

0258

1

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

2

PUBLIC MEETING

3

VOLUME III

4

5

TELECONFERENCE
October 8, 2021
9:08 a.m.

6

7

8

MEMBERS PRESENT:

9

Raymond Oney, Chair
Thomas Alstrom

10

John Andrew

Jackie Cleveland

11

Norma Evan

James Landlord

12

Myron Naneng

Henry Parks

13

Phillip Peter

Alissa Rogers

14

Richard Slats

15

16

17

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

18

19

20

Recorded and transcribed by:

21

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC

22

135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2

Anchorage, AK 99501

23

907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

24

25

0259

1

P R O C E E D I N G S

2

(Teleconference - 10/8/2021)

3

(On record)

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning everyone.

5

I'll call the meeting to order. The time now is 9:08

6

a.m. Today is Friday, October 8th. And for a recap

7

and everything I will turn it over to Eva to set the

8

agenda for this morning. I know yesterday we mentioned

9

we were on wildlife proposals. So at this time I'll go

10

ahead and turn it over to Eva to see if there's any

11

housecleaning that we need to follow through before we

12

get started.

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
10 Council. And maybe if we can, I'll go through the
11 roster so that we reestablish quorum for the record
12 this morning.

13 Henry Parks, Nunapitchuk.

14 MR. PARKS: Here.

15 MS. PATTON: Norma Evan, Marshall.

16 MS. EVAN: Here.

17 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, Kwethluk.

18 MR. ANDREW: Here.

19 MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.

20 MR. ALSTROM: Present.

21 MS. PATTON: Jacqueline Cleveland,

22 Quinhagak.

23 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.

24 MS. PATTON: James Landlord, Mountain

25 Village.

26 MR. LANDLORD: Here.

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1 Alissa Nadine Rogers, Bethel.

2 (No comments)

3 MS. PATTON: Still waiting on Alissa.

4 Phillip Peter, Sr., Akiachak.

5 MR. PETER: Here.

6 MS. PATTON: And Wasillie Alexie,

7 Russian Mission, excused absence.

8 Raymond Oney, Alakanuk.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Here.

10 MS. PATTON: And Myron Naneng, Sr.,

11 Bethel.

12 MR. NANENG: Here.

13 MS. PATTON: Robert Aloysius, Kalskag,

14 also absent.

15 Richard Slats, Chevak.

14

MR. SLATS: Richard Slats is here.

15

MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thank you, Council. We have 10 of 13 Council members presents so we do have quorum. And hopefully Alissa will be able to join us shortly here.

16

17 Mr. Chair, as noted, on the agenda, yesterday we were working through the wildlife proposals and recessed for the evening and were going to come back to the Wildlife Proposal 22-34/44 and the Council had voted on 43, and we were going to move on to 44. And then take a look and see if the Council did want to reconsider 43. And my apologies to the Council, it can be confusing when two separate proposals are lumped together in the analysis so we will start with 44 and then be able to revisit 43 if the Council wishes to take a look at that again.

18

19 Before we start with the proposal, we do have the opportunity in the morning for public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. If we have any

20

21 public participating this morning that would like to address the Council.

22

(No comments)

23

MS. PATTON: And hearing none, I do need to make a couple announcements. Reminder to everyone to please mute your phones. You can hit the mute button or star six and also a reminder to not put the teleconference on hold. So if you're on teleconference and get another incoming call, please disconnect from the teleconference and call back in. Otherwise we get the bad Muzak in the background and beeping noise that's disruptive. So if you're on teleconference and get an incoming call, please just disconnect from the teleconference and call back in. And also wanted to check, do we have Pat Samson on teleconference with us this morning.

24

MR. SAMSON: Good morning. And good morning to the great fisherman, Myron.

25

(Laughter)

26

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Pat, thank you. And for both the Council and the public, Pat Samson is on to provide translation, Yup'ik to English, English to Yup'ik translation. So please do speak up at any time if you would like to speak in Yup'ik, have it translated or if you'd like any translation on the wildlife proposal analysis or anything that is being

27

17 shared with the Council. So Pat is on and listening in
and available to translate.

18 Thank you.

19 And just going to send a text to Alissa
here and see if she is going to join us here.

20

(Pause)

21

MS. PATTON: Okay. Well, thank you,
22 Council members. I hope everyone got a good night's
rest and thank you for all your good work. So at this
23 time, Mr. Chair, if you would like, we will start up
again with the wildlife proposals and we have Tom Plank
24 online. He can provide a brief overview of Proposal 44
and also Proposal 43 if the Council does wish to
25 revisit that. And, again, that's to request to

0262

1 delegate authority to the Refuge manager to adjust the
harvest, extend the fall season and establish a winter
2 hunt in that Kuskokwim hunt area, Zone 2, for the
Proposal 44.

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Is
4 the Council ready for proposals.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe we are.

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. I will
5 turn it over to Tom Plank to provide the analysis
6 summary. Thank you.

7

MR. PLANK: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
8 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom
Plank and I am a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
9 Subsistence Management. And I gave the full proposal
yesterday so today I kind of am just going to give a
10 brief overview of WP22-44 and this starts on Page 87 of
your book. And I'd like to draw your attention to Page
11 94, which has the map of the Unit 18 Kuskokwim moose
hunt area.

12

13 So Wildlife Proposal WP22-44 is
requesting that the fall moose harvest in the Kuskokwim
14 hunt area of Unit 18 be extended from September 1st to
30th, to September 1st to October 15th, and that a may
15 be announced season be established from December 1st to
January 31st with a harvest limit of one antlered bull
16 by Federal registration permit. Zone 2 consists of
tributaries to the Kuskokwim River and requires
17 specialized boats to access as well as longer travel
times and more fuel.

18

In 2017 the average harvest in Zone 2
19 has only been 78 moose, which is well below the quota
of 110 moose. Harvest from 2019 and 2020 when the

20 season was extended seven days had a harvest increase
21 of 20 percent with 90 moose harvested in 2020. The
22 unmet quota in Zone 2 is likely a function of
23 difficulties in access rather than lack of need for
24 moose meat. If WP22-44 is adopted the moose season in
25 Kuskokwim hunt area in Unit 18 would be extended 15
0263 days closing October 15th instead of September 30th and
a winter season would be announced if the fall harvest
quota was not met. This would increase hunting
opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users
and could increase total moose harvest in the area. If

1 the water levels are too low in the fall season to
2 access Zone 2 and the fall quota is not met then a
3 winter season could be announced providing easier
4 access via snowmachine, which would also address the
5 concerns expressed in WP22-43 if the water levels were
6 too low during the fall season to access Zone 2 without
the conservation concerns of increasing harvest in Zone
1. Alternatively, if the harvest quota is met in the
fall then the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
manager would not announce a winter season.

7 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
8 support Proposal WP22-44 with modification to clarify
9 the regulation language and to delegate authority to
10 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager to
11 announce the winter season via delegation of authority
12 letter only.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
14 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you, Tom. Do
16 we have any questions at this time for Tom.

17 (No comments)

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Does the Council have
19 any questions at this time for Tom Plank in regards to
20 Wildlife Proposal 22-44.

21 (No comments)

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Tom, go
23 ahead and continue.

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Tom.

MR. PLANK: That's okay, Eva, I was
just turning it over to you.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. And so we went through the full proposal

25 procedure process yesterday for the Council to receive
all the public and agency comments on this proposal.

0264

1 If the Council would like we can check back in with our
State and Federal managers if you wanted to hear from
2 them on this, or we can move into a motion and a vote
on this proposal.

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: What is the wish of the
4 Council.

5 (No comments)

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Like Eva said we
already went through the process yesterday. I don't
7 know if Myron had any questions, I know he kind of left
early before we were done.

8

9 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
Myron. I move to support 44 -- or 22-44, proposal.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Myron.

11 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

13 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
Phillip.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Peter, go ahead.

15

MR. PETER: I second the motion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. If there's no
other questions there a motion on the floor by Mr.
Peter from Akiachak to adopt Wildlife Proposal 22-44.
18 Do I hear a second.

19 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
Chairman, this is Phillip.

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, go ahead.

21

22 MR. PETER: Myron make a motion and I
second it.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, sorry about that.
I'm sorry. I'm sorry, again. Myron motion and second
24 by Peter. We could go ahead and do a vote, all those
in support of WP22-44 signify by saying yes.

25

0265

1 IN UNISON: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose, say
no.

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
6 carries. The motion's been adopted, thank you.

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
8 Council. And if we can get a few words from Council
9 members on justification for supporting the proposal,
10 so sharing your own reasoning for supporting the
11 proposal. That justification greatly helps the Federal
12 Subsistence Board understand the reasoning for
13 supporting the proposal. So if we could have a couple
14 Council members speak to the justification.

15 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
16 Myron. I voted in favor of it because it's also
17 supported by the tribes. And number 2, a lot of people
18 that went moose hunting this fall came back empty and
19 had to go back and see if they could hunt as much as
20 they can until they are successful but many of them
21 were not successful in their efforts this fall,
22 especially here in the Kuskokwim area.

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.
24 Anyone care to comment.

25 (No comments)

26 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, would that be good
27 enough.

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. And I'm
29 wondering, I know John had spoken at length to this
30 proposal and the challenges of getting up into the Zone
31 2 area, John, would you like to provide any further
32 justification for the proposal to help the Board
33 understand the recommendation.

34 Thank you.

35 (No comments)

36 MS. PATTON: Hi, John, did we lose you.

37 MR. ANDREW: No, I'm on, thank you.
38 First of all I'd like to apologize for yesterday, I had
39 a misunderstanding because I didn't read it. I did my
40 homework last night and I can go with the Proposal 44
41 now. On Zone 1 most of the hunters when they're not
42 successful they always try to go up to Zone 2 try to
43 see if they can harvest a bull if they can get up that
44 far but this year majority of the hunters came back
45 empty like Myron said. Only a few. Because the
46 weather was too warm for the bulls to move around. And
47 the other -- and people, they're still waiting for the

7 water to rise up there so they can give it a try
properly. Hopefully, hopefully this week.

8 Because yesterday I couldn't
9 concentrate on the proposals because there was a
10 funeral going on at the village and I was against my
cultural values, I -- for not supporting the family at
11 the time. But I did go over to the graveyard to pay my
respects at the end of our meeting.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. PATTON: Quyana, thank you, John.

14 MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is
Jacqueline, or Jackie.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jackie, go ahead.

16 MS. CLEVELAND: So I also agree with
17 the other people who have spoke to support this so far
and the fact that the tribes have supported it as well
as OSM. And then also on maybe a more intimate level,
18 I know Eek and Quinhagak, we're neighbors as you all
know, and I know that this season they were very much
19 hoping for, and looking forward to an extension if it
were to happen. The weather was a factor, you know,
20 the first half of the month was such bad weather that
people were hoping to have a little bit more time
21 towards the end because of the weather this year. And
no saying what the weather will do in the future but
22 it's more and more unpredictable and also lower levels
of water some years and then, you know, towards the
23 end, or October the water comes back up in a lot of
these tributaries.

24 And that should be it, Quyana.

25
0267 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Quyana, thank you
1 for providing comments. Eva.

2 MS. PATTON: Quyana, Jackie.
3 Wonderful, thank you Council. That greatly helps, your
4 knowledge and experience and observations and
5 understanding of your communities and access to
6 subsistence is all very very helpful to the Federal
Subsistence Board to better understand these proposals
and the Council's recommendation. So thank you.

7 And I wanted to check back in then, it
8 sounded like, John, you had mentioned, you know, a
little bit of confusion with Proposal 22-43, so want to
check back in with the Council if you would like to

9 reconsider your vote on WP22-43. The Council can make
10 a motion to reconsider a proposal and that brings it
11 back to the floor and then we can walk through that
12 proposal again if the Council wants to reconsider the
13 vote on that.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, right now I
16 cannot remember what we did with Proposal 43.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, John.
18 Eva can recap how we took care of it yesterday. Eva.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 So yesterday you received the analysis for both
22 proposals combined and then began a vote on each
23 proposal one at a time and we started with 43. And the
24 Council did vote unanimously to support -- actually
25 everyone voted to support 43, except Alissa who
26 opposed, but then in the justification from the Council
27 it sounded like perhaps there was confusion between the
28 two proposals. Proposal 43 was requesting an increase
29 in the harvest quota in Unit 1 and the proposal 44 that
30 you just voted on was extending the season and a winter
31 to be announced season in Unit 2.

32 If the Council would like to bring it
33 to the floor to reconsider it that would just take a
34 vote of the Council and then we can Tom Plank walk
35 through the analysis again if the Council wants to
36 reconsider that.

37 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
38 Myron. I think I made the motion to support 44 [sic]
39 but I'd like to rescind my motion to reconsider

0268

1 Proposal 22-43.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Myron.
3 So in order to bring it back I think we need to call
4 for a motion to bring back WP22-43.

5 MR. NANENG: So I make that motion.

6 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a motion
8 on the floor by Myron to reconsider Wildlife Proposal
9 22-43. Do I hear a second.

10 MR. ANDREW: Second by John Andrew.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by John Andrew.
12 All in favor signify by saying yes.

13

14 IN UNISON: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, say no.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
15 carries. So we will reconsider WP22-43. At this time
16 I'll go ahead and turn it over to Tom to take us
17 through the steps. Thank you.

18 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Tom
20 Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
21 Subsistence Management. And I'm going to give a brief
22 overview of the proposal that was presented yesterday
23 for WP22-43. Wildlife Proposal WP22-43. This one
24 starts on Page 87 of your book and as before I would
25 like to direct your attention to Page 94 of the map of
0269 the area.

1 Wildlife Proposal WP22-43 is requesting
2 delegating authority to the Federal in-season manager
3 to increase the moose harvest quota in Zone 1 of the
4 Kuskokwim hunt area in Unit 18 if the water levels are
5 too low to access Zone 2. Prior to the adopting a
6 fixed season quotas in Zone 1 were quickly met and
7 seasons closed early by State emergency order. Under
8 the fixed seasons Zone 1 was open for 11 days in 2020
9 and will be open nine days in 2021. If WP22-43 is
10 adopted the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
11 manager would be delegated authority to expand the
12 moose harvest quota in Zone 1 if the water levels are
13 too low during the fall to access Zone 2.

3 As ADF&G stated yesterday Zone 1 and
4 Zone 2 are essentially separate populations. Harvest
5 quotas in Zone 1 are quickly met and low bull/cow
6 ratios in Zone 1 indicate no surplus bulls are
7 available for harvest. If the Federal manager did
8 increase the harvest quota in Zone 1 it would only
9 apply to Federal public lands. And if you look at the
10 map on 94 you'll see that Federal public lands are very
11 limited in Zone 1 and river access for Zone 1 are
12 primarily State lands. There are conservation concerns
13 for Proposal WP22-43.

9 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 oppose Proposal WP22-43.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
12 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tom. Do we
14 have any questions at this time for Tom.

15 MR. PETER: Mr. Chairman, this is
Phillip.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Peter, go ahead.

16

MR. PETER: My question will be on the
17 quota. This year how many quotas or how many quota did
the Department of Fish and Game and Federal -- and
18 Federal. For example, we've been hunting for some
quota and they never increase the quota yet on Zone 1.
19 I never heard any quota. Only what I hear is 150 -- if
we catch 150 in less than a week it'll be automatically
20 closed, Zone 1. I need to know the accurate quota
system by Federal and State, how they set it on Zone 1.

21

MR. PLANK: Thank you, sir. Through
22 the Chair.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tom.....

24 MR. PLANK: Oh, sorry.

25 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Tom.

0270

1 MR. PLANK: I was going to say that on
Page 101 is the data that I was able to obtain for the
2 quotas for the State and the Federal areas. But if one
of the -- if ADF&G or the local wildlifes are online
3 that could talk more about the process of coming up
with those quotas, I'd appreciate their input.

4

MR. JONES: Through the Chair. Patrick
5 Jones with Fish and Game's online.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Good morning, Pat, go
ahead.

7

MR. JONES: Morning everybody. So I
8 think this is the 11th year we've had a hunt in Zone 1
and it's kind of changed as time's gone on. Originally
9 we started off with a quota system and then a really
short reporting period. So if you caught a moose you
10 had 36 hours to report to us and when we thought we
were getting close to the quota we would close the
11 season by emergency order. And we did that for a few
years. But we got a lot of push back from the public,
12 it was very -- it made a lot of hunters nervous because
nobody was ever sure exactly what day it was going to
13 close. And then people couldn't really go very far
from town because they had to be able to check in every
14 day or every other day to see if it was still open. On
the same token it also made us very nervous here at the
15 office. The first couple of years we basically lived
here trying to get all the phone calls to monitor this
16 thing so it was very nerve wracking for the hunters and
pretty stressful for the managers. But we also learned
17 a lot of things about how many people are going to
hunt, how many moose on an average day people are going
18 to kill. And as time went on we got more comfortable

19 with it and we were able to start extending that
20 reporting period out. So it was 36 hours, then 48,
21 then three days, this year hunters had five days to
22 report. But the other thing is the number of hunters
23 every year, pretty consistent. You know on an average
24 year 1,400 people report hunting. And their success
25 rate is pretty consistent over that time period. And
0271 so we are able to -- we've been pretty good at figuring
out how many animals are available for harvest in any
given year. And right now the goal is to manage the
bull to cow ratio, that's what we're really watching
closely now. So last year hunters were really
successful and they brought that bull to cow ratio down
to 25 and that's as low as we wanted it to go. So last

1 year we had an 11 day fixed season. We got rid of the
quota so people don't have to worry about it closing
2 early, just 11 days, it'll be open the whole time and
we were expecting people to catch around 180 bulls but
3 they got 230 bulls and that's fine because this year we
just reduced that from 11 days to nine days and, again
4 we were expecting people to get about 160 to 180 bulls
and that would keep us between 25 bulls per cow and 30
5 bulls per cow.

6 And we were doing that -- what we're
doing is we're doing a fixed season without a quota so
7 people don't have to worry about it closing early. We
don't want anybody stressing out about that. We're
8 giving people more time to report so they can go
hunting without worrying about checking in. But
9 there's just so many hunters and the lower -- Zone 1 is
so accessible that even if it's warm or even if it's
10 rainy people still kill 30 to 50 moose every fricking
day, it doesn't seem to matter. Even on the typhoon
11 days people are still catching moose somehow. It's
pretty amazing, there's just so many hunters checking
12 all the meadows that people are successful. This is
pretty predictable in Zone 1. And so if we kill more
13 moose than we plan one year we'll have a slightly
shorter season the next year and our goal really is to
14 have the harvest average out over a three year period
to meet our goals. Because it's frankly quite
15 impossible to hit an exact mark in any one year.
There's just too many variables between hunters,
16 reporting times and weather and the number of bulls
it's just not going to happen so over a three year
17 period we feel we can do a pretty good job of managing
harvest in Zone 1 and maintaining our bull to cow
18 ratios and our harvest quotas. But we're talking about
one or two days longer or shorter between years.

19

20 Zone 2 is quite a bit different and
21 it's just because fewer hunters get there and it's
22 harder to access. But we're essentially doing the same
23 thing, we're watching that bull to cow ratio. And in
24 Zone 2 that bull to cow ratio started off super high,
25 one to one, and over the years, over the last 10 years
0272 that we've hunted Zone 2 we've slowly increased the
time every year that we allow hunters to be in Zone 2
and every year hunters get a little -- few more moose
out of it. You know last year we added a week and
people killed 15 additional moose. We added another
week this year and it's too early to know what that's

1 going to mean. But every time we add time in Zone 2
2 hunters get a few more moose out of there and over the
3 last few years that bull to cow ratio started to come
4 down. It's still high by any standard but it's on the
5 trajectory that it's going to drop down into management
6 goals, you know, within the next two or three years,
7 and there might be a point in time where we actually
8 end up shortening the season in Zone 2, but that's
9 forecasting into the future a little bit.

10 Does that help, Phillip.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. Thank
12 you, Pat.

13

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

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

17 MR. NANENG: I know that we, as people,
18 have a tendency of looking at maps and drawing
19 boundaries, however the moose are not human and they
20 don't know boundaries. So my question is is there any
21 migration of bulls to Zone 1 and Zone 2 from the Yukon
area because we're seeing moose in areas that we've
never seen before. Like some people even take
photographs of moose down in Nelson Island right along
the beach and the cliffs of Nelson Island, Toksook Bay
area. Are those moose taken into account when they do
a bull to cow ratio or just a certain time of the year
where they do the surveys, and they count and they use
that number as the projection of what their management
plans are.

22

23 MR. JONES: Through the Chair to
24 Council Member Myron. So not to confuse things too
25 much but Zone 2 is in the mountains of the Kilbuk and
so Nelson Island and the tundra between the Yukon and
the Kuskokwim and that Unit 18 remainder hunt, so a
different hunt altogether. But the way we do bull to
cow ratios, or how we figure that out is if it snows in

22 November, so after the hunting season but before the
23 bulls start losing antlers we go fly in the same areas
24 that we do our moose counts. So for the Yukon River
25 mostly we're staying probably within 10 miles of the
Yukon, one of its mouths. We don't spend a lot of time
in that tundra area between the two rivers or Nelson
Island and it's not because there's not moose there,

0273

1 there absolutely are moose there, especially in the
2 summer and the falltime but there's not a lot of moose
3 there compared to everywhere else so the densities
4 along the river are between four and six on the Yukon
5 and the density out on the tundra or Nelson Island,
6 it's .00 something. There's moose there but there's
7 just not a lot, it's not worth our time. But during
8 the winter, we have some collared animals out there and
9 what we see in the summer they spread out a quite a bit
10 but as soon as the snow hits the ground a lot of those
11 animals head back for one river or the other river.
12 And the deeper the snow is the more they get pushed
13 back down to the rivers. Especially this last year
14 with the deep snow, it pushed almost all the moose, you
15 know, back to one of the Yukon drainages on the north
16 side of the unit and back to the Kuskokwim or one of
17 our tributaries on the other side. But snow level
18 definitely drives where those moose end up in the
19 winter. But generally in November we're counting on
20 the snow, we need snow to do it but generally it's not
21 very deep so they're still spread out. But the other
22 thing we've noticed over the years is that after the
23 rut is done the bulls gather in some areas and the cows
and calves are in other areas and it's taken us a
little bit of time to figure that out and how to do a
survey that's meaningful. But just to put it in
perspective, for Zone 2 last year the minimum count was
just under 800 moose and when we did (indiscernible -
cuts out) so we count almost every moose in November.
I mean that's a pretty good sample size and then we
take those ratios and we apply them to the other moose
we didn't see. So I guess we make up for it with
sample size and some fancy math.

18 If that helps, Myron.

19 MR. NANENG: Yeah, the reason why I ask
20 that question is that we never had moose out on the
21 coast before and now we have a big population of moose
22 on the Lower Yukon and some areas around Kusilvak as
23 well as the -- we seen a herd of moose crossing the
Scammon Bay River, not once but a few times heading
south and also moose around Hooper Bay trying to cross
the bay to the other side. And that's why I asked that
question because I'm wondering if those moose that are

24 migrating south are being counted as part of Unit 1. I
25 know that -- I don't have much information on Unit 2
0274 but I know that Unit 1 is being impacted by that
26 migration of moose that are moving away from the Black

1 River or Yukon area because they're looking for browse.

2 MR. JONES: Yeah, I guess we don't put
3 collars on bull moose, traditionally, we normally put
4 collars just on cow moose. One of the reasons is bull
5 necks grow too much in the fall and then they shrink
6 again in the winter. And then cows are just more
7 important to managers because they're the one having
8 the calves. So we don't have a lot of bull information
9 about movements. I can say about cow movements, is
10 we've been doing a study on the Yukon the last few
11 years where we've been collaring one year old cow
12 calves and we've had two of those cow calves during the
13 summer walk basically from Russian Mission down to the
14 Gweek River and then this time of year October,
15 November, as soon as the first frost happens they
16 essentially run back to the Yukon in a pretty short
17 amount of time. They'll spend the whole summer kind of
18 slowly working their way down here and as soon as it
19 looks like winter is going to happen they go right back
20 to the island they were born on.

21 So I think there probably are a few
22 additional bulls that hunters get in the falltime that
23 are migrating. Obviously bulls move around a lot,
24 they're really visible in the fall. I mean they're
25 walking through downtown Bethel most Septembers at some
26 point. But I don't think it's a significant number
27 that are actually coming over and joining our
28 population. We just don't see it when we're doing all
29 our surveys. The growth rates make sense with the
30 cow/calf ratios we're seeing and the survivals and the
31 bull to cow ratios make a lot of sense based on the
32 harvest we have in our hunts. So it's probably
33 happening at some extent but it's not significant
34 enough to make a difference.

35 MR. NANENG: Okay, thank you.

36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do we
37 have any more questions at this time to Wildlife
38 Proposal WP22-43.

39 (No comments)

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva, what
41 is the next process. I know we went through all of the
42 reports on Board consultation, agency comments, what

25 steps do we need to take to follow through.

0275

1 Thank you.

2 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
3 Council. So the Council did hear all the public and
4 tribal consultation feedback yesterday and so we've
5 completed that process already. And unless there's any
6 further questions from the Council, if you wanted to
7 hear comments from the Federal or State managers again
8 on this. I know Patrick addressed quite a bit about the
9 Zone 1 area there.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So what is the wish of
8 the Council, do you want to go through the same
9 process.

8

9 MR. NANENG: I think what the process
10 -- Mr. Chairman, this is Myron. I think with the
11 process being that we have to make a motion in the
12 positive and get a second and vote the way that it may
13 be recommended, if we understand what really is going
14 on. So with that, since the process is to move on
15 Proposal 22-43, and if there's no second it dies like
16 that and that way the proposal may not be supported by
17 the Council.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
15 I may, to provide some clarification here.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

17 MS. PATTON: So the Council did make a
18 motion to reconsider the Council's action on Wildlife
19 Proposal 22-43. Yesterday the Council had voted to
20 support it, but then we heard discussion from the
21 Council realizing there was confusion because WP43 was
22 addressing Zone 1 and there are conservation concerns
23 in Zone 1 and the quota is already maximized in that
24 area and much of that area is also -- the accessible
25 area for hunting are State lands so the Council wanted
26 to reconsider that vote. So you can bring it up and
27 then vote on it again and if the intent was to actually
28 oppose that proposal, the motion would be in the
29 positive but then the -- if you don't want to support
30 that proposal then you would vote no. But the vote is
31 up to the Council, but that's the process to reconsider
32 it, is you've already made that motion to bring it back
33 to the floor and to take a vote on it.

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So we're.....

0276

1 MR. NANENG: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY:voting it on that
3 again.

3

MR. NANENG: So in that case, Mr. Chairman, this is Myron, I move to accept 22-43 and put it on the table for a vote.

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion on the floor by Myron to reconsider Proposal WP22-43 to put it on the floor for a vote. Do I hear a second.

7

MS. CLEVELAND: Second. Second, this is Jackie.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, second by Jackie from Quinhagak. All those in favor signify by saying yes.

10

11

IN UNISON: Aye.

12

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, I request.....

13

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

15

MR. LANDLORD: If you vote yes you're in favor of approving 22-43 just like the first time we voted. If you vote no, then you'll oppose the 22-43.

16

17

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. Thank you for that clarification.

18

MR. LANDLORD: If you vote yes it'll be like the first vote that we did yesterday.

19

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, that's how I understand it. That's the reason why Eva said we have to put it in a positive to put it on the floor so that's the reason I mentioned that.

21

22

23

MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. And to clarify, so the Council already voted to reconsider it.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Uh-huh.

25

MS. PATTON: So now the motion was on

0277

1 the floor to actually take a vote on it and as James notes, the motion is in the positive so a yes vote would be the same as the Council vote yesterday. So a yes vote would support increasing the moose harvest quota in Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim River hunt area in Unit 18. A no vote would then reject that proposal.

4

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, is everyone clear on that now.

6

(No comments)

7

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, I'm going to do this again. I know it's been first and seconded, I will go ahead and put this out for a vote again. All those in favor of supporting WP22-43 signify by saying yes.

9

10 (No yes votes)
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those in favor or
opposing WP22-43 signify by saying no.
12
13 IN UNISON: No.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. WP22-43
16 fails.
17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. And if we could just a couple words on the
18 Council's vote to oppose WP22-43.
19 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
Myron again.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.
22
23 MR. NANENG: Yeah, the reason why I
voted no on Proposal No. 43 is because 44 gives an
24 opportunity for the hunters to have an opportunity
25 because there's conversation concerns within Zone 1 and
also the fact that, you know, with the low bull to cow
26 ratio, I think this will give an opportunity rebuild
that bull to cow ratio.
27
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. And
thank you, Council members.
29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Does anyone want to
0278
1 care to give any more comments on why they voted no to
WP22-43.
2
3 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)
4 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is
Thomas.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.
7
8 MR. ALSTROM: Yes. Like I just wanted
to further comment, it would probably be best to
9 increase -- try to increase the population with Zone 1.
Zone 1 seems to be -- the majority of the land seems to
10 be all State lands. And furthermore, like Tom said in
his presentation there, even though it's raining and
11 stormy people seem to get at least 10 to 20 moose per
day. So that would be it, thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas. Great,
thank you, Council. Excellent discussion with everyone
14 this morning. Thank you. And.....
CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe -- oh, go

ahead, Eva.

15

MS. PATTON: No, go ahead, Ray.

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. I was going to mention that I apologize for any confusion that I might have made yesterday in regards to these proposals. So I apologize.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0279

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0279

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva. I believe we're ready to move on then.

MS. PATTON: Yes, and we have one more proposal to take up under the wildlife proposals, WP22-47, which is what we call a crossover proposal. So this is Unit 22 caribou. But because communities within the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council region have customary and traditional use determination for harvest of caribou in Unit 22, that's why it comes before this Council, so you have an opportunity to consider it since there's communities that do hunt in that area.

And I'll turn it over to Tom Plank again for the analysis and overview.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Eva. Hello Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is Tom Plank, I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management. And I will be presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-47 submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group requesting that calf harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22. And this is starting on Page 121 of your meeting books.

The proponent states that the intent of this proposal is to allow for harvest of orphaned calves and that this regulation change would align Federal and State regulations. In 2016 the Board of Game established a current registration permit hunt,

17 RC800 for caribou in Unit 22 with a harvest limit of 20
18 caribou per year. And then in 2018 the Federal
19 Subsistence Board adopted regulations to require a
20 State registration permit for Federal users in Unit 22.
21 In January of 2020 the Board of Game adopted a proposal
22 to allow calf harvest in Units 22, 23 and 26A. Also in
23 2020 the Federal Subsistence Board established a year-
24 round bull season and allow calf harvest in Unit 23.
25 Calf harvest with a permit to take an orphaned or
injured calf. Caribou calves of the Western Arctic
herd are typically born in May or June and wean by
October or November. Calves will usually stay with
their mother for the first year of their life. If a
calf is orphaned after they're weaned they have a much
greater chance of survival than if they are orphaned
before they are weaned.

25
0280

1 The current management level determined
2 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group places
3 the herd in the conservation declining category. Some
4 harvest recommendations of this level includes
5 encouraging voluntary reduction of calf harvest and not
6 allowing cow harvest by non-residents. Factors leading
7 to the decline in the population are not known for sure
8 but it is believed cow mortality and decreased calf
9 recruitment are factors.

6 Residents of Unit 22 on average account
7 for 17 percent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
8 harvest. From 2016 to 2019 reported RC800 harvests
9 averaged 377 caribou per year of which 74 percent were
10 bulls and 26 percent were cows. It is unknown how many
11 calves have been harvested as this is not a reportable
12 category. The majority of Unit 22 harvest occurs in
13 the winter and the caribou inhabit the Seward
14 Peninsula. If calf harvest is allowed it will present
15 a minimum conservation concern as most hunters do not
16 specifically target calves, however it would allow for
17 a harvest of orphaned calves who may otherwise die in
18 winter. One consideration for this justification is it
is difficult to tell if a calf is orphaned or not as
caribou herds tend to be quite spread out. Orphaned
calves that stay with a herd are much more likely to
live than a single calf on its own.

15 Adoption of this proposal may also
16 reduce wanton waste. It has been mentioned in other
17 RAC meetings and rural residents have seen calves that
18 have been shot and left to lay in the field. It is
believed these were shot mistakingly by hunters who
realized too late their illegal harvest and then left
in the field rather than bring back an illegal animal

and face repercussions.

19

This would also align Federal and State regulations. Currently Federal regulations are more restrictive than State regulations.

21

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal WP22-47.

22

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

23

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Tom. Do we have any questions for Tom at this time on WP22-47

25
0281

requesting that calf harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22.

1

2

(No comments)

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva.

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. If there are no questions for Tom at this time then we can walk through the proposal procedure.

5

6

The Federal Subsistence Board held tribal consultation and ANCSA consultation on this proposal. And we did have tribes participate but no formal recommendations from the tribal consultation at that time. And I'll just check in.....

7

8

9

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

10

MS. PATTON:I don't know that we have State and Federal Staff from the Unit 22 region but we'll check and see if there's agency comments from ADF&G on this proposal.

11

12

13

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

14

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

16

MR. LANDLORD: Where is Unit 22, I don't know where it is?

17

18

MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. Yeah, unfortunately we didn't have a good map of Unit 22 in the analysis, just the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. If you have your wildlife regulatory book that was in your meeting materials packet, Unit 22 is on Page 105 of your wildlife regulations book. And

19

20

21

22 the reason why this comes before the Council is there
23 are quite a few communities in the Lower Yukon Delta
24 region that have customary and traditional use
25 determination to hunt in that area. And Unit 22
0282 actually does come all the way down just outside of
Kotlik and there's a narrow section that encompasses
that coastal portion of the Yukon Delta National
Wildlife Refuge between Kotlik and St. Michael. And

1 then Unit 22 runs all the way up kind of, you know,
2 along that coast of Norton Sound and all the way up to
3 Shishmaref. And because those Lower Yukon Delta
4 communities have customary and traditional use
5 determination for that Unit 22 is why it's coming
6 before this Council.

7
8 But the closest portion of it is to
9 Unit 18 is that section between Kotlik, Stebbins and
10 St. Michael.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14 MS. PATTON: And this caribou herd is
15 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

16
17 MR. PERRY: So, Eva, this is Phillip
18 Perry. I can probably help out, too, if there's any
19 specific questions.

20 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Phillip.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Phillip, what's
23 the population of that herd at this time.

24 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. The
25 Western Arctic herd, right now, the last estimate that
we have counted is a couple years old and it's about
250,000 animals, It's the caribou herd that spends a
lot of its time in Unit 23 so the Kotzebue area, and
then different years some portion of the herd will
winter in Unit 22, which is basically Seward Peninsula.
So this regulation, this proposal would align the State
and the Federal regulations.

19 A few years back when the herd looked
20 like it was -- or it was declining, in Unit 22 and in
21 Unit 23, there was a prohibition to taking calves. At
22 this point it looks like the herd has maybe slightly
23 increased or stabilized so two -- well, about a year
and a half ago when the Board of Game met last they
changed the State regulation so that people could take
calves again, both in Unit 23 and in Unit 22. And, you
know, we're in favor of having State and Federal

24 regulations align. It's helpful to managers and to
25 hunters.

0283 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I know back

1 in the early '90s, I believe, they came down right
2 behind Mountain Village, I think, a couple times that I
3 know of, and after that they seemed to not come down
4 this way but up around Marshall area, I know they go
5 back around behind St. Michael's area and do see
6 caribou in that area. So I was just curious about the
7 population, so thank you.

8 Anyone have any more questions for
9 Phillip at this time.

10 (No comments)

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, Eva.

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Council. And
13 then we'll check in if we have any Federal managers
14 online who would like to provide comments on this
15 proposal.

16 (No comments)

17 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, we'll check
18 in if we have any tribal representatives online who
19 would like to comment on this proposal for Unit 22
20 caribou.

21 (No comments)

22 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, other
23 Regional Advisory Councils that this proposal is
24 directly relevant to have not yet met so we don't have
25 any recommendations from the other RACs at this time.
26 And have not received any comments from any Fish and
27 Game Advisory Committees. And there were no written
28 public comments submitted during the comment period.
29 Maybe I'll just check in with Robbin to see if there
30 were any written public comments submitted during the
31 course of this meeting.

32 MS. LAVINE: Hello, through the Chair.
33 This is Robbin. And I have not received notification
34 of additional written comments submitted via email.
35 Thank you.

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Robbin. And
37 then we have opportunity for public testimony, if
38 there's anyone on teleconference with us today that
39 would like to comment on this proposal or Unit 22

0284
1 caribou.

2 (No comments)

3 MS. PATTON: Hearing none, then we are
4 down to the Regional Advisory Council's recommendation
5 and motion.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. What
7 is the wish of the Council.

8 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
9 Thomas.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

11 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, yes, just like to
12 comment I'd be in support of this proposal because
13 being a subsistence moose hunter here on the Yukon, you
14 know, and it's not our custom to shoot calves and, you
15 know, friends and families throughout the villages, you
16 know, I don't see anybody shooting calves. And often
17 times, you know, boating up and down the river we see
18 these calves, you know, walking on the beach alone and,
19 you know, it kind of makes me think if they're orphaned
20 or kind of if their mother left them, you know, and
21 they'll probably just end up dying once winter comes
22 around. So that's my comment in support.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Thomas. So
25 at this time I guess we could entertain a motion to
0285 adopt WP22-47, which is request calf harvest be
permitted for caribou in Unit 22.

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to
ask Thomas if he's making the motion for support this
-- to put this proposal up for a vote.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do I
hear a second to Thomas' motion to support.

MR. NANENG: I second it.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Second by Myron. And
then we'll go down to the bullet points, Eva, if you
could walk us through that.

1 MS. PATTON: Sorry, I was on mute
2 there. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. So some of
3 the bullet points to consider in the Councils
4 discussion and justification is, is the recommendation
5 consistent with established fish or wildlife management
principles; is the recommendation supported by
substantial evidence such as biological and traditional
knowledge; and will the recommendation be beneficial or
detrimental to subsistence needs and uses: and in

6 consideration of conservation of healthy fish and
wildlife populations and continued subsistence uses.
7 So those are the things to consider but really we want
to hear from the Council and your observations, your
perspective and your reasons for supporting or opposing
8 a proposal.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva. I
believe we are down to the final motion so I could go
11 ahead and ask all those in favor of WP22-47, which is
to request that calf harvest be permitted for caribou
12 in Unit 22 all those in favor signify by saying yes.

13 IN UNISON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those opposing
WP22-47 signify by saying no.

15

(No opposing votes)

16

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion carries, thank
17 you.

18

MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, John.

20

MR. SLATS: Richard.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard, sorry.

22

MR. SLATS: I'm abstaining.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, for the record.

24

MR. SLATS: Yes, for the record I'm
abstaining.

25

0286

1 MS. PATTON: Okay, one abstain.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

3

MR. SLATS: Thank you.

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Richard. And,
Mr. Chair can.....

5

MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair, this is

6

Jacqueline, can I also vote abstain.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, so noted.

8

MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Jackie.
Okay, we have two abstain, but we still have majority
9 vote yes so motion still carries.

10

And, Mr. Chair and Council, if I can, I
11 know Thomas spoke a bit about why he would be
supporting this proposal, if we could get a brief
comment from another Council member on justification
12 for supporting this proposal.

13

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

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

15

MR. NANENG: I think I support it because getting both the Federal and State regulations to mirror each other makes it clearer and would avoid what happened this past summer here on the Kuskokwim where the State announced -- I'm not encouraging it though -- but on the fisheries -- I'm not encouraging, but on this moose issue -- or caribou issue I support it, it makes it easier for the hunters to know that they if they follow Federal regulations they're not in competition with the State regulations. So that's the only reason why I support it.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

22

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. Thank you, Council. All right, thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. And that concludes the wildlife proposals. And next up on our-- oh, go ahead.

24

25

0287

1

Myron.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0288

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

(No comments)

MS. PATTON: So what we can.....

MS. LAVINE: Hello, Eva, this is Robbin.

MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, Robbin.

MS. LAVINE: Pippa is preparing to present these same proposals to the Southeast Council this morning. Thank you. However, she might be able to delay and so if you would like to proceed with your

20 agenda we might be able to take these up with Pippa's
support perhaps after lunch. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
22 Robbin, for that. I think we should go through and
follow through with that because we have a lot of
23 reports, agency reports and then when Pippa comes on we
could go ahead and take these up again if the Council
24 chooses to do so. Does that work out?

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

0288

1 Council. So we will check back after lunch on these
two wildlife proposals or when Pippa is available. So
2 we do have later in the day as well so whenever, this
afternoon, when Pippa's available, we can come back to
3 these proposals if the Council wishes.

4 Next on the agenda, at this time is the
Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And we have
5 Cory Graham online to present that information which is
on Page 181 of your meeting book.

6

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
7 Council. For the record, my name is Cory Graham, and
I'm a Fisheries Biologist for the Office of Subsistence
8 Management in Anchorage. And before I get started I
just want to make sure that I'm coming through clear.

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

10

MR. GRAHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. I am here today to present you with a brief
overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
12 and its accomplishments to date. I'll give a short
overview of the Monitoring Program, briefly describe
13 the funding process, give an overview of your regions
and finish by requesting Council comments on any of the
14 projects submitted for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions.
This is not an action item. There is no motion
15 necessary for this process. You can find these
materials starting on Page 181 of your Council book.

16

The mission of the Monitoring Program
17 is to identify and provide information needed to
sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands
18 for rural Alaskans through a multi-disciplinary
collaborative program.

19

The Office of Subsistence Management
20 administers the Monitoring Program and funds research
and monitoring that advances projects that are
21 strategically important to the Federal Subsistence

22 Management Program. The Monitoring Program also
23 supports collaboration and cooperation among Federal
agencies, the State of Alaska, and Alaska Native and
rural organizations.

24

I'll now describe how the Monitoring
25 Program's funding process works.

0289

1 The program is divided into six
2 regions, which are listed on Page 184 of your Council
books. These regions correspond with Federal
3 subsistence fisheries areas and generally hold stock,
harvest and community issues in common. Some regions
4 have multiple Councils, such as the Kuskokwim region
which has both the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and Western
Interior Councils. During the first step of the
5 funding process the Regional Advisory Councils with
support from OSM Staff and Federal and State fisheries
6 and land managers ensure the Monitoring Program focuses
on the highest priority subsistence fisheries
7 information needs for the region. Councils ensure
issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
8 subsistence fisheries are identified for priority
information needs development. And these information
9 needs influence and guide the rest of the funding
process. Ideally, principal investigators will work
10 closely with Councils in order to develop strong
proposals that are responsive to those needs. The
11 Office of Subsistence Management provides technical
assistance as needed.

12

The second step in the funding process
13 is requesting new project proposals, which the program
does every two years. Submissions must be complete, on
14 time and address the criteria outlined in the notice of
funding opportunity in order to be competitive. The
15 five criteria are strategic priority, technical and
scientific merit, investigator ability and resources,
16 partnership and capacity building and cost benefit of
the project. A more detailed description of these
17 criteria can be found on Page 186 of your Council book.

18 Once submitted, the Technical Review
Committee evaluates and scores each project proposal
19 package. The Technical Review Committee is a standing
InterAgency Committee of senior technical experts
20 brought together to evaluate project proposals and
ensure the Monitoring Program is maintaining
21 consistency with its mission. It is the responsibility
of the Technical Review Committee to develop the
22 strongest possible draft monitoring plan for all
regions across the state.

23

24 Once a Draft Monitoring Program is
25 developed it's brought before the Regional Advisory
Councils for their input and comments. And this is
where we are at in the current cycle and we'll come

0290

1 back to this in a moment.

2 Additional comments on the Draft
3 Monitoring Program will be provided by the InterAgency
4 Staff Committee. These, along with comments developed
5 by the Council are provided to the Federal Subsistence
6 Board. The Board takes into consideration comments and
concerns generated by the process and endorses the
Monitoring Plan. Final approval of the Monitoring Plan
is made by the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

6

7 Now that I've discussed how the
8 Monitoring Program works, I'll provide an overview of
9 the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. For the Kuskokwim
10 region you can find the figures I'm about to reference
11 on Page 190 of your Council book.

9

10 Since 2000 the Office of Subsistence
11 Management has funded 102 projects costing
12 approximately \$28 million in the Kuskokwim region. As
13 you can see from Figure 2 on Page 190 the project leads
14 have been predominately the State of Alaska in this
15 region. Because partnerships are important for the
16 Monitoring Program most of these projects also included
17 other agencies and Alaska rural organizations as rural
18 partners.

14

15 For the 2022 cycle, there is an
16 anticipated \$2.25 million available for new projects
17 statewide. The available funding amount for 2022 is
18 budgeted for each projects first year, not the total
19 project request. And this is subject to the final
20 budget determined by the Assistant Regional Director.

18 For the Kuskokwim region there were a
19 total of eight projects submitted during the current
20 cycle. The projects are listed in numerical order by
21 project number on Page 192 Justifications for each of
22 the proposed projects by the Technical Review Committee
23 can be found on Page 193 and projects executive
24 summaries which were submitted by the primary
investigators start on Page 199.

22

23 In the Yukon region 126 projects have
24 been undertaken for approximately 25 million in funding
since the beginning of the Monitoring Program. You can
see from Figure 2 on Page 214 that project leads have

24

been predominately Department of Interior agencies.

25
0291

1 Again, for 2022 there's an anticipated
2 2.25 million available for new projects statewide. For
3 the Yukon region there were seven projects submitted
4 during the current cycle. The projects are listed in
5 numerical order by project number on Page 216.
6 Technical Review Committee justifications begin on Page
7 217, and project executive summaries start on Page 223
8 of your Council book.

5

6 That wraps up the overview of the
7 Kuskokwim and Yukon regions.

8 As a reminder, today, we're asking for
9 your comments on any of the proposed projects in the
10 Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. Again, there is no action
11 item needed for today. We want to ensure is that
12 selected projects have the greatest chance at
13 successfully answering the Councils priority
14 information needs as possible. And we also want to
15 know if the Council has any specific concerns about a
16 project based on the provided materials.

17 That concludes my presentation and will
18 take your comments on proposed projects in the
19 Kuskokwim region first and the Yukon region second. As
20 a reminder the projects for the Kuskokwim region can be
21 found on Page 192 of your Council materials, Technical
22 Review Committee justifications start on Page 193 and
23 project executive summaries can be found on Page 199.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
0292 any questions for Cory Graham at this time regarding
1 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

2 MR. NANENG: Good morning, this is
3 Myron.

20

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

21

5 MR. NANENG: I have a question. Yeah,
6 one of the questions that I have, in light of what
7 we've gone through this past summer, not necessarily
8 just here on the Kuskokwim but also on the Yukon where
9 there was no chum salmon returns. (Indiscernible -
10 cuts out) action with the other managers in different
11 parts of the state like on the Aleutians or elsewhere
12 to identify impacts of those (indiscernible - cuts out)

25
0292

1 return of the chum stocks on the river system.

2 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. Thank
3 you for your question. You were kind of cutting out,

3 could you please repeat your question, I'm sorry.

4 MR. NANENG: Okay. In light of what
5 happened on the Kuskokwim as well as the Yukon this
6 past summer where there's no return of chum salmon, you
7 know, not at historical levels, is there any studies of
8 interaction with other managers in other parts of the
9 state to identify, to see how they may be impacting the
10 returning chum stocks to the Kuskokwim and the Yukon
11 Rivers. I know you're doing some of the tributary
12 studies, but that's the end run, we also need potential
13 information of what may be causing this decline on the
14 returning chum stocks.

15 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
16 Cory Graham with OSM. Thank you for your comment. So
17 there were no proposals submitted during this cycle
18 that addressed that issue. But just to let the Council
19 know at your winter meeting we'll be asking for
20 volunteers for a working group that will meet some time
21 next summer to develop priority information needs for
22 the next FRMP cycle. So I would ask the Council to
23 please keep these ideas and information needs in mind
24 because the PINS that are developed by the Councils,
25 the next cycle will influence the type of projects that
we get from researchers.

16 MR. NANENG: Follow-up question.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

18 MR. NANENG: I know in the past when we
19 had two representatives on the Board of Fisheries, one
20 from here in Bethel and one from Bristol Bay, tried to
21 meet with some of the fishermen down in Area M who were
22 known to have an impact on returning chum stocks to the
23 Kuskokwim and the Yukon but their response was not even
24 positive. They didn't want to discuss any potential
25 working relationship to try and identify how we can
work also to support their fisheries when they should
also support our fisheries, especially in light of the
declining stocks at this time. I think that we should
make an effort, not to wait until next year, because
it's going to be an ongoing issue for the next every
four years for the next generation to come.

0293
1 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. Again,
2 this is Cory with OSM, and thank you for your comment.
3 The FRMP operates on a two year cycle so the notice of
4 funding opportunity and the proposals that were
received for this funding cycle, that period has
already closed and the projects have been reviewed
already and we're kind of working through the process.

5 So unfortunately we won't be able to have any projects
6 that address your concerns during the current cycle.

7 But I do want to point out that while
8 we don't have projects that are looking at chum, like
9 you asked in your first question, but we do have
10 projects that index chum at weirs. For example, the
11 George River on the Kuskokwim, and other projects as
12 well.

13 MR. NANENG: I'd like to hear a
14 response from the State fisheries people because they
15 consider themselves the best fisheries managers and in
16 light of what's going on if we could give them a grade
17 they failed this past summer. So any comments from
18 them.

19 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. This
20 is Cory Graham again with OSM. I believe there will be
21 agency reports that happen later during the Council
22 meeting and that'll be a good time to bring up your
23 question and comments. But right now we're really
24 trying to focus on receiving comments for the current
25 projects that were submitted for the Kuskokwim region
26 during this cycle, which can be found on Page -- let me
27 find this again, I apologize -- Page 192 of your
28 Council materials.

29 MR. NANENG: One last question. I know
30 those are funded projects already but I'd request at
31 some point in the future that you try and get a tagging
32 study to see which -- putting chips on fish, if they do
33 that, to find out where these salmon are migrating and
34 that, you know, that would help perpetuate the salmon
35 stocks and if there are impactors that are allowed to
36 fish commercially when our subsistence fisheries are
37 completely closed, there seems to be a problem with the
38 system.

39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

0294

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Myron. Yeah, just wanted to note, as Cory mentioned we
3 have numerous reports coming up this morning and this
4 afternoon, for both the Yukon River fisheries and the
5 Kuskokwim River fisheries, we'll have both State and
6 Federal biologists and managers and also reports from
7 YRDFA and research on chinook. We also have received
8 reports for the Council, in the past, on the marine
9 research that's going on for both juvenile and salmon
10 in the Bering Sea region so can definitely add that at
11 the Council's request for those reports coming up for
12 the winter meeting as well.

7

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
10 any more questions, comments at this time regarding the
11 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for the
12 Kuskokwim. If you look on Page 192 there's eight
13 projects that will be going towards the Kuskokwim River
14 and you could look at those projects there and if you
15 have any comments or questions, Cory's here to help
16 you.

13

(No comments)

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, we could
go ahead and move on.

15

MS. PATTON: Okay.

16

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Thank you, Cory, for that report. Next up on the agenda
20 so the Council has already.....

19

MR. GRAHAM: Hey, Eva.

20

MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, Cory.

21

22 MR. GRAHAM: I'm sorry to interject,
23 Eva. But we would also like to hear any comments on
24 the proposals submitted for the Yukon region in
25 addition to the Kuskokwim region and those projects can
be found on Page 216 of your Council books.

24

25 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, the only
comment that I have as a final comment, I know that

0295

1 these are important projects but with looking at the
2 pie chart of how much money is being put into the State
3 of Alaska it seems like there needs to be better
4 coordination in making sure that the escapement goes to
5 our river systems are met and with the amount of money
6 that the State of Alaska gets for these projects I
7 don't even think they're doing their job.

5

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

6

MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Robbin, go ahead.

8

MS. LAVINE: Hi, thank you, Mr. Chair

9 and members of the Council. I just wanted to reiterate
10 that this is an opportunity for you to help us
11 understand your evolving priorities for subsistence
12 fisheries research. It's an ongoing discussion that
13 you will have updates on at every meeting that you
14 attend. This is a way -- these research projects help
15 inform management and support you in your region and we
16 really value your feedback and your identification of
17 important issues. Sometimes it changes. So we, as
18 Cory mentioned, these are two year cycles and so we may
19 develop priority information needs and we're going to
20 start doing that next fall, a year from now, and then
21 by the time we are reviewing the proposals in response
22 to those priority information needs, sometimes
23 circumstances have changed and so you sharing those
24 circumstances, you sharing those changing conditions
25 really helps this process. And we'll certainly be
26 taking notes and we'll revisit this discussion as we
27 develop the next cycle's priority information needs.

28 Anyway, I just wanted to share a little
29 bit more information for our new Council members. It's
30 a wonderful program and we really rely on your
31 knowledge and expertise.

32 Thank you.

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

34 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is

35 Myron.
36 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

0296
1 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I know that the
2 (indiscernible - cuts out) emergency State proposal
3 process that I think should be in place in light of
4 what we're going through here on the Kuskokwim as well
5 as on the Yukon as well as some of the coastal fishing
6 areas up north. You know I appreciate that they're
7 doing studies to identify in-river issues.....

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10 MR. NANENG:however I think that
11 -- like I stated at one of the negotiating meetings
12 back in the 1980s when I sat there, that I think we
13 need to resolve our in-state fishery problems before we
14 negotiate with another country and we definitely do
15 have a problem right now that needs to be addressed and
16 this has been ongoing for quite a long time now, for a
17 few years. And I think that a lot of people have
18 expressed this over and over again in meetings as well

11 as testimony and more often than not, some of the
12 testimony that has been provided to the Board of Fish,
13 sometimes to the Federal Subsistence Board and to other
14 agencies that monitor these, they always say, well,
15 that's anecdotal information so we haven't had anybody
16 study why this is going on so we can't come up with the
17 answer right now. But this is an emergency situation
18 that needs to be addressed with an emergency proposal.

19
20 With that, thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.

23
24 MR. NANENG: And last but not least, I
25 think the people that suffer the consequences are the
0297 people that live in these villages that were not
permitted to fish at all for their subsistence for the
winter.

26
27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I have a question
31 here. On the Yukon funding, this will be for 2022, for
32 next summer, what happens when we go through -- when we
33 see the same result that we seen this last summer of no
34 returns of salmon, what happens to all those projects
35 that were scheduled to go into effect? What will
36 happen then?

37
38 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cory
39 Graham with OSM. You're correct, after your comments
40 are forwarded to the Board and they endorse a final
41 plan, Monitoring Plan, and it's approved by the
42 Assistant Regional Director of OSM, studies will start
43 as early as this spring. And with the poor returns, a
44 lot of the projects, you know, provide really important
45 data and information to managers, so those projects
46 will still run and they'll be providing escapement
47 data, traditional knowledge and other sorts of
48 knowledge to managers.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I know this
51 past winter -- last winter's meeting, I believe Thomas
52 requested a study on fry -- salmon fry, maybe you could
53 reiterate what you mentioned, Thomas. If you could
54 remember what you brought up during last winter's
55 meeting, and relate that. Thank you.

56
57 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
58 Thomas. I believe it was more of a study of fry as
59 they exit the upper Yukon area and when the ice is
60 moving out during the springtime, a lot of times they

13 have these big ice jams up -- further up the river. And
14 when there's an ice jam often times the river floods
15 and then, you know, there's high water and water where
16 water's not supposed to be and oftentimes I kind of
17 think maybe them frys, as they're exiting the Yukon
18 they get up into the land and as water drops they find
19 themselves in the lake or up on land. And, yeah, I
20 believe that was the study I wanted, was maybe more the
21 existing fry as they exit the Yukon all the way up from
22 Canada, upper Yukon, Yukon and all the way down to the
23 lower Yukon. So I believe that was my comment.

18

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cory
21 with OSM again. Thank you for those comments and study
22 ideas. I wanted to point out that during this last
23 cycle we did have a priority information need developed
24 for the Yukon River that looked at the distribution, or
25 sought information relating to the distribution,
0298 abundance and condition and survival of juvenile and
1 out-migrating salmon in the Yukon. We received one
2 study that proposes to examine juvenile out-migration
3 in the Lower Yukon River but we didn't receive any
4 projects for the Upper Yukon River.

25

0298

1

MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, this is Thomas.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Thomas.

3

4 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair. Cory, yeah, I
5 believe what I was shooting for is I was hoping that
6 maybe in the future they could have more studies on
7 fry, juvenile salmon exiting the Yukon, possibly up in
8 the up -- further up in the Yukon, in those areas, you
9 know, where they have big ice jams, or bigger floods.
10 Because often times by the time that up river ice comes
11 down this way and the ice is already melted out down
12 here, and we haven't been having really big floods how
13 it used to back in the early '80s and '90s with four or
14 five ice chunks floating down the river, right, as of
15 now in the last five, 10 years all it's been down is
16 melt down, you know, the water rises, not as much as it
17 used to and now it's kind of like high water and kind
18 of just flushes down. Maybe there should be some sort
19 of more juvenile study further on up the Yukon where
20 they're having bigger ice jams and flooding. So that's
21 what I was kind of shooting for.

12

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is

14 Cory again. I just want to thank you for sharing your
15 knowledge and observation. I've been taking notes.
16 And when we go to develop PINS during the next cycle I
17 will make sure that your ideas will be presenting at
18 the meeting, the working group meeting when we're
19 developing PINS. So, thank you.

MR. ALSTROM: Yep, thank you, Cory.

18

MR. NANENG: One final question, Mr.
19 Chairman. This is Myron.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

20
21 MR. NANENG: Yeah, how many ADF&G
22 people are evaluators of these projects to be funded
23 and what about former ADF&G people?

MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
24 Cory Graham again. So the Technical Review Committee,
25 again, is an advisory group that scores the project.
They specialize in fisheries biology, anthropology, and
statistics. They're representatives from all five

0299

1 Federal agencies on the Federal Subsistence Board
2 typically. And it also includes three ADF&G scientists
3 that represent Division of Subsistence, Commercial
4 Fisheries, and Sportfish. The one thing that I would
5 like to say is that so, for example, if ADF&G submits a
6 project, the ADF&G members on the Technical Review
7 Committee rescind -- or do not vote on those proposals,
8 they'll only vote on proposals submitted by other
9 agencies. And this is the same for -- there's a U.S.
10 Fish and Wildlife Service representative on the TRC
11 they won't vote on any U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Proposals.

7

MR. NANENG: Okay, thank you.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: I have another question
9 here, maybe it's a comment and question. On Page 216,
10 on Project No. 22-252, which is the humpback whitefish
11 and other non-salmon fisheries traditional ecological
12 knowledge and biological the Upper Koyukuk River, would
13 it be possible if we could get maybe that -- have that
14 study down on the lower river. Because I know some
15 tributaries that do have whitefish, maybe two or three
16 different type of whitefish in that area and since we
17 rely heavily on whitefish for the last how many years,
18 you know, I'd like to get some studies about the
19 humpback whitefish on the lower river. Since the
20 project right now is for only up river, maybe I'd like
21 to consider that if we could have that same study down
22 on the lower river. Like I mentioned, since we've been

16 fishing heavily on them for the last three or four
17 years. So we do need to know what's going on with the
18 -- you know, that species of fish.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Again, this is Cory Graham with OSM. And we noted this
21 and we will also consider this at the next priority
22 information need development meeting. So thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we
23 have any more questions for the Yukon projects at this
24 time.

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, this is
25 James.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

0300
1 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, Cory, when you take
2 comments from the YKRAC and do you meet with the State
3 also with these comments that you receive from our
4 area?

3
4 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
5 Cory. I'm not aware of meeting with the State in
6 regard to your comments. Again, after this meeting the
7 projects will also -- or the whole packet -- or the
8 projects will be commented on by the InterAgency Staff
9 Committee as well and then they're forwarded to the
10 Board.

7
8 MR. LANDLORD: Any comments taken to
9 the State?

9
10 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, thank
11 you for your question. I'm not aware of the State
12 commenting on any of the proposals.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, do we have any
13 further comments or questions relating to the Yukon
14 projects.

13
14 MR. NANENG: Just one question, Mr.
15 Chair.

14
15 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

15
16 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, this is Myron.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

17
18 MR. NANENG: Are there any Native or
19 tribal representatives on the proposed study
20 evaluations?

20 MS. EVAN: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is Norma
with a comment.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Norma, can you standby.
I'm waiting for someone to respond to Myron and then
22 we'll take your question.

23 MS. EVAN: Sorry about that.

24 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
Cory with OSM. So they are reviewed, again, by the TRC
25 and then we get your comments, the Council member

0301

1 comments before they're forwarded to the Board. I am
not aware of getting comments from any other
2 organizations before that. One thing to keep in mind
is that -- I take that back, no, I'm not aware of them
3 being commenting on by Native organizations.

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think his
question was is if there is any Native voices on the
5 InterAgency Staff Committee?

6 MR. NANENG: That's my question. Is
there someone sitting on the InterAgency Staff to help
7 evaluate those proposed studies and funding?

8 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is
Cory. The Technical Review Committee mainly just
9 includes representatives from the Federal agencies that
support the Federal Subsistence Board and also from
10 ADF&G so there are no tribal or tribal seats on the
TRC. But I might defer this question to Robbin LaVine
11 because she has much greater history than I do with the
FRMP.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Robbin.

15 MS. LAVINE: We -- there -- there are no
Alaska Native voices or organizational representatives
16 on the Technical Review Committee. And this is
something I would have -- if I'd had my colleague Pippa
17 here I would have deferred to Pippa because she has
been here even longer than I and remembers when some of
18 these discussions came up. But what we do note is that
through Regional Advisory Council process, the Council
19 is in touch with your regional organizations,
Federally-qualified subsistence users who you represent
20 and so we look at these opportunities, these Council
opportunities to help identify the issues that are most
21 important. We also note that this program has criteria
that supports partnerships with Alaska Native and non-
22 profit organizations and that the strong proposals, the
proposals that this program recognizes as being most
23 successful are those projects that have partnerships
with tribal organizations and local rural organizations

24 and we recognize that component of this -- these
research projects as ensuring greater success.

25
0302

1 One more thing I just wanted to note,
is that, for projects that have been completed in the
2 past -- I'll refer you again to Page 222 of your
Council books, and I think one of our Council members
3 was asking about a lower Yukon whitefish project, in
particular, traditional ecological knowledge of the
4 lower Yukon on whitefish. And I think you'll see on
Page 222 that project 14-253 was conducted by the
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
Subsistence. And you may be interested in asking the
6 principal investigators to report on some of these
projects and give you a briefing of what they've
7 learned and a summary of results.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
Myron again.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

11

12 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I do believe that we
need Native representation and evaluation of these
13 projects and input from them while these are being
evaluated. Partnerships are fine but we definitely
need a Native representative on evaluating these
14 proposals so that there is -- traditional knowledge is
needed in making sure that -- if traditional knowledge
15 is not included in these studies, you know, there's no
representation. I know that also in the past there's
16 been (indiscernible - cuts out) fisheries on the Yukon
and the Kuskokwim, there has been a lot of money that
17 has been funded by Senator Stevens when he was around
and some of that money went to the University of
18 Alaska-Fairbanks, and we haven't even heard anything
about the studies of the crashes that happened in the
19 past and now we have a major crash this summer and
that's why I'm advocating that we definitely have
20 Native representation on the evaluating.

21 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

23 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat Petrivelli
with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Pat.

25
0303

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: And I just wanted to
add one point. I am the subsistence anthropologist on

2 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and I'm a member of the
3 TRC. And so the TRC is made up only of agency
4 representatives. But as the representative of Bureau
5 of Indian Affairs, I see it as my role to emphasize the
6 community partnership aspect of all the proposals. And
7 we're given 100 points to score all the proposals, and
8 20 of those 100 points deal with the involvement of
9 community organizations. So the TRC is tasked with
10 that role but because of contracting procedures we're
11 supposed to follow criteria and we have points and so
12 everyone that submits a proposal is told what criteria
13 will be used to evaluate the proposals. And they know
14 that 20 of the 100 points involve that community
15 involvement, whether it's through TEK, informing the
16 community, the hiring, but it's all listed in the grant
17 proposals. And the TRC is supposed to evaluate the
18 proposals using that criteria, each one, objectively.
19 So it's a contracting issue. And it's how we have to
20 follow the procedures. But someone from the BIA is on
21 the TRC. And then if you get a funding document about
22 the TRC it shows exactly how those point systems are
23 created.

24 Besides evaluating all those proposals,
25 the Council's role is important in identifying priority
information needs and I'm hearing Cory Graham and
Robbin saying how you're taking into account all those
issues for the next session in two years to hopefully
come up with projects that will better meet the needs
for your region.

26 And if you have any other questions
27 I'll be happy to answer them within the limits of --
28 because it's all confidential in contracting
29 obligations but we do have criteria, they're in the
30 funding documents and they include the issues that
31 you're raising.

32 Thank you.

33 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
34 Myron.

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

36 MR. NANENG: Yeah, ultimately what I
37 think would be beneficial is to have Native

0304
38 representation. I know there may be BIA
39 representation, however, not every agencies within the
40 region that's impacted. So that would be my
41 suggestion.

42

Thank you.

4

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

5

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Ray, here, too.
I would like to take up Robbin's recommendation also,
is to ask the principal investigator to, at least, give
us some, you know, feedback on these projects as they
become available during our meetings. I think that
will help us a lot more to understand some of these
projects that we're seeing and maybe not seeing. And
then we have -- you know, where the projects are and
how they will affect us. So I think if we can make a
request to ask the principal investigators to at least
give us some reports on, you know, the projects that we
have questions on.

10

11

12

Thank you.

13

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
Chair, this is Eva. And just wanted to let the Council
know that there will likely be some updates on current
and ongoing FRMP projects under the agency reports. We
have a big full line up of fisheries biologists and
managers and local tribes and Native organizations and
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, all of whom
have FRMP projects in place.

15

16

17

18

19

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

20

MS. PATTON: So likely some of the
reports coming up this afternoon will include some
updates and information on those Fisheries Resource
Monitoring projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
Thank you for clarifying that. So I guess if there's no
more questions for Cory at this time, do you have any
more to add regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
Program for both Yukon and Kuskokwim.

24

25

0305

1

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
This is Cory, and, no, I do not.

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for your
report. Looking forward to the upcoming agency reports
and hopefully follow-up with some of the questions that
we have. Thank you very much. I don't know if the
Council wanted to take a break or just go ahead and
work through lunch and just take up the next agenda

3

4

5

item.

6

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

7

8

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

9

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

10

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

11

If I may make a suggestion, so actually we are getting
to agency reports right now and we do have a couple of
our presenters that were only available today through
noon. So I'm wondering if the Council would be willing
to take up the Yukon River.....

12

13

14

REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt, Eva.
Eva, I'm sorry to interrupt, this is the court
reporter. I need somebody to put their line on mute,
it's really distracting and I cannot hear. Thank you.

15

16

17

MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thanks
everyone. Take a moment to take a look at your phones
and press the mute button or star six to mute.

18

19

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

20

Again, we are up to the agency reports portion of the
agenda and we do have a couple presenters who are only
available up to noon today so wondering if the Council
would consider hearing the Yukon River Drainage
Fisheries Association report and the USGS Alaska
Science Center updates on heat stress in Yukon River
chinook salmon prior to breaking for lunch.

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, if there's no
objections from the Council I think we can do that, we
can take it up to lunchtime.

24

25

0306

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

1

2

MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
Chairman, I'd like to entertain a motion to suspend the
rules and move up the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
Association report and the USGS Alaska Science Center
update.

3

4

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you.
There's a motion on the floor by Richard to suspend the
rules to move up the Yukon River reports first and also
the USGS Alaska Science Center update. And so if
there's no objections, can I hear a second.

6

7

8

9

MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Seconded by Thomas
Alstrom. All those in favor signify by saying yes.

10

11 IN UNISON: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose,
13 signify by saying no.

13 (No opposing votes)

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
15 carries. So we could go ahead and take up the Yukon
16 River Drainage Fisheries Association report. Thank
17 you.

16

17 MS. FITKA: Hi, good afternoon. This
18 is Serena Fitka, the Executive Director of the Yukon
19 River Drainage Fisheries Association. So thank you for
20 allowing us to report during this time.

21 You can look to your meeting booklet on
22 Page 242 for our report along with our supplemental
23 material. We would like to provide you with some
24 updates on our activities and key accomplishments since
25 we last met.

22

23 We would first like to provide a
24 correction in our report about our vacancies on the
25 Board. We currently have three seats vacant and that's
0307 District Y1, Alternate 2, and District Y1, alternate --
I'm sorry, District Y2, Alternate 1, and District Y2,
Alternate 2. Any nominations for these seats can be
sent directly to me, my email is Serena S-E-R-E-N-A at

0307

1 Yukonsalmon.org.

2

3 Our Board met in April of 2021 in
4 Fairbanks where we began our meeting with our first
5 annual river blessing. We felt the need to incorporate
6 our traditional values into our meeting setting. We
7 had a moment of silence for Andrew Firmin from Fort
8 Yukon who served on the YRDFA Board for the past 10
9 years. Andrew's family joined us and we presented
10 Andrew's award of service to his family. We also
11 presented awards to our Board members who've served on
12 our Board for five plus years, 10 plus years and 15
13 plus years. The YRDFA Board passed six resolutions,
which are highlighted in the booklet.

8

9 We will be having the EBoard meeting
10 October 26th and 27th in Anchorage. At this meeting we
11 will be discussing Area M and Board of Fisheries
12 proposals for the Yukon River that will be due in April
13 of 2022.

11

12 The Yukon River salmon summer preseason
13 preparation meeting was held a bit differently due to
Covid19 and the inability to gather in large masses.
Prior to the meeting we held district meetings to

13

14 provide more opportunity for fishers to voice their
15 concerns and provide input to the managers for the
16 upcoming season. For the 2022 preseason meeting we are
17 planning to host an in-person meeting in Anchorage in
18 March of 2022. We have begun the planning process and,
19 again, we will be doing things a little bit differently
20 so keep an eye out for our announcement.

21 Our Yukon River advocacy series focused
22 on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the
23 Board of Fisheries, and is in the supplemental report.
24 We held a very successful series and prepared for
25 testimony to the Council on the 6th of October. We had
0308 about 25 to 35 participants during each session. We
had Legislative Staff from Senator Sullivan's office
and Senator Lisa Murkowski's office participating as
well along with other organization representatives from
the Alaska Federation of Natives, First Alaskans
Institute and Doyon Limited. We will be looking to
apply for adequate funding to make this a year long
project and highlighting other management areas such as
Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon River Panel, the
Pacific Salmon Commission, the Yukon River Salmon

1 Agreement, and et cetera. We received a lot of
2 positive feedback on this series and YRDFA did submit a
3 letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
4 requesting the following:

5 We requested zero bycatch in the Bering
6 Sea and we asked they provide a letter to the National
7 Marine Fisheries Service supporting funding for
8 disaster declarations and to ensure Alaska Native
9 Tribes have a meaningful voice in management.

10 I, Serena, also gave testimony to the
11 Council on the 6th of October which is available on our
12 website and our Facebook page.

13 And update on the fisheries disaster
updates for 2020 and 2021. The U.S. Department of
Commerce received letters from the Governor requesting
a fisheries disaster for the Yukon River for 2020 and
2021 fishing season. We have now turned our focus on
urging the Secretary of Commerce to approve these
disasters. I received an update from Sullivan and
Murkowski's office that they, too, are urging the
Secretary to move forward with the disaster
declarations. I will be traveling to D.C., with the
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association at the

14 end of the month to meet with the U.S. Delegation to
15 discuss the issues of the Yukon River.

15

16 I will now hand it over to Catherine to
17 give the remainder of the report and I will stay online
18 for any questions afterwards.

17

Thank you.

18

19 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay, hi, good morning,
20 Mr. Chair and Council members. Can you hear me?

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're loud, thank
21 you.

21

22 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay, great, thank you.
23 Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our
24 projects. For the record, my name is Catherine
25 Moncrieff and I am YRDFA's Staff Anthropologist. I'd
0309 like to give you an update of two of our projects which
are both funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
Program.

25

0309

1

The first one is the in-season
subsistence salmon survey program. This project hires
2 a local person in 10 communities along the Yukon River
3 from Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers for six weeks
4 about their harvest and observations during the chinook
5 salmon season. They report their results weekly on the
6 YRDFA teleconferences. A post-season summary of this
7 program was included in your supplemental materials.
8 Some highlights from this report include that we were
9 able to hold an in-person training this year for our
10 surveyors and we were also able to fully hire for all
11 10 positions. Challenges this year included surveyors
12 reporting greater than usual difficulties surveying
13 fishers with the extremely restricted fishing
14 experienced this year. Eight of the 10 surveyors were
able to conduct their final interview survey which
included a series of questions aimed at summarizing the
season. Through these final interviews we learned that
10 none of the fishers in the participating communities
11 reported meeting their needs and most reported that
12 fishing was worse in 2021 than 2020. Some fishers were
13 very appreciative of managers efforts to protect the
14 salmon run and some fishers reportedly did not have the
allowable gear, a four inch net for fishing this year.
Concerns included food security for people, dog food
for this winter and a general concern for the fishery.
Finally, an evaluation was conducted with both the
surveyors and the managers which helped us see what we

15 do well and areas we can work to improve this program.
16 The second project I want to update you
17 on is the local and traditional knowledge of anadromous
18 fish in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on the
19 Draanjik drainage. In this project YRDFA has been
20 partnering with the communities of Chalkyitsik, Fort
21 Yukon and Venetie and the Tanana Chiefs Conference to
22 update the anadromous waters catalog through a
23 combination of traditional knowledge, EDNA, minnow
24 trapping and on the ground observations. As an update
25 TCC, with support from ADF&G conducted biological field
0310 work this past summer in four tributaries of the
Draanjik drainage seeking information about spawning
adults and rearing juvenile chinook and coho salmon.
Juvenile chinook were found in two locations and coho
was found in one. They have some additional coho field
work planned for later this month. Once completed, we
will be finalizing our reports, sharing them with the
communities and making nominations to the anadromous
waters catalog. This project will be wrapping up early

1 in 2022.

2 Updates on other YRDFA projects and
3 programs are included in your materials and we would be
4 happy to answer any questions about our report or
5 projects.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to
7 provide this report to your Council.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for your
9 report. Do we have any questions or comments at this
10 time for either Serena or Catherine.

11 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Thomas Alstrom.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

14 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, I have a question
15 here on Page 242 at the very top, it says they passed a
16 resolution 2021-04 a Transboundary Mining in the Yukon
17 River Watershed joining the Southeast Transboundary
18 Coalition. can we have a little more insight of that
19 transboundary mining on the Yukon watershed.

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21 MS. FITKA: This is Serena. I apologize,
22 I'm not at my computer right now. Catherine, are you
23 able to pull up the report?

24 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes, just give me a
25 second and I will see if I can find that quickly.

MS. FITKA: And while she is finding

19 that, so the transboundary mining issues that are
20 mostly in the Southeast area and we wanted to support
those efforts for people in the Southeast region on any
mining that would effect the Southeast area.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Does that answer your
22 question, Thomas.

23 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, is it -- Mr. Chair.
The reason why I was asking is because one of the
24 Council members, I believe it was yesterday or the day
before were concerned about mining, I believe it was in
25 the Kuskokwim watershed. Because often times, you

0311

1 know, tailings pollutes the water in the spawning
grounds. So that's the reason why I kind of brought it
2 up and wanted to ask about that and get a little bit
more detailed information about that resolution 2021-
3 04.

4 All right, thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 MS. MONCRIEFF: Mr. Chair, this is
Catherine.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Catherine, go ahead.

7

8 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yeah, I did find our
resolution. And we wrote it that YR DFA -- we're
concerned about mining and we try to track it and keep
9 an eye on it and make sure it doesn't have any harm to
our watershed. So we wrote in this resolution, YR DFA
10 expresses its concern that these mines operate with no
negative impacts to the environment and particularly no
11 impacts to water quality, aquatic life, and habitat
productivity and this should be tracked with baseline
12 and ongoing studies.

13 MR. ALSTROM: All right, thank -- Mr.
Chair, this is Thomas. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any more
questions or comments for Serena or Catherine at this
time.

16

(No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I have one on the same
-- a resolution that was passed 2021-03 escapement
goals for one full life cycle, can you elaborate a
19 little more on that?

20 MS. FITKA: Mr. Chair, this is Serena.
Like I said I'm not at my computer, I apologize.
21 Catherine, will you be able to pull that resolution up
as well?

22

(No comments)

23

MS. FITKA: Catherine, are you still

24 with us?

25

MS. MONCRIEFF: Sorry. Sorry, I'm

0312

1 sorry, hi, this is Catherine, sorry I was on mute
2 there. I can say that that is a YRDFA has passed a
3 couple of times because we are very concerned, of
4 course, about the salmon and there's been discussion at
5 the Board about how protecting them for a full life
6 cycle would benefit them. And if I can find the full
7 resolution I might read it to you, and it is right --
8 there it is.

5

In the resolution it talks about how
6 chinook salmon runs have been so low and although there
7 have been conservation measures we have not met
8 escapement goals and we ask -- YRDFA asks the Yukon
9 River salmon -- that the Yukon River salmon be managed
10 so that they can meet their escapement goals for one
11 full life cycle and there's a list of people and
12 organizations that we sent the resolution to. And we
13 could provide this to your Council if you were
14 interested.

10

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I think I am
12 interested in this. I think that's something that's
13 been on my mind even to consider a moratorium once we
14 find out, you know, for sure, you know, there's
15 interception of fish that's destined for the Yukon
16 Kuskokwim. I think definitely that should be looked at
17 and continue to advocate that strongly. Because we do
18 need some type of measure in place to -- if we stop the
19 fishing for a little while to let the fish rebound.

15

16

Thank you.

17

MS. MONCRIEFF: Uh-huh. Thank you for
18 those comments.

18

(Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

19

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, do we have any
21 more questions or comments for Serena or Catherine at
22 this time.

21

22

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

23

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

24

25

MR. NANENG: Yeah, I'd like to request
25 Serena and Catherine to ask University of Alaska to see

0313

1 what they have done with the funding that they received
2 back in the 1990s for a disaster -- chinook salmon
3 disaster that started occurring back then. I know they
4 were funded -- provided funding under the -- that
5 Senator Stevens got through Department of Commerce. It
6 would be interesting to know what they have done with
7 that money to try and help address chinook salmon.

8 MS. FITKA: Through the Chair, this is
9 Serena. Yes, Myron, we can look into that. And are you
10 referring to the fishing disaster back in 2009/2010?

11 MR. NANENG: Yes, it was about that
12 timeframe when Senator Stevens was -- or was in D.C.

13

14 MS. FITKA: Yes, we will look into that.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, do we have any
17 more questions or comments for Serena or Catherine at
18 this time from the Council.

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: If I could remind
23 people to mute their phones, we're hearing a lot of
24 background noise. If you're not speaking, please mute
25 by pressing start six, and to speak press star six.
26 Thank you. If there's no further questions from the
27 Council thank you very much.

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: And look forward to the
32 projects as they're coming up this coming summer.
33 Thank you for your report.

34

35 MS. FITKA: Thank you for your time.

36

37 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Eva, move on to
40 the next presenter.

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
42 Council. And we have Vanessa von Biela online from
43 USGS to present on Yukon River chinook. And the

0314

1 Council has in their meeting materials, there is a one
2 page flier on the Yukon heat stress. It's a one page
3 full color flier that was in your supplemental
4 materials.

5

6 And maybe before Vanessa starts, just a

4 reminder for everyone on teleconference, please take a
5 moment to mute your phones. We're getting a lot of
background noise and talking, so please mute your
6 phones, hit the mute button or star six to mute.

7 Thank you.

8 And.....

9 DR. von BIELA: Hi, thank.....

10 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

11 MS. PATTON:Vanessa, you have the
12 floor.

13 DR. von BIELA: Yes, thank you. Thank
you, Council and Eva and Mr. Chair. For the record my
14 name is Dr. Vanessa von Biela. You can call me
Vanessa. I'm a research fish biologist with the USGS
at the Alaska Science Center based in Anchorage.
15 Before I continue I just want to make sure everybody
can hear me well.

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Coming in clear.

17 DR. von BIELA: Great, thank you so
18 much. So I was the PI for a study that sampled chinook
salmon on their spawning migrations in 2016 and 2017 to
19 look for heat stress. This research was funded by the
Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative
20 and the U.S. Geological Survey. These informations I'm
going to be sharing with you today, while it's about
21 the 2016 and 2017 returns, these are the parents for
runs that we just had in 2021 and for the upcoming 2022
22 runs. So these findings are particularly relevant to
our current situation.

23 So a bit of background. Heat stress is
24 actually the physical response of the animal to the
water temperature. These are just water temperatures
25 that are just physically too warm for them so they have

0315
1 a physiology stress response and it's something that's
all the way down in each of their individual cells that
2 make up their body. In order to look for heat stress
our project took a small piece of muscle sample from
3 each fish and we did two laboratory tests to determine
if the fish had evidence of heat stress. This is a
4 live release sampling of the fish, this isn't lethal
sampling for any of the fish we sampled.

5

6 If you do have that handout available,
7 it's in your supplemental materials, it's titled Heat
8 Stress in Yukon River Chinook Salmon and I'll be
9 referring to a couple of figures on that handout. The
10 first is Figure 1 and it simply shows the July water
11 temperatures in the lower Yukon, these data happen to
12 come from Pilot Station where we have a pretty good
13 water temperature record but they're really
14 representative of a much wider swath of the river
15 that's pretty warm from the lower Yukon all the way up
16 through Ruby and up towards Tanana and the Rapids area
17 where there's a series of subsistence fishwheels. So
18 we think this one temperature record is kind of giving
19 us a glimpse at water temperature fish encounter in
20 that lower and middle Yukon. And July, you know, is
21 the month that's the warmest, it tends to be the peak
22 water temperature of the summer. This is just really
23 broad data shown here. There's a dot for every water
24 temperature data point that's available from the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game. And there's two dashed
0316 lines on this plot. One of those lines is at 18
degrees celsius, or about 65 degrees fahrenheit, this
is the water temperature that a lot of different
studies on Pacific salmon have shown is basically the
threshold for heat stress, so anytime we get around
this temperature we start to have some concern. That's
the lower dash line on the plot. The upper dash line
on the plot is at 21 degrees celsius, that's right
about 70 degrees fahrenheit, and this is when our
concern really turns to a higher level of concern.
We're not just worried that they're stressed, we're
worried that you could have pretty death at these water
temperatures. And that death, that quick death is
really closely tied to their cardiovascular system so
basically how their heart is moving blood and how
they're getting oxygen around their body. And when you
get to these very high temperatures the fish body is
demanding a lot of the oxygen in its tissues and the
heart just simply cannot pump that oxygen around the
body fast enough, take it out of the water quick enough

0316

1 and so the fish essentially just are suffocating. Not
2 because there's a super low level of oxygen in the
3 water but because they're -- mostly because the demand
4 that their body has for that oxygen in those warm water
5 temperatures is just so high.

6 And so when we look across this whole
7 temperature record the really striking thing is that we
8 see these very warm temperatures in a lot of years in
9 the Yukon River. For this record that goes through

6 2019 in this particular plot, 85 percent of the years
7 shown in the plot had water temperatures that were at
8 least about the 18 degree celsius threshold.

8 I want to acknowledge that people who
9 live along the river have noted the warmth in the river
10 for a long time, much longer than there's been any of
11 this Western scientific interest so we're just
12 basically catching up on the Western science side for
13 us to notice how warm this is and that this is on par
14 with problems that have already been addressed in other
15 salmon regions, particularly in British Columbia,
16 Washington State, Oregon, and California. So if you had
17 shown this Yukon temperature record to a salmon
18 researcher working on one of those areas where heat
19 stress is really well understood, they would say, oh,
20 my goodness this is too warm and they would have
21 immediately seen that there was a problem. I think, in
22 Alaska, there's sort of been this persistent notion
23 that our rivers are cold and heat stress isn't an
24 Alaska problem. And so on the Western Science side
25 we're just really starting to recognize this issue.

17
18 Also, you know, a lot of the folks who
19 live along the river had shared concerns not only about
20 the water temperature but about, of course, the fish
21 response and I know this was something that was really
22 obvious across the entire region in 2019 and a lot of
23 folks shared their observations where they actually saw
24 salmon that had died on the way to their spawning
25 migration. And this is, you know, exactly what the
26 heat stress research is really focused on.

22
23 So the second figure is the heart of
24 our results and what we found was really concerning.
25 Overall about half of the chinook salmon that were
26 sampled during this project had some evidence of heat
27 stress. This map figure with the bar graphs on top is
28 a little busy but there's bars for each of the places

0317
1 we sampled; Emmonak, Andreafsky, Gisasa, the Rapids
2 fishwheel, that Stan Zuray and Kathleen Peters have,
3 also some samples from the Chena River and Eagle. The
4 green part of the bar, that's the good news part, these
5 are fish that had no evidence of stress and then all
6 the other colors are different ways that we identified
7 stress from those two different lab tests that we ran.
8 One test looked a particular protein that the fish make
9 when they're stressed and the other test looked at how
10 they're changing the use of their genes. So you can
11 see there's different levels of the different colors in
12 different places. On the whole we did see that these

7 rates of heat stress which are summarized on the top of
8 the bar, so those rates of heat stress did tend to line
9 up with the fish that had experienced warmer or cooler
10 conditions, based on what we know about the river. So
11 the section of the river with the biggest parts, that's
12 green. The no heat stress, that was Emmonak where we
13 only categorized 31 and 34 percent of the fish as
14 having evidence of heat stress, and that makes sense
15 because those fish tend to pass that part of the river
16 really early in the season before it gets really warm.
17 Those samples really come from about mid-June, before
18 the water temperatures in the river have really risen.
19 And then through the rest of the drainage you can see
20 that our samples tend to show pretty high levels of
21 heat stress. We can have some instances where they're
22 lower, like the Andraefsky in 2017, so that's the bar
23 on the right for the Andraefsky and that was a lower
24 level heat stress. And that particular year 2017 the
25 water temperatures on that tributary were lower,
26 whereas in 2016 where we had really high heat stress in
27 that region the water temperatures were very very warm
28 and the weir crews there at the FRMP project they saw
29 the fish really reacting to those warm temperatures.

30 So I could continue to talk about
31 little anecdotes that make us trust this data but for
32 the moment I'll move on just in the interest of time
33 and move on to the broader point.

34 The concern here is that when fish have
35 heat stress they're at higher risk for early death and
36 this can also be a harming influence on the eggs as
37 well so we do worry about the next generation when you
38 have a parent generation with this level of heat
39 stress. The female salmon, in particular, are very
40 sensitive. They've got lot their bodies are trying to
41 do, developing those eggs as they carry out their

0318
42 migration and so they are at risk of death. But death
43 is not typically very visible. We don't expect to see
44 a lot of fish actually float at the surface if they
45 die. The fish do tend to sink if they die on their in-
46 river migration so we don't always see very much
47 evidence of fish kill even when there is a really
48 important affect on the population.

49 So while this is a climate change
50 problem, and sometimes climate change problems do tend
51 to feel a bit out of our control there's also a really
52 important possible interaction with our management here
53 because in an escapement based fishery management
54 program we would be very concerned if there are fish
55 dying along their migration corridor because that could

9 mean that our escapement counts aren't really giving us
10 a clear indication of how many fish are actually going
11 on to be successful spawners.

12 So there's a lot more work to do here,
13 and I would really like to continue on with this
14 research. I have had discussions over the past year
15 with the State and the Fish and Wildlife Service, the
16 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, the Yukon
17 InterTribal Watershed Council and the Yukon InterTribal
18 Fish Commission about next steps in this research and
19 what I'd really like to be able to do is to do some
20 radiotagging efforts with live fish to follow fish to
21 their spawning grounds and then go see if they're
22 successfully spawning or not and we would take some of
23 the samples we've been looking at for this existing
24 project to try to find out if we could have predicted
25 which fish would be successful spawners or not so that
0319 we can start understanding what the -- if there is an
1 impact on how many eggs are getting into the gravel and
2 supporting that next generation of fish.

3 So we had proposed this next level of
4 studies to AYKSSI, unfortunately that study was not
5 funded at this time so we're kind of in a little bit of
6 a holding pattern waiting for another opportunity to
7 submit funding. This is quite an expensive endeavor
8 doing the radiotagging study.

9 And I'd also note that we have started
10 some initial sampling of heat stress on the Kuskokwim
11 River and I'll have some results to report to the
12 Council on that in a future meeting.

13 And that's all I had to say right now
14 but of course I'm available for follow-up questions
15 from the Council. Thank you so much.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you for your
17 report. Do we have any questions at this time for Dr.
18 von Biela regarding heat stress in the Yukon River
19 chinook salmon.

20 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, Myron. I'd
21 like to thank her for a very informative report.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

23 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I just want to say
24 thank you for a good informative report.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, I
10 thought you had a question. Is there anyone else that
wants to comment or have a question for Dr. von Biela

11 at this time regarding the Yukon heat stress in chinook
12 salmon.

12

MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

14

MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I think there was
15 another study done besides this sometime in the past,
maybe in the last 10 years or so. That person made a
16 report to the InterTribal Watershed Council and I don't
remember his name but his study was also very
17 interesting. Besides the heat stress, at that time the
water, you know, about the permafrost thaw out and how
18 it affects the river. When he made that report I
thought it was very interesting also. I don't remember
19 his name but he was also a Doctor I think, but his
report was very interesting also because it dealt with
20 how it might affect the oxygen level in the Yukon
River.

21

Thank you.

22

DR. von BIELA: Yeah, through the
23 Chair, thank you. This is Vanessa. Thank you for
those positive comments about, you know, the
24 presentation and the helpful comment about permafrost.
I certainly think there's definitely some linkages here
25 of basically how much snow and ice is existing across

0320

1 our landscape and it's pretty clear from a lot of other
science and from people's observations that we are
2 losing that persistent snow and ice on the landscape
and that probably is what kept our river water
3 temperatures cool in the past. You know I'd like to
see more understanding of why the Yukon is so warm. As
4 I mentioned it's a very warm for the latitude in
comparison to some other rivers in Alaska. There's
5 actually really wide range of summer water temperatures
in Alaska. So the problems that we're talking about
6 here with heat stress for salmon on the Yukon, they
probably don't apply to everywhere in Alaska but I
7 think there's a lot of work to do to understand where
they apply and how that interplay works with things
8 like permafrost and snowfall and how the snow melts out
in the spring.

9

MR. LANDLORD: Thank you.

10

MS. EVAN: Hi, this is Norma, can I
11 make a comment.

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Norma, go ahead.

13 MS. EVAN: Also in my area where I
14 fished, I think in the last 10 years I've fished in the
15 same spot, I'm having to fish further out in the middle
16 of the river because of the erosion is causing the
17 south bank -- or the north bank to have more sand bars
18 and the past few years the top water feels fairly warm
19 because of erosion and water levels going lower than
20 they were in the past how many years, I think. That
21 might be a good factor too. That's just a comment.

18 Thank you.

19 DR. von BIELA: Through the Chair, this
20 is Vanessa again. Yeah, thank you that's a really great
21 comment. We do know that when you have that more
22 turbid water that you would get with more erosion that
23 would make the water darker and it tends to really like
24 absorb more of the energy from the sunlight and warm it
25 up. That makes a lot of sense.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Even last fall about
25 this time when the river froze up, I think in the month
0321 of November, early part of November, we had about maybe

1 a one or two week freeze and then it got warm all of a
2 sudden and it broke up all the ice, and from my
3 understanding the broken ice went far up as far as
4 Grayling. And that's the first time I've seen that
5 happen on the Yukon and definitely it's a contribution
6 from the warming that we're experiencing. So it is
7 true that global warming is contributing, you know, to
8 the warming of our lands and waters.

5 DR. von BIELA: Yes, this is Vanessa
6 again. Thank you for that observation, those are
7 really great ways to illustrate how much warmer the
8 river is, just like seeing something so dramatic like
9 that.

8 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead.

10 MR. PARKS: Henry Parks from
11 Nunapitchuk. I have a comment. Up here in my area we
12 have plenty of different kinds of fish like whitefish,
13 lush, pikes, even black fish, so in the summertime
14 they're not affected, to my knowledge, around here. I
15 haven't seen any dead whitefish or pikes or black fish.
So I was wondering why are these salmon being affected
by heat stress but not our fish in our area.

15 That's my concern and my question.

16 DR. von BIELA: Sure, thank you for
17 that. Well, I don't know as much about the other
18 species but one thing that I can speak to this question
19 about is we think the spawning salmon, in particular,
20 those that are on their spawning migration in the
21 summer are probably at the most risk of heat stress.
22 There is a tendency for fish in spawning condition to
23 have a lower tolerance for high temperature because of
24 everything else that their body is trying to do. You
25 know the up stream migration and then particularly for
0322 the females developing those eggs and so what we
understand is that those spawning condition females are
the ones that are really stressed. I can speak from a
little bit of personal experience here, as a woman who
has been pregnant before, and it was -- pregnancy is
very hard and physically stressful and I certainly had
a reduction in my capacity to do exercise and, you
know, when it got a little warm I got hot much more
quickly and to a certain extent we think a similar

1 thing happens for these spawning salmon. So when you
2 have this overlap of a spawning migration with the warm
3 temperatures then you can really get this problem. You
4 wouldn't expect the same situation, you know, if you're
5 talking about a whitefish, that maybe is more of a fall
6 spawner, then that period in their life cycle where
7 they're going through that spawning and they're really
8 sensitive to the temperatures it's just not overlapping
9 with that summer warm temperature period. So I think
10 the Yukon summer runs of salmon are at a particular
11 risk here. I also have some concern for the summer
12 chum run for similar reasons but I haven't been able to
13 do any research on the summer chum yet but I could see
14 a need to do research on those species as well.

8 MR. PARKS: Thank you.

9 DR. von BIELA: Of course.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any more questions or
11 comments.

12 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, Thomas.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

14 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, yeah, I'd just like
15 to comment, you know, we can't rule out, you know,
16 years back they had a Tsunami over there in Japan and a
17 couple of nuclear plants wiped out and dumped into the
ocean. You know, maybe that might be a possibility for
the salmon, you know, in not returning. Because often
times what the salmon feed off of out there in the
Bering Pacific Seas, like plankton and so forth,

18 they're affected by that nuclear wipeout and probably
19 their food source out there in the ocean was wiped out.
20 A lot of times we get a lot of low pressures, stormy
21 weather coming up from that way, and, you know, Japan
22 down there where the storms are being pushed up this
23 way. Not to mention, you know, just California over
24 there, you know, had hundred-something thousand gallons
25 of crude oil spilled on to their beaches, and so my
26 condolences go out to them.

27 That's it, Mr. Chair.

28 DR. von BIELA: Through the Chair, this
29 is Vanessa. I can follow up on that comment a little
30 bit. I certainly think there's definitely something to

0323

1 be said what the fish are experiencing on the marine
2 side of their life history as well and the concern
3 about marine food resources. It's not my research
4 specialty, the nuclear radiation although I am familiar
5 with work the Alaska Department of Environmental
6 Conservation has done to look for harmful radiation
7 levels. There was research done at the time of that
8 disaster that you're referencing in Japan and they were
9 able to show that the levels weren't harmful. So to my
10 knowledge, you know, that puts a lot of that concern to
11 rest, at least for the science community. I know it
12 continues to be a question that comes up for a lot of
13 folks.

14 But on the marine side, one other piece
15 that I will mention that I think is still affecting
16 these salmon returns now is that we did have a major
17 Pacific Marine heat wave in 2015 and 2016 and some will
18 remember there was a lot of observations of dead
19 seabirds on beaches during those years and we're
20 continuing to see that to some extent in successive
21 years in the Bering Sea as well. And I do think that
22 that's probably not a good sign for particularly the
23 chinook salmon. Chinook salmon eat the small forage
24 fish that the seabirds also eat. So when we see signs
25 of those seabirds in distress in the Bering Sea, I
26 think that's probably a warning sign about the chinook
27 salmon in particular since they do eat those same small
28 forage fish.

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Is
30 there any more questions or comments for Dr. von Biela
31 at this time.

32 (No comments)

33 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I
34 appreciate your report Vanessa, real good report. I
35 hope to hear from you again to update us on your
36 continued work on the chinook salmon.

37

Thank you.

22

DR. von BIELA: I would be happy to.

23 Thank you all for your time.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, with that, the time now is five after 12:00. If we can maybe take a break for lunch and then come back and continue the

0324

1 meeting. How long of a break do you want to take.

2

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

3

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Yes, and I'll let the Council decide if you'd like to take an hour break for lunch, or your call to when we resume this afternoon.

5

6

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

7

MR. ALSTROM: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is Thomas. I move to reconvene at 1:15 p.m.

8

9

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, motion on the floor by Thomas to reconvene at 1:15 p.m. All in favor say aye.

10

11

IN UNISON: Aye.

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, 1:15 it is. Go ahead and have a good lunch. I guess we could disconnect and then call back in at 1:15.

13

14

MS. PATTON: Yes, that would be good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. All right, enjoy your lunch thank you.

16

17

MS. PATTON: Everybody have a good lunch, thank you.

18

(Off record)

19

(On record)

20

MS. PATTON: Well, we have most of our Council members available. We do have quorum. Hopefully Myron and Richard will be able to join us shortly here. I want to welcome everyone again this afternoon. And thank you everyone who gathers to present information for the Council and excellent discussions.

21

22

23

24

Mr. Chair, this morning, Myron did make a request about bringing those two statewide proposals

25

0325

1 back up for reconsideration and maybe when Myron comes
2 back on we can discuss that, if the Council would like
3 to bring up those proposals today. The Council can
4 vote to reconsider those proposals so the Council had
5 tabled them to your next meeting. But maybe when Myron
6 comes back on the Council can address that vote of
7 bringing that back up. And at this point I might
8 suggest that we attend to that at the end of the day so
9 we're able to continue with all the agency reports that
10 the Council was very much looking forward. We have a
11 lot of fisheries discussion on the agenda from our
12 partners on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and hearing
13 also from BLM and both Refuges and Subsistence Division
14 reports.

15
16 So Mr. Chair and Council if that's okay
17 with you to continue with the agency reports at this
18 time.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
23 We'll go ahead and call the meeting back to order, the
24 time now is 1:23 p.m. We'll call the meeting back to
25 order. We were on agency reports. Right now we have
26 tribal governments given a time limit of 15 minutes
27 unless approved in advance so just letting you know.

28 So first on the list is Orutsararmiut Native Council.

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
30 before we begin just a friendly reminder everyone on
31 teleconference to please mute your phones. Take a
32 moment to hit the mute button or push star six to mute
33 and star six to unmute. That way we can hear the
34 presenters and the Council discussion. And, again,
35 reminder to not put anyone on hold. If you have an
36 incoming call please disconnect from the teleconference
37 line so we don't get the bad Muzak in the background.

38 And also for the Council, ONC had a
39 really great Powerpoint presentation with lots of
40 pictures and that was printed and in your meeting
41 materials packet. Had a nice full page color picture
42 on the front featuring Danielle. And with that I'll
43 turn it over to you Danielle, thank you.

44

45 DANIELLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
46 thank you, Eva. Good afternoon everyone. I'm Danielle

0326

1 (indiscernible - muffled) Lowery. I'm the Fisheries
2 Biologist with Orutsararmiut Native Council here in
3 Bethel and I'll be giving our agency report today.

4 So I'll be giving an overview of how

our summer went and the projects that took place. I'll
4 also be giving an update on our Natural Resource
5 Department and other projects that are taking place
6 this fall and winter. And lastly I will discuss a
7 letter written on behalf of ONC to replied comments
8 regarding the chinook salmon bycatch at the North
9 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

10 So first I wanted to highlight our
11 fisheries crew this year, a part of our in-season
12 harvest monitoring project. If you have your
13 Powerpoint in front of you we have a Staff photo on
14 Slide 3 and we're proud to say that we hired all local
15 Native undergraduate students as our fisheries
16 technicians this season. And so from left to right we
17 have Jayden Andrew of Nunapitchuk, Avery Hoffman of
18 Bethel, Dylan Hooper of Bethel, and Dahja Jackson of
19 Bethel between Katie Russell and I. And it was really
20 great having them on our team this summer and they all
21 did a very great job with completing surveys and other
22 aspects of our program. So our crew was able to
23 conduct 170 Bethel area fish camp surveys and 656
24 Bethel boat harbor surveys during the 10 fishing
25 opportunities provided on Federal waters. And for the
26 first time this summer ONC had the capacity to produce
27 harvest updates in collaboration with the Kuskokwim
28 River InterTribal Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife. And together they were able to produce nine
30 harvest estimates with one data summary.

31 Another important aspect of this
32 project is that we were able to collect comments from
33 fishers throughout the summer and relay those back to
34 management. We also conducted end of season surveys in
35 which we asked fish camps about their fishing progress,
36 any feedback that they have on our program and any last
37 comments that they would like us to provide to
38 management. So some of the most common comments that
39 we received from fishers is that they wanted more
40 openers to meet their salmon harvest goals and many had
41 concerns over the salmon bycatch and its impact towards
42 the Kuskokwim River and many were worried about the
43 return of chum salmon in which most of the fish camps
44 had not met their harvest goals this summer.

0327
45 So moving on to our fisheries project
46 involvement. We had a handful of programs and projects
47 that were completing simultaneously with our harvest
48 surveys, so I'll give a brief update on those. To give
49 an update on our chinook salmon age, sex point sampling
50 program, we had 14 local samplers sampling their own

4 subsistence harvest this summer and approximately 692
5 ASL samples were turned in. And that was a total of
6 3,500 samplers this summer.

7 An update on our otolith sampling
8 project. This was a collaborative project between
9 University of Washington and ADF&G. This summer our
10 technicians dissected the otoliths, or ear stones from
11 chinook salmon and in total 379 king salmon were
12 sampled. And these samples were recently sent back to
13 the University of Washington.

14 Moving on to our fish distribution
15 program. From May 26th through July 27th we have
16 delivered 379 chinook, 29 chum, 163 red salmon and 12
17 non-salmon species to Bethel and some Tuluksak elders.
18 These fish were caught by the ADF&G Bethel test fishery
19 throughout the summer.

20 Moving on, this summer we were able to
21 provide some cross-training opportunities for our
22 technicians. Our program has been providing and
23 seeking out cross-training opportunities for multiple
24 summers now to allow our technicians develop more
25 skills in the natural resource realm and also take part
26 in different entities. So first we partnered with
27 Bristol Bay Native Association again this summer to
28 send one of our technicians to work on their project
29 and one of their technicians to come out to Bethel. So
30 this summer Jayden Andrew got to go out to Dillingham
31 to work on the Nushagak River as well as the Wood-
32 Tikchik Lake and BBNA sent out Stepanie Martinez to
33 Bethel, here she got to help with fish sampling and
34 delivery, fish camp surveys and also spend a couple
35 days at the ADF&G sonar. Other cross-training
36 opportunities were the ADF&G Bethel test fishery and
37 the ADF&G sonar project in which two of our technicians
38 got to spend over a week at the camp.

39 This summer we held an in-person
40 science and culture camp for about 10 days at the end
41 of July. We were very grateful to resume this camp
42 this year since last year's camp was cancelled due to
43 Covid. So we had 11 student participants all from the
44 Kuskokwim region. These students were exposed to a
45 variety of careers in the natural sciences and they
46 were also able to increase their understanding of
47 indigenous knowledge systems. All students received
48 full credit for participating in the camp, and this was
49 in partnership with University of Alaska-Fairbanks,
50 specifically the KUC Campus here in Bethel.

6 Another student camp that one of our
7 biologists got to participate in was the Aniak and
8 Salmon River Math and Science Expedition, and this was
9 in partnership with the Kuspuk School District. Our
10 previous biologist got to attend a week long raft trip
11 and helped students learn more about the salmon life
12 cycle and the importance of salmon to our region.

13 All right, moving on to our Natural
14 Resource Department update here at ONC. Kylie Ford is
15 now serving as our Jesuit Americorp volunteer and is
16 leading most of the fall and winter projects like the
17 moose proxy hunt and the winter game distribution. And
18 currently we have two open positions right now. One of
19 them is the Native American Lands Environmental
20 Mitigation Program, NALMP coordinator and we also have
21 another Partners Biologist position open.

22 Lastly, I want to talk about our fall
23 and winter projects, so first is our fall post-season
24 harvest monitoring project in collaboration with ADF&G.
25 This will be taking place this October. We hired five
full-time local technicians and they will all be
starting this Saturday. They will go out and survey
randomly selected households in Bethel and we will be
using an abbreviated survey per the recommendation of
the ONC Council. And this decision by the Council was
made to reduce the time in contact that we had with the
community to protect the overall health. And this
project should take about three to six weeks to
complete.

26 Other projects that we have going on
27 are the indigenizing salmon science and management
28 projects and they are (Indiscernible - muffled)
29 projects. Both were postponed to the springtime due to
30 Covid and we should have more of an update then on
31 those projects.

32 All right, before I conclude my report,

0329

1 I want to briefly update the YKRAC of the letter
2 written on behalf of ONC to the North Pacific Fishery
3 Management Council as requested by our Subsistence
4 Committee. ONC has just recently provided testimony to
5 the Council on the Bering Sea, Aleutian Island bycatch
6 issue as well as provided testimony in the springtime
this year. We wanted to our voice our conservation
concerns and would like to support the BSAI chinook
salmon bycatch cap reduction to 17,000 which was
requested by the YKRAC this spring. Lowering the
bycatch may allow for greater returns of chinook salmon

7 to Western Alaska rivers and allow for more salmon to
8 be harvested for subsistence harvesters, which can
9 contribute to meeting the amounts necessary for
10 subsistence which has not been met since 2010.

11 We also urged the Council to support
12 and ensure Alaska Native Tribes have a seat at the
13 decisionmaking table and also support and encourage
14 NOAA to initiate tribal consultation on the issue of
15 salmon bycatch and to send a letter to the National
16 Marine Fisheries Service supporting funding for a
17 disaster declarations and research, observation and
18 monitoring by tribal organizations and co-management
19 organizations.

20 That is it for the update of the letter
21 and my agency report. I would like to take a second and
22 thank all of our partners including ADF&G, U.S. Fish
23 and Wildlife and the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
24 Commission and many, many more. I'd also like to give
25 a special thanks to the community of Bethel for
26 involvement in these projects (Indiscernible -
27 muffled).

28 And thank you everyone for your time
29 and if there's any questions I'd be happy to answer.

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Danielle,
31 for that good report. Do we have any questions or
32 comments right now for Danielle.

33 (No comments)

34 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we have any
35 questions or comments right now for Danielle with ONC
36 Fisheries.

37 (No comments)

0330
38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, maybe I do.
39 Maybe, Eva, I don't know what it's going to take for
40 us, if we were to give support ONC on behalf of YKRAC
41 to give a supporting letter for the letter you wrote to
42 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I think we
43 need to support all those organizations that are
44 working, you know, outside of what we're seeing and we
45 need to support them in this way. So if there's a way
46 we could support them from our Council, I'd recommend
47 that.

48 Eva.

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 Yes, if the Council would like to write a letter of
51 support to the -- on behalf of ONC to the North Pacific
52 Fisheries Management Council the Council can certainly
53 do that. It would be a motion on the record at this

10 meeting and, you know, the Council's comments on your
11 support for their letter and we will get that sent in
12 to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council along
13 with the other letters that the Council had also voted
14 to submit to North Pacific Fisheries Management
15 Council. So, thank you, Mr. Chair, yeah, it would just
16 be a motion on the record and discussion of what you'd
17 like to include in that letter.

14

Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank
17 you, Danielle. If there's no other questions or
18 comments for you, appreciate your report. Thank you
19 very much.

18

MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, Thomas.

19

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman.

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead. I didn't get
your name.

21

MR. NANENG: Thomas, go ahead.

22

23 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Mr. Chair, this
24 is Thomas. On Danielle's presentation there she said
25 that she's writing a letter to the North Pacific
0331 Council stating that they want to reduce the bycatch to
17,000 whereas the YKRAC is looking to reduce on the
Bering Sea bycatch down to 16,000. Maybe somewhere in

1 that letter we could say we support their -- support,
2 you know, their proposal to reduce the bycatch, but not
3 only by 17,000, down to 16.

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, Myron here.

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

6

MR. NANENG: Yeah, I seen somewhere
that there's another organization that will be
7 proposing to reduce the bycatch to 15,000 and so that's
8 a consideration to be made too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. If
10 there's no other questions or comments for Danielle,
11 thank you for your presentation and your report. Look
12 forward to hearing from you again in the future. Thank
13 you.

11

12 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. Since you
13 asked for a motion to support ONC in their bycatch
reduction, I move, but I think we ought to consider
something less than 17,000 in our support for that
bycatch reduction. So I make that motion.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

15 There's a motion on the floor by Myron to give a
16 supporting letter and also put a number that is lower
17 than being proposed. Do I hear a second.

18 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, second.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas Alstrom second.
20 Do we go into discussion or do we go ahead and do a
21 vote.

22 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and
23 Council. If you would like to discuss some of the
24 points you would like to include in that letter and
25 then we'll go into a vote.

26

27 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, I call for
28 question on the motion for a letter of support.

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a
30 question on the motion for the support. All those in
31 favor of writing a letter of support to ONC in reducing

0332

1 the bycatch, signify by saying yes.

2 IN UNISON: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those opposed, say no.

4 (No opposing votes)

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Motion carries, thank
6 you. So we'll be writing a letter -- a support letter
7 for ONC.

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we still need
12 justification, Eva.

13 MS. PATTON: That's fine, Mr. Chair.
14 You've expressed support for ONC and we've talked about
15 the details of in addition to add the YK Delta's own
16 request for a lower bycatch number. And I will draft
17 that up and then get that back to the Council for
18 review prior to submitting it.

19

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. I believe
22 we are going to go ahead and move on to the next
23 report.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
26 members of the Council. Dan Gillikin, who is one of
27 the Partners Program Fisheries Biologist with Native
28 Village of Napaimute had other meetings occurring this
29 week and wasn't able to attend after all. But he did
30 send a written report from Native Village of Napaimute

31

20 and I have emailed that to you so you should have an
21 email with an update of the Fisheries Resource
22 Monitoring Program projects in particular the Native
23 Village of Napaimute is involved in and their youth and
24 science and cultural camp program. So that's in your
25 email. And Dan apologizes for not being available for
the Council at this meeting and sends his regards and
hopes he'll be able to join for the winter meeting.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva. Moving
0333

1 on we go up to the Native organizations. First on the
list under A, is Association of Village Council
2 Presidents.

3 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted - numerous phone lines unmuted)

4

5 MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chair, this is
Jennifer, can you hear me?

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I can hear you
Jennifer.

7

8 MS. HOOPER: Okay, thank you. I
apologize, we did not get our report submitted to Eva
in time to get into your packets, but I did email her
9 the copy and she was going to share with the members
who had email. So if you don't have it yet you should
10 be getting a copy of it at some point for your
reference.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jennifer. This
is Eva. Yes, so that's another document you have in
that email sent this morning. So a report from the
13 Native Village of Napaimute and the Association of
Village Council President's report in there as well.
14 Thank you, Jennifer.

15 MS. HOOPER: Okay, great, thanks for
the update, Eva. Good afternoon. My name is Jennifer
16 Hooper. I manage the Natural Resources Department for
AVCP. I'm here to give sort of a programmatic update
17 on our activities since your last meeting this past
spring.

18

19 Currently, AVCP has two full-time
Natural Resource Department Staff, myself and Paige
Jones, who is our Forestry Resource Coordinator. We're
20 currently advertising and recruiting for a Marine
Resource Coordinator and hope to be advertising soon
21 for a fourth position that I'll describe here in a
minute.

22

23 So reports on activities since the last
24 meeting, the regional WCC Waterfowl Conservation
25 Committee met in August and were provided updates on
the status and trends and populations of.....

25 (Teleconference interference -
0334

1 participants not muted - numerous phone lines unmuted)
2 MS. HOOPER:(indiscernible -
background overriding the recording). They discussed
3 the AMBCC harvest survey that is conducted each fall
and then spent a lot of time focusing on emperor geese
4 and their status. Right now they are sort of in a
conservation threshold and there are concerns with the
5 population indexes. Our program has continued to
participate in efforts to design conservation outreach
6 materials for emperor geese and we will continue to
work with the Fish and Wildlife Service on efforts as
7 we approach the winter and the spring.

8 At AVCP a new division structure has
been implemented as reported before and there continues
9 to be adjustments for improving and modifying programs
where there might be duplication of services. The
10 Natural Resources Department works with the realty, the
cultural and the environmental departments under the
11 lands and cultural resources division which is managed
by John McIntyre. We have concluded our financial
12 support for the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
Commission earlier this spring and they are now an
13 independent organization and receive their funding
directly. I mentioned we are continuing to recruit for
14 a third full-time position that will focus on Bering
Sea issues and we are close to releasing a new vacancy
15 for a fourth position that will assist with some of the
subsistence resource work and will explore developing a
16 social science component to our program.

17 We continue to engage with the North
Pacific Council process. As a lot of people have
18 shared, the focus is on the current meeting that they
are having this month and several folks have provided
19 testimony on bycatch. They did run out of time and the
rest of the people that had signed up are going to be
20 on track bright and early Sunday morning to provide
their testimony. The focus for us has been to address
21 salmon bycatch and to get support for amendment to the
Magunson-Stevens Act that would include adding two
22 voting tribal seats to the Council. We've also
requested to the Council Staff that AVCP maintains a
23 seat on the community engagement committee, as it was
in an earlier Council meeting this year they discussed
24 and okayed it becoming a standing committee.

25 For fisheries disaster requests.

0335

1 Serena and YRDFA gave a really good update on that
earlier. We've continued working with our Yukon
2 partners requesting fisheries disaster declarations for
the Yukon and supporting efforts for the Kuskokwim.
3 The 2020 requests are still pending and the request for
2021 was already submitted by the Governor to Commerce
4 last month. So we will keep working at trying to get
positive determinations and a funding stream identified
5 for those.

6 This summer because of all the, you
know, the fisheries issues and disasters going on, AVCP
7 has kind of ramped up our PR and outreach and have been
releasing press releases and conducting media and news
8 interviews, radio talk shows and submitting many
different letters to various agencies, you know,
9 governmental structures and all trying to get, you
know, more our story out there. We've worked on
10 developing a fisheries strategy with many components
and one includes documenting what people -- what
11 families in the communities have experienced this
summer. We introduced a short survey to get immediate
12 feedback from people and have plans to look at
developing listening sessions later on this fall and
13 winter to give people an opportunity to provide more
in-depth experience and concerns that they have over
14 the fisheries.

15 AVCP worked with regional partners and
the State of Alaska helping to coordinate several fish
16 distribution efforts for the Yukon this summer with
salmon donated from other areas of the state. We know
17 that is not -- you know the donated fish are not even
close to what people want and are used to and, you
18 know, how they're received but we do hope that it
provided a little bit of relief and some proteins that
19 were lost for people because of the fishing closures.

20 AVCP has also requested to the
Congressional Delegation that a field hearing be held
21 to discuss the state of salmon in Alaska. We partnered
with Kawerak, TCC and AFN in that request and have yet
22 to hear back from Staffers on the potential for that.

23 Our forestry program has been working
with agencies and other internal AVCP programs and the
24 community of Russian Mission to develop a forestry HFR
type project, hopefully to begin 2022. The project
25 design is very close to being completed and then

0336

1 efforts will be put towards identifying funding towards
that project.

2

Some quick notes on general plans for

3 the next several months. Like many organizations and
4 everyone else, we're continuing to operate on remote
5 work or hybrid work situation and potential travel
6 where it's appropriate. We do plan to explore the
7 natural resources survey that we had introduced a
8 meeting or two ago to find -- to see if we can identify
9 modifications or changes to that that, you know, might
10 improve response rates for, you know, tribes to help
11 sort of guide our focus and where we might prioritize,
12 you know, Staff and time.

13 We continue to participate in the North
14 Pacific Council process. I mentioned many people were
15 pushed back until Sunday to provide testimony,
16 including myself. I will be on the list bright and
17 early Sunday morning. And to just a note on to the
18 last sort of discussion you were having, there are many
19 organizations that are going to the Council right now,
20 even asking for emergency action to lower bycatch to
21 zero for 2022 and I think everybody knows that's
22 probably not realistic but it's indicating, you know,
23 trying to illustrate the situation that Western Alaska
24 is in and no fish should be thrown overboard, you know,
25 dead and discarded. So I think it would be fine for
the RAC in any letter that you submit to support the
effort and, you know, indicate any level of bycatch
that you feel is worth mentioning.

Also we plan to work with regional
tribes determining locations for future forestry
projects and still have plans to work on providing fire
safety information and materials throughout the region.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope
that made sense and was informative and thank you for
your time.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Jennifer.
Do we have any questions or comments for Jennifer at
this time.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Ray here. I know you
mentioned about the disaster that, you know, haven't

0337
1 been received yet. I know last spring, I think in the
2 month of April we submitted an application under CARES
3 Act. I think it came from North Pacific, if I'm
correct. And the deadline was May 12. And that time
has passed and we still haven't heard anything yet.
Have you heard any updates from that process?

4

MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I have not seen any updates in quite a long time. I
6 know there were -- I had a few calls from people who
7 were trying to figure out that system and, you know,
8 get an application submitted. I will put that on my
9 list to look into and see if I can find out more
10 information and can pass that along.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. I
9 think on another issue that I'd like for you to
10 elaborate more on is that Bering Sea tribal, that new
11 commission that was dropped by President Trump and
12 brought back by President Biden. Can you elaborate a
13 little bit on that?

MS. HOOPER: Yes. Thank you very much
12 for raising that. That was something I neglected to
13 put in our report.

14 We have been working with Kawerak, the
15 Bering Sea Elders Group, several other organizations.
16 Because Biden -- President Biden did reinstate the
17 Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area Executive
18 Order that Obama had put into place back in late 2016,
19 and so within that Executive Order it calls for the
20 creation of a Bering -- I think if I can remember it
21 correctly, Bering InterGovernmental Tribal Advisory
22 Council or Committee, that is to work with agency --
23 government agency led task force to address various
24 issues, you know, that come up within the Bering Sea.
25 Everything from development, fisheries, shipping, I'm
0338 trying to recall off the top of my head everything
else, but it's supposed to be a body that will be
created and designed to work with, you know, the
agencies to highlight and bring up tribal concerns when
it comes to the Bering Sea. And we've been working
with sort of our coalition partners, as we call it,
trying to design -- help the government -- help to
design a program and identify nominations to be able to
provide to the White House so they don't do it for us
basically. And so we have the Kawerak, Bering Strait
region is still working on identifying nominations from

0338

1 their region. AVCP has pretty much solidified the
2 nominations that will come from our region. We held a
3 meeting for the tribes to participate and provide
4 feedback and provide nominations back a few months ago.
5 and so once all of the nominees are identified, I know
more information will be coming out from our group and
we are currently looking for a coordinator type
position to be hired on contract to help support this
tribal advisory council and to be Staff -- support

6 Staff for them moving forward once the program really
7 gets going.

8 I hope that provided a good description
9 of what this is and what it's for.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. Thank
12 you. I wanted the Council to hear about it. I know we
13 had Richard sitting on the Council on the
14 teleconference with us. Do we have any more comments
15 or questions for Jennifer at this time.

16 (No comments)

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none.
18 Appreciate your report, Jennifer. Thank you, very
19 much.

20 MS. HOOPER: Quyana.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, if I may I would
22 like to also include in the letter what Jennifer --
23 about wanton waste, you know, in the bycatch salmon
24 fishery. I think that could be mentioned in there
25 also. Thank you.

26 I believe we are ready to move on to
27 the next organization. We have the Kuskokwim
28 InterTribal Fish Commission.

29 MS. PELTOLA: Good afternoon, Mr.
30 Chairman. This is Mary Peltola, can you hear me.

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, you're nice and
32 loud.

33 MS. PELTOLA: Okay, good. Hopefully,
34 not too loud. Good afternoon. I don't want to take up
35 0339

36 too much time. I know half of your group is from the
37 Yukon and many of the folks on the RAC from the
38 Kuskokwim are well aware, or intimately aware of what
39 the Kuskokwim Fish Commission is doing.

40 Our in-season managers -- well, let me
41 back up. We've been around since 2015. We have 33
42 tribes who are member tribes of our Fish Commission.
43 Each tribe has a commissioner that they have appointed.
44 And of the 33 commissioners that compromise the full
45 group, seven are chosen, seven are elected. There are
46 seven units on our river that were self-selected by the

7 tribes and each of those units select one of them to
8 serve on our Executive Council and then we've got three
9 officers. We also elect -- in addition to the
10 Executive Council members, we also elect four in-season
11 managers and two elder advisors, many of whom also sit
12 on the Executive Council. So our in-season managers
13 for this year, this past summer, were James Nicori from
14 Kwethluk, he's been there since 2017, Jackie Cleveland
15 from Quinhagak, she's been there now since 2019, Megan
16 Leary represents Napaimute and she's been there since
17 2019, and Avery Hoffman is the ONC commissioner and he
18 was actually asked and selected by Robert Lekander, who
19 used to serve in the commissioner position to fill his
20 shoes when he decided to step down in that capacity.
21 Robert Lekander was elected -- is currently an elder
22 adviser, he was elected as well as James Charles, whom
23 most of you all know.

24 These in-season managers, along with
25 the Staff, and our Staff includes myself, Kevin
26 Whitworth is our Fisheries Biologist, he lives and is
27 raising his family and he works in McGrath, he also
28 runs the Takotna Weir project. We also have Terese
29 Schomogyi, she's our Jesuit volunteer and our
30 communications and outreach person, and then we have an
31 administrative person in Anchorage named Casey Wrangel,
32 and then we have two consultants, one is Jim Simon,
33 he's our anthropologist consultant and the other is Joe
34 Spader, he's our fisheries -- Dr. Joe Spader and Dr.
35 Jim Simon, Joe Spader is our fisheries consultant.

36 So with our in-season managers and the
37 fisheries management Staff from the Yukon Delta
38 National Wildlife Refuge, specifically Boyd Bilhovde,
39 Aaron Moses, Spencer Rearden and Christopher Tulik, we
40 met throughout the king, chum and sockeye salmon season
41 to determine Federal subsistence fishing openings.

0340

1 This year we had twice as long because of the chum
2 disaster. Our team is usually ready to stop co-
3 managing by July, this year we went all of June and all
4 of July, again, because of the chum collapse. And, you
5 know, one of the things that I sometimes hear from the
6 Western Science management Staff at Fish and Game and
7 Fish and Wildlife is, yeah, you know, chums crash,
8 there's been disasters before, they'll bounce back,
9 we're very concerned about that attitude because that
10 was one of the sentiments when the chinook crash first
11 hit us in 2010 and here we are 11 years later and we
12 haven't rebounded.

7

So we did submit a written -- we did

8 submit written testimony, it's in your packet. The
9 only thing that's a little bit off is on Page 2 in our
10 summary under the community based harvest monitoring
11 program, CBH program, it kind of insinuates that we did
12 get \$30,000 from the Refuge for this program, that
13 didn't actually happen because of bureaucratic issues
14 and we're still working on that. We're hopeful that
15 that funding will still be made available. The
16 community based harvest monitoring program is something
17 we're really proud of, that's been around since 2017.
18 And it -- a program where -- this summer we had four
19 villages where they did surveys, and the Commission
20 hires local young people to fill these roles of
21 surveying. They often go fish camp to fish camp. They
22 also work by smartphone surveying folks on their
23 catches. Our nine harvest monitors collected 450
24 interviews from subsistence fishermen. And the data
25 that is collected for the in-season harvest, that is
one of the best indicators that our in-season managers
use for in-season management. Western Science does not
have good indicators for either run abundance or run
timing and so the traditional knowledge that James
Nicori has been extremely useful -- every year he uses
the migratory bird return and specifically the geese
return as a way of forecasting what the coming summer
will -- you know, will do for chum salmon -- or excuse
me, chinook salmon, king salmon, and it's very uncanny
the parallels that we have seen, you know, since 2017
and this summer was no exception. James was one of the
few people who predicted the uptick in king salmon
return in '19 and he was one of the few people who
predicted, you know, the average size returns that
we're getting back in 2020.

25 There -- you know I've heard some of
0341

1 your membership -- your Council members talk about the
2 distress that the State's illegal opening caused for
3 many people. The Fish Commission certainly has our
4 concerns about things like that happening, that was
5 completely out of our control obviously. We hope that
6 that doesn't happen again because the only people that
7 that hurts is our subsistence fishermen.

8 So with that I guess I'll just open it
9 up to any questions. Kevin is on the phone, I believe,
10 as well to answer any questions you may have about the
Takotna Weir Project. So, you know, I don't really
know what else you guys would like to hear from us.

8 Over.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mary,
10 for that good report. Do we have any questions or
comments for Mary at this time.

11 (No comments)
12 MS. PELTOLA: Kevin just text me to let
13 me know that he is available for questions if there are
14 any questions for him. But if not I know that you are
15 on a timeline here.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank.....
18
19 MS. PELTOLA: And we are juggling.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN ONEY:you.
22
23 MS. PELTOLA:testifying at the
24 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council as well and
25 I'm glad you guys have all been talking about that too.
0342
1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. We're
2 still talking about it. If there's no other questions,
3 appreciate your report, Mary. We could go ahead --
4 Kevin, if there's any questions for Kevin, I guess you
5 can get the phone number or email from Mary if you want
6 to continue, if there's any questions, so thank you
7 very much for your report.
8
9 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Bye-bye.
11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, bye-bye. Going
12 down to next presentation -- Native organization, Yukon
13 River InterTribal Fisheries Commission.
14
15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 members of the Council. Unfortunately the Yukon River
17 InterTribal Fish Commission and the TCC Staff that are
18 part of that, they were understaffed this week and it
19 was just Brooke Woods and she was very closely involved
20 with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
21 work all week. So they apologize for not being
22 available for the Council but can certainly relay any
23 questions for them and they hope to be participating at
24 your winter meeting.
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
0342
1 MS. PELTOLA: Mr. Chairman, this is
2 Mary again. Brooke Woods, the Executive Director of
3 the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission she is,
4 literally just testifying at the Advisory Panel for the
5 Council. And I guess I just want to let you know that
6 Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, after many years of good
7 work, has left the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
8 Commission. I'm not sure where -- all she's working
9 right now, but Brooke is the head of it and, Brooke, I

think is originally from Rampart.

14

Thank you.

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you.

16

MS. PATTON: Thank you for sharing that Mary. As you note she's right in the midst of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. But I'm happy to relay any questions from the Council to Brooke and Ben and I can help make those connections.

17

18

19

Thank you.

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do you know if they provided documentation for their presentation for this meeting?

21

22

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, unfortunately there wasn't a written report. They were just hoping to address the Council in person.

23

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Hopefully we will be able to take them up in the winter

25
0343

meeting. So moving on we took Yukon River Drainage earlier and also USGS Alaska Science Center. We're down to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. First on the list is Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Kenton Moos, you have the floor.

1

2

3

4

MR. ADERMAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman, can you hear me.

5

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

6

MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, Council members. My name is Andy Aderman, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Togiak Refuge. I will be giving the report instead of Kenton Moos. In your books there's a written copy of some projects that we're involved with that starts on Page 247. I'm just going to cover a couple of those projects that we're involved with starting with Mulchatna Caribou. I know you addressed the proposal yesterday and you had all the current information about the herd.

7

8

9

10

11

12

Just to let you know we'll continue to work with ADF&G and the other cooperators monitoring the herd and participating in outreach efforts. And then one other thing with that, we will work with Fish and Game from both the Bethel and Dillingham offices and plan to capture up to nine caribou next March or

13

14

15 April and this will primarily be on our West Coast
south of Quinhagak and even south of Good News Bay.

16

(Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18 MR. ADERMAN: Moving on to moose, we
weren't able to conduct our calving flights last year
19 due to the Covid19 restrictions. We had one of our
lowest calf recruitments that I've seen in over 20
20 years. And I'm not sure, you know, if the calves
weren't born or if they were born and died through
21 predation or other means. We did have kind of a tough
winter. But anyways we had really good calf production
22 this spring. I think just about all the cows in the
Goodnews drainage had twins and one had triplets so
23 we're hoping that most of those survive.

24 Not a whole lot more.

25 We've been looking at wolves and brown

0344

1 bears. We think our brown bear population is around
850 brown bears and the wolf population is around 90 to
2 100 wolves. This is for the Togiak Refuge.

3 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

4

MR. ADERMAN: The last thing, but not
5 least, I just wanted to point out that Jackie Cleveland
joined our team. She's a Refuge Information Technician
6 there in Quinhagak.

7 So that's all I had for the Council.
If you have any questions I'll try to answer them.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Andy, for
9 your presentation. Do we have any questions or
comments for Andy at this time.

10

(No comments)

11

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I
12 appreciate your presentation, Andy. Thank you, very
much.

13

MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, we are down to B,
15 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

16 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
is Aaron Moses, I'm going to be presenting on behalf of
17 the Refuge Manager, Boyd Bilhovde. This is just a
Refuge 2021 update and it's in your supplemental
18 materials.

19 Just starting with fisheries, working
20 with the InterTribal Fish Commission over the summer.
21 Harvest -- in total we were able to fish for 144 hours
22 of setnet fishing and about 81 hours of drift gillnet
23 fishing over the summer. So we did have some pretty
24 good opportunities to fish for salmon this summer. And
25 we'll go into that later on when they do the fisheries
0345 update later on today.

23 Going on with our other projects.

24 For waterfowl, we were able to complete
25 a full field season this summer, which included Emperor
0345 goose nesting out on Kigak Island. We were able to
1 monitor 280 nests for Emperor geese. And so we were
2 able to see that 90 percent of the nests at least one
3 egg hatched, so that was pretty good for that. For
4 Black Brant and cackler banding the crew captured 777
5 cackling geese and out of that two were recaptures.
6 Land issues for waterfowl, the population index for
7 Emperor geese is only 1,000 above the closure threshold
8 of 22,000. So according to our biologists and others
9 there's a 50 percent chance that the hunting season for
10 Emperors will be closed in 2023. And also another
11 issue, but it doesn't really have an effect for up
12 here, is, other than the population, is that the
13 cackling goose population is below its population
14 objective. So Oregon and Washington State are reducing
15 their harvest from four birds to three per day so that
16 populations can get back up to its objectives.

10 As for Staff updates. I might have
11 said this in the spring but Spencer Rearden was hired
12 as a supervisory biologist this spring. We have a new
13 Park Ranger that took over for Patrick Snow, his name
14 is Todd (Indiscernible) and he has been here since May.
15 We have a new budget technician, Jeannie DeBois (ph),
16 she's been here for about a year. I, me, Aaron Moses,
17 I finally became the permanent Refuge subsistence
18 specialist. I've been filling in for the last couple
19 of years. And also we have a new RIT that started
20 about a week ago, Emmett Nicori, from Napakiak, by way
of Kwethluk, so we're really happy to have a new RIT.
16 And we're hoping to hire more RITs throughout the
17 region, especially the Yukon. We need at least one or
18 two more people from the Yukon. And also in the summer
19 we were able to have eight interns and two Youth
20 Conservation Corps students. And so we had a really
busy summer with what we had going on with all the
pandemic.

20 And so with that I am done and if you

guys have any questions.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Aaron, for
your good report. Do we have any questions or comments
for Aaron at this time.

23

(No comments)

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I do, Aaron. I
don't remember if it was Fish and Game or Fish and

0346

Wildlife that were going to be doing a study on
ptarmigans. I believe I heard about looking for some
ptarmigans, to try and find them, because very few
ptarmigans that we see here on the Yukon Delta, if you
might elaborate a little bit, if you know.

Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. We were
working on that with Fish and Game. Due to the
pandemic I am not sure where that is at this point.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, hopefully we can
get an update from Fish and Game, thank you. Do we
have any other questions or comments for Aaron Moses
with Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

9

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

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

11

MR. NANENG: Yeah, it would be good to
know if there's any law enforcement issues or concerns
that were raised by some of the villages. Because I
think that we also need to be given some of that
information and why they were going on -- I'm not
trying to put law enforcement on the people but there
are some things going on like trespass and village
corporation lands where, you know, the way it's
required under ANCSA that they have to make sure that
they use their lands for fish and wildlife purposes.
And so the reason why I raise that question is that
many of the villages selected lands for subsistence
purposes and when trespassing occurs on their lands,
they're in essence, trespassing on Fish and Wildlife
lands, too.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we know if we have
any wildlife protection officers that may be online at
this point.

21

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair. I don't think
we do on our side but I could pass it along to the law
enforcement guys and we could have something for you in
the springtime. I will make a note of that and pass
that along to those guys.

22

23

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Thank
0347

1 you very much. If there's no other questions or
comments, I appreciate your report, Aaron.

2

(No comments)

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, moving on. Going
4 down to 2021 Yukon River post-season salmon report.

5 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman. This is
Gerald Maschmann with Fish and Wildlife Service.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Gerald.

7

8 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
and Council. My name is Gerald Maschmann. I am the
Assistant Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries
9 Manager. As many of you know Holly Carroll has taken
over Fred Bue's role as Federal manager. She might be
10 on, I'm not sure. She's also doing double duty with
the RAC here and also the North Pacific Fish Management
11 Council. She wishes she could be here if she could.

12 Additionally, I want to let you know
that we have a new member of our Staff. We have a new
13 assistant manager named Keith Harren Ivy. I know he has
family ties to the Bethel area. He was an ANSEP
14 student who started working for Fish and Wildlife as a
directorship fellow. We brought him on full-time in the
15 summer and he's also working for us part-time this
winter while he works on his Master's degree in
16 fisheries at UAF and his focus is on indigenizing
fisheries management, and we're really happy to have
17 him on Staff.

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Woo-hoo.

19 MR. MASCHMANN: Today I will be briefly
summarizing the 2021 Yukon River salmon season. If you
20 turn to your books to Page 259. We have a detailed
preliminary summer and fall season summary on Page 259.
21 In order to get it into your book it's through August
9th. That was kind of the deadline for getting it
22 printed.

23 The fall season is essentially coming
to an end in the Yukon drainage but there's still some
24 escapement and assessment that's ongoing, therefore,
you'll receive a final summary of the fall season at
25 your winter meeting. Also the Alaska Department of
0348

1 Fish and Game is putting their finishing touches on
their really detailed summer season summary and that
2 should be coming out in another week or two. It'll be
considered a news release or an advisory announcement,

3 so keep an eye out for that.

4 Again, I probably don't really need to
5 go into a lot of detail for this season, everyone knows
6 it was pretty miserable. But I will start out here,
7 like past years, we mailed out these salmon colored
8 pre-season outlooks to Yukon River fishing households.
9 Prior to the season, the pre-season was discussed at
10 various meetings that included the Yukon River Panel,
11 the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission, the YRDFA
12 Board meeting as well as the annual YRDFA pre-season
13 fishermen's meeting. You know, as part of our
14 commitment to government to government consultation the
15 Federal Manager, Holly Carroll, emailed Yukon River
16 tribal governments to introduce herself, distribute the
17 outlook flier and seek tribal consultation and feedback
18 on the upcoming season. Additionally, Keith Ivy, our
19 new Assistant Manager made follow-up calls to tribal
20 governments to inform them on how to find the latest
21 fishing information, who to call if they have
22 management questions and also to update our tribal
23 governments contact list. Outreach also continued into
24 the season via the weekly YRDFA teleconferences.

25 Prior to the season the chinook run was
forecasted to be approximately 102 to 189,000 fish and
the summer chum outlook was for a run of approximately
1.2 million fish. Based on the poor chinook salmon
outlook and the pre-season management strategy
subsistence salmon fishing was closed, starting in the
lower Yukon, just as the early chinook salmon arrived.
Tributaries and the coastal district were also closed
to salmon fishing. And overall the Pilot Station sonar
passage estimates indicated the drainage-wide chinook
salmon run was near the lower end of the pre-season
outlook and summer chum salmon abundance was
unexpectedly very poor at all the lower river
assessment projects with none of the typically large
pulses that are normally seen. It was clear early in
the season that there was no harvestable surplus
available for subsistence fishing for summer chum or
chinook salmon and, therefore, subsistence salmon
fishing remained closed to salmon fishing throughout
the drainage for most of the entire summer management
season.

0349

1 Unfortunately, the fall season
2 management didn't fare any better. There is a
3 relationship between the summer chum salmon return and
4 the fall chum salmon return. And with the poor
abundance of summer chum, managers forecasted a fall
chum run size of less than 300,000. A run size this
poor requires complete fall chum salmon fishery

closure.

5

Coho salmon abundance was also one of the poorest on record. So targeted opportunity to harvest coho salmon was also not available.

7

So essentially subsistence salmon fishing was closed the entire season. That's unprecedented. You know, managers looked for ways to allow for subsistence fishermen to harvest non-salmon species using four inch or less mesh gillnets, dipnets, hook and line as well as manned fishwheels. There was some opportunity to harvest pink salmon as well as coho salmon until it was determined that the coho salmon run was coming in poor. Late in the fall season it became clear that both cum and coho were much smaller in size than usual and this, coupled with the very poor abundance, warranted putting subsistence fishing with the four inch or less mesh gillnets on a reduced schedule. And, you know, this action was meant to reduce the chances of incidental harvest of salmon while still providing some opportunity to harvest non-salmon.

16

If you could turn to the graph starting on Page 259 of your book. The first two graphs show preliminary passage estimates of chinook salmon past the Pilot Station sonar. This season is 122,000 chinook salmon. That's the fourth lowest passage since 1995. Chinook salmon escapement goals were not met and all monitored escapements were below average. The final Eagle sonar chinook salmon passage estimate was approximately 31,600 fish, and this is well below the interim management escapement goal of 42,500 to 55,000 chinook salmon. The preliminary summer chum passage estimates past the Pilot Station sonar was 153,000 fish. This is the lowest on record and well below the 500,000 to 1.2 million drainage-wide escapement goal. Most summer season -- summer chum escapement goals were met and all escapement were well below average. Preliminary passage estimates of fall chum salmon past the Pilot Station sonar were 146,000 fish, like summer

0350

1 chum, is the lowest on record.

2 (Teleconference interference -
3 participants not muted)

3

MR. MASCHMANN: Again, we're putting the final touches on the fall season assessment, not yet complete, but at this time doesn't appear escapement goals will be met.

5

6 Assessment at the Eagle sonar was
7 completed on October 6th and at this time approximately
8 20,000 fall chum salmon were estimated passing the
9 sonar. And, again, that's well below the interim
10 management escapement goal of 70,000 to 104,000 fall
11 chum salmon.

12 Preliminary passage estimates of coho
13 salmon past the sonar -- the Pilot Station sonar were
14 37,000 fish, also the lowest on record.

15 While it can be disheartening the runs
16 were so weak and the escapement goals were not met
17 throughout the drainage, we are reminded about the
18 resilience of salmon. We saw similar crashes, as Mary
19 Peltola mentioned, we've seen similar crashes with very
20 poor returns in 2000 and 2001. They did bounce back
21 within two to four years, they did bounce back and
22 provided some years with some of the largest returns
23 we've seen. That's not to say we're not concerned, we
24 are. We just don't know what we're going to see in the
25 future. We're definitely going to keep an eye on it
0351 and we'll definitely want to hear what the Council
1 thinks about what we should be doing in the future.

2 (Teleconference interference -
3 participants not muted)

4 MR. MASCHMANN: And we also want to
5 acknowledge that this was a very serious hardship this
6 season for Yukon River families. We do want to thank
7 Yukon River fishermen for their cooperation during this
8 difficult year and we commend those tribes and
9 communities that took steps to share fishing gear,
10 provide freezers for their community members and come
11 up with creative solutions to harvest other species to
12 compensate for the lack of salmon. Their engagement
13 with fisheries managers is important and their efforts
14 to allow every salmon to get to the spawning grounds by

15 foregoing harvest will hopefully benefit the entire
16 Yukon in the future. This winter the Service
17 management team will be looking to collaborate with
18 other agency experts on finding answers and research
19 solutions for the low abundance and we hope to plan an
20 InterAgency meeting in coordination with YRDFA.

21 Holly Carroll, the Federal manager,
22 will also be writing to tribal governments this winter
23 to offer post-season government to government
24 consultation teleconferences, so at any time please do
25 contact the managers directly if you have any questions

7 or concerns about management. We're always open to
8 hear from folks.

8

9 So, Chairman Oney, and Council, that's
10 my report. I'll take any questions.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Gerald, for
12 that report. Do we have any questions or comments for
13 Gerald at this time.

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
15 I may just quickly interject to please ask people to
16 mute your phones, we've got a lot of background noise
17 that's interrupting folks to be able to hear. So do
18 take a moment, look at your phones everyone, hit the
19 mute button, star six.

15

20 Quyana.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Apologies for
18 interrupting.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we
20 have any questions or comments for Gerald at this time.

19

21 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair,
22 this is Thomas.

20

21

22

23

24

25

0352

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0352

1

2

3

4

-- not able to fish for salmon throughout the summer
and fall, you know, restricting our villages isn't the
solution. We're doing our part in sacrificing our
subsistence needs to conserve -- you know, to try to up
the salmon that return here back to the Yukon, and
that's not the solution. And we're continuing to see
small numbers come back to the Yukon, you know, we've
got to go after them Bering Sea fishermen out there,
that bycatch and, you know, really lower that number in
the bycatch because we're doing our part and we should
see more of them high seas fishermen out there do their
part in lowering their bycatch numbers. Because out
here on the Yukon River, we're doing our part, you
know, not having no -- not being able to fish all
summer and fall is ridiculous. So we're having to
sacrificing to not go out and fish for salmon, they
should be out there doing their part lowering the
bycatch.

10

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is

12 Myron.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

14

MR. NANENG: I think the reason why I
made a comment.....

15

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

16

17 MR. NANENG:that (indiscernible -
cutting out) intercept fisheries that are allowed to go
18 commercial fishing when our subsistence fishers and
commercial fishers are completely closed. It's not
19 fair. I think the Office of Subsistence Management
fisheries should, in some way, force State Fish and
20 Game to close those commercial fisheries that know that
some of those chum stocks are bound for the Yukon and
21 the Kuskokwim. When I talked to the Commissioner of
Fish and Game earlier this summer, Doug Vincent-Lang,
22 he told me, oh, we'll monitor it, we'll see what we can
do about it. But all summer long Yukon River
23 subsistence and commercial fisheries were not open at
all, and what added to the insult was the fact that
24 after the fish passed by they said, now we're opening
it to any gear size for any salmon that are incoming
25 into the river as well as those that may be living

0353

1 along the coast.

2

So that's why I'd recommend that in
some way -- and I make the motion on behalf of the
3 Regional Advisory Council, that we demand the Office of
Subsistence Managers [sic] work with Fish and Wildlife --
4 or Fish and Game to make sure that if the subsistence
fisheries on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim are closed,
5 all those commercial fisheries that are known to impact
those fisheries be closed as well. That's my motion.

6

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.

7

There's a motion on the floor by Myron to demand that
the Office of Subsistence managers work with managers
8 to keep an eye on the fish that are coming in and if
they're low, to completely close fishing, for
9 commercial; if I'm.....

10

MR. NANENG: Both commercial and -- we
know that subsistence will already be closed, but we
11 know that commercial fisheries were allowed this summer
in some of the known intercept fishery areas, such as
12 Area M, and if our fisheries are going to be closed on
our river systems, that doesn't give them any more

13 rights to that fish, to fish commercially, even as an
14 intercept. So that's my point.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. And
16 if I could.....

17 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is Thomas
18 Alstrom. I'll second that motion.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion
20 by Myron, to clarify the motion, Eva, or recorder, can
21 mention it and it's been seconded by Thomas. So if you
22 could please read the motion for the record.

23 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 Council. Myron, if I may, first, to clarify who you
25 wanted this letter to be directed to?

26 MR. NANENG: I want it to be directed
27 to the Board of Fish, the Commissioner of Fish and
28 Game, Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal
29 Subsistence Board.

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron.

31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

1 MR. NANENG: And I'd also.....

2 MS. PATTON: And -- uh-huh.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Mr. Chairman, I might
4 also add that with that letter that's going, to the
5 National Pacific Marine Fishery Council, that you
6 include halibut as one of the declining species that's
7 used for subsistence by people along the coast.
8 Because this past summer there were many reports that
9 the size of halibut was not as big as they usually were
10 and they weren't catching that many, all they were
11 catching were the really small halibut. And we know
12 that the Bering Sea bycatch is a lot of halibut and
13 that halibut is going overboard.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. Mr.
16 Chair. So we will add the concern about halibut to the
17 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council letter that
18 the Council had discussed and voted to submit earlier
19 in the meeting. And then for this letter directed to
20 Board of Fish, the Fisheries Commissioner and Federal
21 Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence Management
22 requesting that if subsistence fisheries are closed,
23 that the Federal managers work with ADF&G requesting
24 that commercial fisheries that may be intercept
25 fisheries also be closed.

26 MR. NANENG: Yes.

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Eva.
28 It's been motioned and seconded and discussion in

18 place, do we have further discussion.

19 (No comments)

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

21 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom, I
call the question.

22

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Thomas Alstrom
23 calls for the question. All those in favor of the
motion signify by saying yes.

24

IN UNISON: Yes.

25

0355

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose,
signify by saying no.

2

(No opposing votes)

3

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
4 carries. So if we could direct that letter to those
organizations that was mentioned earlier. Maybe I have
5 one question for Gerald. Do you know if they're still
doing a test fishery anywhere on the Yukon?

6

MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Chairman
7 Oney. Not really a test fishery, they -- like I said
the Eagle sonar just finished operations October 6th.
8 There are some foot surveys up here in the Tanana
drainage, boat and foot surveys for fall chum and coho
9 that'll be happening in October, and early November.
There are still some assessment projects going on in
10 Canada for fall chum. I believe the Porcupine River
sonar up in Old Crow may still be going as well as the
11 Fishing Branch weir. I'm not sure what else might be
going on in Canada at this time. But things are just
12 starting to finish up.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank
you. Because I know from listening to some reports
14 that I've attended, I know I was on the Yukon Panel for
one term and from my information that I received from
15 them was that when the fish come up the Yukon, they
don't reach their spawning grounds until wintertime,
16 like in the month of November, December. And if that's
the case then, you know, if there's -- if Fish and Game
17 opened it up, you know, before all the fish have gone
through then, you know, that's (indiscernible - cuts
18 out) so I just wanted to mention that.

19

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

20

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, do we have

21 any.....

22 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, this is Holly
Carroll.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Holly, go ahead.

24

MS. CARROLL: Hi, thanks, Mr. Chair.
25 Mr. Oney, that was a great question. And I just wanted
0356

1 to follow up and say that, you know, we work closely to
manage the river with Fish and Game and this year we
2 did have to make the tough choice to leave fishing
closed much longer than we normally do in fall and so
3 to get to that point you were just making, because the
fall chum and the coho continue to trickle into the
4 river under the ice we did leave it closed much longer.
Usually fish have gone out throughout the drainage now
5 and the salmon fishing will not be relaxed to the
normal full mesh sizes until all the salmon have passed
6 through the mainstem areas. But we did find it
necessary to keep some tributaries closed for salmon
7 fishing and that's because of active spawning with the
fall chum that go all the way up through December and
8 so that is additional measures we took to protect the
salmon, basically to address exactly what you just
9 said.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we
have any further questions or comments for either Holly
11 or Gerald at this time.

12 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James.

14 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

16 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I am glad to see
that they're attempting -- they're going to try to
17 increase tribal consultation with the tribes on the
Yukon River and Kuskokwim River. I think it would be a
18 good time for the tribes to bring up their specific --
or write a letter -- we write a letter because I think
19 they want to seat two tribal members on the North
Pacific Fisheries so the tribal consultation should
20 help having to deal with the North Pacific Fisheries.

21 Doi.

22 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is
Thomas.

23

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

24

MR. ALSTROM: Oh, yes, Mr. Chair. I'd
25 just like to say thanks to Gerald Maschmann for his
0357

1 presentation there. You know, although it might be a
2 little frustrating and upsetting for a lot of us
3 subsistence users out here on the Yukon but, you know,
4 we're all striving to increase our salmon numbers. So
5 thanks, Gerald, for your great presentation there.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman, this is
8 Gerald.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Gerald, go ahead.

10 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I just want to
11 address Mr. Landlord's comment. Yeah, you know, in the
12 past we go to a lot of fish meetings and we've
13 interacted with a lot of fishermen and we always kind
14 of thought that, you know, we were meeting what we
15 needed to do to interact with fishermen and, you know,
16 most folks are Native fishermen, or tribal members, but
17 we got to thinking about it more and we really wanted
18 to improve our, you know, government to government
19 consultation. One of our problems is, as you know,
20 different people are -- chiefs come and go and first
21 and second chiefs come and go and we lose their contact
22 information, so part of what we're doing this summer
23 and this winter is making sure our -- that we're
24 contacting the right people. So please let your
25 communities know that we're going to be reaching out
26 this winter and, you know, government to government
27 consultation is voluntary, if they don't feel like they
28 need to communicate with us that's okay but if they
29 want to, you know, please make sure we got your contact
30 information and we'll make the time we need to make to
31 make it meaningful. You know, that's important for me,
32 and it's important for Holly that these interactions
33 aren't just checking the box, we want to make it
34 meaningful and have a good conversation. So let your
35 communities know and if they want to talk with us, we
36 want to talk with them. We know some communities are
37 really busy and there's other activities going on. But
38 I think we're going to try and do this each fall and
39 each spring so let your communities know.

40 Thank you.

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43
44 0358

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. If
46 there's no further questions, I thank you for your
47 report Gerald. And, Holly, I'm sure we'll be hearing
48 back from you during our winter meeting just to get an
49 update on where we might be on some of the issues that

we'd like addressed, so appreciate your presentation.

4 Thank you.

5 Okay, we are down to 2021 Kuskokwim
River fish post-season salmon report.

6

7 MR. MOSES: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
Aaron Moses. I will start and then we will have Nick
Smith with Fish and Game after me.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: You've got the floor.

9

10 MR. MOSES: All right, thank you. This
is going to be real brief. The 2021 chinook salmon run
remained below the historical averages but consistent
11 in magnitude with the return since 2016, except for
2019 when a whole bunch of fish came in. But it's been
12 relatively stable since 2016, like the same amount of
fish coming in.

13

14 For the 2021 chum salmon run appears to
be the lowest on record in the history of the Kuskokwim
so we had -- just like the whole state we've had a
15 really bad chum run.

16 The sockeye salmon appear to be
average. And I could say that if there was no sockeye
17 on the Kuskokwim then we probably would have had a lot
of closures also so we were fortunate that we had a
18 really good sockeye run on the Kuskokwim.

19 So that's all I have and I'll pass it
on to Nick.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Nick, you have the
floor.

22 MR. SMITH: Thanks, Aaron. This is
Nick Smith with the Department of Fish and Game.

23 (Cutting in and out)

24 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

25

0359

1 So following up on Aaron's summary
there I can give some specific detail on certain
2 numbers.

3 So, you know, like a lot of other areas
we operate weir projects throughout the Kuskokwim River
4 and the last of our weir projects, the George and the
Kogruklu River weirs came out of the water here about
5 a week and a half ago. So we're really in the --
jumping into the data analysis portion of the fall. We
6 don't have anything really in stone yet. But to break
down a few things. So starting with we do have the

7 drainage-wide chinook salmon total run and escapement
8 and we make an estimate shortly after chinooks are
9 through the river that is provided to the North Pacific
10 Fisheries Management Council. So our preliminary
11 estimate for (indiscernible - cutting out) salmon
12 returning to the Kuskokwim River was 129,000 fish with
13 a total escapement of 101,000 fish and like
14 (indiscernible - cutting out) said this is similar to
15 the run sizes and escapements that has been observed
16 really since 2015 with the exception of 2019. This
17 number will be finalized in the spring. Once we have
18 our post-season subsistence harvest survey numbers
19 done, and that post-season subsistence harvest survey
20 is currently being conducted and I'll know later on
21 today Subsistence Division will be giving an update on
22 that. So I don't want to spend too much time on it.

16 And then without getting into any
17 specific numbers because those are bound to change as
18 we go through the data, but we do have the raw numbers
19 and those raw numbers from the weirs are the minimum
20 counts because these weirs have operational issues, you
21 know, a panel moves, or it gets scoured out and the
22 fish can squeeze through so we make estimates for those
23 but even just looking at the raw numbers we can see
24 that for chinook salmon, the two weirs that operated
25 this year that have goals are the George and Kogrukluk
26 River weirs and the king salmon goals at both of those
27 projects were met.

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24 MR. SMITH: For sockeye we have an
25 escapement goal on the Kogrukluk for sockeye and that
26 escapement goal was met. Chum salmon, Aaron was spot
27 on, you know, it looks to be the worst on record. The
0360
1 escapement goal at the Kogrukluk River met was not met,
2 it really wasn't close to being met.

3 And then for coho we have an escapement
4 goal on the Kogrukluk River weir, and that escapement
5 goal was met.

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

6 MR. SMITH: So from the river
7 perspective, you know, chums were definitely down and
8 like Aaron said, you know, the saving grace this year
9 was really sockeye salmon with a little bit of harvest
10 on chinook.

9 We were able to fly aerial surveys down
10 in the bay so now I'm going to move down into the
11 Goodnews and Kanektok Rivers. For the Goodnews River
12 we have an aerial survey goal on the Northfork Goodnews
13 River for chinook and sockeye. The chinook salmon goal
14 was met and the sockeye goal was exceeded. And then
15 for the Kanektok River the chinook goal was met and the
16 sockeye goal was exceeded. So really a similar pattern
17 in Kuskokwim Bay that was observed in Kuskokwim River.

18 So I guess moving into the winter
19 months here we're going to finalize our numbers.
20 Currently, like Gerald said, for the Yukon side, we're
21 producing our end of season document that will be
22 published as an advisory announcement hopefully here in
23 the next couple weeks as we start to get preliminary
24 numbers from the weirs and we can finalize that. And
25 then next spring we'll have finalized numbers and we
0361 can have a more detailed presentation of how the 2021
1 season wrapped up.

2 So with that, I think Aaron and myself
3 will be happy to answer any questions and I'll turn it
4 back over to you, Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Thank
6 you for your report, for the 2021 Kuskokwim River post-
7 season salmon report. Do we have any questions or
8 comments for either Aaron or Nick at this time.

9 (No comments)

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. I'm still
13 hearing background noise. If you can mute your phone
14 if you're not a speaker or a presenter, please mute
15 your phone by pressing star six. Thank you.

16 If there's no questions, I appreciate
17 you and Aaron's report, thank you very much. I look
18 forward to hearing from you again in the winter
19 meeting. Thank you.

20 What is the wish of the Council, do you
21 want to take maybe a 10 minute break, 10, 15 minute
22 break. What is the wish of the Council.

23 MS. ROGERS: Sounds good, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

12 MS. ROGERS: Yes, that sounds good, a
10 minute break would be nice.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. A 10 minute
break is in order. We'll come back at 10 after 3:00 so
14 let's take a 10 minute break. If you can stay on
without disconnecting, you may have a hard time getting
15 back on so keep your phone on.

16 Thank you.

17 (Off record)

18 (On record)

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I believe the next item
we have for reports is the Bureau of Land Management.

20

MS. MILLION: Good afternoon, Mr.
21 Chair. This is Bonnie Million with the Bureau of Land
Management, Anchorage Field Office. Can you hear me
22 okay?

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, I can hear you.

24 MS. MILLION: Perfect. So first I'll
thank you so, so much, Mr. Chair and Council members
25 for the opportunity to present to you this afternoon.

0362

1 The Anchorage Field Office submitted, I
believe, a four page summary of some of the activities
2 that we completed during the 2021 summer. Hopefully
that made it to everybody in the supplemental
3 materials. It does cover the activities that we were
able to complete throughout the entire field office. I
4 did want to take a couple of seconds to highlight some
of the items that might be of interest to this Council.

5

6 First off, we were successful in
contributing some funds through an InterAgency
agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7 Togiak Wildlife Refuge to help with the monitoring of
the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. We're very, very excited
8 to be participating in that important work in the
upcoming seasons.

9

10 And then there were a couple of project
updates, while not in the RAC boundary specifically,
are definitely up stream of this area and I know the
11 Council has expressed interest in these before so I
thought I would just take a couple of seconds to
12 highlight those.

13 First off the Red Devil Mine. And this
is the abandoned mercury mine that's up in the middle
14 kind of portion of the Kuskokwim River. We are
currently in the process of developing a record of
15 decision for that clean up project. And we're really
hoping to get that wrapped up sometime this winter.

16 When it's complete that record of decision will be
17 available for review by the public and I'll definitely
18 be in touch with a link to that document once it comes
19 out. Of course we continue to monitor ground water and
20 surface water at the Red Devil Mine twice a year and
21 that monitoring will continue indefinitely. So that's
22 the status of that project.

23 And then I did want to also highlight
24 some of the developments with the Alaska Native Vietnam
25 Era Veterans Allotment Act. The BLM is currently
0363 working on an environmental assessment that will
1 consider the effects of opening certain lands to
2 selection by eligible Native -- Alaska Native Vietnam
3 era Veterans. And the lands that are being analyzed
4 are associated with about 28 million acres that were
5 originally identified in some public land orders that
6 were signed earlier in January of 2021. The public's
7 60 day -- the 60 day public comment period for that

8 environment assessment ended at the end of September
9 but I believe in that supplemental materials that we
10 sent out there are links to that project website and
11 Rachel Jones is the BLM point of contact for any
12 additional information that you might need for that
13 assessment project.

14 Those are the ones that I wanted to
15 highlight. And I'll leave the rest of my time open for
16 any questions the Council may have.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
18 Bonnie, for your report. Do we have any questions or
19 comments for Bonnie at this time.

20 (No comments)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank
22 you, Bonnie, for your report.

23 MS. MILLION: Thank you, sir. Okay,
24 moving on, down to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

25 MR. OSTER: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is
Keith with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
Bethel.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Keith, you've got the
floor.

MR. OSTER: Thank you. So, yeah, my
name's Keith Oster. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for
Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel. And my
plan here is just to kind of walk you guys all around

18 Unit 18 describing all the work we've done in the last
19 year.

20 First I'll start off answering Chairman
21 Oney's question about ptarmigan earlier. So we first
22 started to start a ptarmigan project in 2019 so in late
23 April of 2019 we deployed three teams out in the Kilbuk
24 Mountains trying to put some radio collars on ptarmigan
25 over there. And we were wholly and completely
0364 unsuccessful then. Kind of after the fact we
determined that, you know, we were probably too early
for that capture or collaring project. We really rely
on ptarmigan to really be starting to get into their
breeding behavior and once they do they tend to not be
as flighty, tend to stand their ground a little more

1 which will allow us to get close enough to actually
capture them. We had intended to go out a little bit
2 later in 2020 and, again, Covid happened, and because
we need to bring in people kind of from all over the
3 state, including Rick Merizon, who you guys heard from
earlier about the hare proposal, we decided to cancel
4 it due to Covid 19 concerns and, again, we did that
this spring in 2021. The status of that ptarmigan
5 project is kind of up in the air right now. We'll be
talking about it probably in early 2022 to see if we
6 have resources to go out and try again, if conditions
allow, but right now it's kind of up in the air and we
7 don't have definite plans one way or the other.

8 Next we can go to Yukon River moose.
We were able to do quite a bit of work up there this
9 spring. First, in February we completed an abundance
survey along the whole Yukon River from the Unit 21E
10 border all the way down to the mouth and we determined
there are approximately 24,000 moose along that stretch
11 of river. Roughly half of those are down stream of
Mountain Village, and roughly half are up stream of
12 Mountain Village. After that we conducted browse
surveys in the area we call the lowest Yukon survey
13 area, which is down stream of Mountain Village and also
the Paimiut survey area, kind of between Marshall and
14 Russian Mission. And the browse removal rates in those
areas were both, kind of the mid-point estimate was
15 exactly the same, at 30 percent browse removal. And
just to put that into a little bit of context, that is
16 a high level of browse removal. If we were anywhere
else in the state and didn't already have a two moose
17 bag limit and cow hunt, at 30 percent we'd really be
talking about getting that started if it wasn't going
18 already. And then once we get 35 percent browse
removal, up to 40, 45, that is when we expect to see

19 kind of precipitous decline in moose populations. So
20 we're not there yet but we are getting close.

20

21 Lastly this spring we collared 40 10
22 month old moose. 20 down in that Paimiut survey area
23 and 20 in that lowest Yukon survey area. We have one
24 more year on that project so we'll be doing the same
25 thing April 2022 with that collaring project. And
that'll be the last time we go out to collar moose that
I know of, and from then we'll just be monitoring those
collars, tracking movement, cause of mortality and,
yeah, that's about it. That'll be kind of a
maintenance stage of that project.

0365

1 Next thing I wanted to update you on is
the Kuskokwim River RM615 moose hunt for this year.
2 Before I do that are there any questions about either
ptarmigan or Yukon moose?

3

(No comments)

4

5 MR. OSTER: All right, hearing none,
the RM615 moose hunt this year. It went a lot slower
than last year. Right now with a little bit less than
6 a week left in the Zone 2 hunt we have approximately
130 moose reported taken in Zone 1 and roughly 50 moose
7 taken in Zone 2. These are extremely preliminary
numbers. Like I said Zone 2 isn't even finished
8 hunting yet. And for about a month after the hunt
closes we'll continue to get those hunt reports, so I'd
9 say a minimum of 20 moose reported into November,
sometimes 30 or 40 additional moose, really depending
10 on effort and success, of course.

11

12 Then the last bit of work we did this
summer was a muskox survey on Nelson Island. We were
unable to complete a survey or even deploy a survey on
Nunivak Island due to weather and pilot availability.
13 It's just -- especially with the summer we had this
year, it is hard to get out there. We may have had --
14 I seem to remember onetime where we thought we might
be able to do it but we couldn't get a pilot. So on
15 Nelson Island we counted 513 muskox, which is up from
380 in 2019 and 462 in 2020. So we're continuing kind
16 of an upward trend from that low year we had in 2019.
513 is just above our management objective of 450
17 muskox. so over the next few years and hopefully
indefinitely we'll be looking to really stabilize that
18 population and maybe even bring it down just a little
bit more.

19

And as far as work that Fish and Game

20 has done on the wildlife side, I believe that's all
21 I've got and if there's any questions I'd be happy to
22 take them.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, Ray here. Do you
23 do any kind of aerial survey for Zone 1 and Zone 2 for
24 moose?

24 MR. OSTER: So we kind of alternate our
25 abundance surveys between the Yukon and Kuskokwim
0366 River. So we surveyed the Kuskokwim in 2020 and then

1 we did the Yukon this year, and this winter we'll be
2 doing kind of -- all the work we did on the Yukon this
3 year we'll be trying to get done on the Kuskokwim, so
4 an abundance survey, browse survey. Next up in
5 November we'll be trying to get those composition
6 numbers, which is really what we're looking at in terms
7 of management on -- for moose on the Kuskokwim River.

7 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. How
8 about the bison, I know last spring we had an update,
9 but maybe if you could give us an update and see what
10 you might be seeing on the bison herd.

11 MR. OSTER: Well, I haven't been
12 updated specifically about the bison. You know, when
13 they were introduced I think it was right around 100
14 animals and since then they've gone up to 130 and then
15 down to 90 and then back up to 120. I want to say, you
16 know, I don't feel comfortable saying much about the
17 current status of the bison herd because I just don't
18 have that information available to me right now. I'd
19 be happy to make sure at the winter meeting that we
20 have updated info on those bison for you.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Do we have
21 any more questions or comment for Keith at this time.

21 (No comments)

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, thank you
23 for your report, Keith, appreciate it.

23 MR. OSTER: Thank you much.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: We'll look forward to
25 hearing from you in the winter.

25 Okay, moving on to Office of
26 Subsistence Management.

26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead, Eva.

28 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 We actually have a couple of reports under ADF&G. We
30 have Subsistence Division report and the Council, they
31 do have a PowerPoint that didn't arrive in time to get

25 it to you in the mail but that was sent to you by email
0367

1 as a compressed file and so hopefully that PowerPoint
will open up for you. And then it is also posted
2 online as supplemental materials for folks that would
like to follow along under the YKRAC meeting materials
3 link.

4 So we do have Subsistence Division
report. And then, my apologies, under the Yukon River
5 post-season report, we missed the ADF&G in-season
managers and biologists in that report, and so they
6 have a brief update and information for the Council as
well. But there is, in your email, the PowerPoint for
7 the Subsistence Division report up next.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. You have
the floor.

10

MS. TRAINOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Members of the Council. My name's Alida Trainor and
I'm joined by Chris McDevitt, we work for the
12 Subsistence Division at Fish and Game. We were going
to be presenting a brief summary of our current work as
13 well as the OSM proposals that we submitted this
spring.

14

Before I get into that I do want to
15 give a quick introduction of our Staff, because we
haven't been in person with you for some time and we
16 have had some recent changes. Many of you may have
known Dave Runfola. For a number of a years he was the
17 lead subsistence researcher in the Western region. But
recently he left our division. I've been working on
18 the Yukon in the same capacity for the last 12 years
and will be acting as Dave's replacement. Chris
19 McDevitt and Jeff Park, our long time researchers on
the Kuskokwim and will continue their work on
20 subsistence issues. We plan to refocus our efforts on
community outreach, partnership building in the region
21 and look forward to designing research projects that
meet the needs of Kuskokwim River communities and
22 stakeholder groups.

23 Now moving on to our recently OSM
proposals. This year we put in four for the YK region.
24 The first is the post-season subsistence salmon harvest
survey project, that's an ongoing project that Chris
25 will talk more on at a later slide.

0368

1 The second project is an ethnographic
project titled the natural indicators of salmon in the
2 Upper Kuskokwim River. For this project we would plan

3 to document traditional knowledge pertaining to the
4 natural indicators of salmon, topics such as historical
5 abundance, the timing of waterfowl migration, and the
6 emergence of specific plant and insect species
7 (indiscernible - cuts out).....

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10 MS. TRAINOR:that would be
11 explored.

12 The third proposal submitted pertains
13 to the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers. There's little
14 documentation of salmon on these streams but local
15 residents have long advocated for more fishing
16 opportunity there. This project seeks to document the
17 presence and ecology of salmon in these streams by
18 using genetic sampling methods and will also document
19 traditional ecological knowledge of Kotlik residents
20 who harvest salmon in these rivers.

21 And, finally, the last project seeks to
22 document the traditional knowledge of fishers who
23 utilize the lower Kuskokwim River particularly from the
24 Johnson River mouth down stream to the Kuskokwim Bay,
25 and how their knowledge of salmon in this area helps
26 them successfully harvest.

27 We look forward to hearing from OSM
28 about the status of these proposals.

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted - placed on hold - beeping)

31 MS. TRAINOR: Moving on to I'd like to
32 talk with you a little bit about a project that was
33 funded by OSM titled customary trade in the middle and
34 lower Yukon. Study communities include Nunam Iqua,
35 Mountain Village, Kaltag and Galena. This project
36 builds off prior work that documented that the selling,
37 buying and bartering of salmon in the upper Yukon River
38 region. Completing this project will fill a critical
39 information gap regarding the traditional practice of
40 customary trade and better inform the conversations
41 surrounding this form of exchange. If you were able to

0369
42 open the PowerPoint that was emailed to you, the
43 diagram on this slide shows the resources that were
44 exchanged in an earlier study community. Salmon
45 appears at the center of the diagram because it's the
46 most frequently exchanged resource. Moose, gas,
47 berries and to a lesser extent, cash, are all
48 (indiscernible - cuts out).

5 The next project I'd like to speak to
6 is exciting because it represents a new funding source
7 for us as part of an increase to the (indiscernible -
8 cuts out) salmon treaty (indiscernible - cuts out)
9 fund. We now have the ability to conduct comprehensive
10 subsistence surveys in one or two Yukon communities for
11 each year. This year, in response to local concerns
12 over fishing restrictions in the coastal district we
13 have selected Chevak and Hooper Bay. Community
14 consultation is currently underway. Conducting harvest
15 surveys in these two communities will help inform how
16 they utilize salmon among other species. Conduct
17 mapping and TEK interviews as well. And in the future,
18 these funds will be used to administer more
19 comprehensive surveys as well as answer specific
20 questions about Yukon River salmon as they come up.

21 Next, I'll hand this over to Chris to
22 give you a brief summary of the Kuskokwim post-season
23 survey project.

24 Chris, are you online?

25 MR. MCDEVITT: I am, thanks, Alida.
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Council members.
27 Yeah, my name is Chris McDevitt. I work for the
28 Subsistence Division Fish and Game out of the Fairbanks
29 office. I work on the Kuskokwim management area post-
30 season salmon harvest survey project. This is a
31 project that's conducted annually each fall up and down
32 the Kuskokwim River. It's funded by the Office of
33 Subsistence Management. The Department has been
34 collecting subsistence harvest information from
35 Kuskokwim area families since about 1960. For over the
36 past two decades the Department has partnered with ONC
37 to conduct the Bethel portion of the survey project
38 among Bethel area households.

39 As a whole we try to survey about 28
40 communities throughout the Kuskokwim drainage to
41 include south Kuskokwim and Goodnews Bay areas. This
42 project seeks to gather one of the primary pieces of
43 information, the total harvest needed by managers and
44 tribal organizations to inform total run estimates.

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted - placed on hold - beeping)

47 MR. MCDEVITT: For this year because of
48 the ongoing circumstances with the Covid19 pandemic we
49 are adhering to the same contingency plans which we had
50 developed prior to the 2020 survey season, which

7 included a shortened survey and we also included some
8 additional.....

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
12 I'm sorry to interrupt here, this is Eva. Apologies
13 for the interruption. Just want to ask folks on
14 teleconference if you could please mute your phones.
15 We're hearing some talking in the background and can't
16 hear the speaker. So everyone take a moment, please,
17 hit mute on your cell phones or star six to mute your
18 phones.

19 Quyana.
20 Apologies for the interruption, go
21 ahead, Chris.

22 MR. MCDEVITT: Thank you, Eva. As I
23 was saying this year as in 2020 we'll have an
24 abbreviated survey form for some portions of the
25 project. We also have other options, there's an online
0371 survey form, self-administered mail in form, so on and
1 so forth. And, of course ONC surveyors here in Bethel
2 as well as our Fish and Game outlying village surveyors
3 have all been wearing all appropriate PPE when we do
4 contact people at their household. This year our
5 outlying village survey crew has visited only a handful
6 of Kuskokwim area communities, most of which are up in
7 the middle river. These communities we received
8 approval from each community's tribal council to come
9 out in person. The remaining villages we'll have to
10 contact by household -- or telephone, rather, and that
11 is currently going on right now. As I mentioned, ONC
12 technicians will be surveying Bethel area households
13 using this shortened abbreviated survey form to try to

14 help expedite the process and minimize face to face
15 contact with folks.

16 Bethel surveying kicks off actually
17 this weekend here. Our sampling design this season is
18 similar to last years. For communities that we cannot
19 visit in person we will conduct a census. We'll try to
20 contact every household in that community. For the
21 communities that we have visited in person, we surveyed
22 a percentage of the community, and for Bethel we will
23 continue to sample 25 percent of households.

24 If anybody has any questions I'm free
25 to answer those now.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Do we.....

9

MS. TRAINOR: Okay.

10

CHAIRMAN ONEY:have any questions for Chris at this time.

11

12

MS. TRAINOR: Yeah, this is Alida Trainor, if there are no questions for Chris I'll continue on with the rest of the presentation.

13

14

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, hearing none, go ahead Alida.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0372

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

MS. TRAINOR: Okay, thank you. The next projects I'd like to briefly touch on is funded by the Department of Fish and Game, it's called lower Kuskokwim big game. And the goal of this project was to better document the harvest of big game species in Unit 18.

Last winter we were able to conduct big game household harvest surveys in Kwethluk and Akiachak by phone. Due to Covid concerns, we chose to conduct the field work remotely. Over 60 percent of households were successfully surveyed. This fall Jeff Park and myself were able to travel to Kwethluk and Akiachak interview residents about the traditional use and harvest of big game species and participate in several moose hunting trips. We interviewed nine residents and are analyzing the data now and I'll write the report this winter.

The final project that I would like to share with you is titled lower Kuskokwim tributaries. This project was funded by AYKSSI and it's a two year study that intends to estimate subsistence salmon fishing effort and harvest on the non-spawning tributaries. We'd like to gain a better understanding of the importance of harvest from these streams to lower Kuskokwim residents. Last summer was our first year of data collection and because of our sampling design we ran into some problems that I'd like to share with you. We used a sampling design that works really well when there are a lot of boats in the area. The problem was, far fewer fishers were encountered at the sampling sites than were anticipated by the project PI. Adherence to the strict sampling schedule prevented researchers from contacting all fishers who were there. Also on several sampling days the weather prevented communication with fishers at the sampling site on the lowest part of the river where wind delayed -- prevented researchers from approaching boats safely. In 2022 our researchers must prioritize talking to fishers and documenting information about the

12 importance of these salmon harvests in the non-spawning
13 tributaries over such a strict sampling schedule. In
14 order to do this we know we must redesign the methods
15 of this project. We have two possibilities for
16 consideration. While this is not an OSM funded
17 project, I wanted to give this RAC a chance to weigh in
18 on our approach because of the valuable input you could
19 provide as a regional stakeholder entity.

20 Our first option is to focus solely on
21 gathering quality traditional ecological knowledge from
22 fishermen who traditionally harvest salmon from these
23 streams. This would be -- this would be in the form of
24 extended interviews.

25 The second option is to administer a
0373 short survey to those fishermen who use the non-
1 spawning tributaries as part of the Kuskokwim post-
2 season survey effort next fall. So they would ask
3 about location, harvest gear and timing. Tacking this
4 on to the post-season survey would be a much more
5 comprehensive approach to understanding how harvest and
6 use patterns in this area occur because all fishers
7 would have a chance to participate. Ethnographic
8 interviews would also be conducted with a select number
9 of individuals and could strengthen our understanding
10 of the significance of these tributaries to Kuskokwim
11 communities.

12 Redesigning a project like this is not
13 something that we do lightly and we wanted to give you,
14 the RAC, a chance to weigh in. What are you interested
15 in learning in regards to the non-spawning tributaries
16 and which approach do you think could best answer those
17 questions. We look forward to hearing from you on this
18 matter.

19 And with that I will conclude our
20 presentation.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you
22 for your presentation. Do we have any questions or
23 comments at this time for either Alida or Chris.

24 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, Alissa Rogers.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

1 Through the Chair. I was wondering if you -- if in any
2 of your scope you have any, the impact to the -- of the
3 spawning grounds and the environmental dynamics of the
4 different type of eggs, the appropriate gravel type and
5 egg, anything in that type of research you guys are

14 planning on doing, or can that be a part of it.
15 Because one of the things that I actually really want
16 to know what is the carrying capacity and the well
17 being with all this change in climate, if we could
18 figure out how the best conditional environment for the
19 spawning grounds and how we can maintain them to be
20 really, really good spawning grounds. That's something
21 that I would like to see. Because if we have to go in
22 and manually man make spawning grounds that are the
23 most ideal conditions for reproducing high abundance of
24 fry before they head out to the ocean then that's
25 something we might have to look into. If our spawning
26 grounds are not ideal conditions for rearing eggs then
27 I think it's something we need to look into to going in
28 and actually doing it ourselves.

21

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 MS. TRAINOR: Through the Chair. This
24 is Alida Trainor, again. I could offer some response
25 to Alissa Rogers' comment. (Indiscernible - cuts out)
26 project that I inherited -- or, I guess because this is
27 a project I inherited, I had a lot of similar questions
28 myself about what we know about these streams, what

0374

1 type of habitat exists, how do -- not just human
2 (indiscernible - cuts out) these rivers, but how does
3 salmon. And those questions are really valuable to be
4 asking. We don't actually have all those answers right
5 now. The ability for us to include them, while some --
6 including some of them into a redesign of this project
7 is possible, I don't believe it will do justice. But
8 it is a researcher priority of our team to pursue them
9 in the future.

10 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, follow-up
11 question.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa, go ahead.

8

9 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Another question that I had which is in the same
11 context, on the Yukon way, way up in the very head
12 spawning grounds of the Yukon River, are you guys
13 planning on going to Canadian territory or having some
14 type of treaty agreement where you could do studies on
15 there and the effects of the mining happening on those
16 spawning grounds. Because I know they changed those
17 spawning grounds up there in order to -- like they
18 reroute the water, is that a part of this study you'd
19 be able to do so we could find out exactly how those
20 mining changing -- changing the rivers -- are affecting

the salmon up there.

15

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

MS. TRAINOR: Mr. Chair, this is Alida Trainor again. That's a great question. My work on the Yukon River has brought me -- has involved me quite closely with the Yukon River Panel that is the body that -- you know, the bilateral body that ensures that the (indiscernible - cuts out) and the escapement goals are being met. And it is a place that has -- that offers a funding source for (indiscernible - cuts out). It's something that Alaskans don't know much about but it's the Yukon River (indiscernible - cuts out) Restoration and Enhancement (indiscernible - cuts out) and it's an annual funding cycle. And there is opportunity to do a project. We would need strong partnership with our counterparts in Canada. At -- so up until this point we haven't really nailed down a single research question that we could work on to address that question. It is actually -- the mining issue is something that receives a lot of scrutiny by

0375

1 Alaskans but often doesn't -- it's often defended pretty strongly by the Canadians. So we share those questions but there is, right now, a lot of work being done to evaluate the habitat -- the salmon habitat in Canada because there is that spawning ground, you know, implication and, you know, how important that is for all of us down stream. So there are numerous studies going on to understand what's happening in Canada (indiscernible - cuts out) some of that and share it with you.

6

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No more questions.

7

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you, Alissa. Yeah, I have one. How about the Andraefsky River weir. Is there any studies that are going to be in that spawning grounds also?

9

MS. TRAINOR: Mr. Chair, this is Alida Trainor again. Are you interested in seeing additional studies as part of the Andraefsky weir project or are you interested in the results from that project?

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I think the end results is what I'm asking. If there's an ongoing project right now I think I want to hear end result of the study, at least up date us when you're ready to make that presentation.

15

MS. TRAINOR: Okay. Through the Chair

16

17 -- okay -- okay. or excuse me, Mr. Chair. That's not a
project that the Division of Subsistence is involved
18 in, however, I will certainly nudge my colleagues to
present to you possibly at your next meeting.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Do we
have any further questions or comments or either Alida
20 or Chris at this time.

21 MS. CLEVELAND: I do, this is Jackie.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Jackie, go ahead.

23 MS. CLEVELAND: I wanted to thank the
subsistence management group for the surveys that you
24 do during the post-season, that really does help figure
out, you know, how our subsistence fishing has done.

25 And -- but I think in the last couple of years I've

0376

1 wondered if there could be a question included during
this -- for the salmon portion of the survey, something
2 along the line of the origin of where the salmon was
harvested. So the reason being is that, you know, I'm
3 from Quinhagak and we don't have an operating weir, we
only have aerial surveys or counting escapement here
4 and no monitoring system happening during the
commercial fishing periods or subsistence, and also
5 based on our lower number of kings and chums now. So
we have this lack of information on the subsistence
6 fishery of how much fish is leaving our bay. And I
wondered if that's one effective way to find out more
7 on that, is if we included a question in the survey of
the origin of the origin of where the salmon came from
8 for other communities. So, of course, when you do the
survey for Quinhagak we are reporting our harvest from
9 this immediate area but, you know, sometimes we go and
get pike or other species where -- in the Eek River,
10 for instance, so not just for our salmon, but we also
partake in other areas too. Is there already a
11 question included along those lines, and, if not, is it
too late to include it for this year's subsistence
12 harvest survey.

13 Thanks.

14 MS. TRAINOR: Through the Chair, this
is Alida Trainor, again. I'll answer part of that and
15 then hand it to Chris for more details. As he stated
earlier, the 2021 post-season survey is already
16 underway, it is too late to add any questions. Adding
questions to the survey is something that does go
17 through a pretty rigorous development and review
process, not something we take lightly. But questions
18 surrounding harvest location is something that we have
been discussing.

19

Chris, would you like to add to that.

20

(No comments)

21

MS. TRAINOR: Chris, are you online.

22

(No comments)

23

MS. TRAINOR: It doesn't appear Chris
24 is on so I'll just elaborate a little further. Post-
season survey on the Yukon, for example, gathers much
25 more detailed information about harvest location and
0377

1 this can be really important for understanding what
stocks of fish are being targeted and what level of
2 harvest effort is occurring in certain areas on the
river. That level of detail is not currently -- the
3 same level of detail is not currently gathered on the
Kuskokwim post-season survey but there does seem to be
4 -- it is a possibility that we cou -- we -- we may move
in that direction, just because of how valuable that
5 information is.

6 So thank you for that comment and it is
something that we will continue to discuss and keep you
7 posted on.

8 MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you. And if you
have any say in it, is there a way or maybe we could
9 suggest it to the subsistence group to include a
question like that for next year's survey?

10

MS. TRAINOR: Through the Chair. I
11 think -- could I just make -- ask a follow-up question
so I'm certain as to what your suggestion is. I'm
12 assuming -- I interpreted it as wanting to know the
location, more specifically, of harvest; is that
13 correct? So it could be -- that could mean, you know,
tributaries, it could mean, you know, locations near
14 the mouth of different rivers, or locations near
certain communities; is that what you're asking?

15

MS. CLEVELAND: Yes, thank you.

16

MS. TRAINOR: Okay. Okay, thank you.
17 And to answer your second -- the second part of your
question. I think that, you know, this is an OSM
18 funded project, it is something that we apply for
annually and that recommendations for priority
19 information needs is something that is informed by RAC
input, and that is up to the RAC how you would go about
20 seeking more information along those lines. We will --
we will respond if we see it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Do we have any
further questions or comments for Alida at this time.

23 MR. SLATS: Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard, go ahead.

25 MR. SLATS: Hi, Alida, this is Richard

0378

1 Slats.

2 MS. TRAINOR: Hi, Richard, it's so good
to hear your voice.

3

4 MR. SLATS: Yes. You were mentioning
in one of your projects or one of the things that
you're working on that you're already integrating local
5 and traditional knowledge into your studies or survey,
and that you -- you were mentioning that the -- not all
6 communities -- consultation with our tribe is underway
and.....

7

8 MS. TRAINOR: Yes.

9

10 MR. SLATS:a question was about
when I was introducing myself I was mentioning about
these small fish that used to get laden, that were
laden on our small whitefish nets that are no longer
there and I wonder if any of the other communities are
11 seeing those, you know, like depletion or that they're
not catching those smaller fish like woodbees, the
12 lower or, you know, at the bottom of the food chain,
and I'm wondering if any of the other communities or
13 any of the other regions are seeing this.

14 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

15

16 MS. TRAINOR: Through the Chair, this
is Alida Trainor. Richard, to answer the first part of
your question, I may have jumped the gun when I said
17 consultation is underway, we just booked tickets to
come out to Chevak and Hooper Bay for Monday and so our
18 Staff has been in commun -- have been in communication
with the tribal council there and have made it on to
19 the agenda to share more information about the project
with the council and the broader community.

20

21 With regards to your second question
about whitefish, was that directed at me or others.

22 MR. SLATS: No, questions about some of
the smaller fish that gets caught, you know, in our --
23 on our small whitefish nets. We had, you know, those
really small what looked like baby halibuts and we
24 don't see any more Tomcods and (In Native), I don't
even know what that kind of fish that is in biological

25 terms, but those three types of smaller fish are no
0379

1 longer being seen or getting caught in our small
whitefish nets.

2

MS. TRAINOR: Oh, okay.

3

(Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5 MR. NANENG: We call those Irish Lords,
plus we also call them (indiscernible- cuts out) fish.

6

(Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8 MR. SLATS: Yeah, so we're not seeing a
lot of those on our nets anymore and I'm wondering if
9 those are signs of things to come, or if any of the
other rivers are seeing this kind of -- if anybody else
10 is seeing this, is my question. We look forward to
seeing you when you come out to Chevak.

11

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, we hear someone's
13 line still open.

14

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

15

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, we hear someone's
16 line still open, if you're not speaking please put your
phone on mute by pressing star six, and if you want to
17 speak press star six again. We're still hearing a lot
of background noise.

18

Okay, thank you. Do we have any more
19 further questions for Alida at this time.

20

MS. EVAN: I have a comment, Mr. Chair.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Norma, go ahead.

22

MS. EVAN: Also, if you guys are seeing
less of the smaller bottom feeders, the past three --
23 two or three years in Marshall we haven't been catching
any eel, also only a handful up at Russian Mission, and
24 that's from the last two or three years.

25

That's it, Mr. Chair, thank you.

0380

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe just a comment on
that from what I know. I know the Yukon Delta
2 Fisheries, Kwik'Pak, has been doing a study on the eel
from my understanding and they've been setting out fyke
3 nets, usually in the month of September/October, and
from what I heard they've been catching a few from what

4 I heard. But I think we need to get an update from
5 them just to see, you know, what are they catching, you
6 know, what are they seeing as far as population.
7 Because I know that's a resource that the Yukon people
8 use quite heavily in the fall right after freeze up.
9 And like Norma said, you know, those -- they haven't
10 been catching them as much as I used to see when I was
11 growing up. So that's one, I believe, that's dwindling
12 also.

9 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, Thomas.

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas, go ahead.

11 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, just for
12 clarification. Is what we're referring to as eels,
13 we're really talking about Arctic lamprey, correct?
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Correct. Yes, Arctic
16 lamprey is the real name, (In Yup'ik). Okay, is there
17 any further questions for Alida at this time.

18 (No comments)

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, I
20 appreciate your presentation. Thank you, very much.
21 We look forward to your updates also and hopefully
22 maybe in the fall or winter meeting. Thank you very
23 much.

24 MS. TRAINOR: Thank you all very much.
25 That was very valuable input. Have a good day.

0381 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. We are down to
1 Office of Subsistence Management.

2 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Alissa.

4 MS. PATTON: This is Eva.

5 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, Eva. I'm just
6 maybe getting a little tired too.

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, I'm so sorry, long
8 day, long meeting. Wonderful discussion, thank you to
9 the whole Council. Mr. Chair, my apologies. When we
10 were on the Yukon River post-season salmon report, we
11 heard from our Federal in-season managers and I missed
12 catching our State managers and biologists as well. I
13 believe we have ADF&G in-season manager and biologists,
14 Christy Gleason and Deena Jallen online, and they did

7 have some updates that they would like to provide to
8 the.....

8 MS. JALLEN: Thanks, Eva.

9 MS. PATTON:Council. Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

10 MS. JALLEN: Thank you, Eva.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, then.....

12 MS. JALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY:we will.....

14 MS. JALLEN: This is -- can you hear
15 me?

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, go ahead, yes, I
17 can hear you.

17 MS. JALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 Yeah, this is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department
19 of Fish and Game. I'm the new summer season fishery
20 Manager for the Yukon River drainage. You may have
21 heard earlier that Holly Carroll has moved over to U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service. This is my first season as
23 the summer season manager. We also have a new
24 assistant summer season manager and that is Sam Decker.
Both of us were born in Alaska and we both have a
really long background, both in Bristol Bay and on the
Yukon River and so it's really great to be part of the
management team and have a little bit more active role
in management.

24 I want to thank Gerald for his season
25 summary earlier. He covered the salmon season really
0382 well.

1 And I also really want to thank the
2 fishermen of the Yukon River. We know that this season
3 was incredibly hard. Not only for the loss of salmon
4 but also for some of the losses that folks up and down
5 the river have experienced due to Covid, and not even
6 necessarily people that we've lost, but we've lost the
7 opportunity to get together on both in getting together
8 in meetings, in fish camps, you know, gathering in
9 communities. I think that's something that we really
miss. We miss getting to go to these meetings and
getting to see you guys in person.

8 So with that being said, if you do have
9 comments or questions about the season, please reach
out to me. I'm up in the Fairbanks office now. Both

10 Sam and I are in the Fairbanks office. And you can
reach me at (907) 459-7309.

11 And since lamprey was just brought up
I'll give a very brief update on that fishery. We have
12 -- we're monitoring -- we're getting reports from the
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association test
13 fishery that's going on. And just some of the really
brief, really preliminary updates, they've got a little
14 over 120 lamprey in their fyke nets in September. And
so far they've got over 1,200 in their fyke nets since
15 the start of October. And these are very, kind of
preliminary numbers, we'll get these -- these numbers
16 all get published in our lamprey memos that come out
later in the winter. So there are commercial fisheries
17 open for lamprey and whitefish at this time. If
fishermen are interested in those fisheries they should
18 contact Kwik'Pak to find out when and where they're
buying, or if they're buying. They haven't started
19 buying any whitefish yet. But those seasons are open
with non-salmon gear.

20
And also questions that have come up
21 earlier in the meeting, or a lot of discussion about
the Area M fishery and what may be causing -- you know,
22 what sort of effects may be happening to salmon in the
ocean, and I've got a couple of phone numbers for our
23 fisheries scientists that people can reach out to.
Especially for Area M, a good resource is our Chief
24 Fishery Scientist Bill Templen, and his number is (907)
267-2234, and also especially for marine science
25 issues, Dr. Katie Howard is a really good resource.

0383
1 She's been -- you've probably heard her a lot on some
of -- you know, in interviews and media that she's been
2 doing lately kind of helping to help understand what
may be causing, you know, causes of decline for the
3 salmon. And she's also in Anchorage, and her number is
(907) 267-2141.

4
And, yeah, with that I'll turn it over
5 to Christy Gleason. She'll say a few words about maybe
the fall season and also about the Board of Fisheries
6 process that's coming up this next year.

7 MS. GLEASON: Hi, Deena, thanks. Can
everyone hear me okay.

8
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes.

9
MS. GLEASON: Okay. Good afternoon
10 members of the Council. I'm Christy Gleason with the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the new fall

11 season fishery Manager on the Yukon River, and I work
12 out of the Fairbanks office with Deena and Sam Decker
13 and my fall management team. And previously I was the
14 assistant manager for seven years and I was the acting
15 manager this last season. And a little background on
16 me since I'm not there in person with you. I grew up
17 in Alaska and I'm a subsistence fisherman as well. And
18 one unique thing about me is I've had a recreational
19 dog team in Fairbanks for about 15 years now so during
20 this teleconference, I apologize in advance if you're
21 hearing dogs howling in the background while I'm giving
22 my presentation.

17

18 I want to let fishermen know that I
19 understand the importance of salmon for food security
20 and for culture and dog teams for people living on the
21 Yukon River. I'm looking forward to continuing to work
22 with fishermen in this new role. And to reiterate what
23 Deena and Gerald had to say, as managers we recognize
24 the hardship, the extreme hardship on subsistence
25 fishermen during the last two years of the poor salmon
26 runs during the fall season. And like everyone else we
27 do have concerns for these low salmon runs. And if you
28 have any questions about the fall season or have any
29 comments, I'll give you my phone number, you can reach
30 me at (907) 459-7240 in the Fairbanks office.

24

25 And I want to give you a brief update
26 on how to submit proposals for the Alaska Board of

0384

1 Fisheries. Any member of the public can submit a
2 proposal to change State fishing regulations and so if
3 you have a suggested change for the Yukon River or
4 fisheries occurring outside the Yukon River, you can
5 submit these proposals under April 11th this year. And
6 you can reach out to either Deena or myself to discuss
7 the current regulations and we can help you draft
8 proposals if you would like to see a change. We also
9 have a dedicated Fish and Game Staff member that can
10 help you write proposals, her name is Savannah
11 Hollingsworth and she can be reached at (907) 543-2931.

7

8 And I'd also like to reiterate
9 something from this past season, we don't know what's
10 driving these low runs for the fall chum and the coho
11 salmon, but the parent years that made up these two
12 years of poor salmon runs did meet or exceed all the
13 escapement goals in the Yukon River drainage. But what
14 we're not seeing is these adults -- or what we're not
15 seeing is these adults returning from the ocean. And
16 we do know that during the fall season the river water
17 temperatures and the water levels were normal during

11

12 the fall migration and spawning during the parent
13 years, and chum salmon in other areas such as the
14 Kuskokwim and Norton Sound and across the North Pacific
15 are seeing low runs the last two years as well, as many
16 of you know. And because the large geographical scale
17 of these poor runs and the low runs occurring over
18 multiple salmon species now, including the coho salmon,
19 it's likely marine factors are contributing that are
20 contributing to the declines. And if you have
21 questions on the marine research that's happened, like
22 Deena mentioned, it's good to reach out to Katie -- or
23 Dr. Katie Howard.

18
19 And my final comment is to address a
20 question from Chairman Oney about how late fall chum
21 assessment projects go into the winter, in addition to
22 Gerald's comment that he provided. Fish and Game will
23 start aerial surveys in late October to mid-November to
24 count spawning fall chum and coho salmon in the Tanana
River drainage here near Fairbanks. And we also do
foot surveys to count the salmon species weekly
starting now through the first week of December near
Fairbanks and the Delta Junction area. And we perform
these aerial surveys and these foot surveys every year.

24
25 And that's all I have and thank you for
the time to speak and I'll standby if you have any
0385 questions.

1
2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. Thank you
3 for your presentation, Deena and Christy. Do we have
4 any questions at this time for Deena and Christy.

5 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, this is
Myron.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

7 MR. NANENG: I just had one question.
8 What's the State position on the proposed Ambler Road
9 that is going to be going over, or crossing the Koyuk
10 River up by Allakaket? And the reason why I ask that
11 question is because I was told there's about 300 chum
12 salmon returning to that river system for spawning.

10 MS. GLEASON: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
11 Christy Gleason with Fish and Game. I don't have an
12 answer about that. I have not been involved in the
13 Ambler Road decisions or the permitting. That's
14 through the Division of Habitat with Fish and Game.
And I can try to provide a phone number for you to
call, if that's helpful.

14 MR. NANENG: If there can be a report

15 for the Council to note that the Koyukuk River is also
16 a spawning stream for chum salmon, it would be helpful
17 for them to know why I'm asking this question.

18 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. Do we have any
19 further questions or comments for Christy or Deena at
20 this time.

21 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, this is Holly
22 Carroll. And I wanted to give you an update on a
23 question you had asked.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Go ahead. Go ahead,
25 Holly.

26 MS. CARROLL: Okay, Mr. Chair, you
27 asked about the Andreafsky River weir and that is
28 operated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We count
29 chinook and summer chum at that weir. And this summer
30 our chinook count was well below average. We got about
31 1,400 chinook into that system, the average more like
32 3,900. And then for chum about 2,500 chum salmon were

0386
33 counted there, the average in that system is about
34 55,000. So needless to say the goals -- the escapement
35 goals on the Andreafsky River were not met for either
36 chinook or chum salmon.

37 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Okay,
38 do we have any more questions or comments either for
39 Deena or Christy at this time.

40 (No comments)

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I know she provided
42 some numbers so if you.....

43 MS. LAVINE: Hello, we may have lost
44 the Chair. Eva, are you on.

45 (No comments)

46 MS. LAVINE: She's calling back in now.
47 And for the record this is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence
48 Policy Coordinator with OSM. We're waiting for Eva to
49 reconnect and hopefully the Chair. While we're waiting
50 for the Chair, I'm wondering if we've lost any other
51 Council members. Can you speak up and let us know if
52 you are here if you are a Council member.

53 CHAIRMAN ONEY: This is Ray.

54 MS. EVAN: Norma here.

16

MR. NANENG: I'm here.

17

MS. LAVINE: Norma's on, Myron's on.

18

MR. ALSTROM: Thomas is on.

19

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, Ray's here.

20

MS. LAVINE: Ray Oney, are you back on.

21

CHAIRMAN ONEY: My call just got
22 dropped earlier. I'm back on.

23

MS. LAVINE: Excellent. Okay,
fantastic, we're waiting for Eva to reconnect.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

25

0387

1

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. I'm back on now too. I think a bunch of us
2 all got dumped at the same time. Thank you.
Wonderful, you're back on Ray.

3

4

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes. I guess to ask if
there's any more questions from the Council for Christy
or Deena and I got cut off right when I was asking that
5 question. Maybe just one more time, if there's any
more questions for Deena or Christy.

6

(No comments)

7

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none.
Appreciate your report. Like they mentioned there was
9 numbers that were given to you. If we could take those
numbers and keep them and if you want to give them
call. Thank you. Thank you very much for your report.

10

11

Okay, moving on. Office of Subsistence
Management.

12

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

13

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.

14

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

Earlier in the day today we did have a request from
15 Myron Naneng about bringing back up the statewide
proposals WP22-01 and 02. The Council had voted to
16 table those proposals until your winter meeting but I
just wanted to check back in to see if the Council did
17 want to take up those proposals now at this meeting,
the Council can do so if you wish. Pippa is online and
18 available to provide an overview and discussion for the

19 Council. But as the Council wishes, similarly it would
20 take a vote of the Council to reconsider those
21 proposals at this meeting. And if not at this meeting,
22 because the Federal Subsistence Board does not actually
23 meet on wildlife proposals until spring in April, so
24 there still is an opportunity for the Council to review
25 and take action on these proposals at your February, at
your winter meeting. So however the Council wishes but
I did want to bring that up, There was a request this
morning to bring those two proposals back up.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Eva.

0388

1 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Myron, go ahead.

3 MR. NANENG: The reason why I asked for
4 reconsideration is that I think we need to support
5 those that are on the road system that have to deal
6 with other people that are coming into those
7 communities that are not necessarily -- or their
8 catches are being counted against their community
9 harvest so we're separating the individual and
10 community harvest. I think it would be a good idea.
11 Because eventually, I'm sure, it's going to start
12 coming out to the rural areas.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So what is the wish of
10 the Council at this time.

10 (No comments)

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Like Eva mentioned that
12 we have an opportunity to do it now or we could wait
13 until the February winter meeting.

13 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair, James.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

15 MR. LANDLORD: Yeah, I for one think we
16 could take it up now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa
19 Kenner and I'm here and I'm ready.

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

20 MS. KENNER: If that's what the Council
21 decides to do.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes. I think we just
23 need a motion to reconsider WP22-01 and WP22-02.

23 MR. NANENG: I think I made that motion
24 this morning for reconsideration. This is Myron.

24

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, Myron, we'll go

25 ahead and take up that recommendation now to move to
0389
1 reconsider WP22-01 and WP22-02. Do we have a second.
2 MR. LANDLORD: Second. James.
3 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Seconded by James.
4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those in favor to
reconsider WP22-01 and WP22-02 signify by saying yes.
5
IN UNISON: Yes.
6
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose
7 bringing up to reconsider WP22-01 and WP22-02 signify
by saying no.
8
(No opposing votes)
9
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
10 carries. So we could go ahead and reconsider WP22-01
and WP22-02.
11
MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. I think the
12 report given by Pippa yesterday of why they're pursuing
this and why they would like to separate individual
13 harvesters versus community harvest. So I move to
accept -- to support 22-01 and 22-02 as both of them
14 were explained yesterday.
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
this is Eva.
16
CHAIRMAN ONEY: Eva, go ahead.
17
MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Thank you for that Myron. Pippa is online and
available and she could give a brief overview again so
19 the Council has a refresher of what you would be voting
on. That would probably be helpful to have the clear
20 information on intent on the record.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 MS. KENNER: Eva, should I describe
them one at a time or both together.
23
MR. NANENG: One at a time.
24
MS. PATTON: One at a time would be
25 helpful since they are submitted as two separate
0390
1 proposals and then the Council would have an
opportunity to vote clearly on each one, if the Council
2 wishes.
3 Thank you.
4 MS. KENNER: Great. I'm ready to do

5 that. I have just quickly -- I've lost the information
6 about which page in your Council book this begins on.
7 Can somebody help me while I'm trying to find it.

8 CHAIRMAN ONEY: 145.

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you so much, I
10 really appreciate that. Again, my name is Pippa Kenner
11 and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
12 Management in Anchorage. And just for the new members,
13 to let you know, I've been working with the Council for
14 about 13 years now and I'm really missing seeing you in
15 person. It's been a long day and it's been a long day
16 for all of us.

17 So, quickly, this was submitted by the
18 Office of Subsistence Management simply to clarify in
19 regulation who is and who is not a participant in the
20 community harvest system. And so the OSM conclusion is
21 to support the proposal. And we believe that
22 subsistence users and others will find this
23 clarification less confusing and easier to use than the
24 current regulation.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
26 Council. That's the end of my presentation.

27 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do we
28 need to go through the steps in order to hear this
29 again.

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No,
31 that was sufficient just to clarify what the proposal
32 is so the Council has that in order to make a motion.
33 We did go through the full steps yesterday for public
34 input. And we did hear from Staff working for the
35 Ahtna that had supported these proposals. So that was
36 the public comment, I guess, just to bring back up to
37 the Council's attention, but otherwise we have already
38 gone through the whole proposal procedure process.

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0391
40 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So at this time we
41 could go ahead and motion to vote on the proposals.

42 MR. LANDLORD: Mr. Chair.

43 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James.

44 MR. LANDLORD: James, yes. I think
45 Myron motioned to accept 22-01 and 22-02.

46 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you for
47 that clarification. Do I hear a second to his motion.

8 MR. LANDLORD: I second it. James.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's a second
10 by James. Do we need to discuss it or did we already
11 discuss it.

12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
13 thank you. So we were taking them one at a time so
14 this was a motion to support WP22-01 that Pippa just
15 referenced to clarifying the description to make it
16 easier for all. The Council can go ahead and vote and
17 then we would just like a few words of justification
18 for the Council's vote.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you for
21 that clarification. And, again, it's been motioned and
22 seconded for both proposals WP -- we are voting on
23 Proposal WP22-01, request clarification of who is and
24 who is not a participant in a community harvest system
25 and how that effects community and individual harvest
26 limits.

27 MS. KENNER: And, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Pippa. OSM is offering this justification, that
29 subsistence users and others will find this
30 clarification less confusing and easier to use.

31 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. So we
32 are ready to vote, it's been motioned and seconded and,
33 again, in a positive way. All those in favor of
34 supporting Proposal WP22-01 signify by saying yes.

35 IN UNISON: Yes.

0392
1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose,
2 signify by saying no.

3 (No opposing votes)

4 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
5 carries, thank you. I think the next one is WP22-02.

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
7 Council. And maybe, if I may ask, I know Myron has
8 spoken to this a couple times. If you would provide a
9 brief justification, Myron, that would be helpful.

10 (No comments)

11 MS. PATTON: Did we lose Myron.

9

(No comments)

10

MS. KENNER: Eva, maybe you could use his justification that was already stated, would that be possible.

12

MS. PATTON: Absolutely. So we had that discussion prior to the vote and I will note that for the Council's justification to support WP22-01. Thank you so much. Mr. Chair, we're ready for WP22-02.

14

MS. KENNER: Okay, well, thank you again Mr. Chair and members of the Council. For the record my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management at Anchorage. So the analysis for this proposal which is WP22-01 [sic] begins on Page 163 of your Council books. This proposal has similar intent to the one we just reviewed.

19

This proposal was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management and it requests to clarify designated hunting regulations that currently prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. So the intent of this proposal is to clarify and also to make these regulations more flexible and easier to use.

23

24

25

0393

1

The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal WP22-02.

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

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

0393

1

2

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Pippa. And, again, I think we can go ahead and go into voting. Correct me if I'm wrong it's been first and seconded already by Myron to introduce them and we're just taking them one at a time so we can vote on them now.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that would be fine. And, again, this is Proposal WP22-02 request to remove language from the designated hunting regulations prohibiting the use of a designated hunter permit by a member of a community operating under a community harvest system and making that more flexible to subsistence users.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. IS there a
12 motion on the floor to accept WP22-02 request to remove
13 language from designated hunting regulations
14 prohibiting the use of a designated hunter permit by a
15 member of a community operating under a community
16 harvest system.

17 All those in favor signify by saying
18 yes.

19 IN UNISON: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those opposing
21 WP22-02 signify by saying no.

22 (No opposing votes)

23 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion
24 carries, thank you.

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
0394 Council.

1 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. I am
2 disconnected. I got disconnected by GCI.

3 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 We are finally at the OSM report. Good work, Mr.
5 Chair.

6 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. I am
7 disconnected. I got disconnected by GCI.

8 MS. PATTON: Hi, Myron.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Welcome.

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you. The Council
11 just voted to support WP22-01 and 22-02.

12 MR. NANENG: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Myron. And we
14 are up to our last report from OSM and I believe we
15 have Robbin LaVine on who was going to provide that
16 report.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: So maybe before.....

18 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you. Good.....

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY:she goes on, just
20 to let Myron know that we used his comments for the
21 justification to WP22-02. Thank you. Okay, moving on,
22 go ahead, Robbin.

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

24 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This

16 is Robbin LaVine, and I am the Subsistence Policy
Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management.

17 And on behalf of OSM I do want to thank
18 all Council members for the exceptional work that you
do on behalf of your communities and region during
19 these trying times. We value your expertise and
contribution of knowledge and experience to the
20 regulatory process. So it has been a really difficult
time for all of us because of Covid19.

21 So as you learned from Chairman
Christianson's letter dated August 20th, 2021, we are
22 holding all 10 fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council
meetings via teleconference. And this decision was
23 made with the utmost consideration and concern for the
health and safety of all Council members, families,
24 rural communities, the public and Staff who are all
part of the Council meetings. The health and safety of
25 everyone is our highest priority. The Department of

0395

1 the Interior guidelines advise that people avoid travel
and refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
2 help prevent the spread of Covid19. The Regional
Advisory Councils are the foundation of Alaska's
3 Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Federal
Subsistence Management Program recognizes that in-
4 person meetings are preferable, however, until we can
ensure the safety of all participants we will follow
5 current guidance and hold all meetings via
teleconference. We thank you for participating in this
6 lengthy teleconferences and we appreciate your patients
as we deal, as we all deal with the various technical
7 issues that arise from the poor telephonic connections,
the vast distances involved and differing communication
8 systems throughout the state.

9 Since your last Council meeting in
winter 2021 the following OSM Staffing changes have
10 occurred. We are very pleased to announce that Ameer
Howard has joined OSM as our new Deputy Assistant
11 Regional Director. Ameer previously worked at OSM as
policy coordinator.

12

13 We are also very pleased to see the
number of Staff that worked at OSM for awhile grew with
the program and got promoted.

14

15 Katya Wessels was promoted from Council
Coordinator to Supervisor of the Council Coordination
Division.

16

17 Lisa Grediagin, was promoted from
Wildlife Biologist to Supervisor of the Wildlife

Division.

18

And, I, Robbin LaVine was promoted from Anthropologist to the Subsistence Policy Coordinator position.

20

Additional good news is that three wildlife biologist positions at OSM were filled. Tom Plank came, who has been presenting to you today and yesterday, he came to us from the Bureau of Land Management in Utah. Bryan Ubelaker came to OSM from BLM in Anchorage. And Kendra Holman came to OSM from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage.

24

We also had some departures at OSM through retirement and new opportunities.

0396

We bid a fond farewell to Donald Mike, Caron McKee and Zach Stevenson.

2

The OSM team is diligently working on building capacity and will be filling several new positions in our Anthropology, Council Coordination, Fisheries and Regulatory Divisions, along with adding additional administrative support.

5

So RealIDs for travel to Council meetings. Over the past two years we have been reminding Council members about the change in requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd, 2023 every air travel will need to present a RealID compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of identification, such as a passport, in order to fly within the United States. This is applicable even when you fly on small Bush carriers. So please note that all Council members will need to make sure that they have their required RealID for travel to the fall 2023 Council meeting.

12

And, finally, as you were previously briefed, on August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community harvest of two antlered moose and five male Sitka black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was a temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from taking effect and another vacating the

18

19 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any
20 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of
21 Covid19. On September 18th the U.S. District Court
22 denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction
23 on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, because
24 the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of
25 success or serious questions on the merits of its
0397 claims, the court need not consider the remaining
elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

Two months later on November the 18th,
the Court also denied the State's motion for a
preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge
Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a

1 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious
2 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated
3 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

4 While these rulings on preliminary
5 injunction are encouraging, they did not resolve the
6 litigation. Recent developments are that settlement
7 negotiations between the Department of Justice, the DOI
8 Solicitor's Office, USDA Office of General Counsel, and
9 the State proved unsuccessful. A briefing was
10 completed at the end of August 2021 and we are now
11 awaiting the Court's decision.

12 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
13 does not comment on any active litigation directed
14 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what we
15 have reported here.

16 And that is my report -- the OSM report
17 to you, the Regional Advisory Council, I would be happy
18 to answer any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 members of the Council.

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Robbin, for
your presentation and update. Do we have any questions
or comments for Robbin at this time.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Maybe on the RealID, I
don't know if there's a DMV still in Bethel, if they're
able to provide the RealID photocards there. If they
are there, then they can provide that and I guess we
could be able to get it from there, the winter meeting
is not too far away.

MS. LAVINE: I will remind you, sir,
that it is winter meeting 2023, I believe.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Oh, 2023, sorry.

22 MS. LAVINE: Or fall meeting 2023, yes,
23 whew.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay.

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
0398 Yeah, I think Lisa Murkowski was helpful in extending
1 that deadline because of all the difficulties in trying
2 to get to a DMV, especially now with all the Covid
3 closures. Bethel does have a DMV office but I think
4 they have been closed for some time due to Covid. So
5 thankfully with that 2023 date, hopefully we'll be
6 meeting in person, maybe this coming winter meeting,
7 certainly by next fall, and, yeah, we'll make sure to
8 help Council members to arrange time to go to DMV if
9 we're meeting in Bethel. So thank you for that, Mr.
10 Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, thank you. Do we
12 have any further questions at this time for Robbin.

13 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. James.

14 CHAIRMAN ONEY: James, go ahead.

15 MR. LANDLORD: I'm just wondering if
16 they were able to take tribal ID cards, it seems like
17 some do.

18 MS. LAVINE: Eva, are you -- yeah.

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James. That's
20 my understanding is that identification that they will
21 take is like birth certificate and tribal ID cards, and
22 we'll reconfirm, too, before we meet in person to make
23 sure that everybody's able to travel with the ID that
they do need. But definitely understanding is tribal
ID is one of the identification forms that is
acceptable for the RealID for the driver's license.
But we'll be sure to follow-up and provide those
details when we do meet in person so we can go get a
RealID.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you. Do we
have any further questions at this time or comments.
(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing one, thank you.
Thank you, Robbin, for your presentation updates. I
believe, I don't know if Pippa's going to comment or

24 give a presentation but, if not, that will conclude our
agency reports.

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

0399

1 Yes, that was the final agency report. And final
business for the day is to select our winter 2022
2 meeting dates and fall 2022 meeting dates. If you'll
turn to Page 267 in your meeting books there's a
3 calendar there. And previously the YK Delta RAC
selected March 1st and 2nd for your winter 2022 meeting
4 to meet in Bethel. So we just need a reconfirmation
from the Council if those meeting dates work well for
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Any comments from the
Council.

7

(No comments)

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: If the dates are good,
9 I guess a motion would be in order.

10 (No comments)

11 MS. PATTON: I think it's been a long
day and a long week. Yes, so if March 1st and March
12 2nd, and that's a Tuesday/Wednesday, 2022 works for the
Council for your winter meeting dates, a quick motion
13 and all in favor say aye, would be helpful to know if
that works for everybody. We realize we made these
14 meeting dates prior to half of our new Council being on
so we want to make sure it doesn't overlap with
15 subsistence and other important meetings Council
members are involved in.

16

17 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair, this is
Thomas. I move to March 1 and 2, YKRAC meeting in
Bethel for the winter 2022.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,
Thomas. There's a motion on the floor by Thomas to
accept the meeting dates of March 1 and 2 in Bethel for
20 winter 2022, do I hear a second.

21 MR. NANENG: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY: All those in favor say
aye.

23

IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Opposed, signify by
saying no.

0400

1 (No opposing votes)

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, motion

3 carries. So our winter 2022 meeting will be March 1
4 and 2.

5 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. And then next up we select dates for our fall
7 2022 meeting and if you'll turn to Page 268 in your
8 meeting book you'll see the window for holding the fall
9 Regional Advisory Council meetings opens as early as
10 August 8th and then closes on November 4th, so any of
11 those weeks in that timeframe are currently open. We
12 can hold up to two Council meetings per week and so
13 it's open right now for any two days that works good
14 for the Council in that timeframe.

15 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. With the
16 potential extension of moose hunting in the Kuskokwim
17 area until October 15th, I think we should take a look
18 at a couple of days after October 15th.

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you. Yeah,
22 any dates after October 15th.

23 MR. NANENG: How about the following
24 week after that like October 20th and 21st.

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, that's your
26 recommendation, is that your motion?

27 MR. NANENG: Yes, that's my motion.

28 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, I'll
29 second that motion.

30 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
31 There's a motion on the floor by Myron to accept the
32 October 20, 21 for fall 2022 meeting and seconded by
33 Thomas. All those in favor signify by saying yes.

34 IN UNISON: Yes.

35 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose the
36 dates of October 20, 21, signify by saying no.

37 MR. ANDREW: No. John Andrew.

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. There's one
39 opposition, what do we do here.

40 MS. CLEVELAND: And also no for me,
41 Jackie, because of AFN possibly.

42 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, two no.

43 MS. PATTON: Right, yes, let me see if
44 I can look up the AFN meeting here. And it sounds like
45 we might have other folks here too that that timeframe
46 might overlap.

8

(Pause)

9

10 MS. PATTON: I don't see a date set for
11 AFN but you're right it's often that week of kind of
12 the 19th of October timeframe. Is there another date
13 or another week after that that would work for the
14 Council.

12

13 MR. NANENG: I made my motion as a
14 suggestion. The week after that would be what? This
15 is Myron.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron. I
16 don't know what we do with that first vote, I know that
17 there was two that said no.

16

17 MR. NANENG: I would rescind my motion
18 to pick the dates of the 20 and 21st, and request that
19 it be moved to the last week of October.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, okay, and then
20 Thomas would also have to rescind his motion [sic].....

20

21 MR. ALSTROM: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ONEY:for October 20, 21
23 to include October 27 and 28.

22

23 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, this is Thomas.
24 I'll also rescind my second of October 20 and 21.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Would you also
26 recommend October 27 and 28.

25

0402

1 (No comments)

2 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thomas.

3

4 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, yes, and I'll also
5 move to hold the fall meeting October 27 and 28. Thank
6 you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you.
7 There's a motion on the floor by Myron to rescind
8 October 20 and 21 and move it to October 27 and 28 and
9 seconded by Thomas. All those in favor of moving the
10 fall meeting to October 27 and 28 signify by saying
11 yes.

8

9 IN UNISON: Yes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Those that oppose that
11 October 27 and 28 signify by saying no.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Hearing none, the

13 motion carries. So our fall 2022 meeting will be
14 October 27 and 28. Thank you.

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 Council. And we're down to closing comments.

17 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay. We are on No.
18 13, closing comments at this time. I don't know how we
19 could do this but we usually start from the top and
20 work our way down. I don't know, how do we want to do
21 it.

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'll go ahead and ask
25 that the closing comments, that we just work down the
26 line.

27 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. Did you want me to call from the roster?

29 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, that'd be fine, I
30 think it'd be easier.

31 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.

32 Chair. First on the roster we have Henry Parks.

33 MR. PARKS: Mr. Chair.

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36 MR. PARKS: Hello, Mr. Chair, am I on
37 the line here?

38 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yes, Henry.

39 MR. PARKS: First of all I want to
40 thank the Coordinator, Eva, for all the hard work that
41 she has done in preparation for this meeting. And I
42 want to thank all the agencies for their reports, they
43 were all good reports. I'm a new member of the Council
44 so I'm learning a lot from this first meeting. I know
45 we had our GCI problems here in our village but
46 hopefully on our next upcoming meeting, if we have
47 another teleconference meeting, I hope our service
48 lines will be good.

49 And then right now, we're all impacted
50 by this pandemic, Covid, all across our state so it's
51 been affecting our subsistence way of life in most of
52 the villages but we have been given some opportunity to
53 fish down in Kuskokwim River this past summer so we
54 have a little fish right now for the upcoming winter.
55 And on the wildlife side, big game side, we're doing
56 okay in my neighboring villages up here in the tundra
57 villages, they have meat in their freezers right now.

17

So I think that's about it, Mr. Chair.

18

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, and welcome
19 aboard.

20 MR. PARKS: Quyana.

21 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, next down the
line is Norma Evan.

22

MS. EVAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 really appreciate working with Mr. Raymond Oney. Thank
you, Eva, for all your hard work. This is my first
24 year joining you. A great learning experience.

25 Also in Marshall, I think everybody got
0404

1 their subsistence harvest of moose. People are still
berry picking. We have no snowfall yet. There is no
2 ice on the river yet. And also this summer we did see
a low number of whitefish. I really appreciate
3 learning from other regions.

4 Please get vaccinated, it works. My
mom did have a stroke two years ago. She was tested
5 positive last week and she has minimal to like no
symptoms, mostly only just a fever. There are health
6 care workers in our region and please get vaccinated.

7 Thank you, I really appreciate the last
three days of meetings.

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, and welcome
9 aboard. Next online is John Andrew.

10 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The last couple of days I was having a whole mess of
11 problems up here especially on our phones, we get cut
off and we had power outage this morning for a few
12 hours.

13 But first of all I'd like to thank our
Coordinator and our Staff and our translators even
14 though we didn't get to use them much. And agency
reports, I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I
15 got a better picture of where our boundary lines are
now.

16

17 Welcome to all the new members. I know
most of them with the exception of a couple of them.
And hopefully at our next meeting we will go in person
18 and see each other and it will be much easier to work
and watching everyone work. All our villages are
19 having a hard time especially with this Covid affecting
them. We lost a lot of our tribal members. Yesterday
20 we had to bury one at the village. And most people are
pretty strong (indiscernible - background noise).

21

22 Again, I'd like to thank everyone that
23 participated, especially to our Staff and the agencies
24 that reported to our meeting. And to all of you guys
25 have a good fall season and hopefully our weather will
0405 be better and we'll be together sometime.

24

 Quyana, thank you very much.

25

0405

1 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, John.
2 Thomas Alstrom.

2

3 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, hello, this is
4 Thomas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 First and foremost I'd like to say a
6 big thank you to our YKRAC Coordinator, Eva Patton, for
7 organizing our meeting this fall. And a big thank you
8 to Raymond Oney, our Chair, for navigating our meeting
9 throughout the whole last three days. And a warm
10 welcome to Henry Parks from Nunapitchuk, Jacqueline
11 Cleveland from Quinhagak, Norma Evan from Marshall,
12 Wasillie Alexie from Russian Mission, Myron Naneng,
13 Sr., from Bethel. And happy to hear all the previous
14 Council members again this fall, John Andrew from
15 Kwethluk, James Landlord from Mountain Village, Alissa
16 Rogers from Bethel, Phillip Peter, Sr., from Akiachak.
17 Raymond Oney from Alakanuk and Richard Slats from
18 Chevak. Also congratulations for the service awards
19 for Raymond Oney for 20 years. Congratulations to John
20 Andrew for 15 year award. And also congratulations to
21 Robert Aloysius for 15 year award. I'd like to thank
22 the agencies for giving their reports at our meeting.

13

14 Everybody's getting ready for this
15 coming winter and stocking up on their subsistence
16 foods. I know it's been a hard and difficult last two
17 or three years for everybody, it seems to be getting
18 stranger and stranger every year. First it was Covid19
19 and lockdowns and now no fish, so I know better things
20 are to come. So I don't think anything could get worse
21 than this.

17

18 But, all right, that kind of concludes
19 my closing comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,
21 Thomas. And now we're down to Jacqueline Cleveland.

21

22 MS. CLEVELAND: Quyana, Raymond. So
I'm a new member this year and I'm very grateful
because I've always wanted to be a part of the YKDelta
RAC since I was very young. But at that time I knew I

22

23 didn't have the wisdom and knowledge as you all,
24 especially the elderly or near elderly, I guess, and
25 because of your voices and impact of your voices -- the
0406 impact your voices have in the decisionmaking process
for our well being and our survival within managing

1 natural resources in our own lands and waters. So I'm
2 looking forward to learning more traditional knowledge
3 and gaining some of your wisdom through this process of
being a member.

4 I hope to see you all in the near
5 future soon. Be safe. Quyana. (In Yup'ik) So I will
keep mine short.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, thank you,
7 Jacqueline. Moving down to James Landlord.

8 MR. LANDLORD: Okay. It's been a
9 difficult year for subsistence users on the Yukon, even
10 in the Kuskokwim. It does feel odd that we are not
11 able to fish for kings or chums. It surprised me the
12 data, when you say that chums for 2021 they removed --
13 I was really surprised how low return chums were,
14 they're usually the most abundant, in the millions, two
15 million, three million.....

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18 MR. LANDLORD:and they barely
19 came in.

20 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, the phones.....

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23 MR. LANDLORD: Did somebody ask me if
24 my phone works?

25 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, I can hear you.

MR. LANDLORD: Oh, okay, I thought
somebody asked me if my phone was working, I heard
somebody in the background.

26 Anyways I'm glad the tribal
27 consultation is there -- they're going to try to
28 increase tribal consultation with the tribes,
29 government to government consultation. We have a
30 relationship with the Federal government that's, you
31 know, government to government, so I think that's
32 important that they're going to try to improve that.

0407

1 The Northwest area in the Lower 48,

2 Washington and Oregon have -- they manage their
3 fisheries and then those people make all their
4 decisions, how to fish, when to fish, and all that so I
5 think our tribal consultation will -- we'll see how
6 it's going to affect us and hopefully it'll be
7 improved.

8 I'd like to thank Eva for her help, our
9 Coordinator, for setting this meeting up. I know it's
10 a lot of work. I know she called me a few times to see
11 if I received my stuff and she said it was coming in
12 and after she called me, it never came in from Grant, a
13 couple days and I thought maybe it got lost but it
14 eventually came in.

15 And welcome to all the new members. We
16 finally have our 13 members in the YK. I remember when
17 I first came in there were a lot of vacant seats and in
18 our last meeting I think we had only four or five
19 Council members.

20 Everybody be safe. This Covid, it's
21 very dangerous virus. I hope everybody gets vaccinated
22 and they will just take care of themselves.

23 Quyana.

24 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, James.
25 Going down, Alissa Rogers.

26 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Thank you.
27 Quyana so much for all of you. I'm so (In Yup'ik) we
28 got to meet and we're all still here and we're still
29 healthy and we're still good. Many blessings to you
30 all for your futures and blessing and hope we all get
31 to meet again. It's been a real pleasure these last
32 few days with you guys. I miss you all so much.

33 And I really want to thank everyone
34 from any technician who has been a part of Fish and
35 Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Alaska Department of
36 Fish and Game, all the way up to our current Board
37 members, every single person has a place in how we get
38 our information, to how things are delegated, to how
39 things work, and how the process, and every little bit
40 of kindness is seen and acknowledged and every little
41 bit of information helps 100 percent. I want to thank
42 all of you for being a part of it and for helping to

0408
1 make the most best judgment, informed judgment
2 decisions that you can make.

3 I want to thank Eva for graciously
4 being with us for so long as our Council Coordinator
5 and really truly being there to help us 100 percent of
6 the way, my hat's off to you Eva. I thank you very,

5 very much for really being out there with us. It means
6 a lot because it definitely holds a Council together to
7 have someone as passionate as you. I want to thank our
8 Secretary, please, I completely forgot but I think we
9 are definitely due for a thank you letter to him
10 because we finally have -- all of our seats are filled
11 and we have a very well rounded Council and I can't say
12 how many years, years and years I kept asking, so
13 Quyana to you and your team for helping making this
14 possible and everyone who is able to apply and do
15 outreach to people. Thank you so much. It means so
16 much to have you all on here.

17 And thank you to our managers for
18 having to make the really tough decisions, even it may
19 be pretty hard to make some of these decisions
20 especially knowing what's going on and what's happening
21 out there but to really make those decisions in the
22 best interest that you could at that time. Thank you
23 for having to put your foot down, taking all the heat
24 from the public, taking all the heat from people you
25 know and care about, and trust me, I know, because it
26 definitely comes back and people see that. So thank
27 you so much for having to take the brunt of this past
28 year.

29 Quyana to our Chairman. I'm so (In
30 Yup'ik) that you were able to do it and I'm so happy
31 that you're our Chairman. I honestly wouldn't have
32 been able to do it this year without you, so Quyana, so
33 much, for being there.

34 My heart goes out to the Yukon folks
35 and many prayers and blessings that your winter may
36 come, if you guys need anything, please, call, I'm only
37 a phone call away. Thank you guys so much, my heart
38 can't thank you all enough so much.

39 Quyana (In Yup'ik) from really deep
40 down inside. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, thank you,
42 Alissa. Thank you very much. Going down the line,
43 Phillip K. Peter, Sr.

44 (No comments)

45 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Phillip, are you with
46 us.

47 (No comments)

48 CHAIRMAN ONEY: I'm wondering if he got
49 dropped. Phillip Peter are you on.

7

(No comments)

8

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Yeah, he probably did
9 get dropped. Moving on, hopefully he'll come back
while we're still on. And, again, I want to welcome
10 them back Alissa and Phillip. Going down the line,
Richard Slats.

11

(No comments)

12

CHAIRMAN ONEY: Richard, are you with
13 us.

14

MR. SLATS: Yes, I'm here. Thank you.
15 First off, I want to thank Eva for all that she does
with us. A lot of work that's done, I know that, and
there's always more work than meets the eye. And, you
16 know, like there's no -- it seems to me more work to do
everything over the phone, but, you know, there's all
17 these things that come up and so it's always good to
have Eva. And especially the Office of Subsistence
18 Management Staff, it's always good to hear from Pippa.

19

I wanted to thank all of those agencies
for their reports.

20

I'd like to welcome all the new people,
21 and also welcome back the returning people. I'm glad
you guys are back. You know a couple times I asked
22 myself why do I do this and I always come back because
I'm among good people that have the same -- that care
23 about the work that we do, to me it's important. You
know these things that are coming up, like I missed a
24 few that was going on, I didn't know about it and then
now, of course, every time I do my report or
25 introduction I always forget things.

0410

1

I just want to quickly point out that
last fall there were 56 swans in our lake at one time.
2 But this year there were none. So, now, I'm wondering
if this is a good thing because our old school burned
3 down and ran off into our lake but it's also things
that are changing, you know, it could be also a change
4 and I don't even know why so many of them would be on
our lake, you know, last year and none this year.

5

And especially those agency reports,
6 you know, they're important to me because even though
we try to stay informed about things that are going on
7 around us, it's always good to hear from the people
that are reporting so that we could make informed
8 decisions.

9 Everybody, I'm glad we're all doing
10 this. We did this for three days. And after we get
11 off today I know I'm going to feel -- I'll feel good
12 about myself mainly because I was among all of you. I
13 want to ask everybody to stay safe, God bless all of
14 you.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Richard.

17 Myron Naneng, Sr.

18 MR. NANENG: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Quyana.
19 I'd like to say Quyana to all the agency reporters.
20 And I'd like to thank the young people that are taking
21 up the role of leading some of the agencies and the
22 organizations and starting to work as partners with all
23 of us.

24 And I'd like to thank the people who
25 have participated with the RAC over the years and
0411 sharing their knowledge with us. I really appreciate
1 the work that's being done by Eva with the coordination
2 and OSM for giving us the opportunity to have our
3 voices heard as a group but I still think that there
4 are still a lot of improvements that can be made to
5 involve the subsistence users.

6 So I think I learned a lot from this
7 meeting even though I've been involved with subsistence
8 issues over the years with various groups like AFN
9 Subsistence Committee as well as attending many Board
0411 meetings as well as Federal Subsistence Board
1 meetings, and in the past I've testified to the
2 Regional Advisory Council and I'd like to thank them
3 for all the opportunities that they have provided me
4 and today I probably ended up listening to the other
5 end, on your side, to comments that are going to be
6 made by people in the future that may be concerned
7 about certain issues that affect our subsistence.

8 With that thank you very much and I
9 look forward to working with all of you and with the
0 agencies to meet some of the objectives that we've laid
1 out this week and hopefully we'll have some success on
2 some of them with that.

3 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And
4 Quyana, Mr. Chairman, for being patient with everyone,
5 even with those of us that got GCI disconnected while

10 we are trying to listen to the deliberations.

11 With that thank you.

12 Quyana.

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you, Myron.

14 Thank you very much everyone. I know Wasillie Alexie
15 is excused. And I'd like to welcome him as a new
16 member also and hope to see him in the winter meeting.
17 And my heart goes out to Robert Aloysius for his
18 dedicated service to this organization. He's given a
19 lot of input and suggestions and recommendations and
20 has a lot of good knowledge about his years of growing
21 up about what he's seen back then and what he's seeing
22 today. So I'd like to recognize those that haven't
23 been here for this meeting.

24 Boy, I thought I would have to take
25 another day after going through these last two days but
26 all in all it all worked out. So I was just looking at
27 the time and it seemed like we're almost done about
28 this time every time we have a meeting. And, you know,
29 I'm very happy that it turned out this way.

30

31 So I appreciate your vote and your
32 confidence in me leading this organization. I
33 appreciate it and I've learned a lot from you also and
34 like I said we learn from each other, the more we get
35 together we build knowledge. So continue to get
36 information and to work.

0412

1 I'd like to thank our translators, like
2 even they haven't said too much, it's always good to
3 have them there if any of the elders need to understand
4 so I thank them for being here when needed.

5

6 And I'd like to thank all of those
7 agencies that continue to work on these fisheries that
8 affect every one of us. Such as YR DFA, Yukon Fish
9 Commission, Kuskokwim Fish Commission, all those
10 organizations that we heard earlier, their continued
11 work and trying to find answers to the crash that we've
12 been experiencing the last couple of years. I know
13 they continue to work to try and find answers to the
14 crash that we're experiencing.

15

16 Thank you all. Thank OSM for their
17 hard work and their being patient with us and to, you
18 know, take all the comments and questions that we have
19 and, you know, make it understandable to all of us.
20 And especially to Eva, boy, I'd be lost if it wasn't
21 for you as you hear I keep calling on you to see what
22 action I need to take. So I appreciate your hard work,
23 your dedication to this organization and to the people

13 that are on this Council. So thank you very much for
14 your hard work.

15 And I want to say to everyone to be
16 safe, like James and Thomas mentioned, if you're not
17 vaccinated, please do get vaccinated because it's
18 pretty hard to deal with it in the rural villages if
19 you happen to catch it. So that's the scary part
getting it in the village and trying to get out to a
hospital. So encourage everyone to take your shot,
your vaccine so we could all be safe. And, you know,
we pray and hope that things will be better in the
future.

20 As long as people continue to work hard
21 and be on top of topics that need to be addressed we
22 could go a long way by working together. So I
23 appreciate all of the input that's been given during
24 this meeting, we help each other this day. So I thank
25 you very much again and I want to say have a safe fall
and take care of yourself. Thank you very much to
everyone that's involved in our meeting.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0413

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 Council. And it is an honor to work with all of you.
3 And thank you so much for your dedication and passion
4 and patience and wisdom. I welcome all of our new
5 Council members and looking forward to working with our
6 wonderful whole Council throughout the YKDelta region
7 and wish everyone, your families, and your community
8 well and healthy and looking forward to working with
9 you all. Take good care everyone.

6 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Thank you. If there is
nothing else I believe we are on Item No. 14.

7

8 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chair, if there is
9 nothing else I move to adjourn.

9 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay, there's a motion
10 on the floor by Myron to adjourn the meeting.

10

11 MS. ROGERS: Second.

11

12 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas, I second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ONEY: Okay seconded by
14 Thomas. Meeting is adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

14

15 (Off record)

15

16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

16

17

