest of fish,
16 therefore, allowing a subsistence harvest on these
17 stocks has the potential for local depletion or
18 overharvest of stock.
19

20 And that concludes my presentation for
21 FCR21-07.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Does
24 the Council want to have a motion on the floor.
25

26 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, I make a
27 motion for FCR21-07. This is James Landlord.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
30 Landlord. Can I get a second.
31

32 MR. ONEY: Second, Ray Oney.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Second by Mr.
35 Oney. Any -- now we can go into discussion and
36 justification of what you guys want to do with this
37 proposal.
38

39 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, for the
40 record, Ray Oney. I think I would go ahead and defer
41 this proposal to Western -- Eastern Interior.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
44 Oney. Any further comments, questions or discussions,
45 if not we can get a question.
46

47 MR. PETER: Question.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
50

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1 Question has been called. All those in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those opposed
6 say nay.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hearing none,
11 motion to defer to Eastern Interior RAC.

12

13 Thank you all so much for today and
14 being patient with our technical difficulties on the
15 teleconference. I greatly appreciate all of your
16 discussion today. It means a lot to all of us, and for
17 Staff to put together this meeting and for those
18 agencies to be available and the tribes who
19 participated in our meeting today. I greatly appreciate
20 all of you for being here.

21

22 At this time I would like to call for
23 an evening break and reconvene tomorrow morning at 9:00
24 o'clock.

25

26 Is there any further public comments or
27 testimony that we need to go over at this time.

28

29 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
32 Oney.

33

34 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mr.
37 Oney.

38

39 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
40 Chair. I was just wondering if there might be any
41 entity that may want to comment before we close.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
44 Oney.

45

46 The floor is open.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 MR. ONEY: Hearing no comment, Madame
2 Chair, I ask that we recess until tomorrow morning.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
5 Oney. All those in favor say aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those opposed
10 say nay or (In Yup'ik)

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty. We'll
15 see you guys in the morning, thanks so much.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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