

WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Telephonic  
October 15, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
Timothy Gervais  
Don Honea  
Tommy Kriska  
Jenny Pelkola  
Goodwin Semaken

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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

2  
3 (Telephonic - 10/15/2020)

4  
5 (On record)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to  
8 reconvene the meeting, it's 10 after 9:00 on the 15th  
9 of October, and we're going to start with Proposal  
10 FP21-01. And Robbin LaVine, are you on to present.

11  
12 MS. LAVINE: Yes, good morning, Mr.  
13 Chair, this is Robbin.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go right  
16 ahead.

17  
18 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
19 members of the Council. For the record my name is  
20 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist here at Office  
21 of Subsistence Management. And before I go into the  
22 analysis, I just wanted to express my gratitude to you  
23 all. I know these are really challenging times. We  
24 really rely on your expertise and we are so grateful  
25 you're here.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

28  
29 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you. So the  
30 analysis for Proposal FP21-01 begins on Page 46 of your  
31 meeting book. It can also be found on our website  
32 under regions, Western Interior Material Materials.  
33 And I'm going to read it to you, of course, as a  
34 summary of the analysis.

35  
36 Proposal 21-01 was submitted by the  
37 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It requests the  
38 Federal Subsistence Board eliminate Federal regulations  
39 that describe exactly when and where the salmon  
40 subsistence fishery will close around commercial  
41 openings.

42  
43 The proponent states that current  
44 Federal subsistence regulations are different than  
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations. These  
46 requested changes would align Federal and State  
47 regulations. Closure times before, during and after  
48 commercial openers are now announced via State  
49 emergency order, making the Federal regulations

50

1 potentially more restrictive than State regulations.

2

3 In 2004, the Alaska Department of Fish  
4 and Game eliminated similar regulations that described  
5 exactly when and where the salmon subsistence fishery  
6 would close around commercial openings. However, ADF&G  
7 will announce closures to subsistence fishing around  
8 commercial openers as it has in the past.

9

10 If Proposal FP21-01 is adopted then  
11 closures to subsistence fishing opportunity immediately  
12 before, during and immediately after commercial fishing  
13 openings will be managed by emergency order regulations  
14 issued by ADF&G.

15

16 If Proposal FP21-01 is not adopted,  
17 then when Federal regulations are more restrictive than  
18 State emergency orders, subsistence users could opt to  
19 fish under ADF&G's less restrictive emergency order  
20 regulations.

21

22 When Federal regulations are more  
23 lenient than ADF&G emergency order regulations, Federal  
24 subsistence users could continue to fish under Federal  
25 regulations and the situation might create confusion.

26

27 Current Federal regulations that close  
28 subsistence fishing immediately before, during and  
29 immediately after commercial fishing periods in the  
30 Kuskokwim River are redundant and confusing and should  
31 be rescinded.

32

33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
34 support FP21-01.

35

36 And the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council  
37 supported this proposal.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
40 Council. I am ready for your discussion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any Council  
43 members have questions on the proposal regarding the  
44 presentation.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't hear any  
49 questions on the proposal. So we're going to go

50

1 through the sheet here.

2

3 Reports on the Board's consultations  
4 with tribes. Did we get tribal consultation on this,  
5 do you know, Robbin.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
8 Council. Oh, gosh, just one moment, I'm sorry we  
9 usually have.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or is Orville Lind  
12 on this call.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll try to get a hold  
17 of him, this is Karen Deatherage. Why don't we go  
18 ahead and keep moving on through the process.

19

20 MR. LIND: Good morning. Good morning,  
21 Mr. Chair, this is Orville.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Orville. Was  
24 there tribal consultation on this proposal Fisheries  
25 Proposal 21-01.

26

27 MR. LIND: Yes, we did conduct  
28 consultation on that proposal and I'm not seeing any  
29 comments or questions on that one.

30

31 Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

34

35 So Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
36 -- or ANCSA corporation comments fall under that  
37 Orville.

38

39 MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
40 Orville, Native Liaison. That is correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
45 comments on this proposal.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there anyone from

50

1 ADF&G for the Kuskokwim.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nick Smith.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll take that as no  
10 comment.  
11  
12 Federal comments. We have the Refuge  
13 Staff on the line, do you want to comment on this.  
14  
15 MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, Jack, this is Gary  
16 DeCossas. Yukon Delta doesn't have any comments on  
17 this other than what is listed in the proposal.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is there any  
20 tribal organizations on this call that would like to  
21 comment on this proposal.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Advisory Group  
26 comments. Regional Council, YK-Delta supported. And  
27 how did they support, did they support that as written  
28 or did they modify.  
29  
30 MS. LAVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
31 Robbin.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.  
34  
35 MS. LAVINE: I believe the Yukon  
36 Kuskokwim Delta supported as written.  
37  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Great,  
41 appreciate that. And let's see WIRAC is the only other  
42 Council involved. Any Advisory Committees on the  
43 Kuskokwim River who visited this proposal, if anybody  
44 knows.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
49 Commission comments.  
50

1 MR. REAM: For the record this is  
2 Joshua Ream. Mr. Chair, there were no comments on this  
3 proposal by the Subsistence Resource Commission.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that would be  
8 Lake Clark, so, thank you.

9  
10 Written comments, Karen.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 This is Karen Deatherage. There were no written  
14 comments received for FP21-01.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any public  
17 testimony on this proposal, anybody on the phone that  
18 would like to comment on this proposal.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're at the  
23 Regional Council recommendations. The Chair will  
24 entertain a motion to adopt the proposal in the  
25 affirmative.

26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: Motion to adopt, this is  
28 Tim.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Somebody  
31 doesn't have their phone on mute and we hear a lot of  
32 paper shuffling.

33  
34 So we got Tim for a motion to adopt, do  
35 we have a second.

36  
37 MR. SEMAKEN: Second, Goodwin.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Goodwin, thank  
40 you. And so discussion on the proposal.

41  
42 Basically this is a housekeeping  
43 proposal. It allows alignment with current practices  
44 of management on the Kuskokwim River.

45  
46 Any discussion on the proposal from  
47 Council members.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. All right, I  
2 will support the proposal in conjunction with the Yukon  
3 Delta Regional Advisory Council to allow current  
4 management practices that are in place since 2003.  
5  
6 Any further discussion.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
11 question.  
12  
13 MR. GERVAIS: Question.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by  
16 Tim. Those in favor of FP21-01 proposal signify by  
17 saying aye.  
18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have four ayes.  
22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
24 Karen Deatherage. Might I suggest we do a roll call  
25 for all votes so it's clear.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Roll call, yeah,  
28 that's fine.  
29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd be happy to do  
31 that for you or you could do it.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead. You  
34 want to call the roll Karen.  
35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: For the motion to  
37 adopt FP21-01, Don Honea.  
38  
39 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.  
46  
47 MR. KRISKA: Yes.  
48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tim Gervais.  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
2  
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.  
4  
5 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.  
8  
9 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much,  
12 motion passes unanimously.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
15 I think I skipped over the public comment this morning  
16 on any non-agenda items that -- public, tribal comments  
17 on non-agenda items. Anybody on the phone want to  
18 speak to any item that's not on the agenda.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is the  
23 timeframe when we would take public comments on non-  
24 agenda items.  
25  
26 (No comments)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another thing I  
29 would like to have is if anybody's signed on to the  
30 call that didn't list your name or who you were  
31 associated to yesterday, would you state your name for  
32 the record.  
33  
34 MS. TRAINOR: Hello, Mr. Chair. This  
35 is Alida Trainor, I'm a subsistence resource specialist  
36 for the Yukon region in the Subsistence Division at  
37 Fish and Game in Fairbanks.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
40 Good morning.  
41  
42 Anybody else.  
43  
44 MR. MCDEVET: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
45 Chris McDevet, I'm with Subsistence Division Fish and  
46 Game in Fairbanks.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Chris.  
49  
50



1 MS. FITKA: Good morning, this is  
2 Serena Fitka with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
3 Association.  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,  
6 Serena.  
7

8 Anyone else that didn't register  
9 yesterday when we went around with introductions.  
10

11 (No comments)  
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I don't hear any,  
14 so welcome.  
15

16 And so we're going to Proposal FP21-02.  
17

18 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair, members  
19 of the Council, this is Robbin LaVine.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead.  
22

23 MS. LAVINE: Great. This is another  
24 housekeeping proposal. Proposal FP21-02 can be found on  
25 Page 78 of your meeting books, it's also posted on our  
26 website.  
27

28 FP21-02 was submitted by the Yukon  
29 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and it requests the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board reduce the required distance  
31 between setnets in Kuskokwim River tributaries from 150  
32 feet to 75 feet.  
33

34 The proponent states that current  
35 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations are not  
36 parallel with State regulations. This requested  
37 regulation change would align Federal and State  
38 regulations. The current Federal regulation is more  
39 restrictive than the State regulation. In addition,  
40 the proponent also states that adoption of this  
41 proposal will reduce user confusion and enforcement  
42 concerns.  
43

44 Last year the Board -- the Alaska Board  
45 of Fisheries took action on a proposal submitted by the  
46 Organized Village of Kwethluk and modified the required  
47 distance between setnets in tributaries of the  
48 Kuskokwim River drainage to 75 feet. The proponent  
49 requested allowing the operation of a setnet gillnet  
50

1 within 50 feet of another set gillnet. The Board of  
2 Fisheries amended the proposal to allow the operation  
3 of a set gillnet within 75 feet of another set gillnet  
4 instead. Board of Fisheries members were concerned  
5 that nets might get tangled with one another and user  
6 conflicts might ensured so they shortened the distance  
7 requirement to 75 feet rather than 50 feet as requested  
8 by the Organized Village of Kwethluk.

9  
10 There are limited number of good setnet  
11 sites in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.

12  
13 If Proposal FP21-02 is adopted,  
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be able to  
15 place subsistence nets 75 feet apart increasing fishing  
16 opportunities within the tributaries which already  
17 happens under State regulations. Tributaries that have  
18 spawning populations of salmon have been closed during  
19 the chinook salmon run since 2015 under Federal special  
20 actions and these conservation measures will likely  
21 continue, however, adoption of this proposal may  
22 increase harvest of anadromous and resident species,  
23 while catch rates of each setnet may decrease due to  
24 increased competition. Finally, aligning State and  
25 Federal regulations will reduce user confusion.

26  
27 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
28 support FP21-02. The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council did  
29 not support this proposal. Several Kuskokwim members  
30 said the first net would get all the fish and the  
31 second net would get no fish and having so many setnets  
32 in the water that close together is a boating hazard  
33 especially at night.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
36 Council. I'm ready for your discussion.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robbin.  
39 Any questions on the presentation from the Council  
40 members.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim, I have  
43 a question.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: Robbin, this is Tim  
48 Gervais. Do you know what the final modified version  
49 vote was for Board of Fish?

1 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Gervais,  
2 thank you. I will have to look that up. If you give  
3 me a moment, or I may ask if anybody who's on this call  
4 might be aware, as I zoom through.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Is any  
9 of the State Subsistence Division Staff have that  
10 answer to that question.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Probably Board  
15 Support would know that one.

16  
17 MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, Jack, this is Gary,  
18 I was -- from Yukon Delta. I was listening to that in  
19 2019 and I believe it was unanimous.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was unanimous,  
22 okay, thanks.

23  
24 Other questions on this proposal and  
25 analysis.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members.

30  
31 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I'm  
36 just wondering if this issue had been brought up before  
37 and I can see the -- the eddies and stuff, this is not  
38 only for their area but potentially maybe we may face  
39 something like this in the future before I -- we've  
40 been going through locally some of the things. And  
41 it's kind of interesting that it's reverting back to us  
42 so I would support this if -- it's kind of interesting  
43 that whoever proposes this is align to justify it.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Any  
48 questions on the proposal.

49  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Orville  
4 Lind, did we get tribes or ANCSA consultation.

5

6 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
7 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of  
8 Subsistence Management. During the consultation held  
9 on June 10th there were no questions or comments.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

14

15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
16 comment. Is Subsistence Division going to give those?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there any ADF&G  
21 Staff that would like to comment on the proposal.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any. So  
26 Federal.

27

28 MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary from Yukon  
29 Delta. The only additional comments I'd like to make  
30 about this proposal is, one, that it doesn't affect the  
31 in-season management that occurs and has been occurring  
32 regularly over the last decade. And the second comment  
33 is, the State already has changed their regulation to  
34 75 feet, so subsistence users can already right now  
35 choose to fish setnets 75 feet apart even though the  
36 Federal regulation is more restrictive.

37

38 That's it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's within  
41 tributary streams, how far from the mouth?

42

43 MR. DECOSSAS: Anywhere in the  
44 tributaries, so from the mouth on up.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, right in the  
47 mouth. Yeah, okay. So thanks for those comments.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim, I have

50

1 a question for Gary.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

4

5

MR. GERVAIS: Gary, this is Tim  
6 Gervais. So why doesn't the Federal regs still apply  
7 when -- for the areas that are Federal waters, such as  
8 the Yukon Delta Refuge?

9

10 MR. DECOSSAS: Sure, hey, Tim, how's it  
11 going. So Federal -- there needs to -- unless there's  
12 a Federal special action either issued by the Federal  
13 in-season manager or by the Federal Subsistence Board,  
14 anything that's in State regulations for State EO  
15 applies to the fishery. That's the best way to explain  
16 that.

17

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But when you're  
under special action and you have pulled the gear off  
the main river into the non-salmon tributaries, the 150  
foot would be under current Federal regulations, the  
150 feet, I don't understand, you just said if there's

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1 a special action the Federal regulations are in  
2 application, so it's still 150 feet at that time,  
3 right?

4  
5 MR. DECOSSAS: The Federal in-season  
6 manager, the last couple of years has only Federalized  
7 the first 100 yards in the non-salmon spawning  
8 tributaries, so everything above 100 yards is still  
9 under the State management.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hum. But isn't that  
12 disparate to what the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory  
13 Council is concerned about, they seem to have  
14 displeasure with the 75 foot regulation that the Board  
15 of Fish has just adopted.

16  
17 MR. DECOSSAS: Yeah, I can't speak for  
18 the Council's decision but I know there was a lot of  
19 confusion with all of these proposals, over whether or  
20 not they affected the in-season management of chinook  
21 salmon, which they do not.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's the  
24 intention of the Refuge in-season manager to maintain  
25 the closure only 100 -- or 300 feet from the mouth of  
26 any non-salmon tributary, you're still going to  
27 maintain the State regulations above the 300 feet from  
28 the mouth, and that's from the mean high water mark?

29  
30 MR. DECOSSAS: Yeah, correct, ordinary  
31 high water mark.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's  
34 delineated by how? By debris and brush, or what?

35  
36 MR. DECOSSAS: Yeah, that's generally  
37 how they do it, they look for the water mark.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Okay. Any  
40 other questions for Gary there.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Jack, I have one  
43 more for Gary, this is Tim.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.

46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: Gary, this is Tim  
48 Gervais. So how did the residents of the area -- this  
49 was the first -- 2020 was the first year that this 75  
50

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1 foot regulation came into effect, how did the residents  
2 like it or not like it, what was the feeling on the  
3 fishing grounds whether it was a good or bad  
4 regulation?

5  
6 MR. DECOSSAS: I don't believe we had  
7 any public comment but we do fly regular aerial surveys  
8 during the in-season portion, and, you know, where the  
9 setnets are allowed in the non-salmon spawning  
10 tributaries, there's only really one location that has  
11 setnets that close together and that's the Gweek River  
12 right above Bethel, and that place is pretty hit or  
13 miss with fishing for salmon, from what I know.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Aaron Moses,  
16 you're there on the call?

17  
18 MR. MOSES: Yes, Jack, I'm here.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you attended the  
21 YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council meeting, what was  
22 their discussion revolving around the displeasure with  
23 the 75 feet?

24  
25 MR. MOSES: From what I got was there  
26 was a bunch of people that wanted to fish their setnets  
27 but like they said in the proposal, there was a -- a  
28 lot of the eddies are between Napaskiak and Tuluksak, a  
29 lot of the eddies are closer together and this  
30 proposal's been coming back every few years I believe.  
31 Because in 2018 on the State side there was a proposal  
32 but only one Advisory Council -- or Advisory Committee  
33 from the State side passed it and then Kwethluk put it  
34 -- submitted it again and it passed this time. And so  
35 there have been people for it and against it from what  
36 I've been hearing.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39  
40 MR. RISDAHL: Jack. Mr. Chairman, this  
41 is Greg Risdahl, Office of Subsistence Management,  
42 Fisheries Division Lead.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45  
46 MR. RISDAHL: If you'd like I can give  
47 you a very, very brief summary of what the Council  
48 voted on last week.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please. I would  
2 like to know their justification.

3  
4 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, that's exactly what  
5 I'm going to give to you. It's a shortened version but  
6 this is the summary. When setnets are 50 to 75 feet  
7 apart, the people up stream are blocked. Some families  
8 use the same sites year after year and would not be  
9 able to do so. Setnet sites so close together will  
10 reduce the number of fish caught by people -- by some  
11 people. People try to set nets as close to the mouth  
12 of the rivers as they can, this causes crowding and  
13 reduced safety, plus people fishing at night run over  
14 the nets.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
19 any other discussion on the proposal from -- we were  
20 going over the Federal comments.

21  
22 Is there any tribal members on the  
23 call.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any.  
28 Other -- we understand what the Regional Advisory  
29 Council, the YK-Delta Council action that was taken.

30  
31 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, have  
32 they met on this Federal proposal, Gary, or Aaron, do  
33 you know that answer.

34  
35 MR. DECOSSAS: Not that I'm aware of,  
36 this is Gary. Thanks.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
39 Commissions, most likely not. You can confirm that  
40 Josh, one way or another.

41  
42 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
43 Subsistence Resource Commissions had no comment on this  
44 proposal.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written  
49 comments. Did we get any written comments on this  
50



1 proposal, Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
4 Karen Deatherage. No public written comments were  
5 received for FP21-02.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And public  
8 testimony. Do we have any public testimony on this  
9 proposal.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will  
14 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal FP21-02 for  
15 discussion. Do we have a motion.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt, this is  
18 Don.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, motion to  
21 adopt. Do we have a second.

22

23 MRS. PELKOLA: I'll second, this is  
24 Jenny.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenny, thank  
27 you. So Council comments on this proposal.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, it's interesting  
34 change the regulation because by -- from the State  
35 side, by reducing the required distance by half, any  
36 traditional setnet location could be corked off by  
37 another net being set in between it. So it seems like  
38 there would be a fair amount of people using their  
39 traditional or historic sites that could miss a lot of  
40 fishing harvest potential by having another net put in  
41 where they were. I'd be willing to listen to any other  
42 Council member's discuss the benefits, that's -- 75  
43 feet seems pretty tight for having your gear next to  
44 another net. But I'd like to hear some other people's  
45 comments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. It's my  
48 impression from what the YK-Delta RAC did -- but this  
49 is actually the first year where they had that 75 feet

50

1 spacing and there was a lot of displeasure about the  
2 number of nets, that's not very far apart. The Yukon  
3 River is 200 feet -- 75 feet is really close together.  
4 And so the -- I can see what -- you know, they're  
5 having second thoughts about this action. The in-  
6 season manager seems to be only closing the first 100  
7 feet -- or correction, 300 feet, 100 yards, which  
8 doesn't seem adequate for -- with flood tide salmon  
9 will move into -- get sucked into any kind of a side  
10 stream, you know that Tim, there's going to be salmon  
11 sucked in there, I think 100 yards or 300 feet is not  
12 adequate as the closure for protection, depending on  
13 the species. Especially chum, they'll get sucked right  
14 in there, it's like a vacuum cleaner on the flood.

15  
16 So I kind of am leaning towards going  
17 along with the YK-Delta, because they seem to have a  
18 better understanding of what the effects of the current  
19 -- the recent regulatory change by the Board of Fish  
20 and they did not support that. Greg, what was their  
21 vote on that, Risdahl.

22  
23 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just  
24 erased that. I believe it was three to four, so the  
25 vote failed.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I'm  
28 inclined to go along with the YK-Delta on that one.  
29 And I also feel that the in-season manager should  
30 reconsider the distance of closure into the mouth of  
31 those streams because if we have fewer and fewer chum  
32 salmon, there's going to be a bigger and bigger deal of  
33 interception. People are going to crowd that lower  
34 part, they should move them a quarter mile in or inside  
35 of a drainage because there's a lot of fish get sucked  
36 in there, and then they come right back out of there.  
37 I used to fish in the intertidal zone at Bristol Bay,  
38 all these little streams, all these fish get sucked in  
39 those creeks and then they come back out of there, so  
40 it's not like you're protecting anything by a 100 yard  
41 closure.

42  
43 That would be my comment on the  
44 proposal, I intend to oppose the proposal, personally.

45  
46 Any other Council comments.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So no other Council  
2 comments.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have a  
7 question on this proposal, 21-02.

8  
9 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, is there  
10 -- is there a motion?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a motion to  
13 adopt and seconded, we've had discussion, we've come to  
14 the vote, I'm asking if there's -- can somebody call  
15 the question. Do you want to comment Don.

16  
17 MR. HONEA: I guess I forgot what your  
18 thought was on this.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to make  
21 further comment on the proposal Don?

22  
23 MR. HONEA: Well, I'm just -- yeah,  
24 well, I guess I initially just put it on the floor for  
25 discussion. But -- and I think their justification --  
26 again, it's kind of interesting, the maker of these, or  
27 whoever the village, the people affected are not on the  
28 phone, so that's 'why I thought -- I thought, hey, I  
29 mean if it's -- if somebody deemed that strong enough  
30 to thought it was important enough to make it then --  
31 and there's no opposition then I would support it.  
32 That's just my feeling.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Yukon  
35 Delta Regional Advisory Council voted in the majority  
36 to oppose.

37  
38 MR. HONEA: To oppose, okay.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Four oppose, and  
41 three did not, they were a split vote -- kind of a  
42 split vote.

43  
44 But this is the first year of  
45 implementation of this and so I'm inclined to go along  
46 with the majority vote of the YK-Delta Regional Council  
47 understanding that there would be a lot of -- the pie  
48 would be sliced so thin that somebody's going to -- you  
49 know, there's going to be a lot of nets really close

50

1 together.

2

3 MR. HONEA: I would agree with your  
4 assessment and would vote likewise.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other -- do we have  
7 a question on the proposal to vote.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
12 Those in favor of Proposal FP21-02 signify by saying  
13 aye.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to  
16 do roll call, this is Karen.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,  
19 Karen. Yes, please.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much.  
22 On the motion to adopt FP21-02.

23

24 Don Honea.

25

26 MR. HONEA: No.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don, are you there?

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yes, I said no.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

33

34 Jack Reakoff.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll come back to  
47 Tommy.

48

49 Tim Gervais.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: No.  
2  
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.  
4  
5 MRS. PELKOLA: No.  
6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.  
8  
9 MR. SEMAKEN: No.  
10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Coming back for Member  
12 Tommy Kriska. If you're on mute Tommy, could you  
13 unmute.  
14  
15 (No comments)  
16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, Mr. Chair. The  
18 motion fails with a vote of six, zero, thank you.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Karen.  
21 Tommy's probably got phone trouble, he's having  
22 problems with his mute.  
23  
24 So we're going to move down the agenda  
25 to FP.....  
26  
27 MR. KRISKA: Hey on that last one was  
28 no. I am having a hard time with my phone.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 The motion fails on six/zero.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much,  
36 Tommy. I understood you were having.....  
37  
38 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, you're going to have  
39 to excuse me when it's time to vote because I have to  
40 pull the phone out and -- it's okay, I'll get it, no  
41 problem.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
44  
45 MR. KRISKA: Okay, thank you.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So yeah just  
48 come back on whenever you get off mute there.  
49  
50

1 So we're going to move on to Proposal  
2 FP21-03, clarify set gillnet orientation and so Robbin,  
3 you're going to make the presentation.

4  
5 MS. LAVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.  
6 This is Robbin LaVine. The analysis for Proposal FP21-  
7 03 begins on Page 99 of your meeting books and it also  
8 can be found on our website.

9  
10 Fisheries Proposal 21-03 was submitted  
11 by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and it  
12 requests the Federal Subsistence Board clarify that  
13 drift gillnets are legal gear in Kuskokwim River  
14 tributaries. Drift gillnets have always been legal  
15 gear in Kuskokwim River tributaries. In June 2019 the  
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game clarified its  
17 regulations that drift gillnets are legal gear in the  
18 Kuskokwim River tributaries.

19  
20 Adoption of FP21-03 would allow  
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users to use drift  
22 gillnets in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River  
23 drainage. Drifting nets in some tributaries is already  
24 a common practice and adoption of this proposal will  
25 make it legal for the users under Federal subsistence  
26 regulations. Adoption would also align State and  
27 Federal regulations. Adoption of this proposal may  
28 lead to higher harvest rates on some stocks of fish in  
29 some tributaries however fishery managers have the  
30 authority to close tributaries with stocks at high  
31 risk.

32  
33 If Proposal FP21-03 was not adopted it  
34 would remain illegal under Federal regulations to drift  
35 a gillnet in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.  
36 Federal regulations would remain more restrictive than  
37 State. Fishers would be able to fish under State  
38 regulations unless superseded by Federal special  
39 action.

40  
41 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
42 support FP21-03.

43  
44 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council met  
45 last week and supported this proposal.

46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and ready for  
48 your discussion.

1                               CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
2 Robbin.  
3  
4                               Questions on the proposal from the  
5 Council members on the presentation.  
6  
7                               (No comments)  
8  
9                               CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any  
10 questions from the Council on the presentation, so  
11 tribal consultation for tribes and ANCSA corporations.  
12  
13                              Orville.  
14  
15                              MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 Council members. Native liaison Orville Lind from the  
17 Office of Subsistence Management. During the  
18 consultation session in June there were no questions or  
19 comments on that proposal.  
20  
21                              Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22  
23                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
24 Orville.  
25  
26                              Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
27 comments.  
28  
29                              (No comments)  
30  
31                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've had nobody on  
32 the call this morning from ADF&G from the Kuskokwim  
33 manager.  
34  
35                              Federal. Gary.  
36  
37                              MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary. Same  
38 comments as the last proposal. This doesn't affect  
39 Federal in-season management. Those are issued through  
40 Federal special action by the in-season manager.  
41  
42                              That's it. Thank you.  
43  
44                              CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Gary.  
45  
46                              Any tribal comments at this time.  
47  
48                              (No comments)  
49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have not heard any  
2 on the other proposals.

3  
4 Advisory Group Comments. Regional  
5 Advisory Council supported, and what was the vote on  
6 that, Greg, do you know, Risdahl.

7  
8 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, one  
9 moment while I slide down here. The Yukon Delta  
10 Regional Advisory Council voted six to zero to support  
11 and passed unanimously.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

14  
15 Fish and Game Advisory Committees have  
16 not seem to have met on these, is that correct.

17  
18 MR. DECOSSAS: Correct.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Subsistence Resource  
21 Commission does not seem to have met on that,  
22 affirmative, Josh.

23  
24 MR. REAM: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Summary of written  
27 comments, Karen.

28  
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 This is Karen Deatherage. And there were no written  
31 public comments for FP21-03.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen.

36  
37 Any public testimony. Do we have any  
38 public testimony on the phone that wants to comment on  
39 this proposal.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't hear any.  
44 The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal  
45 FP21-03. Do we have a motion to adopt.

46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: Motion to adopt, this is  
48 Tim.

49  
50



1 MR. HONEA: So moved.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got two -- say  
4 again.  
5  
6 MR. HONEA: Go ahead, Tim.  
7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: Motion to adopt, Tim.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Motion by  
11 Tim, do we have a second, is that you Don.  
12  
13 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
16  
17 Discussion on this proposal, the drift  
18 inside these tributaries.  
19  
20 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.  
23  
24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I don't know who was  
25 giving us -- what her name was, but I had a question in  
26 here, I mean if they're -- if FP21-03 was adopted, are  
27 we just -- I mean with the State -- I mean -- if it's  
28 always been, you know, to driftnet, why is this even in  
29 a proposal? Well, I guess what my question is, what  
30 are we changing, what are we actually doing?  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you like to  
33 explain that aspect of it Gary.  
34  
35 MR. DECOSAS: Yeah, sure. So all this  
36 proposal is doing is clarifying that drifting is  
37 allowed in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim River. If  
38 you read the regulation as it exists now in the Federal  
39 subsistence regulation, it reads, you must attach to  
40 the bank each subsistence gillnet operated in the  
41 tributaries of the Kuskokwim River and fish it  
42 substantially perpendicular to the bank and in a  
43 substantially straight line. What this regulation  
44 change is proposing is to add the word set in front of  
45 gillnet so it reads: you must attach to the bank each  
46 subsistence set gillnet operated in the tributaries of  
47 the Kuskokwim River and fish it substantially  
48 perpendicular to the bank and in a substantially  
49 straight line.  
50

1                   That's the clarification.

2  
3                   People read that reg -- there can be an  
4 interpretation of that regulation without the word set  
5 in front of it that reads as though that drifting in  
6 the tributaries is not allowed when, in fact, drifting  
7 in the tributaries has always been allowed outside of  
8 Federal special action or State emergency order that  
9 says that, you know, fishing is completely closed off  
10 in the tributaries.

11  
12                   That's the purpose of the proposal.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is there a  
15 limitation on the length of the gear for drift gillnet  
16 in the tributaries?

17  
18                   MR. DECOSSAS: Yes, there are both in  
19 State and Federal regs, you cannot obstruct more than  
20 half the width of the stream with a net in a  
21 tributaries and that's for public safety reasons, and  
22 navigational purposes.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But in some areas  
25 they could set a full 50 fathoms?

26  
27                   MR. DECOSSAS: The only place that I  
28 can think of in the lower river where that's possible  
29 is the Johnson River, at the very lowest part nearest  
30 the mouth.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

33  
34                   MR. DECOSSAS: But all of the other  
35 tributaries are pretty narrow, that I wouldn't imagine  
36 would allow a 50 fathom net.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's just  
39 for my own information, thank you.

40  
41                   Other questions -- did that answer your  
42 question then, Don.

43  
44                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Thank you, Gary. It's a -- you know, might assuming  
46 whatever but it's great to have somebody on there to  
47 just explain what this is changing or what it's not  
48 changing. So I appreciate that. I would be in support  
49 of this.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.  
2  
3 Other comments or questions,  
4 discussion.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to support  
9 the proposal as Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council  
10 has, recognizing customary and traditional use of drift  
11 gillnet inside of tributary streams of the Kuskokwim  
12 River to be clarified in the Federal subsistence  
13 regulations.  
14  
15 Any further discussion.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
20 question.  
21  
22 MR. HONEA: Call for the question, this  
23 is Don.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Called by Don. Do  
26 you want to do roll call, Karen.  
27  
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
29 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. On the motion to  
30 adopt FP21-03.  
31  
32 Don Honea.  
33  
34 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy, we'll give you  
41 time to get your phone out.  
42  
43 Tim Gervais.  
44  
45 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
46  
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.  
48  
49 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Member Semaken on  
6 the phone.  
7  
8 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.  
9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.  
11  
12 MR. KRISKA: Tom Kriska, yes.  
13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, Tom. Gotcha Tom,  
15 thank you very much. Motion passes six to zero, thank  
16 you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
19 I misplaced my sheet, my agenda. So that covers the  
20 fisheries proposals and the fishery closure reviews.  
21 We're going to move on to Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
22 Program. Robbin.  
23  
24 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
25 and members of the Council. Good morning. Again, this  
26 is Robbin LaVine. This presentation is posted at our  
27 website and in your meeting materials it's called the  
28 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and these  
29 materials start on Page 118 of your Council books. But  
30 I'm going to read this presentation to you as well.  
31 This is an action item and we are seeking your comments  
32 on these materials.  
33  
34 So the Office of Subsistence Management  
35 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
36 and funds research that help manage subsistence  
37 fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. The  
38 Monitoring Program also supports collaboration and  
39 cooperation among Federal agencies, the State of Alaska  
40 and Alaska Native and rural organizations.  
41  
42 Every two years the Office of  
43 Subsistence Management announces a funding opportunity  
44 for projects that address priority information needs  
45 identified by our Regional Advisory Councils. The  
46 Office of Subsistence Management works with the  
47 Councils to identify issues of local concern and  
48 knowledge gaps. This information is used to develop  
49 regional priorities that guide research in proposal  
50

1 development. Three primary types of research are  
2 requested. Harvest monitoring, traditional ecological  
3 knowledge and stock, status and trends. Harvest  
4 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge  
5 projects provide information directly from subsistence  
6 users, including descriptions of fishing effort and  
7 harvest and use patterns. Stock, status and trend  
8 projects address fish abundance, migration and behavior  
9 in specific fisheries. Research priorities that fall  
10 outside that scope of the Monitoring Program are not  
11 considered, and they include projects focused on  
12 habitat protection, mitigation, restoration and  
13 enhancement, hatchery propagation, restoration  
14 enhancement and supplementation, and contaminant  
15 assessment evaluation and monitoring. These kinds of  
16 projects are most appropriately addressed by the local  
17 land management or regulatory agency.

18  
19 So since 2000 the Office of Subsistence  
20 Management has funded 113 projects in the Kuskokwim  
21 region and 126 projects in the Yukon region through the  
22 Monitoring Program. If you turn to Page 119 of your  
23 meeting materials you can see all of those projects  
24 listed there.

25  
26 So earlier this month, volunteer  
27 members from the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and  
28 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Councils met to exchange  
29 information concerning these priority information needs  
30 for the upcoming notice of funding opportunity. So  
31 from this Council, Mr. Reakoff attended the PIN  
32 discussion for the Kuskokwim region, and Mr. Gervais  
33 and Mr. Semaken attended for the Yukon region. We  
34 started by reviewing the most recent list developed by  
35 the Councils, that was from the last call for proposals  
36 for the 2020 -- I'm sorry -- yeah, the 2020 projects  
37 and we revised the list by adding and removing items.  
38 So the revised list has been faxed or emailed to all  
39 the Council members. But what we're going to do is,  
40 when you're ready, I will read first the list of  
41 priority information needs from the Kuskokwim region,  
42 and then I'll pause and take your comments.

43  
44 So if you're ready I'm going to start.  
45 There are 15 items of priority information needs for  
46 the Kuskokwim region.

47  
48 Are you ready for me to proceed?

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 First, impacts of climate change and  
6 continued harvest and use of fish and impacts of  
7 climate change on fish. For example, fish migration,  
8 spawning and life cycle.

9

10 2. Knowledge of population,  
11 reproduction and health of spawning habitat for  
12 declining humpback whitefish populations.

13

14 3. Documentation of oral histories  
15 describing salmon harvest methods in the Kuskokwim  
16 River drainage, specifically the period before the  
17 development of the modern commercial fishery.

18

19 4. Reliable quantitative and/or  
20 qualitative estimates of salmon run size, escapement  
21 and harvest in the Kuskokwim River drainage, including  
22 Kuskokwim Bay tributaries.

23

24 5. Exploring new and cost effective  
25 methods for conducting in-season salmon run and harvest  
26 assessment in the Kuskokwim River drainage with an  
27 emphasis on community based monitoring.

28

29 6. Estimates of quality of escapement  
30 measures to help inform salmon stock assessments, for  
31 example potential egg deposition, age, size and sex  
32 composition spawners advancing genetic baselines.

33

34 7. Improved Kuskokwim River  
35 drainagewide and sub-stock specific salmon run size and  
36 timing forecasts.

37

38 8. Distribution, abundance, conditions  
39 and survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon in  
40 the Kuskokwim River drainage.

41

42 9. Traditional ecological knowledge of  
43 fishes.

44

45 10. Information sharing between  
46 stakeholders and agencies concerning salmon  
47 conservation in the Kuskokwim River drainage, for  
48 example outreach to villages using the media and other  
49 methods.

50

1 11. The meaning and significance of  
2 sharing, barter and/or customary trade of subsistence  
3 foods in the context of the social, cultural and  
4 economic life of people in the lower Kuskokwim River  
5 drainage.

6  
7 12. Effects of environmental stresses  
8 such as heat stress on salmon mortality during adult up  
9 river migration and/or pre-spawn mortality within  
10 spawning tributaries.

11  
12 13. Effects of ichthyophonus infection  
13 on chinook and chum salmon mortality and spawning  
14 success.

15  
16 14. Assessment of incidental chinook  
17 salmon mortality with gillnets with particular  
18 consideration for delayed mortality from entanglement  
19 or direct mortality from drop-outs, for example loss of  
20 chinook salmon from six inch mesh nets.

21  
22 And, finally, 15. Collect baseline  
23 information on the resident fish community to better  
24 understand potential impacts and to assess impacts of  
25 proposed development projects.

26  
27 So this is an action item. We're  
28 seeking your comments on this list of priority  
29 information needs. The YK-Delta met last week and the  
30 Eastern Interior is meeting concurrently on this agenda  
31 item, reviewing the same list as the one before you.  
32 And from what I understand the YK-Delta passed and  
33 approved this list of 15 priority information needs as  
34 written.

35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
37 Council. I am ready to take your comments.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So EIRAC would be  
40 reviewing the Yukon priority needs, not the Kuskokwim?

41  
42 MS. LAVINE: They are -- yes, the  
43 Eastern Interior, yep, they're meeting on the Yukon  
44 priority information needs which we will review after  
45 the discussion on the YK-Delta.

46  
47 Thanks.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

50

1 Any questions on these priority needs and comments from  
2 Council members.

3  
4 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead, Tim.

7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'm looking in my  
9 inbox and I'm seeing the priority information needs for  
10 the Yukon, does anybody know what date the revised  
11 Kuskokwim priority information needs came out, or were  
12 sent out?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, that was in  
15 an email.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, it was  
18 in an email, and I'm trying to find out right now, I'll  
19 get back to you shortly.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I downloaded this  
22 one, Tim, it was in an email the other day.

23  
24 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jared.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jared.

27  
28 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
29 email was sent out on October 8th.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. Do  
32 you see that one, Tim?

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I've got it, thank  
35 you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jared.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council comments on  
42 this draft Kuskokwim region fishery priority  
43 information needs from the Council members.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All of these -- this  
48 whole list, some of them are critical on the Kuskokwim  
49 River fishery, especially these in-season harvest

50



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1 monitoring water quality, escapement qualities, these  
2 stock compositions, juvenile out-migrations, these are  
3 all -- I consider these all very high priorities and  
4 this ecological knowledge of fishes by the elders  
5 about, you know, how far up the rivers does salmon get  
6 sucked when they're on the flood tide versus -- so  
7 those information that people have, managers may or may  
8 not be paying attention to those customary and  
9 traditional knowledges. So I consider all of these --  
10 I concur with the YK-Delta, these 15 top priorities are  
11 -- many are critical as far as informational needs.

12  
13 Other Council member comments.

14  
15 Do you have the list now, Tim.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I have the list.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: So, Jack, you were on the  
22 call last week, or two weeks when they were discussing  
23 this -- or last week, I guess.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I was on the  
26 call discussing various aspects of informational needs,  
27 priority information needs as you were with the Yukon  
28 and Goodwin.

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: So the status of the  
31 information needs that are crossed off, those were  
32 taken off during the phone call last week?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some of these cross  
35 outs, yeah, can you answer that one Robbin.

36  
37 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin  
38 LaVine, thank you. I would ask if the cross outs have  
39 been addressed by the list I just shared with you, and  
40 does the list I shared with you demonstrate change in  
41 the draft that you have?

42  
43 And, Jared, if you know that can you  
44 also speak up. Thanks.

45  
46 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jared.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,  
49 Jared.

50

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1 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
2 the record this is Jared Stone, fisheries biologist  
3 with OSM. And this fourth PIN that was crossed off,  
4 the documentation of local knowledge concerning how  
5 salmon subsistence harvest restrictions have affected  
6 people's use of fish and other resources in the  
7 Kuskokwim River drainage was suggested to have been met  
8 by a priority information needs -- or I'm sorry,  
9 suggested to have been met by a project that was  
10 titled: Patterns and Trends of Subsistence Salmon  
11 Harvest and Use in the Kuskokwim River Drainage. And  
12 it was suggested during the volunteer meeting that,  
13 that particular priority information needs be removed  
14 because it had been addressed by previous years'  
15 projects.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does that  
18 clarify that for you Tim? And some of these cross outs  
19 seem to be redundant with some of the other bullet  
20 points. Is that correct, Jared?

21  
22 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I understand what  
23 the cross outs are designating.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26  
27 Do you have any comments, Tim, on the  
28 list or other Regional Council member comments on the  
29 list?

30  
31 MR. GERVAIS: Is 15 the number that OSM  
32 deemed -- is that a fixed number, static number, 15  
33 needs?

34  
35 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin  
36 LaVine. And is that Council Member Gervais?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, it's Tim  
39 Gervais.

40  
41 MS. LAVINE: So I numbered these so I  
42 wouldn't get lost. In general, when we develop  
43 priority information needs, for one, we don't want to  
44 number them because we don't want to indicate any kind  
45 of priority. Prioritization happens as you discuss  
46 these issues and you have an opportunity to elevate  
47 those issues that you think are absolutely critical.  
48 Of course as you see there are a lot of priority  
49 information needs here and as Mr. Chair has shared,  
50

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1 they're all critical, they're all really important.  
2 And I would also share that they're not all likely to  
3 be met during this call for proposals. We won't have  
4 15 projects for 15 priority information needs.

5  
6 You have an opportunity to trim this  
7 down if you think there are some priority information  
8 needs that are of critical importance for this cycle.  
9 We can track all of these priority information needs  
10 into the future if you want to sideline some of them  
11 for now.

12  
13 I know, though, this is a large region  
14 and this is a really critical region. It spans two  
15 Councils, the Yukon River Drainage and the Yukon  
16 Fishers -- or I'm sorry, the Kuskokwim River drainage  
17 and fisheries region has always had a high number of  
18 priority information needs and I defer to your  
19 expertise on how you might want to proceed. I can only  
20 share that, of course, trimming down this list may  
21 guarantee those information needs that you deem most  
22 critical for the next couple of years to -- you know,  
23 there will be better opportunity that those might get  
24 competitive proposals submitted to address them.

25  
26 MRS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is  
27 Jenny.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

30  
31 MRS. PELKOLA: I don't have the  
32 materials in front of me but I probably deleted it from  
33 my phone, so I'm just sort of listening and, you know,  
34 it sounds good to me.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you resend that  
37 to her right now, Karen?

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'll  
40 go ahead and email that to her right now.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: You're welcome.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there are things  
47 that are more critical on this list than others. All  
48 are worthy projects and informational lacks.

49  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

4  
5 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm of the same  
6 opinion of Jenny here. Just looking at the projects  
7 and stuff and coming up with the priorities that they  
8 mention, I don't know if they're one in the same, but I  
9 would like to have that list also sent to my email.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Can you send  
14 that to Don also, Karen?

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 I'm going to send it to the Council in general.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
20 some of these critical things are the quality of  
21 escapement, you know, the size, composition of the  
22 chinook salmon is critical as to their fecundity or  
23 their productivity, putting a lot of jack males on the  
24 spawning ground is counter-productive. The quality of  
25 escapement is a very important issue.

26  
27 The distribution and abundance of  
28 juvenile salmon out-migrating, that's productivity,  
29 that's a pretty high priority issue.

30  
31 In-season harvest assessment, I think  
32 there needs to be some work with in-season harvest. So  
33 I feel that's a pretty important thing.

34  
35 Exploring new methods of conducting in-  
36 season salmon harvest. We discussed drones but this  
37 current Administration has got a ban on utilizing  
38 drones because they're made in China. But if that  
39 ability comes forward in the future, developing  
40 proactive ways of reducing cost of monitoring  
41 escapements with drones or other more modern techniques  
42 would be helpful.

43  
44 I feel that monitoring the water  
45 quality, velocity and temperature, you can -- there  
46 should be deployment working with other agencies, land  
47 managers on in-stream velocity monitoring and also  
48 temperature and ichthyophonous and fungal attacks on  
49 salmon play into a high priority as to the viability of

50

1 stocks to actually reach destination.

2

3 Those would be some of my concerns for  
4 salmon in general in the Western Interior region but  
5 also specifically in this context to the Kuskokwim  
6 River.

7

8 Other comments from the Council.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, can I bring up a  
15 point that's not on this list or is it too late in the  
16 process for that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discuss whatever you  
19 want to, go ahead.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Alrighty. This was a  
22 point I added or attempted to add on for the Yukon  
23 River and what that is is studies that advance  
24 understanding of the geographic distribution, migration  
25 patterns and feeding habits of salmon during marine  
26 residency. And the reason I think that's important is  
27 on the Yukon list it got crossed off because the  
28 Monitoring Program generally funds research in fresh  
29 waters. This is a point that has been trouble with all  
30 the fishery -- all the salmon issues that we've been  
31 dealing with between the in-river management and the  
32 North Pacific Fishery Management Council is each of the  
33 entities are saying they're not responsible for what  
34 the behavior of the salmon is in whichever water  
35 they're not. The North Pacific Council says we don't  
36 deal with fresh water stuff on salmon, like during the  
37 chinook salmon bycatch amendment, Dr. Stram testified  
38 right to the North Pacific Council, that there's no  
39 analysis on the effects of that amendment on any of the  
40 fresh water aspects of chinook salmon. And so that way  
41 they don't have to address any of the subsistence  
42 concerns or spawning concerns or ASL concerns because  
43 they said, oh, that's not our jurisdiction or that's  
44 not our responsibility.

45

46 But in this case where we see just --  
47 just to put this in reference to what happened this  
48 summer where chum salmon runs failed on both the Yukon  
49 and Kuskokwim River and people are saying -- and I

50

1 appreciate that email that got sent out yesterday  
2 showing the lack of return on that four year age class  
3 and this year's chum salmon return, so researchers and  
4 managers are saying, oh, potentially the biggest  
5 problem is that this four year old age class of chum  
6 didn't return so we know in the Gulf of Alaska anyway,  
7 there's the starvation event in 2016. There was a lot  
8 of seabird die-off, there was a lot of cod die-off,  
9 there was a lot of -- there's low plankton production,  
10 there was bad conditions for a lot of juvenile salmon,  
11 so what I'm proposing is that -- and potentially the  
12 information's there but -- so it may not be that  
13 expensive of a project but if we had better  
14 understanding of the migration patterns and feeding  
15 habits of our salmon species, kings, chums and silvers  
16 when they're in the marine environment, that would help  
17 the Council members to understand why some of these age  
18 classes of certain species fail during certain years.

19  
20 So that's one item I'd like to see  
21 added on for the Kuskokwim. I was only on the Yukon, I  
22 didn't participate in the Kuskokwim call. But I  
23 understand there is resistance to doing it because it  
24 goes outside of fresh water but I think at some point  
25 we need to expand our boundaries here when we're  
26 talking about salmon management because it seems like  
27 we have smolt out-migration for that age class and then  
28 we didn't have the spawners return.

29  
30 So at this point, we can say okay we  
31 had some failures in the marine environment for that  
32 age class but right now I don't know exactly where  
33 these chum from the Kuskokwim River spend their adult  
34 lives in the marine environment, anyways.

35  
36 So that's 'where I would like to see  
37 some information coming back that has the geographic  
38 distribution, migration patterns, and feeding habits of  
39 -- for the Yukon I had chinook, but at this point  
40 because of the chum failure, which up until now it's  
41 been more reliable than the king salmon, and now we're  
42 seeing our second significant salmon resource being  
43 compromised that I would change it to habits of salmon  
44 during marine residency.

45  
46 So if somebody from OSM address the  
47 issue of maybe by statute or regulation they can't --  
48 we can't fund that because it does involve the marine  
49 environment.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's --  
2   some of the information you're actually talking about  
3   is actually being done by the University of Washington,  
4   and a bunch of entities working on those things but  
5   there is a Dr. Schindler, like Schindler's List, on  
6   that InterTribal Fish Commission on the pre-season  
7   planning and he had a whole bunch of data about the  
8   number of orcas have increased by three times in the  
9   last 30 years and how they selectively kill -- target  
10   large chinook salmon and it was one of the contributors  
11   to the decline of the large salmon -- chinook salmon,  
12   there's a whole bunch of stuff happening, apparently  
13   managers -- the manager's are not paying a heck of a  
14   lot of attention to what, you know, they were  
15   documenting this bird die-off and all these decline in  
16   phytoplanktons and zooplanktons, and so nobody's paying  
17   attention to where we're -- we should be expecting a  
18   decline in chum salmon, and I understand what you're  
19   talking about. There's closures in the trawl fishery  
20   because of when chum are present and when they're not  
21   present or chinook are present or not present, so  
22   there's a lot of information that is out there. You  
23   don't have to reinvent the wheel. It just has to be  
24   gathered into a concise thing that actually shows what  
25   the in-system managers are going to anticipate.

26  
27                   So I understand what you're talking  
28   about but that's a huge ocean of money that would be  
29   needed to do those projects, but there is a lot of  
30   funds in climate change and so forth on some of those  
31   projects that you're referring to.

32  
33                   What needs to be done is managers need  
34   to gather that information together and start looking  
35   more concisely at what's actually going on in the  
36   marine system for anticipation about what's going to  
37   happen on a return.

38  
39                   So there's only a limited amount of  
40   funding for these Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
41   so I do feel that managers should gather that,  
42   literally, massive amounts of information, enlightening  
43   information. Dr. Schindler talked about Bristol Bay  
44   sockeye salmon studies where disentangled fish, big  
45   fish with net marks went up and went through the  
46   counting towers but didn't spawn. Five to 30 percent  
47   of the fish that went through the counting tower had  
48   net marks and they didn't actually spawn. This is an  
49   applicable thing to other species. Nobody hears that.

50

1 I just heard that on that call. There's data out there  
2 floating around that needs to be looked at. And so  
3 this drop-out -- there's drop-out with six inch nets,  
4 incidental harvest mortality of chinook salmon and  
5 other salmon. When you use six inch net, 7.5 is  
6 optimum, six inch is an inch and a half too small and  
7 as they pinch on the gill and they fall out of a net --  
8 but then there's a whole bunch that get beat up and  
9 they let them go, or they fall off and they swim off,  
10 they hit the net again, they get -- especially if their  
11 caudal and tail fin gets chewed up, they don't have any  
12 -- their prop is chewed off, they can't swim against  
13 the current.

14  
15 Disentanglement is a big deal and so  
16 that's a real -- that's one of the issues here on this  
17 list, that is a big deal.

18  
19 I talked about that at the pre-season  
20 meeting. When you have long drainages like the Yukon  
21 and the Kuskokwim River and you keep opening fisheries,  
22 there's fish that are going to get -- fall out of the  
23 net, and the managers seem to think they swim happily  
24 up the river but according to Dr. Schindler, no,  
25 there's a whole bunch of them that get to the spawning  
26 destination but they don't spawn. As far as sockeye,  
27 and that would apply to other species. So their fungal  
28 attacks increase, it wrecks their whole metabolism, and  
29 so there's -- we wonder where -- when we have long  
30 duration fisheries with too small of net, you're going  
31 to have a phenomenal amount of drop-out.

32  
33 So there's issues in-system that need  
34 to be addressed and managers have to start looking --  
35 stop talking to themselves in-systems and start looking  
36 in the marine, start researching more data. Fisheries  
37 managers need to start looking at marine data so that  
38 we can anticipate these declines.

39  
40 The model came in bad for chum and  
41 chinook on the Kuskokwim because the model was not  
42 actually looking at all of the data in the marine  
43 system, that's what the flaw in the model was.

44  
45 So there's several things on this list  
46 that are critical for the in-season managers. And  
47 they're in-system managers, they're not marine  
48 managers, and the in-system managers need to start  
49 looking a little more widely and that doesn't cost a  
50



1 lot of money and that doesn't need an appropriation,  
2 that should just be part of their job at U.S. Fish and  
3 Wildlife, is to look at all of this data being produced  
4 by Washington State University, and NOAA and everybody  
5 and their brother is out in there in the marine system  
6 coming up with all kinds of data and nobody seems to  
7 listen, nobody's paying attention to it. Nobody knew  
8 -- in-system managers on the Yukon River never seen the  
9 Schindler disentanglement study, they were surprised,  
10 they didn't know about that one. I think that's kind  
11 of a glaring example of how in-system managers need to  
12 start looking at other data sources.

13  
14 So I'll stop right there, thank you.

15  
16 So I do think that your answer can be  
17 addressed with all the other studies that are out  
18 there, Tim.

19  
20 What do you think about this list,  
21 though.

22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: I think it's pretty good.  
24 I don't have any issues with there being frivolous  
25 stuff on it so I'm good with it. I know the Staff put  
26 a lot of effort into it and the various RAC Members who  
27 volunteered for that project, put in good input and I  
28 support it as it stands.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You don't have items  
31 that would be higher priorities, they're asking for  
32 Council comments on priority over -- higher on the list  
33 over things that should be lower on the list.

34  
35 MR. GERVAIS: Standby let me look for  
36 the ranking stuff.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Some things fall by  
39 the wayside because they don't get anybody to submit a  
40 proposal on it.

41  
42 Like this incidental harvest mortality  
43 issue, I've been talking about that for years, nobody  
44 wants to address it. It's a glaring scientific data  
45 lack that no one has yet to answer with the Department  
46 of Fish and Game or any Federal manager. They have no  
47 clue how many fish are dropping out of nets. They have  
48 no idea in any fishery. In Bristol Bay there's  
49 hundreds of thousands of fish laying all over the  
50

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1 beaches down there that are incidental harvest  
2 mortality, oh, there's no way to enumerate it, well,  
3 get on the beach, that's only about half, some of them  
4 sink. They're laying on the bottom also.

5  
6 So that's a -- but we can't get anybody  
7 to take up that assessment of disentanglement and  
8 mortality. Nobody wants to -- nobody seems to -- let's  
9 just stick our head in the sand about that one. Let's  
10 just assume that every fish that hits a six inch net is  
11 just going to swim happily up the river, it's like,  
12 unh-unh, Schindler's data and any fishermen will tell  
13 you that there's dead, falling out dead fish fall off  
14 the net. Any time you're fishing you're going to have  
15 fish falling out.

16  
17 It's not a little issue, it's a giant  
18 issue. It's a glaring -- the longer the duration of  
19 the fishery with six inch net, the more mortality  
20 you're going to have, that's unenumerated in harvest or  
21 escapement or anything else, especially if it happens  
22 below the sonar.

23  
24 So that would be my comments.

25  
26 Do you have a priority, or any other  
27 Council member have a priority of these needs over one  
28 another, all 15 are great, but does any Council members  
29 have a priority of one over the other?

30  
31 So we need to take action on this, it's  
32 an action item.

33  
34 So we could adopt the entire list and  
35 the OSM can take the transcripts and prioritize from  
36 our discussion.

37  
38 Do you have any comment, Jenny, on  
39 these, any priority over one another?

40  
41 MRS. PELKOLA: No. I finally got the  
42 list and I don't have the numbers as she read it. But  
43 I'll just go with, you know, whatever you think is  
44 right.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

47  
48 MRS. PELKOLA: And I agree with you  
49 that we are losing a lot of fish out of nets.

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they just drop  
2 off. They're pinched on the gill and they just pop  
3 right out. And they sink to the bottom. After awhile  
4 they puff up and float on top of the water as white  
5 ghost fish and you see them floating down the river and  
6 the seagulls are eating them on the beach and stuff.

7  
8                   So any other -- Don, you got a priority  
9 over -- one over another?

10  
11                  MR. HONEA: No, I'm not even going to  
12 speak towards that. I think that's where needing reps  
13 from the Kusko, I would much rather see their input or  
14 we are surely lacking the voice from that area so I'm  
15 not even going to -- whatever they decide.

16  
17                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18  
19                  Goodwin, do you have a priority one  
20 over another on this list?

21  
22                  MR. SEMAKEN: No. No, I'll just go  
23 along.

24  
25                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26  
27                  MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

30  
31                  MR. GERVAIS: As a priority I would put  
32 that -- one could combine two things as one or have  
33 them both be priorities, but towards the end of the  
34 list, assessment of incidental chinook salmon mortality  
35 with gillnets, and then the other one, effects of  
36 environmental stressors such as heat stress, salmon  
37 mortality during up migration, and you were talking  
38 about water velocity -- I guess they are different and  
39 I guess -- what I was -- is interaction with gear,  
40 fishwheels and nets, is that not an environmental  
41 stressor, I mean they're part of the environment if  
42 they're in the water.

43  
44                  The issue -- for a couple reasons I  
45 think those are priorities.

46  
47                  Is, one, we're not getting -- nobody's  
48 ever -- or I don't see where the managers are assigning  
49 a percent of the run to this mortality and in my  
50

1 perspective, the most successful escapement events  
2 we've had on the Yukon is when the manager's focused on  
3 having the unmolested pulses of fish getting up the  
4 river where they're not having to deal with nets and  
5 fishwheels at the mouth or mid river or in the upper  
6 part and we had better ASL composition during the years  
7 when that was a priority and it just makes sense that  
8 the fish are not being injured or developing mental or  
9 physical stress from having interactions with the  
10 different gear types.

11  
12 So I would like -- as you said we're  
13 not getting the information on what those drop-out  
14 rates are so my suggestion is that this Council moves  
15 it up as a -- ranks it high, or at the highest level of  
16 the priority information needs.

17  
18 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robbin.

21  
22 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, hello, Mr. Chair.  
23 Members of the Council.

24  
25 I just wanted to clarify again, the  
26 only way that your Council can prioritize an  
27 information need is by selecting it or -- and  
28 deselecting others, taking -- leaving some on the list  
29 and taking others off the list. We don't rank priority  
30 information needs based on the most information needs  
31 versus the, you know, not as important priority  
32 information needs so really they're all important  
33 information needs and it's up to the Technical Review  
34 Committee and whoever is actually forwarding the  
35 proposals to come up with a really good competitive  
36 project to address that information need.

37  
38 So, here, how you select these priority  
39 information needs will determine, you know, which ones  
40 are on the list and which ones are calling proposals to  
41 address these information needs.

42  
43 Am I clear?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, OSM's  
46 explained that at different times, but that's not the  
47 way I think about it. I think that there are a lot of  
48 good informational needs here but some are of more  
49 critical importance than others.

50

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1                   Like the complete lack of knowledge by  
2 any manager on the incidental harvest mortality with  
3 gear in the fishery and the ability of that fish to  
4 actually spawn. Those are glaring issues that managers  
5 are making giant assumptions and we do not manage with  
6 assumptions, we're supposed to manage with science.  
7 The reality is they could look at harvested fish, go  
8 down to somebody's cutting table, oh, this fish has got  
9 net marks from previous, it's got fungal attack on it,  
10 how many fish get funguses on them as you're moving up  
11 the drainage, a significant number have fungal attacks  
12 and especially if they got caudal issues like their  
13 tail is all tore up, not going to make the escapement.  
14 Then you get what is actually subjecting the run to if  
15 -- and so as Tim was saying, that's an important issue,  
16 unmolested fish as they move up the river.

17  
18                   The managers assume that the fish  
19 bounce off of nets and they're happy, it's like, unh-  
20 unh, they're not happy about that, it hurts them, cuts  
21 -- knocks all their scales off.

22  
23                   So we have more priority needs than  
24 some of these other issues.

25  
26                   I feel that these Councils should be  
27 able to number them -- I still feel that we should be  
28 able to number to a limited agree, prioritize these are  
29 high priority, these as medium, et cetera. So our  
30 discussion is not numbering, but we're actually having  
31 a lot of transcript here about what the problems are  
32 and what the managers are not paying attention to.

33  
34                   Is that clear, Robbin.

35  
36                   MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. You did a  
37 wonderful job of arguing for how you can create an  
38 emphasize on priority through the transcripts and this  
39 discussion and I would imagine -- and I would wager  
40 that any principal investigator and agency forwarding a  
41 proposal worth their salt would be reviewing these  
42 transcripts and incorporating your comments into their  
43 investigation plans.

44  
45                   Thank you.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would appreciate  
48 it if the Council -- whatever Council it would be,  
49 discussions, regarding the priority needs is forwarded  
50

1 with the call for proposals, to the prospective people  
2 who are asking for the grant.

3  
4 So any -- we got to move on now, but --  
5 so I feel all 15 valid -- validity to them and we  
6 should adopt the list with reliance on OSM to review  
7 our transcripts about the priorities that are higher  
8 and lower in status on this 15 list; is that good with  
9 the Council.

10  
11 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will  
14 entertain a motion to adopt the 2022 draft Kuskokwim  
15 region priority information needs list that entails 15  
16 projects with the understanding that the Council has  
17 higher priorities of some of the issues, of lack of  
18 information.

19  
20 Do we have a motion to.....

21  
22 MR. HONEA: I would second.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're making  
25 that motion, Don?

26  
27 MR. HONEA: Yes, I am making that  
28 motion.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.

33  
34 MRS. PELKOLA: I'll second, this is  
35 Jenny.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenny seconds.  
38 Any further discussion by the Council.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 MR. HONEA: Question.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to call  
45 the roll, Karen.

46  
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 On the motion to accept the list of priority  
49 information needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
50

1 Program;  
2  
3 Donald Honea.  
4  
5 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.  
12  
13 MR. KRISKA: Yes.  
14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tim Gervais.  
16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.  
20  
21 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken.  
24  
25 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.  
26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,  
28 the motion passes six/zero.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so you  
31 were going to cover the Yukon next Robbin.  
32  
33 MS. LAVINE: Correct, Mr. Chair.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.  
36  
37 MS. LAVINE: Okay. So thank you, Mr.  
38 Chair, members of the Council. Again, this is.....  
39  
40 MR. KRISKA: Hey, Mr. Chair, this is  
41 Tom, did you get my vote for that one?  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did we?  
44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, this  
46 is Karen Deatherage. Yes we did record your vote.  
47  
48 MR. KRISKA: Okay.  
49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: We currently have six  
4 voting members, Jack, on the Council and so a unanimous  
5 vote with all members would be six/zero.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you for  
10 that clarification Karen. Thanks for hanging in there  
11 Tommy.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go right ahead,  
14 Robbin.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
17 moving on to the list of priority information needs  
18 developed for the Yukon region. And, again, there are  
19 three Regional Advisory Councils that have participated  
20 in the development of these priority information needs.

21

22 And the list that was sent to you is 12  
23 items long, again, I'm only giving you numbers so that  
24 we can kind of keep track. These will be bulleted and  
25 not numbered when they go out for the call for  
26 proposals. So I'll read them to you now.

27

28 All right.

29

30 1. Impacts of climate change in  
31 continued harvest and use of fish and impacts of  
32 climate change on fish, for example, impacts to fish  
33 migration, spawning and life cycle.

34

35 2. Effects of environmental stressors,  
36 such as heat stress on salmon mortality during adult up  
37 river migration and/or pre-spawn mortality within  
38 spawning tributaries.

39

40 3. Effects of ichthyophonus infection  
41 on chinook salmon mortality and spawning success.

42

43 4. Knowledge of population,  
44 reproduction and health of spawning habitat for bering  
45 cisco and humpback whitefish.

46

47 5. Reliable estimates of chinook,  
48 summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon escapements  
49 and/or harvest, particularly sub-stocks that are large

50



1 contributors to the total run.

2

3 6. Estimates of quality of escapement  
4 measures for chinook salmon, for example potential egg  
5 deposition, age, sex and size composition of spawners,  
6 percentage of females, percentage of jacks, and  
7 spawning habitat utilization with an emphasis on  
8 Canadian origin stocks.

9

10 7. Reliable in-season harvest of  
11 salmon harvest in the lower, middle and upper Yukon  
12 River subsistence fishery.

13

14 8. Reliable estimates of age, sex,  
15 length and genetic composition of salmon harvested in  
16 the subsistence fishery with emphasis on chinook and  
17 fall chum salmon.

18

19 9. In-season estimates of genetic  
20 stock composition of chinook, summer chum and fall chum  
21 salmon runs and harvest.

22

23 10. Reliable methods of forecasting  
24 chinook, summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon run  
25 abundance.

26

27 11. Assessment of incidental mortality  
28 with gillnets, dipnets and seines with particular  
29 consideration for delayed mortality from entanglement  
30 from dropouts and live release of chinook salmon, for  
31 example loss of chinook salmon from six inch mesh net  
32 during chum salmon fisheries and the live release of  
33 chinook salmon from dipnets and seines.

34

35 12. Traditional ecological knowledge  
36 of fisheries.

37

38 Mr. Chair and members of the Council,  
39 the YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council met last week  
40 and added a 13th PIN. This is also a PIN in the  
41 Kuskokwim region.

42

43 13. Distribution, abundance, condition  
44 and survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon in  
45 the Kuskokwim River drainage.

46

47 And, Mr. Chair and members of the  
48 Council, the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council  
49 reviewed this list this morning. I will check and see

50

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1 if they have accepted the 13th PIN that I just read to  
2 you submitted by the YK-Delta Council, but otherwise  
3 approved all of these priority information needs as  
4 written.

5  
6 Thank you and we're ready for your  
7 discussion.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robbin.  
10 I would agree with the YK-Delta adding that smolt out-  
11 migration indices on the Yukon River as a 13th PIN to  
12 this list.

13  
14 Any questions on the presentation from  
15 the Council members.

16  
17 MRS. PELKOLA: Could you read that 13th  
18 one again, this is Jenny.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you could read  
21 that again, Robbin.

22  
23 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Council Member Jenny, yep. They added:

25  
26 Distribution, abundance, condition and  
27 survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon in the  
28 Kuskokwim River drainage.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That was  
31 on the Kuskokwim list is where they did that.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
38 Deatherage, are we on the Yukon FRMP, Robbin, PIN list?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we are.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Then I guess  
43 I'm confused as to why the Kuskokwim was added just  
44 now.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, she misstated --  
47 I'm sure she misstated that the YK-Delta added that PIN  
48 to the Yukon list, and she said Kuskokwim, but I  
49 clarified that a second ago that it was for the Yukon.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 And, Karen, sorry about that. But I also just wanted  
5 to let you know that the Eastern Interior had also  
6 approved the addition of the distribution abundance,  
7 condition and survival of juvenile and out-migrating  
8 salmon in the Yukon River drainage, or the Kuskokwim  
9 River drainage -- yes, actually it does say the  
10 Kuskokwim River drainage but I would imagine it is the  
11 Yukon River drainage as well, yep.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a flaw in the  
14 record because that issue was on the Kuskokwim 15 list.  
15 So that's a flaw somehow in the record, but surely they  
16 would meant to the Yukon River.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 And I realize that -- I was forwarded this PIN and we  
20 did not edit it to demonstrate that this is a PIN for  
21 the Yukon River drainage.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's already on  
26 the Kuskokwim River list.

27

28 MS. LAVINE: Correct.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So should go back to  
31 the transcripts on that. But I will clarify for this  
32 record that that's a priority need, a PIN need for the  
33 Yukon River, juvenile out-migration condition, et  
34 cetera for this list here, the 13th need for the Yukon  
35 River list.

36

37 Is that agreeable to the Council,  
38 adding the 13th priority need.

39

40 MR. HONEA: Yes.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: So long as it only  
47 references the Yukon River.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're breaking up a

50

1 little bit, Tim, go ahead.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. So long as it is  
4 only in reference to the Yukon River and not the  
5 Kuskokwim River.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. On this  
8 list, right, correct.

9

10 So other Council questions or comments  
11 on this list.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
14 Tim.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. This is Tim  
19 Gervais. And all these 13 points or items are all  
20 informational needs that are important for the river  
21 but -- and some of them are existing programs such as  
22 the quantity of escapement, weirs and what not, so of  
23 course I would like any kind of project that has to do  
24 with counting salmon to be maintained and funded, but  
25 if we need to, I'd like this Council to comment and  
26 emphasize two of the newer items that are affecting us  
27 right now, which don't have the history or the prior  
28 research with them and so, therefore, this Council  
29 needs to emphasize them because there isn't the basic  
30 or historical research on it and that is assessment of  
31 mortality for the various gear types for the different  
32 species and then the effects of environmental stressors  
33 such as heat stress, and water velocity.

34

35 Yesterday, Jack, you mentioned water  
36 quality from these different minerals and chemicals  
37 that are getting into the spawning areas.

38

39 So to summarize, all these are  
40 important but I think this Council should emphasize  
41 those two items because there's a lack of information  
42 about those issues and they're having dramatic effects  
43 over the last two seasons regarding the chum salmon  
44 returns -- or not chum, I'm sorry, all the -- either --  
45 any species of salmon.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. I will agree  
48 with you on that, Tim, that those are priority  
49 information needs because they basically don't have an

50

1 answer.

2

3

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Weir enumeration and  
6 so forth, yeah, those are ongoing needs, but we have  
7 scientific priority informational needs but water  
8 quality, water temperature, water velocity and then the  
9 -- what current management practices are with  
10 incidental mortalities and then disentanglement  
11 injuries that may be affecting the progress of the  
12 returning fish and their ability to spawn.

13

14

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Any other comments.

MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I have a question  
or additional.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: So when you're talking  
about the Bristol Bay study, the bullet list says  
incidental mortality, should we add.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it says.....

MR. GERVAIS: .....stress also.  
Because those fish, those entanglement fish you're  
talking about in Bristol Bay, they were -- they're not  
dying but they're getting on the spawning grounds, or  
part way to the spawning grounds and not spawning, not  
completing their life cycle, so maybe that -- that one  
bullet that talks about incidental mortality should be  
expanded out to include -- I don't have the exact  
verbiage it would be but something to the effect of  
stress and behavioral change or something.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well,

1 particular consideration of delayed mortality or  
2 ability to spawn from entanglement or drop-out, live  
3 release of chinook salmon, for example. Or other  
4 species of chum salmon, fish, you know, in the chum  
5 salmon fishery. There's chum that get beat up.

6  
7 I fish on the Yukon, I fished late a  
8 couple years ago and I was catching chums with their  
9 caudal fin just ragged in tight to the beach, really  
10 skinny, you could see that those poor fish had swam  
11 really hard to get to that point, and they're going to  
12 Canada, they're not going to make it. So this is a  
13 salmon spec -- as an overall -- all salmon species on  
14 the Yukon River are having the same effect from  
15 disentanglement for outright mortality from gear. We  
16 have an unknown factor that scientists are going to  
17 have to address as runs get smaller and smaller and the  
18 number of fish is needed, as people are fishing longer  
19 and longer and harder and harder, the fish are enduring  
20 more and more stressors. So this is a priority  
21 information need.

22  
23 And so the additional language for this  
24 bullet point would be delayed mortality or inability to  
25 spawn, which can happen. I mean they went through the  
26 sonar, those are counted, but does that actually mean  
27 that they're actually going to get to the spawning  
28 ground, does that mean they're actually going to spawn.  
29 So that's something to look at.

30  
31 Other comments from the Council on  
32 these 13 priority information needs.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So hearing none, the  
37 Chair will entertain a motion to adopt 13 priority  
38 needs for 2022 Draft Yukon region to include the  
39 juvenile condition, out-migration as the 13th point.  
40 Our transcripts shall be used for our discussion on  
41 whether -- of critical priority information needs as we  
42 did on the Kuskokwim River adoption. So the Chair will  
43 entertain a motion to adopt the 13 priority information  
44 needs for the Yukon River for 2022.

45  
46 Do we have a motion to that effect.

47  
48 MRS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny, so moved.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded by Tim.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
6 Any further discussion.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
11 question.  
12  
13 MRS. PELKOLA: Question.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,  
16 those in favor of adoption of the priority information  
17 needs for 2022 Draft Yukon region, 13 points, signify  
18 by saying aye.  
19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.  
21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to  
23 do roll call.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, this is  
28 important for the record.  
29  
30 Donald Honea.  
31  
32 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jack Reakoff.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: We'll come back to  
43 Tommy until he gets his phone.  
44  
45 MR. KRISKA: Tom Kriska, yes.  
46  
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Tommy.  
48  
49 MR. KRISKA: Tom Kriska, yes.  
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Tommy, we  
2 got you. How about Tim Gervais.

3  
4 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.

7  
8 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

11  
12 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Motion passes,  
15 six/zero. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
18 And so what do you want to do for break, Council, or do  
19 you need a break, we're about 45 minutes from lunch, do  
20 you need a break right now.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear anybody  
25 raising their hand.

26  
27 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, can we  
28 have a 10 minute break, please.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll come  
31 back on at -- I got 11:15, come back on at 11:25.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

34  
35 (Off record)

36  
37 (On record)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we're all back  
40 on the call again. So, Karen, do you want to go over  
41 the annual report.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Welcome back from the break everybody. I'd like to  
45 draw your attention -- this is Karen Deatherage with  
46 OSM, to Page 126 in your meeting book, which explains  
47 the purpose of the annual report which essentially is  
48 an opportunity for the Council to share its concerns  
49 and issues with the Board that are outside of the

50



1 regulatory process. So any issues of concern that the  
2 Council has that does not deal with regulations.

3  
4 The last annual report, and responses  
5 to that annual report can be found on Pages 128, 129,  
6 130 and 131, including some attachments after that.

7  
8 The last annual report that was  
9 responded to by the Board identified the mean high  
10 water mark definition; the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
11 harvest management; and the maximum sustained yield  
12 fisheries management as three issues of concern to the  
13 Council.

14  
15 For this meeting, the Council will be  
16 drafting an initial.....

17  
18 (Teleconference interference -  
19 participants not muted)

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry -- will be  
22 drafting its initial report for fiscal year 2020,  
23 whatever the Council decides to include as topics on  
24 this annual report can be reviewed at the winter 2021  
25 cycle meeting and either updated or approved as is as a  
26 final report to the Board.

27  
28 So what I would like to invite you to  
29 do is just briefly look at the annual report in the  
30 meeting book to determine if you feel like the  
31 responses by the Board were adequate, or if you'd like  
32 to bring those subjects back up to the Board or if you  
33 have any new subjects to bring in front of the Board.  
34 As I was briefly discussing with Jack, we are already  
35 including in this report, per the Council's request,  
36 the issue of Council appointments, that they're not  
37 made on time, there's not enough members, there's no  
38 meaningful participation and that a whole compliment of  
39 membership on the Council is imperative to having the  
40 Council meet the statutory language of ANILCA. That  
41 will be one subject that will be included on the annual  
42 report. That subject will also cite the fact that a  
43 letter is being written to the Board regarding the same  
44 issue.

45  
46 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Karen. So  
49 in our previous annual report, the response was that  
50

1 there's a definition in CFR 33.328.38 [sic] and that is  
2 a Corps of Engineers definition. The term ordinary  
3 high water mark means the line on the shore established  
4 by the fluctuations of water indicated by physical  
5 characteristics such as a clear natural line impressed  
6 on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the  
7 soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the  
8 presence of litter, debris and other appropriate means  
9 that consider the characteristics of the surrounding  
10 area. And the Federal Subsistence Board says we don't  
11 need to make a definition because there already is one.

12  
13 Well, we have winter hunts for moose  
14 and the State controlled land are below the mean high  
15 water mark on the river, and above that is Federal  
16 land, and in the winter you cannot see all of those  
17 discerning factors that are stated in CFR 33.328.38  
18 [sic] of the Corps of Engineer regulation.

19  
20 So I feel that we should reclarify to  
21 the Federal Subsistence Board in our annual report,  
22 that there's an inadequacy in that CFR regulation that  
23 does not give the subsistence user a clear definition  
24 of mean high water mark under Federal regulation, and  
25 it should be the brush line, where willows and  
26 vegetation occurs above the snow so that the user knows  
27 where they're standing. Are they standing on State  
28 land, or is this moose standing on Federal land.

29  
30 Does that make sense, Karen.

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 I have captured what you said as an indication for the  
34 new fiscal year 2020 annual report; will reference the  
35 current CFR and say that it is inadequate and needs to  
36 be reclarified and it does not give the subsistence  
37 user clear definition which should be the brush line, a  
38 clear delineation of willows including during  
39 winter.....

40  
41 (Teleconference interference -  
42 participants not muted)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, willows or  
45 vegetation above the snow column, so that the user  
46 knows what is considered the Federal lands and what is  
47 considered the State lands, or the mean water mark on  
48 navigable waters.

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So are you listening  
5 to this Tommy.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there Tommy.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any Council  
14 comments on my discussion regarding the.....

15  
16 MR. KRISKA: Yes, I have Council  
17 comments on that.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tommy.

20  
21 MR. KRISKA: That came about, and we  
22 put that in a proposal because some of the guys in  
23 Nulato shot a moose and -- on the top of a bank where  
24 we knew there was vegetation, if vegetation is  
25 considered willows, then the willows were like two feet  
26 high under the snow, they knew that, they shot the  
27 moose and the State was waiting in the -- sitting in a  
28 helicopter waiting for the sound of a shot and they  
29 heard it and they just popped right over there, come  
30 out of the lake, and popped in on the hunters, they  
31 already had the moose down, and they cited them for it  
32 and then, you know, they broke the law. And if they  
33 checked that in the spring, the -- where they shot the  
34 moose was like 50 feet back into the two foot high  
35 willows. So that's one of the reasons it came up.

36  
37 Because there's a lot of other areas  
38 where they don't know if they're -- they're on the  
39 south bank and they don't know if they should shoot or  
40 not, so that's one of the reasons this high water mark  
41 and this regulation of boundary lines came to be.

42  
43 So that's what I have to say about  
44 that, it needs to be clarified, seriously.

45  
46 Okay, thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I understand  
49 that. This Corps of Engineer definition, 33 CFR

50

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1 328.38E -- it's actually E, not 8, states, you know,  
2 that there's all these terracing, et cetera, et cetera,  
3 and destruction of terrestrial vegetation, well willows  
4 extending above the ground level are not destroyed,  
5 they -- there might be an iceberg shoved up on top of  
6 them once in awhile but that's above the mean water  
7 mark, so I think that the Federal Subsistence Board  
8 needs to relook at this, using this definition, which  
9 is, -- strictly written for bare ground, open ground  
10 season versus a winter hunt scenario.

11  
12 So that covers that issue adequately.

13  
14 Karen.

15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 Yes, it does.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other annual  
20 report topics besides the delineation of the ordinary  
21 high water mark for winter hunts. Any Council members  
22 have annual report topics at this time.

23  
24 MRS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is  
25 Jenny.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

28  
29 MRS. PELKOLA: I don't know if we  
30 should do this again, but Council member appointment I  
31 think is very critical.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen read that so  
34 we'll add that to our annual report as a topic, is the  
35 timely appointments and maintaining the compliment of  
36 the Council to accomplish the statutory requirements  
37 found in .805 of Title VIII of ANILCA, so that the  
38 Councils can have a meaningful role in fish and  
39 wildlife management as delineated in statute.

40  
41 So the Federal Subsistence Board is an  
42 arm of the Secretary of Interior, they can make  
43 recommendations that the Councils need to have, and  
44 remind the Secretary's Office of Agriculture and  
45 Interior, that there's a need for timely and full  
46 compliment appointments to accomplish the statutory  
47 requirements of ANILCA because of the huge size of  
48 these regions. And then we're also going to send a  
49 letter to that effect to the Chair of the Federal  
50

1 Subsistence Board.

2

3 MRS. PELKOLA: I had one more comment.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there, yes.

6

7 MRS. PELKOLA: I remember back, I don't  
8 know how many years ago but I thought that like Tommy's  
9 seat was up and I thought if there was no appointment  
10 he would be able to go to our first meeting of the  
11 year, I thought we had talked about that at one time.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we talked  
14 about alternates.

15

16 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, do you want  
19 to address the alternates.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Thank you for the question, Jenny.

23

24 (Indiscernible - breaking up) .....to  
25 review the charter and the Council requested not only  
26 to have.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say Karen. Karen,  
29 your.....

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....phone is really  
34 breaking up, are you near your window or something.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm going to walk  
37 around and hopefully it gets better.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, you're better  
40 now, go ahead.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. So the Council  
43 voted to amend its charter to allow for alternates to  
44 serve in the event that a Council member passes away or  
45 doesn't attend the meetings and is removed from the  
46 Council. It was not approved for filling vacancies  
47 that the Council has, just for unexpected vacancies  
48 that come up during the cycle.

49

50

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1                   The Council also -- but the Council did  
2 not request at that time -- I'm sorry, I'm getting lost  
3 because I moved away from my machine -- Jenny, could  
4 you repeat your question for me, thank you.

5  
6                   MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. I thought at one  
7 of the meetings, or one time that we stated if a  
8 member's term was up and they didn't hear -- they  
9 reapplied but they didn't hear back that they would be  
10 able to attend the first meeting of the year.

11  
12                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you,  
13 Jenny, now I recall. And that has not been formally  
14 introduced as a proposal to change the charter,  
15 however, it's a great question because Jack and I just  
16 talked about that recently, and next time the charter  
17 comes up for review, the Council is going to be  
18 encouraged to put that idea forth so that in the event  
19 that appointments aren't made by the deadline of  
20 December 2nd of each year, that the incumbent Council  
21 member whose terms would typically expire would be  
22 allowed to continue service until those appointments  
23 are made or they are removed from the Council.

24  
25                   So this is something that we can put in  
26 the docket when the Council charter comes up for review  
27 again, which will happen in the next year or so and we  
28 can put that forth as a proposal to make those changes.

29  
30                   And it's an excellent idea, thank you  
31 Jenny.

32  
33                   MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. This is Jenny  
34 again. I just have a little bit more to add.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

37  
38                   MRS. PELKOLA: I just want to say that  
39 I remember at a couple meetings that we had a couple  
40 members that weren't reappointed or notified and the  
41 meeting was critical, we had to make our travel  
42 arrangements, or the office did and they couldn't do it  
43 because the members weren't appointed and it almost  
44 stopped our meeting, that's how serious it was.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that was last  
47 spring, wasn't it Karen?

48  
49                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, it was, we did  
50

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1 not get appointments until February and so yes it was  
2 quite delayed. And so, again, I think it's a really  
3 legitimate subject and proposal to make, particularly  
4 given the fact that last year it was really, really  
5 difficult for us to do travel and other things because  
6 we did know who exactly was going to be on the Council,  
7 and in some Councils -- in the case of some Councils,  
8 they weren't even going to be able to have a quorum, a  
9 reasonable quorum so it was quite stressful for  
10 everybody. So, again, that's why this is a wonderful  
11 idea and it's not unheard of, it happens with other  
12 formal groups. And so I think it will be great to be  
13 able to put that proposal forth to the Secretaries to  
14 ask that they include that option with respect to the  
15 Council charters.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like the  
20 Council to be aware that ANILCA mandated Subsistence  
21 Resource Commissions .808 of ANILCA, Councils are .805;  
22 .808 Subsistence Resource Commissions actually serve  
23 until reappointed or removed. And ANILCA Commissions  
24 has the ability to serve until there's a reappointment  
25 that comes through. So we will change our charter at a  
26 future date to reflect that and try to get the  
27 Secretary of Interior to agree to that.

28  
29 So any other annual topics, items, that  
30 Council members can think of at this time, and after  
31 this meeting we'll formalize that, do we have to motion  
32 that -- or we finalize those in the winter meeting,  
33 don't we, Karen.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: You finalize it and as  
36 I recommended earlier I would wait until towards the  
37 end of the meeting to do any motion to accept this as  
38 your first draft.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Because other issues  
43 typically do come up, especially after agency reports,  
44 that the Council would like to include in the annual  
45 report.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Secondly, I'd just  
50

1 like to note if you would like, I can put in the  
2 section where you are discussing Council appointments  
3 and delays, I can also put in there to the Board that  
4 the Council intends to formally request that incumbents  
5 serve consistent with the SRCs until reappointment or  
6 removal.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do  
9 insert that.

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council  
14 comments on the annual report at this time.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any right  
19 now. I got 10 minutes to 12:00, right before lunch,  
20 does the Council wish to break to lunch until 1:00  
21 o'clock, or should we.....

22  
23 MR. HONEA: That sounds good.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that okay  
26 with the Council.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that sound  
31 good, Karen.

32  
33 MR. GERVAIS: It sounds good with me.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank  
38 you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll break  
41 until 1:00 o'clock.

42  
43 MR. KRISKA: This is Tom, it sounds  
44 good to me.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll come  
47 back on record at 1:00 o'clock.

48  
49 (Off record)

50



1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
4 reconvene and this meeting coming back to order.  
5 Karen's got an issue to discuss, go ahead, Karen.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just a quick update  
8 for the Council, thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Karen  
9 Deatherage. I was informed by the Northern Alaska  
10 Environmental Center that they will not be doing a  
11 presentation or discussion today and so I just wanted  
12 to be make you aware of that agenda change.

13

14 Thank you for that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So  
17 we're going to do agency reports, 15 minute time limit,  
18 so the agency's doing their reports try to stay within  
19 that. And so the first one out of the chute is tribal  
20 governments, and so TCC, are you there Brian?

21

22 MR. ROWE: My name's Eric, good  
23 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. ROWE: For the record, my name is  
28 Eric Rowe, fisheries biologist with Tanana Chiefs  
29 Conference.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

32

33 MR. ROWE: We provided a report of our  
34 activities in your meeting booklet so I'll provide you  
35 with a quick recap of the activities we've been up to  
36 and then I'll be happy to answer any questions you may  
37 have.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So where is that  
40 located, Karen, do we have a number on that, is it in  
41 the book.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, it is  
44 in the book.

45

46 MR. ROWE: I believe it's on Page 138.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: 138.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 138, okay.

2  
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's a beautiful  
4 report, thank you very much Eric.

5  
6 MR. ROWE: Thank you, Karen.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Eric, go right  
9 ahead.

10  
11 MR. ROWE: We have two ongoing projects  
12 funded through OSM Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
13 Program.

14  
15 The first FRMP project is the Henshaw  
16 Creek weir. The weir project was not operational this  
17 season due to the Covid19 pandemic. We made this  
18 decision for health and safety reasons, for both our  
19 Staff members and the members of the communities that  
20 we visit while operating these projects. The weir  
21 sustained some heavy damage last season in 2019 because  
22 of some flooding, so we utilized this off season to  
23 make some necessary repairs to the weir. We went out  
24 and did many repairs and the weir is now in perfect  
25 condition and ready for next season.

26  
27 The second FRMP project is a study  
28 utilizing traditional knowledge of salmon and whitefish  
29 in the Draanjik River Basin to update the anadromous  
30 waters catalog. This is a joint project with YRDFA.  
31 We're using a combination of ethnographic interviews  
32 with local knowledge holders and the analysis of water  
33 samples for environmental DNA, or EDNA to target  
34 specific areas within the Draanjik Basin that are  
35 critical spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous  
36 fish. We didn't conduct field work this summer again,  
37 due to Covid19, we plan on conducting aerial surveys  
38 next spring, summer and fall to identify and document  
39 the spawning and rearing locations for chinook, chum  
40 and coho salmon.

41  
42 Lastly, we began a new pilot study this  
43 summer in collaboration with the University of Alaska-  
44 Fairbanks, examining effects of wildfires on rearing  
45 chinook salmon in the Chena River. Wildfires can lead  
46 to increased erosion, sedimentation and turbidity all  
47 of which can negatively affect spawning and rearing  
48 habitats. One aspect of this study is investigating  
49 the feasibility of using drone-based multi-spectral  
50

1 imagery as a rapid assessment tool for estimating  
2 turbidity and fire related effects on salmon habitat.  
3 Between July and September we successfully conducted  
4 aerial missions over four different sites of interest  
5 located above and below the recent Nugget Creek  
6 firestar. We have created multi-spectral ortho images  
7 over each site of interest. This winter we will  
8 analyze the multi-spectral ortho images to determine if  
9 turbidity and other characteristics of quality of  
10 salmon habitat could be estimated based upon metrics  
11 derived from the images.

12  
13 Specifically, we'll be examining the  
14 relationship between the spectral index called the  
15 normalized difference waters index and in-river  
16 turbidity measurements. The degree of the relationship  
17 will allow to assess the efficiency of using remotely  
18 sensed data as a rapid assessment tool for monitoring  
19 effects of wildfires on salmon habitats.

20  
21 And with that, that's the conclusion of  
22 our report of our activities and I just would really  
23 like to thank you for the time to speak today and would  
24 be happy to answer any questions you may have.

25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
29 Eric. That report has got nice graphics and very  
30 explanatory. So Council comments or questions for Eric  
31 at TCC, go ahead.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody there.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead, Don.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. Eric, I  
42 was wondering, were some of the -- so you mentioned  
43 some of the programs may have been curtailed or stopped  
44 altogether because of Covid, so are you just doing the  
45 ones that you deem are more important right now and so  
46 you -- do you have anything -- I mean do you have  
47 updates on -- I mean like the one -- I don't know if  
48 you guys were involved with the one up at Kanuti or  
49 around Allakaket or something, so was that one, in

50

1 particular, closed.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

MR. ROWE: I think you might be  
thinking of the Henshaw Creek weir project which is  
near Allakaket.

7

8

9

MR. HONEA: Oh, right, right.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

MR. ROWE: We weren't able to operate  
that because it involves going to Allakaket and other  
villages and so for everyone's safety we cancelled that  
project. But we were able to go out there and do a lot  
of repairs that needed to be done so the project could  
be operational next year.

17

18

19

MR. HONEA: Oh, okay, all right, great.

20

21

22

MR. ROWE: Does that answer.....

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. ROWE: No, I'm just asking if that  
answered your question, sir.

MR. HONEA: Yeah, yeah, I was -- I was  
just wondering how many -- how many projects you have  
ongoing and how many were stopped because of Covid?

MR. ROWE: Well, the projects I  
mentioned are the ones that we have ongoing and we just  
couldn't get any data from those projects this year  
because of Covid. So we are still making some progress  
with our projects.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

MR. HONEA: Okay, great. And just one  
other question. Are you guys open for any projects  
like while we have the Fisheries Monitoring Program and  
stuff like that, are you guys -- do you guys get  
regular funds where you could just -- you're open to  
any studies within the TCC region?

44

45

46

47

MR. ROWE: We are definitely interested  
in ongoing projects and increased funding for other  
projects.

48

49

50

MR. HONEA: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. ROWE: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yes, you're  
4 going to be reviewing our priorities needs list and  
5 hopefully you could accommodate -- or make a proposal  
6 on one of those, that'd be great.

7

8 Other Council members.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other Council  
13 members have questions for TCC.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead, Tim.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Hi, Eric, this is Tim  
20 Gervais. From the people that were at Henshaw Creek  
21 site doing the repairs, did they have any sense of the  
22 strength of the return in that region just from looking  
23 at the river and the sloughs.

24

25 MR. ROWE: So, hi, Tim, that's a good  
26 question. We were out there during mid-July, I was  
27 also out there doing the repairs and, you know, looking  
28 into the water I didn't see a large return at all.  
29 Actually a lot of my crew and I, we didn't see many  
30 return, and that's kind of usually a time where when  
31 you look in the river you see quite a bit of salmon  
32 passing through and that's just not what we were seeing  
33 this year.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Other  
36 questions, Tim.

37

38 MR. ROWE: Thank you.

39

40 MR. GERVAIS: No, I'd just like to  
41 thank Eric and TCC for continuing to do the research on  
42 the salmon and expand everybody's knowledge base. I  
43 hope that TCC can figure out the correct protocols to  
44 have Henshaw Creek operational. That was real  
45 unfortunate we didn't get an accurate count for this  
46 last year with the weak chum return but I understand  
47 the situation. But I hope that you guys can overcome  
48 the protocols to be able to be operational and keep our  
49 data set growing.

50

1 Thank you.

2  
3 MR. ROWE: Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my question,  
6 Eric, how did you access the Henshaw to do this repair  
7 work, did you fly out of Coldfoot with a floatplane, or  
8 how did you do that?

9  
10 MR. ROWE: We actually put folks in the  
11 water in Coldfoot and boated down to Henshaw.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

14  
15 MR. ROWE: And that way we were able to  
16 avoid stopping.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's pretty.....

19  
20 MR. ROWE: We just had to bring a lot  
21 of fuel with us.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's cool.  
24 I have a question regarding this. You can use drones  
25 to do some overflight work?

26  
27 MR. ROWE: So Brian would be able to  
28 explain that, he -- I don't believe he's on the call  
29 right now, he was participating in the Eastern RAC  
30 meeting -- Eastern Interior, but he's been working with  
31 these ortho images and using drones to map these  
32 rivers, that's correct.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think that's  
35 a very progressive thing to do.

36  
37 MR. ROWE: Yeah. It's an ongoing  
38 project and I think there's some really neat things we  
39 could do in the future with it.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Really large burns  
42 in 2004 and 2005 -- in 2005 the Jim River drainage was  
43 burned extensively and I was surprised that the water  
44 temperature fell dramatically after that -- during that  
45 summer as the ice mass is released high -- these  
46 terpenes (ph) and so forth into the water and then the  
47 ice mass has chilled the water down, so there was two  
48 effects. The water got really super brown, and the  
49 water got really super cold. So I didn't stick a

50

1 thermometer in there, but I was fishing for grayling  
2 without boots and normally I can wade around in those  
3 ripples and it was really cold.

4  
5 So are you monitoring the water  
6 temperature near these burns, also?

7  
8 MR. ROWE: Yes, water temperatures is  
9 being taken.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, cool.

12  
13 MR. ROWE: And, yes, I think in the  
14 future this can be some really interesting information  
15 with wildfires nearing spawning habitat.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this acidic  
18 increase, to you take.....

19  
20 MR. ROWE: Yeah, the change in  
21 turbidity and what happens to the water in these areas.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the pH would  
24 change dramatically with that.

25  
26 Any other questions for TCC.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any,  
31 thanks so much Eric, appreciate your presentation.

32  
33 MR. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the good  
36 work. And hopefully we get a weir count on the Henshaw  
37 because their data's been pretty poor.

38  
39 MR. ROWE: Yep, we're ready to be  
40 operational so just depending on Covid19 pandemic and  
41 hopefully we can make something happen next year. But  
42 with training being cancelled and everything with Fish  
43 and Wildlife, it's hard to get some technicians out  
44 there with the right training as well. So hopefully --  
45 we're ready to go for next year and I am confident  
46 we'll get out there and get counting fish.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

49  
50

1 MR. ROWE: Thank you.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So we're  
4 moving on to Bureau of Land Management and Dalton  
5 Highway Corridor update, Ambler Road update, et cetera.  
6 So who's on the call for BLM, now.

7  
8 MR. LAMARR: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,  
9 this is Tim LaMarr, field manager for the Central Yukon  
10 Field Office for the BLM on the line.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good afternoon, Tim.  
13 Thanks for being on the call, please go ahead.

14  
15 MR. LAMARR: You bet, thanks. There's  
16 a couple of things I wanted to touch base on.

17  
18 One is an update on the Central Yukon  
19 Resource Management Plan, and just to let folks know  
20 that we're working on the draft environmental impact  
21 statement for that resource management plan actively  
22 right now, again. And we are anticipating releasing  
23 the Draft EIS approximately in December this year. And  
24 so upon the release, the publication and release of the  
25 draft there will be a 90 day public comment period  
26 associated with that. And then there will be a series  
27 of public meetings associated with that as well. So  
28 stay tuned on that, but I just wanted to give everybody  
29 a head's up that that's the trajectory that we're on  
30 with the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan right  
31 now. I know it's kind of been in the background for  
32 awhile now but I wanted to make everybody aware that it  
33 is something we're actively working on and planning to  
34 get out relatively soon.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37  
38 MR. LAMARR: Sure. Just a few words  
39 about the Ambler Road project. Folks are probably  
40 aware that -- I'm sure everyone's aware that the Record  
41 of Decision on the EIS was signed back in July of this  
42 year for that project. Since that time, BLM has been  
43 working on a right-of-way grant to AIDEA to authorize  
44 them to construct and maintain the route and, of  
45 course, that right-of-way grant that the BLM's working  
46 on would only apply to the BLM lands in the project  
47 which is about 26 miles of the route, cumulatively.  
48 The right-of-way grant's going to require  
49 implementation of the design features and mitigation

50



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1 measures from the Record of Decision, which was  
2 published back in July, and so that's the status right  
3 now. We're working on that. But at this point there  
4 isn't even right-of-way authorization (indiscernible -  
5 breaking up and muffled)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your phone is really  
8 breaking up, can you restate that last couple  
9 sentences.

10  
11 MR. LAMARR: Is this better.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Much better.

14  
15 MR. LAMARR: So, okay, I took it off  
16 speaker and I'll just speak directly into the phone  
17 here.

18  
19 Yeah, I was just mentioning, I don't  
20 know, I can repeat what I said about the Ambler Road  
21 project. Basically the BLM here is working on a right-  
22 of-way grant to be offered to AIDEA to authorize them  
23 to construct and maintain the route on BLM lands. The  
24 right-of-way grant would only, you know, be applicable  
25 to the BLM lands throughout the length of the route,  
26 which is a cumulative total of about 26 miles of the  
27 route. And the right-of-way grant will require  
28 implementation of the design features and the  
29 mitigation measures that are disclosed and spelled out  
30 in the Record of Decision. So at this point there is  
31 no right-of-way grant instrument in place for AIDEA but  
32 it is something that is in progress.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has AIDEA selected a  
35 route across the BLM lands for Ambler access?

36  
37 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, the Record of  
38 Decision, you know, described and maps the route that  
39 was selected and it was Alternative A, which is pretty  
40 much the straightest line route and initiates at about  
41 Mile Post 161 on the Dalton and heads westward from  
42 there.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45  
46 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And they did work on  
50

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1 the Ambler Road this year, are you aware of what and  
2 where they were working, work on the BLM land or were  
3 they just working throughout the entire route.

4  
5 MR. LAMARR: We were aware of some pre-  
6 construction work that was data collection oriented.  
7 And I don't know what they did off of BLM lands, but,  
8 you know, they did some cultural resource surveys on  
9 BLM lands. That was one thing that we were aware of  
10 and an activity that we approved for them to do. It  
11 was non-ground disturbing work based on what we were  
12 proposed.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you there  
15 for a second. They did no cultural work with the  
16 people here. They didn't come and ask us anything  
17 about where we hunt there, or anything about it. So  
18 apparently AIDEAs skipping over the communities of  
19 Wiseman and Coldfoot that use that area near Chapman  
20 (ph - muffled) Lake and the BLM lands there. So I  
21 think you should back them up and send them up this way  
22 to have a real cultural talk about stuff.

23  
24 MR. LAMARR: And I think there are  
25 opportunities for that built into processes established  
26 in the programmatic agreement that we've put together  
27 in concert with the EIS and so the programmatic  
28 agreement provides for, you know, consultation on  
29 cultural resources and opportunities and -- and BLM is  
30 in charge of implementing the programmatic agreement,  
31 and so we're actually continuing to work on the step  
32 down plan, which is the cultural resource management  
33 plan for that, and so we're in the process of  
34 finalizing that.

35  
36 So I believe the work they did this  
37 summer was basically site specific work on the proposed  
38 route itself. So I believe it was field based data  
39 collection on the proposed alignment of the route  
40 itself, so it didn't involve any kinds of interviews at  
41 this point. They recognize -- AIDEA recognizes that  
42 they've got, you know, a substantial amount of pre-  
43 construction work to be done before they consider  
44 pushing to initiate construction.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
47 that clarification.

48  
49 MR. LAMARR: You bet. And then one  
50

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1 other thing that we were able to do this year was a  
2 tricky year, as everyone knows, because of the Covid19  
3 situation and everyone wanting to be, you know,  
4 cautious and careful and minimize risks of, you know,  
5 infecting folks. We did do some dall sheep surveys on  
6 BLM this year and they were -- and I believe I have  
7 Jenn McMillan on the phone here and Jenn can talk a  
8 little bit about the approach that we took and why and  
9 if you want to go ahead and chime in Jenn, now would be  
10 a good time.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jenn.

13  
14 MS. MCMILLAN: Hello. Yeah, I first  
15 want to say, thanks, Jack, I always really appreciate  
16 how in tune you are with the sheep and how concerned  
17 you are. So thanks for that.

18  
19 And then I also am glad that we were  
20 able to get a survey done this year. It was a little  
21 bit different because of Covid. We opted to do pilot  
22 only surveys so there is some challenges with the  
23 direct comparison that we might want to make because  
24 methods were a little bit different than in previous  
25 years. So while we do have the results and we've  
26 shared them with other agencies, we're not really --  
27 it's not really the right time to talk about them right  
28 now, but we can share the results and talk more about  
29 it in the future.

30  
31 So I can email those to you and anybody  
32 else who would like those and maybe we can set up a  
33 meeting and talk about them.

34  
35 That's all.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you'll have those  
38 results at our winter meeting? I would like the  
39 results sooner than later.

40  
41 MS. MCMILLAN: Sure, I can email them  
42 to you today, no problem.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. As I stated  
45 earlier in this meeting, I counted 31 ewes, all adult  
46 ewes, there are no yearlings, there are no -- there was  
47 only three lambs, and there were seven rams, and that  
48 was from May all the way until the end of September  
49 when it snowed. There's less than 40 sheep from -- I

50

1 saw no sheep south of Wiseman. That's from Wiseman all  
2 the way to the Atigun divide. So the reality is the  
3 dall sheep population in the Dalton Highway Corridor is  
4 extremely low and the ram component is extremely young,  
5 and so they're protected under full-curl regulations  
6 right now but in two years they're going to be full-  
7 curl and when those are killed, because there's  
8 extensive guiding pressure here, we're going to be in  
9 reproductive failure. So that's where we're at right  
10 now. Sheep populations to the east, you can't mix in  
11 Unit 25 with Unit 24A, Dalton Highway Corridor  
12 populations, and the Koyukuk River Drainage took a  
13 beating the last two years. So I need to have current  
14 numbers. And so with the State -- survey for the last  
15 two years, we have a weak -- it's considered soft data,  
16 what you're referring to, that doesn't actually hold up  
17 in the Board process. So I'm really concerned with  
18 what's going to happen here within the next two years  
19 with the sheep populations. We haven't even started  
20 into the winter yet and we have a high wolf population  
21 because of the high hare population that we just  
22 experience and these wolves are real hungry. I got  
23 wolf tracks in my yard this morning. We got wolves all  
24 over the place here. And so we're going -- those  
25 numbers I gave you are not going to be there in the  
26 spring.

27  
28 So I do want that data as soon as you  
29 can send it, if you could send it to me today, I would  
30 appreciate that.

31  
32 MS. MCMILLAN: You bet.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have you done your  
35 minerals count survey with your cameras and stuff, are  
36 you seeing sheep on your cameras?

37  
38 MS. MCMILLAN: I am seeing sheep on my  
39 cameras. That field work was entirely canceled for  
40 this year, but the cameras were set up to make it  
41 through a year just in case and so they should be out  
42 there working away right now. And so, yeah, we should  
43 be able to either -- they've been out long enough, but  
44 they could start to become pretty good monitoring data  
45 and hopefully into the future, it's something I aim  
46 for.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When did you repower  
49 those, when did you update those?

50

1 MS. MCMILLAN: About one year ago, but  
2 they were -- but I have them set to go for at least a  
3 year.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that'll be great,  
6 because the sheep that you saw last year are not there  
7 now. I talk to a lot of hunters, I've looked at the  
8 sheep, it's basically 11 ewes in the Mathews River,  
9 south of Snowden Mountain. There's hardly any sheep  
10 left here. The last winter was brutal. It rained in  
11 April, it glazed the ground, and in October -- and in  
12 April and we lost a phenomenal amount of sheep that  
13 were already stressed from the year before so we need  
14 to have a real good survey for this next year and I  
15 would hope that the BLM will work with the State to get  
16 a real valid survey that will actually have scientific  
17 validation, comparable to other data sets.

18  
19 MS. MCMILLAN: Yeah, we're hoping that  
20 too. I've already started some discussions with them  
21 and if they're not able to, for budget reasons, or any  
22 other reasons, to do that survey, then BLM is ready to  
23 try and do it ourselves. And so -- and if not I was  
24 hoping to expand the survey area to get some of those  
25 other further south populations that you're talking  
26 about in the survey as well, for some previous years  
27 data to compare with.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm glad to hear  
30 that, thanks so much.

31  
32 MS. MCMILLAN: Sure, thank you, Jack.  
33 Bye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank  
36 you. Do you have other things, Tim.

37  
38 MR. LAMARR: No. I just wanted to  
39 provide the opportunity. I had heard that there maybe  
40 was a desire to talk about hunting guides and I don't  
41 have a presentation on that but I wanted to be  
42 available to consider any questions or concerns related  
43 to that.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My concern is that  
46 there's a hunting guide that has a piece of property  
47 here in Wiseman, he's permitted for X amount of clients  
48 for sheep, moose, caribou, et cetera, et cetera, the  
49 problem is it's not just him and his airplane, it's two  
50

1 other airplanes. He had his SuperCub on tundra tires,  
2 there's a blue and white SuperCub on tundra tires, and  
3 there was a floatplane, a 180 horse SuperCub flying all  
4 from his camp.

5

6 MR. LAMARR: Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you have to limit  
9 the number of -- this is a phenomenal harvest power  
10 against the local resources that we have here and limit  
11 the number of assistant guides and his -- his  
12 associated registered guides that are basically hunting  
13 out of his camp. They're -- he's got other registered  
14 guides showing up here hunting out of his camp. I  
15 don't know that they're hunting under his permit, or  
16 how that's all working out, but I see that there's four  
17 registered guides for the Dalton Highway, but he's  
18 basically got three registered guides in his camp and  
19 where are the other ones. So the reality is there  
20 needs to be stipulations about how much harvest power  
21 they actually are allowed.

22

23

24 Every evening there were three  
25 airplanes in the air at 8:00 o'clock hunting moose  
26 after the 5th of September when they could hunt moose  
27 in this game unit. There were airplanes in the air all  
28 evening flying up and down the valley. That's really  
29 hard for subsistence hunters to compete against  
30 basically an Air Force with air support. So this is  
31 kind of a big issue especially since our moose  
32 population is down by 40 to 50 percent, and our sheep  
33 population is absolutely in the toilet. So I would --  
34 as manager, direct your Staff to reevaluate what is  
35 actually going to be allowed as far as harvest power by  
36 each individual guide. You can't start calling in  
37 every last other guide that they know and hunt out of  
38 the same camp and basically hunt this country to death.

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1 report about that at our winter meeting.

2  
3 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, that -- other parts  
4 of the state are -- like in Squirrel River, focused on  
5 that issue, we haven't moved forward with that up in  
6 the Dalton Corridor. Just kind of circling back to  
7 your concerns about the hunting pressure related to  
8 hunting guides, you know, I think what's happened is --  
9 you know I know we've shifted -- we've had some shifts,  
10 right, in actual individuals who were guiding and for  
11 what it's worth, we have not -- we've not allowed any  
12 increase in the allowable harvest associated with the  
13 guiding program that we've got going. So we have not  
14 increased the level of harvest even though the  
15 operators, you know, I think that are involved now are  
16 using more aviation, you know, and anchored out of  
17 Wiseman, so from the standpoint of the harvest itself,  
18 the BLM has not allowed an increase in allowable  
19 harvest related to our hunting guides that we permit  
20 and we do -- when we reconsider applications for  
21 permits, we do coordinate with ADF&G on the numbers  
22 that we're looking at permitting relative to, you know,  
23 their take on the population levels at the time.

24  
25 So I guess what I'm just trying to say,  
26 Mr. Chair, is we try to be mindful of, you know, not  
27 allowing -- certainly not allowing unlimited hunting  
28 guide pressure, hunting guide take of any particular  
29 populations and then we do try and coordinate with  
30 ADF&G to see if we're on the same page with their  
31 biologists with regard to potential permitting of  
32 hunting activity.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Currently the guide  
35 that you've permitted to hunt out of Wiseman has eight  
36 sheep clients, there's only seven rams, I'm talking  
37 two-fifth rams to three-quarter curl rams, there's more  
38 rams allocated to the non-resident hunter guides than  
39 there are sheep in the Dalton Highway Corridor in Unit  
40 2403. So the reality is you're permitting way to many  
41 sheep for the available sheep population, in conflict  
42 with subsistence users. So I would reevaluate how many  
43 sheep you're going to allocate when you get your real  
44 data, which your soft data should show a decline in the  
45 sheep population, but the reality data is there's not  
46 very many sheep and there's way to many sheep allocated  
47 to the non-resident hunting guides.

48  
49 And so I'm concerned about where we're  
50

1 going, you're under ANILCA, Title VIII, says to  
2 maintain wildlife populations using recognized  
3 scientific principles, don't rely on the State, the  
4 State of Alaska will kill every last sheep that we have  
5 here, they're not even looked -- they haven't even  
6 modeled the population. Jenn, you modeled this  
7 population, you see 2013 die-off, '12, '13, '14 missing  
8 cohorts, now we have missing cohorts from '17, '18 and  
9 '19 and '20, we have had two bad years, model that one  
10 and you come up with -- we don't have any rams coming  
11 up and you need to back off the guiding pressure. The  
12 science -- it's strictly science.

13

14 So that's my position on that.

15

16 So at our winter meeting I would like a  
17 presentation on the sheep population and where we're  
18 going to go with this guide use area, we can't have  
19 unlimited amounts of guides hunting here for what's  
20 basically allocated every live animal that's here.

21

22 So anything else there, Tim.

23

24 MR. LAMARR: No, thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
25 certainly appreciate and acknowledge your comments and  
26 your concerns. And, you know, we'll regroup after this  
27 meeting and move forward with this issue before the  
28 winter meeting.

29

30 So we're coming to almost a red sheep  
31 situation here and I don't want to go there.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, Jack, this is --  
34 oh, sorry.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you know what  
37 that is, Tim, Red Sheep Creek where they had a closure,  
38 we don't want to go there, we want management of  
39 resources using recognized scientific principles.  
40 You're under a mandate, ANILCA tells you how to manage.  
41 People think that's subsistence, no, it tells agencies  
42 that they must manage for healthy populations using  
43 recognized scientific principles, read it.

44

45 So, Karen, go ahead.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, I just want  
48 to confirm that with both you and Mr. LaMarr that there  
49 will be, Mr. Chair, a presentation at the winter

50



1 meeting on the sheep surveys and the guide use issue.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5

6

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. I just wanted to make sure I have that on the record here and in my notes, so thank you guys very much for that.

7

8

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. Nothing personal, Tim, I'm just stating what the problems are here because I live right here.

12

13

14

15

16

MR. LAMARR: Sure.

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I appreciate your presentation and your update on the Ambler Road.

20

21

22

Any questions from the Council on the BLM presentation.

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MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim, I have a comment.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Hi, Tim, this is Tim Gervais. I had a -- when you were talking with Jack regarding the figuring out allowable harvest and what not and consulting with Fish and Game, I've -- it's my perception now that -- I think it's because of State budget constraints or limitations that a lot of the game biologists for the State of Alaska, they're supporting -- they have a tendency to support too much harvest on the big game species where they can have non-residents come in because they're interested in maximizing the amount of tag fees collected for that style of sporthunting. So I would like -- when your agency is considering what the allowable harvest is, I would like you to give equal bearing to what you're hearing from the Regional Councils on what is an appropriate level and not just defer everything, the allowable harvest to the opinion of the State biologists because I feel at this time they have too much of a bias towards generating revenue at the expense of the stock.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those

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1 comments, Tim. I want to remind the Council that every  
2 one of those sheep hunts that the BLM approves, or the  
3 game hunt that BLM is taking three percent of the  
4 gross; is that correct Tim?

5  
6 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, the new regulations  
7 are wired that way.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this Council has  
10 to look at what the BLM is doing, nothing more than  
11 what the State is doing. The State is selling a sheep  
12 for over \$4,000 in license fees and Pittman-Roberts  
13 funds and then the hunt is being approved, and if the  
14 gross is \$26,500 for that sheep hunt, that's a  
15 significant -- that's almost \$800 to the BLM per sheep.  
16 So I'm concerned that the money gets way too focused on  
17 and the resource is being barely paid attention to.

18  
19 You know the State of Alaska area  
20 biologist lied to the Board of Game this spring when  
21 there was a proposal to increase the season from  
22 September 20 to October 5 for dall sheep, and they lied  
23 to the Board, they said that the sheep population was  
24 stable to increasing when they had no survey the year  
25 before, and they knew, through, how, through the  
26 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and meetings that  
27 there was a brutal winter in progress at that point, in  
28 March of 2020. The reality is the State will lie  
29 through their teeth to maintain revenue generation.  
30 And so I think the BLM, you're under a Federal mandate  
31 for healthy populations using recognized scientific  
32 principles, and if you kill off all of the rams in the  
33 Dalton Highway Corridor and we go into reproductive  
34 failure, you're failing the statutes of Congress.

35  
36 Take that back and start talking about  
37 it back at the office.

38  
39 So we're going to move on.

40  
41 Thanks so much, appreciate that.

42  
43 MR. LAMARR: All right, thanks, Mr.  
44 Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where are we at,  
47 Karen.

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

50

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1 Then next up we will have U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
2 Service and depending on who's available we can start  
3 with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. We'll have a  
4 report, a brief report from Nowitna/Innoko/Koyukuk and  
5 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. And then  
6 Vince Mathews may have some information to share  
7 regarding any subsistence updates from Fish and  
8 Wildlife Service in the region.

9

10 Thank you, very much.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Karen.  
13 Do we have Kanuti Refuge on the phone.

14

15 MS. MORAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
16 and Council members. This is Tina Moran. I'm the  
17 Deputy Manager at Kanuti -- can you hear me okay?

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you  
20 fine, Tina, good afternoon. Go ahead.

21

22 MS. MORAN: Jack, I'll present some  
23 updates from the report that was given, you should have  
24 a report that we turned in a little while ago but we've  
25 got some updates from that. Joanna wasn't available  
26 today so I'll give the report and then also Chris  
27 Harwood, our Refuge biologist will follow up with some  
28 results from our biological program.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so I want to  
31 stop you there for a second, Tina.

32

33 MS. MORAN: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your report is on  
36 Page 152 of our book, for the Council members so they  
37 can get on the same sheet of music with you.

38

39 Go right ahead.

40

41 MS. MORAN: Perfect, thank you. So  
42 beginning in about mid-March, a little bit after the  
43 last meeting, Staff began working from home to protect  
44 ourselves and the communities around the Refuge so  
45 ongoing and plans, aviation, field-based activities and  
46 travel were cancelled. In Early May the Fish and  
47 Wildlife Service established safety guidelines specific  
48 to these activities. So under these guidelines we were  
49 able to complete some of our previously planned work

50

1 that we thought we'd have to cancel and Chris will talk  
2 about that in a few minutes.

3  
4 As far as fire on the Refuge, we had a  
5 pretty quiet season so there were no fires on the  
6 Refuge, there was some around us but not on the Refuge.

7  
8 As far as permits, we issued special  
9 use permits authorizing three air transporters and one  
10 air taxi operator to conduct commercial operations on  
11 the Refuge. One of the air taxi operators, a fairly  
12 substantial one, cancelled their permit prior to  
13 conducting activities due to Covid concerns. We also  
14 issued one company a permit to conduct guided sportfish  
15 activities. We also have one big game guide that's  
16 permitted on the Refuge and he did conduct operations  
17 on the Refuge this year for moose and bear hunts, this  
18 September. And we're still awaiting, all the reports  
19 from these operators, so hopefully by the next meeting  
20 I'll have some numbers for you.

21  
22 Brandon Bosh, our law enforcement  
23 officer, was able to conduct aerial and boat patrols in  
24 September during the moose hunting season. He reported  
25 most activity was on the Kanuti River and Bonanza Creek  
26 with several small groups hunting the Kanuti River and  
27 quite a bit of activity on Bonanza River up river from  
28 the Refuge.

29  
30 We had some sudden drops in water  
31 levels along the Kanuti and that created some  
32 logistical challenges in getting some hunters out of  
33 the field, some of the air taxis had some -- little bit  
34 of issues, but that all got mitigated.

35  
36 He also reported encountering one group  
37 on the Middlefork and said the Southfork was very quiet  
38 compared to past years.

39  
40 As far as outreach and environmental  
41 education, due to our commitment to prevent the spread  
42 of Covid19 into rural communities, we worked closely  
43 with TCC and their decision not to insert Staff in the  
44 Henshaw Creek weir, so we didn't conduct a science camp  
45 but hopefully if things work out we will host it again  
46 next year.

47  
48 And we also, on Staffing update, we're  
49 happy to announce that Chris Harwood, our longtime  
50

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1 wildlife biologist for the Refuge is now our lead  
2 wildlife biologist and at the moment our only  
3 biologist. He's had more than 30 years working on  
4 Alaska Refuges and 17 years here at Kanuti Refuge. So  
5 he'll be giving an update on our biology program, what  
6 we were able to accomplish this past summer.

7  
8 Go ahead, Chris, unless there's any  
9 questions.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
12 Any question from the Council on Tina's presentation.

13  
14 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

17  
18 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I was  
19 just wondering, Tina, what your moose population is --  
20 or is it too early to have those numbers. Probably  
21 like on the Nowitna and closest to Nowitna in our  
22 region here, so I was -- and they didn't have a  
23 checkstation here this fall so I was -- and I guess we  
24 maybe, on the Nowitna report, the numbers won't be in  
25 until our spring meeting, or winter meeting, whatever  
26 they call it, but I was just wondering what your -- if  
27 you guys come up with a number that was taken, what's  
28 your overall population of moose. Because like in the  
29 past we were pretty conservative about -- and I think  
30 there was a predator control -- I don't know if that's  
31 still in effect but how you guys today on your  
32 population.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 MS. MORAN: Yeah, thank you. Yeah,  
37 unfortunately we haven't been able to do a survey for  
38 the past two years, mainly due to conditions. And so  
39 we're still running under the same numbers and Chris  
40 could help out with that here in a minute. But we were  
41 hoping to conduct one this fall, because last fall we  
42 weren't able to due to lack of snow conditions at the  
43 time, but we're looking at some possible challenges,  
44 we've talked with Fish and Game and they may focus on  
45 Galena, it's a little bit easier logistically --  
46 basically, to be honest, it's kind of the Covid  
47 conditions and trying to mitigate everything we can to  
48 do it safely. So there's still some hope, but we'll  
49 see. So unfortunately we don't have any new numbers.

50

1                   That's about all I can say for that  
2 right now. But hopefully we can give you some updates.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're planning  
5 to do a survey but that's still contingent on Covid?

6  
7                   MS. MORAN: Well, we have some  
8 logistically challenges working out of Bettles, and,  
9 you know, this is a survey that we do need to partner  
10 with Fish and Game on, we just don't have the Staff and  
11 the capacity to do it on our own. And talking with  
12 their biologist, we're all trying to work together to  
13 try to find the best way we can to get as many of the  
14 moose surveys done this year as possible. So we're  
15 still working together but we are running into some  
16 challenges.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the survey that's  
19 going to be run is a trend count survey or is that a  
20 full on survey?

21  
22                   MS. MORAN: Chris, can you followup on  
23 that.

24  
25                   MR. HARWOOD: Sure. Good afternoon,  
26 this is Chris Harwood with Kanuti National Wildlife  
27 Refuge.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

30  
31                   MR. HARWOOD: The annual surveys that  
32 we're doing -- or the annual surveys that we plan for  
33 and attempt every year now are population estimates not  
34 trend surveys, Jack.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37  
38                   MR. HARWOOD; And through the Chair, to  
39 answer, I believe it was Member Kriska's question, the  
40 2017 estimate for moose on Kanuti was 1,311 with a  
41 range of 1,059 to 1,562, which comes out to about a  
42 density of 0.48 moose per square mile and that's the  
43 highest that we have seen since we started doing the  
44 geospacial estimator survey back in 2003.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Yeah,  
47 we've had two bad winters. Moose didn't get beat up as  
48 bad because they continue to produce calves whereas  
49 dall sheep, they didn't actually produce -- they lost  
50

1 those cohorts that they were producing, whereas, for  
2 some of these moose, they actually survived -- some of  
3 these yearling moose actually survived with there's  
4 virtually no recruitment of dall sheep. They didn't  
5 survive at that same rate. And the number of lambs  
6 basically in the Dalton Highway Corridor is 10 lambs  
7 per 100 ewes, is that's what that comes out to.

8  
9 So I'm really anxious to get a moose  
10 survey for Unit 24 -- upper Unit 24, because we've had  
11 some bad years but it's not nearly as bleak as the  
12 sheep situation. So I would encourage you, if at all  
13 possible, to come up with some kind of a protocol to  
14 get some kind of a Staffing to survey these moose.  
15 It's almost become a critical situation.

16  
17 And I'm happy that you're now lead  
18 biologist, Chris, I've read quite a bit of your stuff.

19  
20 Other questions for Kanuti.

21  
22 MS. MORAN: And Chris can followup with  
23 the results of the program if you'd like.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Go right  
26 ahead, Chris.

27  
28 MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
29 thank you, Council members. Again, for the record I'm  
30 Chris Harwood and I'm the biologist for Kanuti Refuge.  
31 I'm going to report briefly on the projects that we  
32 originally scheduled for 2020. Details for some of  
33 these projects I'll mention are on Pages 153 to 157 in  
34 your briefing booklet.

35  
36 As others have mentioned, many field  
37 projects have been affected by the pandemic so I'm  
38 going to start with the bad news first and then finish  
39 with some good news concerning our field work efforts.

40  
41 In terms of mammals, we were part of a  
42 team or we are part of a team of folks that are  
43 studying the movement of lynx in the Interior of  
44 Alaska. In March we sent a crew up to Bettles to  
45 capture and put GPS collars on lynx again but we had to  
46 recall that crew after about a week because of Covid  
47 concerns so they were never able to really establish a  
48 trapline. Similarly, we are not able to our snowshoe  
49 hare monitoring along the Kanuti and Koyukuk Rivers

1 because of Covid. And, finally, as Tina mentioned, the  
2 moose population survey for this November is up in the  
3 air again.

4  
5 In terms of birds, several national and  
6 regional monitoring programs that we participate in  
7 annually were cancelled because of Covid. This  
8 included the national cancellation of both the  
9 Continental breeding bird survey and the Alaska  
10 Landbird monitoring survey. And both of these surveys  
11 target songbirds. Also, Fish and Wildlife Service's  
12 waterfowl management branch, nationally cancelled the  
13 spring Continental breeding pair survey for ducks, so  
14 as a result the waterfowl management folks in Alaska  
15 were not able to survey Alaska and nor were they able  
16 to complete a second intensive survey for which we had  
17 asked them to do for breeding ducks on Kanuti. Now,  
18 they had done one survey in 2019 and hoping to get two  
19 of them done for comparison and they hope to complete  
20 the second survey in 2021 if they're cleared to fly.  
21 Kanuti also annually flies its own survey to monitor  
22 breeding pairs of scope and scotters, known locally as  
23 black ducks on the Refuge but we had to cancel that  
24 too. Finally, we had to cancel our continuing research  
25 on lesser yellowlegs, which is a boreal shorebird and  
26 we do that out of the Johnson/Moses administrative  
27 cabin along the Kanuti River.

28  
29 We were scheduled to, again, survey the  
30 float pond in Bettles for invasive plants, specifically  
31 aquatic invasive elodea, we had to cancel that work  
32 because of Covid. In the previous year they did not  
33 discover any elodea in that float pond or in other  
34 ponds on the Refuge.

35  
36 Now, on to the good news.

37  
38 We were able to do three of our  
39 scheduled aerial surveys this year and this is because  
40 two pilot biologists from our sister Refuges at Yukon  
41 Flats and Koyukuk Refuges, these two people share a  
42 household and, thus, are able to work freely despite  
43 the Covid restrictions. So in July these two were able  
44 to fly our annual molting good survey on the Refuge and  
45 they reported 475 whitefront, the most we've seen in  
46 awhile. In August the team completed our swan survey  
47 and this is something we do every five years. So pairs  
48 of swans of 95 percent of which we believe to be  
49 trumpeter swans were, again, up on the Refuge as they

50



1 have since the survey started in 1985. Since 1985 swan  
2 pairs have increased over 2,000 percent on Kanuti from  
3 about 10 pairs in 1985 and they estimated -- or they  
4 counted 227 pairs this summer. And finally the crew,  
5 these same two, just recently completed our survey to  
6 monitor beavers on Kanuti and the team counted the  
7 numbers of beaver caches or food piles as an index of  
8 beaver abundance, and as of yet I have not had time to  
9 tally those results.

10  
11 So with that I'll take any questions if  
12 anybody has any.

13  
14 Thank you, sir.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
17 Chris. Any questions for Chris on those projects.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I think it was  
22 an excellent there to get a beaver cache survey because  
23 there was hardly any snow so they can see all those  
24 real easy. So that should be a real good index.

25  
26 So my question is, I've seen way less  
27 puddle ducks in the last two years, a declining duck  
28 population, at least migrating through this part of the  
29 Central Brooks Range, have you noticed a decline in  
30 puddle ducks or is that an appropriate scientific  
31 study?

32  
33 MR. HARWOOD: It could just be a  
34 function of where you are, Mr. Chair. As I said we've  
35 got Migratory Bird Management out of Anchorage, they do  
36 annual transects in Alaska as part of the Continental  
37 breeding pair survey and two of those transects fall  
38 within Kanuti, and so we don't analyze them separately  
39 from the whole state, but in general puddle ducks tend  
40 to be doing fairly well. As I mentioned, every 10  
41 years Kanuti tries to do -- we use those same pilot  
42 biologists with Migratory Birds and they do an  
43 intensive survey of the Refuge for us and it's time to  
44 count breeding pairs of puddle ducks, so they were able  
45 to count -- they were able to do the survey two years  
46 ago, 2019, they were scheduled to do one this summer  
47 but were unable, but we've budgeted for them to come up  
48 again and do a survey. So we keep track of sort of on  
49 a quota scale, mostly puddle ducks, during over a 10

50

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1 year period. And so far we've done three decades of  
2 surveys so late '80s, 2000 or so and then 2019 and '21.  
3 And with those few data points we don't have a trend.  
4 But generally my impression is that puddle ducks are  
5 doing fairly well. I think most of the concern in the  
6 Service is with diving ducks and seaducks.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
9 that. Any other questions for Chris and Kanuti.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, thanks  
14 so much, appreciate all the good projects you're doing  
15 out there.

16  
17 MR. HARWOOD: You're welcome, thank  
18 you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I asked quite a few  
21 questions because it's really close to where I live  
22 here. So next up would be Koyukuk/Nowitna and Innoko.

23  
24 MR. REBARCHIK: Good afternoon, Jack.  
25 This is Bob Rebarchik, now the Refuge Manager here out  
26 at Galena. Can you hear me okay?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you fine,  
29 hear you real loud, go right ahead, Bob.

30  
31 MR. REBARCHIK: Okay. Jeremy Havener,  
32 who normally would give this report is actually on some  
33 long overdue leave and he's doing a hunt down, I think,  
34 in Kodiak for elk. He and his wife and family are down  
35 there.

36  
37 I'll start with personnel, Staffing,  
38 for the Refuge. I think I mentioned we had hired a  
39 fisheries biologist on Staff and he's actually finished  
40 his move this summer, even with Covid and is now fully  
41 on board here in Galena and his name is Wyatt  
42 Snodgrass. He comes to us from fisheries office down  
43 in Ohio. But he has previous experience in Alaska on,  
44 at least a couple of weirs down on the coast of Alaska,  
45 Southeast Alaska.

46  
47 We selected, and our new Deputy  
48 Manager, his name is David Zabriski, will report here  
49 to Galena possibly next Wednesday. And he's moving up  
50

1 from Arizona. Previously he was Deputy Manager in  
2 Kotzebue for the Selawik Refuge before he went down to  
3 Arizona so he's got experience in Alaska. Very much  
4 looking forward to his help from here on out.

5  
6 I mentioned that I was actually  
7 selected as the Refuge Manager. I'd been acting in the  
8 role for about a year and a half, that selection was  
9 finalized in May.

10  
11 And we're still waiting on our Refuge  
12 Information Technician for Galena. That position has  
13 been vacant now for going on three years. And we've --  
14 Fish and Wildlife Service Human Resources Division has  
15 gone -- has undergone a major reset and now are going  
16 to be called the Joint Administrative Offices, and  
17 that's part of the delays for some of the positions,  
18 but we're going to be pushing real hard to get that RIT  
19 position filled, it's critical for us to function for  
20 the -- for all of the villages that we deal with on  
21 this complex.

22  
23 Moving along, I guess over the year,  
24 started out last -- it would have been in January, we  
25 did an evaluation to hold winter moose hunts on the  
26 Koyukuk and Innoko and Nowitna Refuges, Units 21D, 21B  
27 and 24D. In consultation with, you, Jack, and locals,  
28 those hunts were not recommended to happen, our moose  
29 populations are not adequate at this point in time,  
30 except for one location and that is the Kaiyuh Flats,  
31 the northern unit of the Innoko National Wildlife  
32 Refuge. We did have a winter hunt again this year. It  
33 was actually a State emergency hunt, and that hunt, my  
34 understanding, will happen again this coming winter.  
35 Our numbers are still going up. We did moose surveys  
36 in the spring and the population is still on the rise  
37 and at least for that area there is sufficient  
38 population to handle additional harvest if that needs  
39 to happen. Currently it's the only area on the three  
40 Refuges that I manage that we can make that kind of a  
41 recommendation.

42  
43 Moving along.

44  
45 I also consulted with you, Jack, on the  
46 emergency action request made by the Village of Koyukuk  
47 for a three moose harvest. Many rural Alaska villages  
48 made those requests. I did support that request and  
49 forwarded it to the Board of Game. The action on that

50

1 specific request was deferred and there is still no  
2 answer on what's going to happen there. The Board was  
3 asking for better determination on what food security  
4 concerns there are to demonstrate that and also they  
5 wanted more information on the imminent threat to  
6 public safety concerning the moose hunt. So those two  
7 issues, there's a committee working on those now, I  
8 don't know when we'll get to some kind of resolution  
9 from the Board but it's in their hands at this point.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You said Board of  
12 Game, but you meant Federal Subsistence Board.

13

14 MR. REBARCHIK: That's correct, excuse  
15 me, yeah. Yeah, you're correct there.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just clarifying for  
18 the record.

19

20 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That seems like an  
23 awful long time for an emergency response but whatever.

24

25 MR. REBARCHIK: I'm -- yeah, I totally  
26 agree with you. The initial request was made, boy, not  
27 looking at the records, but back in March.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

30

31 MR. REBARCHIK: I forwarded my decision  
32 about three weeks after it was given to me in June and  
33 the Board deferred after that. So I'm not sure where  
34 that's going to go but we'll await the decision for  
35 that.

36

37 We did not have Staff at the Nowitna  
38 checkstation this year for the first time in about 30  
39 years. Specifically, we were not able to mitigate all  
40 of the safety concerns, health and safety concerns for  
41 both our Staff and the public out in that rural  
42 location because of Covid. And we were able to handle  
43 the specific subsistence permitting from Galena, Jeremy  
44 Havener handled that for us and we were able to get  
45 permits out to folks. To my knowledge, there were only  
46 three moose harvested in that final additional five day  
47 period of time, through the end of September, on that  
48 subsistence hunt. I do not have final numbers for the  
49 overall harvest or anything like that yet but we'll

50

1 work on getting that put together this winter.

2

3 We are beginning a new project, our  
4 fisheries biologist is going to be working a new  
5 project with ADF&G specifically on coho, king salmon.  
6 It's a project on the Yukon. And we're actually  
7 purchasing pit tags (ph) and we'll add an additional  
8 number to what ADF&G is purchasing and plan on getting  
9 those out on fish this summer.

10

11 We're continuing an effort to monitor  
12 temperature, water temperatures on the Yukon and also  
13 on the tributaries that we help to manage, the Koyukuk,  
14 the Nowitna and the Innoko, for more better data,  
15 specifically dealing with concerns for global warming,  
16 water temperatures going up.

17

18 We did have some waterfowl surveys that  
19 were scheduled for last winter, did not happen because  
20 of Covid. Those were in conjunction with ADF&G also.

21

22 And we're going to be doing a -- we  
23 have an inventory monitoring plan that's been in place  
24 for almost 30 years and we've got that much data, which  
25 we want to maintain, but we're doing a reevaluation of  
26 our inventory and monitoring program this year,  
27 hopefully we'll finish that in mid-summer. We're  
28 actually starting on it now so hopefully most of the  
29 work will be done before we move into field season but  
30 plan on finishing that reevaluation and reset of our  
31 biological inventory and monitoring plan this year.

32

33 And with that I'll open it up to any  
34 kind of questions or comments that folks would like to  
35 ask.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so much  
38 Bob. Questions for Bob from the Council.

39

40 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
41 Don.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Yeah, Bob, hey,  
46 how are you doing.

47

48 MR. REBARCHIK: I'm good.

49

50

1 MR. HONEA: I guess I just wanted to  
2 comment that, you know, it's really much too early to  
3 tell the numbers of the moose and maybe for everybody  
4 else's sake on all the Refuges that we represent, it's  
5 kind of a loss not to have -- to see what the Innoko or  
6 something or over in McGrath to see what their concerns  
7 are. Spending time in fish camp this summer I haven't  
8 seen one cow moose with a calf, I mean like in the past  
9 years see them with calves so I haven't even seen a  
10 calf this fall so -- and I guess -- but -- but the  
11 moose numbers surprisingly stayed stable so I was just  
12 -- I was pretty saddened to see the thing up there not  
13 being covered and so the checkstation not being there  
14 so maybe it's just a shout out to all of the -- I asked  
15 about the moose numbers on Kanuti, maybe in the winter,  
16 things -- the least I can do as a member sitting on  
17 this RAC is to at least know what our objectives are  
18 and to try to keep them, that's my opinion, that's why  
19 I'm asking about the moose populations and maybe --  
20 maybe you'll have numbers later. But also the RIT, I  
21 mean you've been without that technician, whatever they  
22 call it, and it's kind of -- those are to enable us as  
23 villagers to seek help, whether it's finding moose  
24 numbers or bird populations or -- and I don't know why  
25 we don't have an RIT but I'm -- I'm covering a lot of  
26 things. But I just wanted to mainly mention that  
27 sitting on this RAC, at least I should know the numbers  
28 in my specific area and be concerned about it.

29  
30 But I appreciate that Bob and I  
31 congratulate you for being the Refuge Manager and I've  
32 often talked with Jeremy and so we have a pretty good  
33 relationship there. But thank you for your  
34 presentation.

35  
36 MR. REBARCHIK: Don, I share your  
37 concerns. I very much appreciate what points you bring  
38 up. All are very valid and I share those same  
39 concerns.

40  
41 This is the first year we haven't  
42 Staffed that Nowitna checkstation even though it's a  
43 voluntary checkstation, from my perspective it's one of  
44 the most essential things we do. And we're going to do  
45 everything we can to Staff that station next fall if we  
46 can get past the bureaucracy that didn't allow it to  
47 happen this year. We're going to make every effort to  
48 have the safety equipment, masks, gloves, and what we  
49 need so that we can interact with the public out there,  
50

1 even though it is remote.

2  
3 On your comments about moose  
4 populations. Yes, overall, our moose populations are  
5 stable on all three of our Refuges. They are down  
6 slightly on the Nowitna, and your comment about not  
7 seeing calves is concerning to me, but we are going to  
8 be doing our moose surveys, fall surveys beginning the  
9 first week in November if at all possible. And we will  
10 make every effort to attempt to support Kanuti in  
11 getting theirs done because we utilize the same pilots  
12 and many times the same observers. And if we can help  
13 support Kanuti with their survey we'll certainly do  
14 that. But we are going to do surveys on all three of  
15 our Refuges that I manage. We have to have that  
16 information. It's critical in making hunt decisions  
17 and knowing what our moose population is doing. So  
18 just know that we're going to be doing our surveys this  
19 November.

20  
21 And, yes, the RITs are critical to  
22 communications with our communities and right now we  
23 only have Ken Chase down in Anvik and he supports the  
24 GASH communities down there and we really, really need  
25 an RIT here for Galena, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato, Ruby  
26 and Huslia. And I'm pushing to get those positions but  
27 we're just not getting the support from HR that we  
28 need. So I'll leave it at that.

29  
30 MR. HONEA: Okay. Mr. Chair, if I can  
31 I'd like to ask him one other question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead Don.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Bob, I guess the  
36 reason why I was disappointed in not having a  
37 checkstation was we're opening that up for abuse and  
38 maybe the numbers that I've seen come out of there, I  
39 actually have not even hunted there, I've been up to  
40 across Kokrines, Twin Slough area, below Novi and so I  
41 just drove up there for a ride one day just to check on  
42 stuff but I think when we do that and don't have that  
43 last subsistence hunt to verify that someone had -- the  
44 moose and go up there and used that, used that process,  
45 you know, used that last subsistence week for their own  
46 benefit is something else, and I just wanted to somehow  
47 like in the future, we got to get a grip on this, we've  
48 got to get some way to stop that, it's an abuse of our  
49 natural resource and I'll leave it at that.

50

1 But I appreciate that, thank you for  
2 your response to the comments that I made.

3  
4 MR. REBARCHIK: You bet. And I  
5 appreciate your comment. I agree with what you're  
6 saying. Like I said, we're going to make every effort  
7 to make it happen next year. And, yeah, we need to  
8 have a presence out there, that's -- it's just  
9 necessary. And I believe there were only 12  
10 subsistence permits issued for that Nowitna hunt this  
11 year and right now I believe there were only three  
12 moose harvested during that five day period. But  
13 that's all the information I have right now.

14  
15 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Don.  
18 Any other questions for Bob on Koyukuk, Nowitna and  
19 Innoko.

20  
21 MRS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, this is  
22 Jenny.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

29  
30 MRS. PELKOLA: Sorry I put myself back  
31 on mute.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34  
35 MRS. PELKOLA: But, anyway, I was just  
36 saying, Bob, last winter we had a moose fatality in our  
37 area, you know, the moose were coming right into Galena  
38 and it seems like they were all dying. And also to get  
39 back to Don's comment on no moose, calf moose in their  
40 areas. I've heard in our area that we have an increase  
41 of grizzly bears and I even saw one myself during moose  
42 hunting but maybe the bears are getting them, I don't  
43 know. But anyway I'm just interested in that moose  
44 fatality, if you've heard anything.

45  
46 MR. REBARCHIK: Jenny, what I know is,  
47 yes, I know that we had at least five moose die late  
48 last winter and it was specifically because of the deep  
49 snow and the winter conditions we had, ice, and other

50



1 factors contributing to poor health for the moose. So,  
2 yes, there were a number of moose, I think we had  
3 probably more die last winter because of the severe  
4 winter than we've had the last few years. But at least  
5 the immediate area of Galena, the moose population is  
6 more than stable and our spring counts we did, twinning  
7 surveys, still show at least this area, the moose  
8 population rising. So I think locally the moose  
9 population is good right around Galena, but I can't  
10 expand on that until we get better information from the  
11 harvest -- or from our counts that we'll have here in  
12 November, this fall.

13  
14 And I wanted to pass on, I forgot to  
15 say that earlier, but I will pass -- we will pass those  
16 fall moose survey information on to all the local  
17 villages. I just need an email, and we have the local  
18 tribal councils email information, so we will get that  
19 information out as soon as we have the report put  
20 together.

21  
22 MRS. PELKOLA: Thank you.

23  
24 MR. REBARCHIK: You bet.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, any other  
27 questions.

28  
29 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, this is Tom Kriska.  
30 Can I have a little talk with Mr. Bob, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead,  
33 Tom.

34  
35 MR. KRISKA: Hey, I just had a little  
36 concerns about last year, last spring, Koyukuk Tribal  
37 Council, they put in an emergency moose hunt because of  
38 the Covid at the time, and it's still happening,  
39 they're not getting the amount of food and groceries  
40 out in the villages. And they did put in a request to  
41 put in emergency -- for three moose, and at one point  
42 they said it was granted, and then they were getting  
43 ready to go and they were told by Mr. Bob that they  
44 were not to do it. So I'm just kind of concerned how  
45 that -- and that went on until hold on, hold on, hold  
46 on until August 22nd moose hunt came by and then  
47 nothing happened at all. I mean it seemed like they  
48 just waited until the moose hunt went by and they got  
49 it on their table to deal with it and it was April of  
50

1 the spring, and who's to say because of the fish, no  
2 fish, no kings, no dogs, no silvers, so if it was put  
3 into -- a request that went there, or will the Feds or  
4 somebody look into that or can Bob look into that, and  
5 if we had to seriously go into requesting moose because  
6 of empty freezers so quickly of the moose that we got  
7 this fall and the fish that we don't have. So I  
8 imagine that some families that have a hard time  
9 already due to the fact putting -- sustained the food  
10 for their children for the winter, so I'm kind of  
11 concerned about that. And hopefully Bob will look into  
12 it, or we look into it, or look higher up into the  
13 ranks, and get some assistance for emergency in that  
14 case.

15  
16 So hopefully it went somewhere rather  
17 than this -- maybe in the trash can or just never did  
18 anything about it so we're all here to help the folks  
19 out there, so anyway that's my concerns.

20  
21 And the calves last winter, there was a  
22 lot of calves that when you guys asked about the  
23 yearlings, they weren't there this year, but there was  
24 a lot of -- 2020 yearlings I see and hopefully they  
25 survive because there is a lot of grizzly out there,  
26 too.

27  
28 So anyway that's my questions for Bob.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Tommy. Got an  
33 answer to that Bob or do you want me to interpret what  
34 actually happened.

35  
36 MR. REBARCHIK: I can summarize.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You give your  
39 summary and I'll give mine.

40  
41 MS. DAMBERG: And through the Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, who's this?

44  
45 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg with the  
46 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I'm the InterAgency  
47 Staff Committee member.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Carol, go

50

1 right ahead.

2

3 MS. DAMBERG: Yeah, so with all due  
4 respect I certainly feel your pain in terms of how this  
5 happened, but Bob did everything he was supposed to do  
6 and did all the due diligence to set up the special  
7 action request for the emergency as he was supposed to  
8 and submitted that to the Board as appropriate. And  
9 essentially what happened is the process was shut down  
10 due to a State court injunction, which has not been  
11 settled at this point and has got the Board basically  
12 stopped in processing emergency special actions.

13

14 I will comment that we are still  
15 working diligently behind the scenes with the hopes of  
16 seeing the ability of the Board to make these decisions  
17 in the future and when they hopefully will be able to  
18 do that and we will have a better framework in place to  
19 help the process along and expedite it where  
20 appropriate.

21

22 So that's, in a nutshell, what I have  
23 to provide to the RAC at this point, and I'll field any  
24 questions on that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, so  
27 much. That's exactly where I was going to go with  
28 that. But basically the State was having a conniption  
29 fit, they threw themselves on the floor and had a fit.  
30 When in reality we have a moose hunt, the Kaiyuh that  
31 had 25 allocation for the winter hunt and they only  
32 harvested eight. As far as I'm concerned there's 16  
33 moose on the table, there's no reason to deny Koyukuk  
34 access to the Kaiyuh Flats for an emergency moose  
35 harvest.

36

37 So that's just my position.

38

39 And so the reality was there was real  
40 no reason, there's no biological reason to preclude  
41 Koyukuk from hunting in the Kaiyuh Flats.

42

43 So does that answer your question,  
44 Tommy.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there  
49 Tommy.

50

1 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I'm still here. Is  
2 that -- what I'm thinking is, this coming year it's  
3 going to be, you know, it's probably going to be  
4 requested again for some odd reason, even if it's due  
5 to the fact that some people did get moose, it's going  
6 to come up again, so I was just kind of wanting,  
7 hopefully that something would happen a lot quicker  
8 instead of maybe put aside or it was never really dealt  
9 with or decided on. So we didn't even know that it was  
10 turned down until the day they were going to go  
11 hunting. And lucky they made some phone calls just to  
12 be sure and it turns out that they were shut down right  
13 -- just slapped in the face and said, hey, oh, no, you  
14 can't do that but anyway. It's probably going to be  
15 requested again.

16  
17 MR. REBARCHIK: Tommy.

18  
19 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

20  
21 MR. REBARCHIK: This is Bob Rebarchik,  
22 and, yes, I'm the one that called and told you to stop  
23 the hunt and it's because the Board was not able to  
24 make a decision and they had to defer it. And until  
25 there's some kind of a resolution between the lawsuit  
26 with the State suing the Federal Subsistence Board, the  
27 Federal government, until there's some resolution to  
28 that I don't know -- I just feel like our hands are  
29 tied. I don't know that we're going to be able to do  
30 anything. And I know that's not the answer you want to  
31 hear. I understand where you're coming from. Yes, I  
32 live on the river, and the salmon -- the migratory  
33 birds weren't available, the salmon subsistence -- and  
34 salmon run was as poor as we've seen, especially for  
35 the chum salmon, and moose harvest may not get folks  
36 through, so I understand, I hear where you're coming  
37 from and I am going to continue to pursue support for  
38 your request.

39  
40 MR. KRISKA: Okay, and that's fine.

41  
42 MS. DAMBERG: And through the.....

43  
44 MR. KRISKA: That's fine. It's just  
45 that, you know, the chiefs and guys out there, there  
46 was a few chiefs that were in on the whole thing and  
47 were happy to hear that and ready to go, but to tell  
48 you the truth, whoever is back there lawsuiting, the  
49 State and the Feds, you know, with their decision it's  
50

1 kind of -- we don't eat. So that's not going to happen  
2 this year. They're already saying that they're going  
3 to feed their people regardless so they better come up  
4 with something, you know, to make that happen instead  
5 of two entities fighting against each other and we're  
6 way out there looking at our kids and wondering what  
7 we're going to feed them.

8  
9 So just simple decisions would make  
10 life a lot easier out there in the cold, you know.

11  
12 So, anyway, that's all I got to say.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
15 your comment. I understand your pain about this issue  
16 but that was the position of the Commissioner of Fish  
17 and Game, he called into question the emergency need  
18 for -- it was not only this proposal, there was other  
19 proposals for deer and other species in other parts of  
20 the state so that's what they're -- they're sue happy  
21 so they're in court right now.

22  
23 So hopefully that gets resolved before  
24 too long, that would be nice. But that's why that  
25 occurred that way, Tommy.

26  
27 Any other questions for Bob.

28  
29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're monitoring  
33 the water temperatures in the Koyukuk and various  
34 drainages, I'm starting to see a lot of mineral  
35 discharge out of the Brooks Range in the last two  
36 years. There's lots of iron and other kinds of  
37 minerals that have been -- they're pleistocene  
38 minerals, previous to the ice ages and those are  
39 starting to melt loose and come down out of these side  
40 drainages. There's like almost over 200 thaw loads in  
41 this valley alone, some of them are coming down on the  
42 road, and some of them are discharging a lot of weird  
43 minerals. So I would suggest that your fisheries  
44 people should look at the pH and also what the  
45 mineralization content of the water is, that's going to  
46 start changing as I keep seeing more and more minerals  
47 coming out, especially this year.

48  
49 So you said that you did a spring moose  
50

1 survey, and that was sort of a quick survey or what  
2 were you referring to, your spring.....

3  
4 MR. REBARCHIK: It's a twinning survey  
5 that we do every spring.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Twinning, I missed  
8 that part.

9  
10 MR. REBARCHIK: To look at production.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

13  
14 MR. REBARCHIK: Calf production  
15 primarily and then in the fall we assess the whole  
16 population, we look at cows, calves and bulls.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.

19  
20 MR. REBARCHIK: And so the fall survey  
21 is much more comprehensive.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. That  
24 was my question.

25  
26 Any other questions for  
27 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko.

28  
29 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

32  
33 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Jack. Bob,  
34 this is Tim Gervais. I just wanted to express  
35 appreciation for the high quality moose management  
36 that's been going on for several years now, and we see  
37 in a year like this we have a partial king salmon  
38 harvest and no chum salmon harvest, that we still have  
39 one of our main protein sources is available with the  
40 moose, so it's good in times of low fish abundance  
41 we're still able to have access to high quality protein  
42 and it's a real big deal for the local communities. So  
43 appreciate yours and the Refuges good job of keeping  
44 healthy populations so we can fall back on it in a year  
45 such as this.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Any  
48 other questions.

49  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much,  
4 Bob. Congratulations on being Refuge Manager, a very  
5 deserved position, you're doing a great job, appreciate  
6 it.

7

8 MR. REBARCHIK: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to go  
11 to subsistence updates under U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, we also had  
14 the YK-Delta.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, right, yeah, I  
17 missed that. I thought I stuck that in there. Okay,  
18 YK-Delta, you're right.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....with Aaron  
21 or.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Aaron, are you still  
24 there.

25

26 MR. MOSES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
27 and Council members. For the record my name is Aaron  
28 Moses, I'm the subsistence specialist for Yukon Delta.  
29 I'm going to give, not a very long update, but we do  
30 have a lot of Staff changes since the last time we met.

31

32 First of all we got a new Refuge  
33 Manager.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -  
36 participants not muted - put on hold - music)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can still hear  
39 you, go ahead.

40

41 MR. MOSES: Okay. We have a new Refuge  
42 Manager, Boyd Blihovde. He's coming to us from Texas,  
43 he was the Refuge Manager at Laguna-Atascosa, he's been  
44 here since July. He's just getting his feet wet so,  
45 yep, in the spring time he'll give a brief introduction  
46 of himself, today he had some other engagements he had  
47 to go to so you'll be hearing a lot from him in the  
48 near future. His wife, Suzella, is also our new  
49 visitor services manager, so she's going to be taking  
50 over for Patrick Snow because he retired this summer.

1 Ray Born is returning back to his  
2 Deputy Manager role. He's been the acting Refuge  
3 Manager for the past couple years.

4  
5 We have Matthew McDonald, he's our new  
6 law enforcement guy. He's going to be out here and  
7 some other Refuges, he has multiple Refuges that he's  
8 going to be covering.

9  
10 We have a new big game biologist, Aaron  
11 Webber, he was the fisheries biologist for Kenai  
12 Fisheries Office.

13  
14 Our supervisory biologist, Lew Coggins,  
15 has taken another job, so in the interim biology  
16 department Staff will be rotating supervisory duties.  
17 We just got the hiring process open now, I believe it's  
18 going to close soon.

19  
20 And we also have a new Park Ranger,  
21 Letecia Lesuire (ph), she's going to be working  
22 remotely from Utah during the pandemic.

23  
24 Biology news in fisheries. Gary  
25 DeCossas this summer worked on a project to investigate  
26 the relationship between chinook salmon female body  
27 size and their length in order to understand how  
28 smaller chinook salmon returning to the Kuskokwim River  
29 will have an impact on future productivity.

30  
31 Also we've worked closely with ONC and  
32 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association to operate the in-  
33 season harvest monitoring program for 2020 summer  
34 chinook subsistence fishery. And they did an amazing  
35 job this summer with the Covid and stuff going on, they  
36 did a really good job in the summertime helping us get  
37 estimates on harvest.

38  
39 As for moose, the RM615, the lower  
40 Kuskokwim moose hunt was extended to October 7th this  
41 year in Zone 2 on Federal lands, it's the latest it's  
42 ever been opened. And Zone 1, also, which is primarily  
43 State lands, was open for the longest in quite awhile.  
44 And it looks like we had 1,826 permits issued, that's  
45 about 400 more than any other year of the hunt. In  
46 Zone 1 the quota is between 160 ad 190 but we had a  
47 harvest of 207 moose. On Zone 2, the quota is about  
48 110 and as of this time we only have 69 moose  
49 harvested.



1 In the wintertime, our new wildlife  
2 biologist is planning on working with Alaska Department  
3 of Fish and Game to get counts on moose this winter and  
4 populations in Unit 18 and Zone 1 and Zone 2.

5  
6 And we also will be working with Alaska  
7 Department of Fish and Game in Togiak on compliance for  
8 the caribou closure this winter. So you'll hear about  
9 caribou at your next meeting.

10  
11 As for waterfowl, the pandemic pretty  
12 much cancelled all our projects but we were able to go  
13 out to complete one project out on Kigigak Island and  
14 our waterfowl biologist was banding ducks within the  
15 Bethel area.

16  
17 Our visitor's services has been closed  
18 but we have a whole bunch of stuff that we posted on  
19 our Facebook so if you guys would like to go check us  
20 out on Facebook.

21  
22 And our Refuge Information Technicians,  
23 our RITs are the backbone of our Refuge efforts to talk  
24 with tribes and villages. We currently have three  
25 Refuge Information Technicians, one on the Yukon, one  
26 on the Coast, and one on the Kuskokwim. We are in the  
27 process of trying to recruit an additional two more  
28 RITs and so we are looking for people from Russian  
29 Mission on down. We want another RIT from the Yukon  
30 and one more from either the Coast or the Kuskokwim.

31  
32 And with that, that's all I have for  
33 you guys today. I miss seeing you guys and so  
34 hopefully we can get back and see each other some time.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so much  
37 Aaron. Does any Council members have questions for  
38 Aaron.

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: I do, Jack.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

43  
44 MR. GERVAIS: Hi Aaron, this is Tim  
45 Gervais. What did you say about the Mulchatna Caribou  
46 Herd information?

47  
48 MR. MOSES: Oh, yes, Fish and Game, I  
49 think later on in the agenda will talk about -- or

50

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1 Togiak will talk to you more about caribou, our role is  
2 more of the outreach, going to villages and informing  
3 them on closure and what's going on on this side of the  
4 range.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's further in  
7 our agenda here, Tim, it's coming right up, Mulchatna  
8 Caribou Herd update.

9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. But specifically  
11 to what you're working with Aaron, what's the local's  
12 opinion of the closure and the level of compliance you  
13 saw.

14  
15 MR. MOSES: This spring there was a  
16 little bit of hunting during the closed season, we had  
17 patrols out but compliance has actually been pretty  
18 good. People are kind of frustrated that the caribou  
19 season is going to be closed, but they understand that  
20 without closing it they won't, later on in the future  
21 they won't be able to hunt caribou. So we're getting  
22 some positive feedback but there's people that really  
23 want to hunt. And in August we had a limited bull  
24 hunt, I don't know -- Fish and Game will be able to  
25 answer those questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks. Any  
28 other questions for Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
29 Refuge.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That was a  
34 thorough report, Aaron, appreciate that. Hope to be  
35 able to have a face to face meeting sooner than later.

36  
37 So, all right, and where are we at now,  
38 Karen, we're at subsistence update.

39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
41 Chair. If Vince Mathews has any information to share  
42 with the Council this is an opportunity for him to do  
43 so.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Are you  
48 there, Vince.

49  
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I am, can you hear  
2 me?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We hear you just  
5 perfectly fine.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Because I'm on a  
8 funny phone. First off, I want to recognize the  
9 patience of the RACs, Regional Advisory Councils, in  
10 this environment, doing it by teleconference, and with  
11 this virus hanging around.

12  
13 In addition, I wanted to recognize that  
14 it was very helpful to be in touch with both  
15 coordinators for Eastern and Western Interior, and  
16 that's how I was able to share some of that  
17 information.

18  
19 I'll go quickly through some other  
20 items. At past meetings I shared with you about the  
21 Native Youth Congress, I'm involved with the planning  
22 the 2021 one. We're looking at all options. So when  
23 that moves forward, if it moves forward for 2021, I'll  
24 be providing information on how Native students from  
25 your villages can participate in that process.

26  
27 I was real pleased, I think it was Tom  
28 Kriska, this morning, or yesterday morning, was talking  
29 about waterfowl and seeing ducks and geese. Tom, I  
30 want to give recognition to Donald Honea, he is the  
31 Vice Chair for the Tanana Chiefs Migratory Bird  
32 management body, and that's the type of information I  
33 believe they would like to hear as the Alaska Migratory  
34 Bird Co-Management Council addresses, you know,  
35 management decisions as well as seasons. So it's  
36 really great that that information is shared here but  
37 it also needs to be shared with the Alaska Migratory  
38 Bird Co-Management Council.

39  
40 On a broader scale, due to the Congress  
41 -- for this past year, the Native Youth Congress not  
42 being held, the National Conservation Training Center  
43 is doing different webinars on Native relations and  
44 tribal outreach. So I have suggested and we are in the  
45 preliminary discussions that one of their monthly  
46 webinars will be possibly on the Regional Advisory  
47 Council process as how it relates to traditional ways,  
48 but in particular how it relates to, you know, the  
49 Native connection to subsistence.

50

1                   And continuing on that vein, I'll be  
2 participating, and I don't know if Orville's still on  
3 line, I'll be assisting Orville and others with Alaska  
4 Native Relations training and that's going to be a two  
5 day training or sessions for people to participate in,  
6 and the title of it is Alaska Native Ways of Life  
7 subsistence. My part will be to cover the Legislative  
8 history of subsistence within ANCSA and ANILCA. And  
9 then I think of Ron Sam a lot in my job because of what  
10 I'm going to share now: With Yukon Flats Refuge, we're  
11 ramping up getting people to understand the importance  
12 of reporting their hunting activities and their  
13 harvest. We've been doing radio shows there but I'd  
14 like to get the word out to Western Interior, Council  
15 members and beyond, that it is extremely important to  
16 report that. Ron Sam captured it very well, but the  
17 point of it is, is that the process; to protect  
18 subsistence, to protect those wildlife resources,  
19 definitely needs the biological data but it needs --  
20 what's happening with those animals.

21  
22                   And then, finally, I really appreciate  
23 the discussion brought up by Tom Kriska on the special  
24 action. I am involved, along with many other Yukon  
25 Flat's Staff on two special actions, and as a Staff  
26 person it's really frustrating to have these requests  
27 and all we can say is our hands are tied. So please,  
28 you know, when these -- situations like that, don't  
29 hesitate to pick up the phone and call your coordinator  
30 or call whoever, within the Program, to say we have a  
31 special need here, we have an emergency situation, we  
32 have a special action that needs to be taken, and  
33 hopefully our hands will be untied to give a quick  
34 response.

35  
36                   And so with that, I will see if there's  
37 any questions.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for  
40 Vince on his presentation, subsistence update.

41  
42                   MR. HONEA: Yes, Mr. Chair.

43  
44                   MRS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead  
47 Jenny.

48  
49                   MR. HONEA: Yeah, go ahead Jenny.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ladies first.

2

3 MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. You were talking  
4 about this Native Youth Congress, are you going to get  
5 the information out to the tribes or to the Council  
6 members?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Through the Chair,  
9 yes, Jenny. Right now we're struggling just like Bob  
10 was saying, and others, our dream would be to have  
11 another face to face week long Native Youth Congress in  
12 West Virginia with Native high school leaders, but we  
13 have to be realistic so we're exploring all options of  
14 how to have a similar experience for the Native youth.  
15 But right now we don't have anything. So I'm pushing  
16 but, you know, but this virus doesn't allow me and  
17 others to move forward as quickly as we want. So, yes,  
18 if this comes out, whatever form it comes out, I will  
19 be sharing it as widely as I can because there's 220  
20 tribes in Alaska out of 557 in the nation, so we should  
21 have a strong representation at this Native Youth  
22 Congress.

23

24 MRS. PELKOLA: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions,  
27 Jenny.

28

29 MRS. PELKOLA: No, that's it, thank  
30 you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Don.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Vince, I appreciate your presentation. I also  
36 appreciate the remark that you had made about the  
37 Migratory Bird Committee and that's why I'm kind of  
38 harping on the RIT for the Nowitna, Innoko, Koyukuk  
39 Refuge to fill that spot because as we all know the  
40 Refuge areas -- the Refuge's office are charged with  
41 doing those migratory bird counts and what's the  
42 knowledge of what we have there, so I appreciate that.  
43 And, you know, coming from a Council member here, that  
44 these numbers, every time we talk about low numbers and  
45 stuff, it's a concern to us, whether we're on these  
46 committees or not, I mean it should be a concern. And  
47 so I appreciate that, Vince.

48

49 And I appreciate -- I believe when I

50

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1 first got on to the Western Interior you were our RAC  
2 coordinator, I believe. So appreciate all you've done  
3 and I appreciate the presentation you gave.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I forgot to  
12 mention, we're also challenged with the waterfowl  
13 harvest survey. The harvest survey for 2020 will not  
14 be conducted. That's a random selection of communities  
15 and then within those community households are  
16 interviewed face to face. Due to the Covid19 situation  
17 the 2020 has been cancelled. So I'm on the harvest  
18 survey committee and we're also looking at, well, what  
19 other options do we have to conduct this survey. So we  
20 have -- so the users, as well as management, as well as  
21 the flyaways, there's three flyaways, in my memory now,  
22 that are connected with Alaska, they value this  
23 information on this harvest survey. So challenging  
24 Donald and others, if you have any suggestions now or  
25 any other time on how we could do this waterfowl  
26 harvest survey for the selective communities in a safe  
27 way, please let me know, because the harvest survey  
28 committee is supposed to come up with some  
29 recommendations to the main body for upcoming surveys.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
32 questions for Vince.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't hear anymore  
37 Vince.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, Jack, this is  
40 Karen.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Jack. We have a  
45 member of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff  
46 who has a commitment later so as we move forward in the  
47 agenda, if we could change the Subsistence Division  
48 update with Alida Trainor and Chris McDevet before the  
49 Mulchatna Caribou Herd that would be greatly

50

1 appreciated.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

6

So I think that covered it, Vince, thanks so much.

7

8

So we're going to move to the  
Subsistence Division update, Alida and Chris. Alida  
Trainor, Chris McDevet, are you on the phone?

10

11

12

MS. TRAINOR: Yes, good afternoon, Mr.

13

Chair and members of the Council. Thank you for  
allowing me to move ahead on the agenda. I do have to  
go pick up my son from daycare, so working from home is  
presenting lots of new challenges. So echo what  
previous presenters had said about really kind of  
missing being at these meetings in person. I do hope  
that we can see each other again soon.

20

21

For the record my name is Alida Trainor  
and I'm the lead researcher in the Subsistence Division  
for the Interior region of the state. I have two OSM  
funded projects that I'd like to provide short updates  
on.

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

28

29

MS. TRAINOR: I (indiscernible -

30

cutting out)

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your phone is  
breaking up a little bit, can you get closure to the  
mic or.....

34

35

36

MS. TRAINOR: Okay, sure. Can you hear

37

me now?

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you good.

40

41

MS. TRAINOR: Okay, great.

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you're.....

44

45

MS. TRAINOR: So you should have in  
front of you some slides that we submitted.

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, what's

49

the.....

50

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1 MS. TRAINOR: Are you seeing those?  
2 Karen, were you able to distribute the PDFs that we  
3 shared with you?  
4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Alida, I was able  
6 to send that. Jack, and other Council members, through  
7 the Chair. This went out with an email, I'm checking  
8 right now to see when.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have it.  
11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Do you know the  
13 date of that email that you could share with others?  
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't -- let  
16 me.....  
17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, I'm checking  
19 too. I think it was the October 8th email.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, it was October  
24 8th and it went to everybody on the Council and it's  
25 called Trainor, Runfella, October 2020 WIRAC, that's  
26 the name of the document, WIRAC.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The PDF I have is  
29 Alaska Department of Fish and Game was the title on  
30 that PDF and when you open it.....  
31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, but the name of  
33 the document for the -- in the email that was  
34 distributed to the Council is Trainor, Runfella,  
35 October 2020 WIRAC presentation.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do people have.....  
42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: So you might want to  
44 check with everybody, Mr. Chair, to see if they have  
45 that document.  
46

47 Thank you.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Did the  
50



1 Council get that email and do you have this document?

2

3 MRS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny. I  
4 probably did but I probably deleted it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Can you  
7 resend to people, Karen.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's already done, Mr.  
10 Chair, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you should have  
13 that in a second. So go ahead and open it up and we'll  
14 have Alida continue. Go ahead, Alida.

15

16 MS. TRAINOR: Thank you. So the first  
17 project is titled Yukon Salmon Networks.

18

19 This project wants to document how  
20 subsistence salmon harvests are shared in Yukon River  
21 communities to understand a basic customary practice  
22 with sharing and how declining salmon abundance and  
23 increased restrictions impact household's ability to  
24 get what they need through these local and regional  
25 exchange networks.

26

27 This project was really exciting for us  
28 because it advances our capacity to map the flow of  
29 resources within communities and throughout regions.  
30 We're examining how age demographics, fishing groups,  
31 commercial fishing households and even community events  
32 such as memorial potlatches influence and understand  
33 sharing and support the well-being of households not  
34 only in a study community but in those across the  
35 state. Understanding how sharing occurs and the  
36 decisions that affect the levels of food distribution  
37 in subsistence economies and particularly in Alaska  
38 Native communities is critical to fully understanding  
39 how communities are adapting to reduce abundance and  
40 (indiscernible - distorted) fishing restrictions.

41

42 So the communities we worked in  
43 included Pilot Station, Nulato and Beaver. They  
44 represent the lower, middle and upper regions of the  
45 river (distorted). We have to begin by cooperating  
46 with the Division of Commercial Fisheries to have them  
47 expand their post-season survey effort to a census,  
48 typically they do a stratified sample and they talk to  
49 a portion of households in each different level of

50

1 harvesting capacity but they actually went and surveyed  
2 100 percent of households for us in those communities.  
3 And we needed them to do that so that we knew exactly  
4 how much fish each household harvested so then we could  
5 follow up with our own survey and ask much more  
6 detailed questions about where those fish went and to  
7 whom. So we went out and we conducted that survey and  
8 then we also conducted numerous ethnographic  
9 interviews, traditional knowledge interviews with  
10 people who are on both the giving and receiving end of  
11 those sharing networks.

12  
13 We partnered with Oregon State  
14 University, researchers there, to (indiscernible -  
15 distorted) analysis to build our own capacity in that  
16 area. So as far as progress goes, our (indiscernible -  
17 distorted) complete and was successful. Our data  
18 analysis is almost complete and write up has begun. So  
19 I'm very happy to say that we were able to get this  
20 project, you know, basically complete, the field work  
21 aspect of it complete prior to Covid.

22  
23 So moving on to the second project.

24  
25 This is called Customary Trade in the  
26 Lower and Middle Yukon River Regions. This project  
27 builds off recent work that we completed in the upper  
28 Yukon River. We wanted to expand our findings and  
29 understandings of customary trade, which is the small  
30 scale sale of a wild resource, an exchange of a  
31 resource for cash. We wanted to expand our  
32 understanding to the whole river so that we can help  
33 inform conversations occurring around this subject and  
34 contribute some nuance to them.

35  
36 Overall we wanted to describe how  
37 customary trade practices fit within the overall  
38 subsistence use of salmon in the lower and middle Yukon  
39 areas, both historically and in present times of  
40 declining salmon.

41  
42 We plan to work in the communities of  
43 Nunum'Iqua, Mountain Village, Kaltag and Galena. Our  
44 methods will include a household survey to document  
45 both barter and customary trade in a single study year  
46 as well as ethnographic, traditional knowledge  
47 interviews with people who participate in either barter  
48 or customary trade. We have not yet began field work.  
49 We are going to have to postpone this project because

50

1 of Covid concerns and because of how sensitive the  
2 nature of this topic is, we have -- we really feel like  
3 this is something that requires building through  
4 (indiscernible - distorted) and that is best done face  
5 to face. However, if there -- if this pandemic  
6 continues, which it likely will, we may need to deploy  
7 some more creative solutions. And right now our  
8 division is rolling out a comprehensive subsistence  
9 survey in Unalaska to over 900 households and we're  
10 doing it all remotely and so we're hoping to learn from  
11 that and possibly take some of the strategies they use  
12 there and (indiscernible - distorted) for this project.  
13 I'm really hoping that we'll be able to visit these  
14 communities in a realistic timeframe and conduct this  
15 in person.

16  
17 So that concludes my updates.

18  
19 I'd be happy to take any questions.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
22 the update on your projects. This Covid is throwing  
23 everybody for a loop. Does Council members have  
24 questions for Alida.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any, your  
29 presentation was thorough.

30  
31 MS. TRAINOR: Thank you so much.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, have a  
34 great afternoon. Hope you can go get your son.

35  
36 MS. TRAINOR: I will, thanks.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Chris McDevet.

39  
40 MR. MCDEVET: Yeah, Chris McDevet,  
41 thanks, Mr. Chair, thank you Council members for  
42 allowing me to present. Just a little background  
43 information, as Mr. Chair mentioned, my name is Chris  
44 McDevet, I'm a subsistence resource specialist for the  
45 Division of Subsistence Fish and Game here in Fairbanks  
46 and there's just a few projects I'd like to talk to you  
47 about.

48  
49 If you refer to the presentation.

50

1 First project is the Kuskokwim area  
2 salmon post-season subsistence harvest surveys. This  
3 is an OSM funded project that's been ongoing annually  
4 for several decades. We typically aim to survey about  
5 28 Kuskokwim area communities including all lower,  
6 middle and upper river communities. Surveying is in  
7 progress right now. The focus right now is the lower  
8 river as well as the community of Bethel. We will be  
9 moving up river here shortly, probably next week to  
10 start calling households in those communities.  
11 Ordinarily this project is done through, you know, in  
12 person, door to door surveys, but because of the health  
13 concerns, in order to remain in compliance with  
14 community guidelines, travel guideline restrictions, so  
15 on and so forth, all of the outlying communities right  
16 now are being contacted by phone. So households in  
17 outlying communities will receive a phone call from  
18 Fish and Game Staff to conduct the survey. For Bethel  
19 it's a little different. There's other options as  
20 well. Online option, mail in survey forms, so on and  
21 so forth. But for Bethel we're actually going door to  
22 door in Bethel, we partner with ONC surveyors to  
23 complete the Bethel portion of the project. And so far  
24 so good.

25  
26 I can move on to the next project here.

27  
28 Kuskokwim big game survey and  
29 ethnography. This is a project funded through a  
30 Pittman-Roberts grant. A large part of the research  
31 was prompted by the declining Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
32 numbers as well as some moose population changes in  
33 Game Management 18 as well as low turnout for permanent  
34 returns so we're seeking to update large land mammal  
35 harvest through this research.

36  
37 Our contingency plan in terms of  
38 conducting the research here in the spring of 2021 is  
39 kind of similar to other contingency plans you've  
40 heard. We will work with the community to develop some  
41 kind of research approach to ensure that, you know, we  
42 remain in compliance with community guidelines and  
43 travel restrictions and so on and so forth. So that  
44 may mean that there might be an online survey option, a  
45 mail in, or telephone survey options as well.

46  
47 And on to the subsistence chinook  
48 harvest in lower Kuskokwim tributaries. This is funded  
49 through AKSSF. We currently have very little data on

50

1 king harvest in non-spawning tribes in the lower river  
2 and this project seeks to fill those harvest data gaps.  
3 Again, contingency planning, same situation as with our  
4 other projects, we will work closely with communities  
5 to ensure that we remain in compliance with their  
6 guidelines and travel restrictions as well as the  
7 safety of all participants involved in the research and  
8 that is supposed to kick off next summer.

9  
10 So that was the end of my presentation.  
11 If anybody's got any questions, thank you, Mr. Chair,  
12 thank you Council members. I'm free to answer any  
13 questions anybody has.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Chris.  
16 My question would be document subsistence harvest of  
17 chinook and other salmon in non-spawning tributaries,  
18 that would be users are traveling to the Kuskokwim  
19 River, or how would.....

20  
21 MR. MCDEVET: Well, there's several  
22 lower river communities that tend to focus, especially  
23 during closures, tend to focus their fishing in these  
24 lower tribes and, again, these are non-spawning tribes,  
25 you know, salmon tend to stage in some of these areas  
26 near the mouths of these rivers so that's the main  
27 focus.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah, we  
30 were talking about that this morning, that the  
31 assumption is that there's no salmon in those side  
32 channels, but in the intertidal zone the fish actually  
33 go way in there, they get sucked up in there. And so  
34 then they want to come back out when it starts ebbing.  
35 So I don't think managers understand that aspect of how  
36 the natal waters from up drainage actually are flowing  
37 down river, then they get pulled into the side rivers,  
38 side sloughs and drainages during the flood.

39  
40 Okay, so that covers that one.

41  
42 And then the Mulchatna was under-  
43 reporting, so how are you going to achieve getting  
44 reporting with online kind of -- you're going to.....

45  
46 MR. MCDEVET: Well, I mean that's, you  
47 know, as I mentioned, you know, we're seeking to  
48 collect this harvest data information so we're going  
49 to, you know, give everybody all the options available,  
50

1 all the tools available to report their harvest to us.  
2 So that may include an online option. I understand  
3 your point for sure, but we feel that if people have  
4 all options available to them, we should be able to  
5 collect that information.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you'll also make  
8 phone calls?  
9

10 MR. MCDEVET: Yeah, phone calls, the --  
11 similar to kind of the same approach that we're taking  
12 with the post-season survey right -- post-season salmon  
13 survey right now. Working with -- we're working with  
14 communities to obtain phone lists, things like that, so  
15 we can give folks a call by telephone to conduct a  
16 survey, a short, you know, brief survey with them and  
17 then like I also mentioned, like a mail in option,  
18 we're doing that with the post-season survey now.  
19

20 If someone would rather not do the  
21 online survey or do it over the phone they'll also have  
22 the option of just doing a survey on their own and then  
23 sending that in, postage paid already, to Fish and  
24 Game.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other  
27 questions from the Council on Chris' presentation  
28 portion.  
29

30 (No comments)  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, well, thanks so  
33 much, Chris. Those are good projects.  
34

35 MR. MCDEVET: Okay, thank you. I  
36 appreciate it.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
39 move on to Mulchatna Herd update, Todd Rinaldi.  
40

41 MR. RINALDI: Yes, can you hear me?  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we hear you  
44 fine.  
45

46 MR. RINALDI: Thank you. Thank you for  
47 the opportunity to provide an update on the Mulchatna  
48 Caribou Herd. My name's Todd Rinaldi, I'm the regional  
49 management coordinator for the Department of Fish and  
50

1 Game and the Division of Wildlife Conservation out of  
2 Region 4, which oversees the management of the  
3 Mulchatna Caribou Herd in Unit 17 and the adjacent  
4 units out of Dillingham.

5  
6 We've been without an area biologist in  
7 Dillingham off and on for a little more than a year  
8 now. We've had a vacancy in that position since April  
9 and we are pleased to announce that we have a new  
10 biologist who has accepted that position, his name is  
11 Brian Riley and he'll be starting in Dillingham on  
12 November 16th. So we're pretty excited about that.

13  
14 We're also excited that we were able to  
15 get a Mulchatna caribou population census done this  
16 summer -- or a photo census done this summer. We were  
17 able to complete one last year and as you recall the  
18 findings of the survey were a little bit surprising,  
19 actually they were a bit surprising. The survey last  
20 year gave us a population estimate of about 13,500  
21 caribou with pretty good calf to cow ratios and pretty  
22 good bull to cow ratios but that population assessment  
23 was considerably lower than what we were managing under  
24 and where the current population objective is.

25  
26 So the primary objective of the photo  
27 census is to estimate caribou abundance by not only  
28 obtaining the minimum count of caribou on the landscape  
29 but also to derive a statistical estimate. And in  
30 those estimates the trends and abundance are integral  
31 to our wildlife management program, and particularly  
32 when we're estimating harvestable surplus and  
33 maintaining -- or managing for sustained yields as  
34 we're required to under the Constitution.

35  
36 The Mulchatna Caribou Herd has an ANS,  
37 amount necessary for subsistence of 2,100 to 2,400  
38 caribou and there's also a positive (indiscernible -  
39 muffled) finding for caribou with a population  
40 objective of 30 to 80,000 caribou and a harvest  
41 objective of 2,400 to 8,000 caribou. The pattern of  
42 aggregation of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd during the  
43 post-calving population estimate surveys hasn't really  
44 changed much in the last 10 or so years, so we were  
45 able to track the herds into the two areas, the eastern  
46 and western segment, western segment being on Refuge  
47 land, primarily in Unit 18, and the eastern segment  
48 being in the central Mulchatna area of Unit 17.

1                   So we were able to track 69 radio  
2 collars, or 69 radio collars were available for this  
3 survey. That helps us determine where the groups are  
4 and how (indiscernible - muffled) the groups are and  
5 where they are in their migration. One of the things  
6 that's done -- and in every year, is a group of  
7 airplanes spend considerable time flying the area and  
8 doing reconnaissance, many days or even weeks before  
9 the actual survey looking for outlying groups, maybe  
10 groups that don't have collars on them. We try to keep  
11 track of them so when the survey day does come up,  
12 we're able to track in on all the known groups of  
13 caribou and very rarely do we find unknown groups of  
14 caribou by that point.

15  
16                   This year I think we found 67 of 69  
17 collars, so that's really good. That gives us a good  
18 level of accuracy. The number of groups of caribou are  
19 similar of what's observed and documented last year,  
20 both years the group size ranged from about one animal  
21 to, you know, give or take 4,000 animals, and like in  
22 previous years, the Western groups in Unit 18 were more  
23 widely spread and contained fewer animals when compared  
24 to the Eastern groups.

25  
26                   So the results of this year, like I  
27 said, we spent extensive time locating satellite groups  
28 tracking down all the collars minus the two that we  
29 could not find. Typically collars are associated with  
30 just smaller numbers of groups, we've never found a  
31 missing collar and founds hundreds or thousands of  
32 animals. Often times a missing collar, if it is  
33 actually still active, it usually represents maybe  
34 eight individual or a handful of individuals so it  
35 usually doesn't represent a lot of animals. In this  
36 particular instance we documented 3,900 or almost 4,000  
37 caribou in the West and about 4,800 caribou in the East  
38 this year, so that gave us a total minimum count of  
39 8,782 caribou. The minimum count last year was just a  
40 little bit higher, it was a few hundred higher at  
41 9,294. So when we take into consideration the  
42 statistical significance and estimate the total  
43 population, we're basically exactly, statistically  
44 where we were last year at 13,448. And I can't explain  
45 how we ended up with that exact number. But the  
46 standard error and the standard deviations are  
47 different on that amount -- on that population  
48 estimate. So that puts the estimate in the West at  
49 about 5,500 and the Eastern portion to about 7,900.

50



1                   The population obviously still remains  
2 under the population objective at 13,500 and is not  
3 currently meeting the ANS, nor the harvest objective.  
4 The survey located 96 percent of the active collars in  
5 the East and the West and that relatively high  
6 detection rate contributed to the narrow gaps in the  
7 minimum counts and are our statistical estimate.

8  
9                   And I won't get into a lot of the  
10 detail unless you guys have some questions about the  
11 statistics. But I want you all to know that efforts to  
12 understand the decline the Mulchatna are ongoing  
13 including evaluating productivity and survival, to  
14 increase GPS collaring of adults, collaring of  
15 neonates, newborns, and regular tracking flights as  
16 well as discussions regarding a range analysis and  
17 habitat analysis.

18  
19                   We just put out, I think, about 30 GPS  
20 collars into the herd, actually it's ongoing as we  
21 speak right now. The fall composition survey was just  
22 completed last week on the Mulchatna Herd. And the  
23 preliminary results suggests that the calf to cow ratio  
24 is still pretty good and the bull to cow ratio is still  
25 pretty good, as good as last year. I won't be able to  
26 finalize that information until we get a further  
27 analysis.

28  
29                   But that's ultimately why we were able  
30 to offer a shortened or abbreviated hunt, both the  
31 Federal and the State hunt under RC503 this fall. As  
32 you may recall we ended up closing the hunt down early.  
33 I think the Feds closed their hunt around New Years and  
34 we closed our hunt, I think about 30 days later in  
35 January on the Mulchatna last year. And this year  
36 based on that photo census information, previous fall  
37 composition information and historic harvest levels for  
38 a fall hunt on the Mulchatna we deemed -- in consult  
39 with our Federal partners we deemed it appropriate to  
40 offer an open Federal hunt for -- open a registration  
41 hunt under 503 for State hunters and the Feds offered  
42 the same under the same permit, and we anticipated a  
43 harvest of 200 to 400. Currently, harvest data has  
44 been coming in really slow to date. And of course all  
45 the Mulchatna Caribou hunts are closed across all the  
46 range currently and we only have a report of 50 males  
47 taken, and that's out of 450 reported harvest  
48 information and a total of 700 permits. That 700  
49 permits is quite lower than what is typically issued  
50

1 for the annual hunt, although given that a lot of  
2 hunters and users knew that the hunt was only going to  
3 be relegated to the fall, that might have affected  
4 participation.

5  
6 And a couple other things I'd like to  
7 add.

8  
9 As far as hunt reporting goes, you  
10 know, the RC503 closed in January of last year, we  
11 still have 400 hunt reports out that haven't been  
12 reported on so if you have a hunt report I would like  
13 to remind you to return your last year's hunt report  
14 because this year's hunt reports are also due. We  
15 don't anticipate opening up the Mulchatna Caribou Herd  
16 to additional harvest this regulatory year.

17  
18 One thing to note that might be of  
19 interest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent a  
20 letter to the Commissioner of Fish and Game last year  
21 proposing that the Department of Fish and Game,  
22 Division of Wildlife Conservation should draft a plan  
23 for predation control on Federal lands in Unit 17 and  
24 18 and they were specific, that the conversation was  
25 Unit 18, and this is to address declining caribou  
26 populations. The proposal, which will be coming up in  
27 front of the Board of Game this winter, if that meeting  
28 happens, seeks to establish additional predation  
29 control areas expanding the current Mulchatna control  
30 area of 10,000 square miles to a broader area and give  
31 us an opportunity to implement control on Federal lands  
32 where half the herd seems to aggregate and a good  
33 portion of them seem to calf. I bring that up because  
34 it's a bit unusual. We do have an intensive management  
35 program for the benefit of caribou in Unit 17, there's  
36 a 10,000 square mile control area in portions of 19B,  
37 17 and 9B and it has been effective in years when  
38 travel conditions and flying conditions and tracking  
39 conditions are conducive to same-day airborne take of  
40 wolves but we've also had some great participation from  
41 local hunters and trappers in that same area and they  
42 are given an opportunity to get out there before SDA  
43 hunters -- sorry, SDA pilots and gunners are out there  
44 beginning February 1st, so when that harvest is good we  
45 do see some potential impacts on calving that following  
46 spring.

47  
48 So we know that was a lot, and I will  
49 leave it for questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you basically  
2 have the same population as surveyed but that's  
3 counting the newest calf recruitment which are not  
4 actually recruited.

5  
6 MR. RINALDI: Right.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what was your cow  
9 to calf ratio that you recently.....

10  
11 MR. RINALDI: That we just finished the  
12 composition surveys last week and that information is  
13 not finalized but I'm suspecting that it's going to be  
14 somewhere to 30 but that's just a guess because I don't  
15 have that information in front of me, we haven't  
16 analyzed it yet. We were unable to get composition  
17 information from the photo survey, even though that  
18 photo equipment is getting to be such a high resolution  
19 that we can begin to sex animals and potentially age  
20 animals with that camera but it would be very time  
21 intensive to do it. We conduct our composition surveys  
22 for caribou typically in October across Region 4.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So would those be  
25 comparable -- speculated comparable cow to calf ratios  
26 to last year in your survey?

27  
28 MR. RINALDI: Yeah. Yes, Mr. Chair.  
29 Those would be -- we expect that the ratios are going  
30 to be comparable to last year based on the preliminary,  
31 at least as good as last year based on a preliminary  
32 review of the composition data.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And have you modeled  
35 this year as far as age composition of the adults, what  
36 their age composition would be, are they in the  
37 productive healthy younger breed of eight year old  
38 cows, or what's their age classes generally?

39  
40 MR. RINALDI: I can't -- yeah, I can't  
41 speak directly to the age class but, you know,  
42 productivity's been good. Calf weights and 10 month  
43 old weights have been good. Obviously we have an  
44 interest in being able to evaluate the range as our  
45 Federal partners do. There is also a Board of Game  
46 proposal to adjust the harvest objective and the  
47 population objective on the Mulchatna, so that's going  
48 to be a point of conversation at the Board of Game this  
49 winter as well.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the season -- the  
2 current season closed when, the end of September?

3  
4 MR. RINALDI: It closed at the end of  
5 September, so it was open, I forget the number of days,  
6 but for a number of weeks in September and a number of  
7 weeks in August.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there will be no  
10 winter hunting?

11  
12 MR. RINALDI: No, there's no winter  
13 opportunity this year.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh, okay, good.  
16 So that was a very thorough report. I would like to  
17 get those finalized comp numbers for the.....

18  
19 MR. RINALDI: Sure.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....at some point.  
22 You can send that to our Council coordinator to  
23 disseminate to the Regional Council.

24  
25 MR. RINALDI: Sure. Yeah, I can send  
26 you -- I'll send you both the population estimate memo  
27 and the comp memo, which hopefully will be drafted in a  
28 matter of days here and we can finalize it and send it  
29 on.

30  
31 I also -- I don't know if anyone's  
32 noticed but I think we might have made copies  
33 available, there is a new edition, a brief edition of  
34 Caribou Trails for the Mulchatna that came out back in  
35 July. It has some of the information, obviously it was  
36 updated with the population information but it won't  
37 have the comp information but it kind of discusses  
38 where we're currently at and the approaches that we're  
39 going to be continuing to take, including probably the  
40 formation of a working group in the future.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I live in the  
43 northern part of Alaska so I was not privy to that. Is  
44 that PDF available on the AD.....

45  
46 MR. RINALDI: Yep. Yep, it's on the  
47 website, it isn't a multi-page document, we're going to  
48 produce a larger version, you know, much like you see  
49 for the Western Arctic and some of the other, the

50

1 larger herds up north. We wanted to provide just a two  
2 pager to get out to folks before the hunting season so  
3 they understood the rationale for why the regulatory  
4 changes had been made and where we were, the approaches  
5 that we were taking for conservation sake. I can  
6 include that with the other two memos if you'd like.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you, I'd  
9 appreciate that.

10  
11 Any questions from the Council on the  
12 Mulchatna Herd update presentation by Todd.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. That was very  
17 thorough. I really appreciate that. These are the kind  
18 of numbers that I really wanted to see with this, and  
19 the management restrictions, that you've dropped into a  
20 conservation mode for bull harvest, et cetera. So  
21 appreciate what the Department's doing to try to  
22 bolster this population and bring it back, turn the  
23 corner on it.

24  
25 Do you have any idea what the brown  
26 bear predation on the calving ground is?

27  
28 MR. RINALDI: Off the cuff based on the  
29 previous work that's been going on the past couple of  
30 years, they were a significant predator but it wasn't  
31 of significant consequence. So they made up a piece of  
32 the pie but they weren't taking a fair number of -- I'd  
33 have to go back and so I don't want to say any specific  
34 numbers because I'd just be pulling them out of my  
35 memory, which is not reliable.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

38  
39 MR. RINALDI: I can -- you know there  
40 is a PowerPoint presentation -- there is some documents  
41 that have been presented at the Board of Game that  
42 describe the predator calf relationships that we've  
43 documented out in the Mulchatna, and I can provide that  
44 as well.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'd  
47 appreciate that. Okay, any other Council questions or  
48 comments.

49  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I had a question.  
6 Thank you for the presentation. Is the caribou that's  
7 out on the Nushagak Peninsula, is that considered part  
8 of this herd also?

9  
10 MR. RINALDI: Thanks for the question.  
11 Through the Chair. The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd  
12 are considered and managed as a separate herd. That  
13 hunt is administered under RC501, which is primarily a  
14 Federal hunt under a State permit. The amount of State  
15 land on the Nushagak Peninsula, State and private land  
16 is pretty small but we do offer a hunt opportunity out  
17 there in some years. This year the population estimate  
18 based on -- the population estimate based on work that  
19 Togiak did determined that that population was under  
20 objective as determined by -- as defined by their  
21 management plan and so we did not open or offer any  
22 Federal -- State opportunity on the Nushagak this year.  
23 There was some Federal opportunity provided to some  
24 local communities on the Nushagak, but short answer is,  
25 yes, they're considered a separate herd and we see and  
26 we've documented very little mixing.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another question,  
29 Tim.

30  
31 MR. GERVAIS: No, that's it, thank you  
32 very much. Appreciate your efforts to rebuild this  
33 herd.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
36 Council member questions on Mulchatna.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so  
41 much, Todd, we really appreciate that.

42  
43 MR. RINALDI: Yes, thank you. Take  
44 care.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, you, too.  
47 So we're moving down the list here to the Gates of the  
48 Arctic National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource  
49 Commission report. Are you on the phone, Marcy?

50

1 MS. OKADA: Hi, good afternoon, Mr.  
2 Chair and Council members.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Marcy.

5  
6 MS. OKADA: Okay. I believe Karen  
7 Deatherage mailed out via postal mail our Park and  
8 Preserve update, I'll just quickly go through it.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have it in hand,  
11 go right ahead.

12  
13 MS. OKADA: Okay. For the Gates of the  
14 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission,  
15 they had a teleconference meeting this past April. The  
16 SRC received updates on the Ambler Mining District  
17 Road, Board of Game regulatory proposals that were  
18 passed, wildlife projects occurring with Park Service  
19 Staff and our next teleconference meeting is going to  
20 be November 18th to 19th.

21  
22 For the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,  
23 there's a caribou pellet project that was unable to  
24 occur this past April. Pellets are used to analyze the  
25 diets and it's being rescheduled for April 20/21.

26  
27 So a recent paper was published on the  
28 Western Arctic Caribou Herd looking at the effects of  
29 bugs on caribou. Caribou tend to increase their  
30 movements during peak insect harassment. Basically  
31 they're running away from bugs. These behavioral  
32 responses scale up to physiological effects as caribou  
33 move to less productive habitats in order to reduce  
34 this harassment and this, in turn, increases energetic  
35 costs due to them moving around more, it reduces  
36 nutrient intake due to less time spent foraging and it  
37 can also lead to poor physiological conditions.

38  
39 For grizzly bears, there was a 2014 to  
40 2017 grizzly bear collaring project and off of that  
41 project there were multiple journal articles written.  
42 So a recent paper looking at Brooks Range grizzly bears  
43 revealed that a large number of bears had salmon as the  
44 main component of their late summer diet. And this, in  
45 turn, let to Park Service biologists looking at GPS  
46 data more closely and what they found out was that  
47 bears movement data was used to identify streams that  
48 have salmon, and these streams were previously  
49 unmapped. So biologists shared this finding with the  
50

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and they were able  
2 to add 100 miles or so of new salmon stream information  
3 to the official anadromous stream catalog. And then  
4 lastly, there was also a paper written showing an  
5 analysis of grizzly bear diets and how these can vary  
6 by looking at different segments of their hair  
7 follicles.

8  
9 So moving along to the dall sheep  
10 survey. A rather shortened survey was done this past  
11 July and it was solely done in the Killik Preserve and  
12 this, of course, was due to concerns about Covid19 so  
13 the normal distance sampling protocol was basically  
14 replaced, and it was a pilot only aerial survey count.  
15 Poor weather prevented the pilot from surveying the  
16 entire Killik Preserve so the total sheep count is not  
17 comparable to past years. Of the 376 total sheep  
18 observed, 82 were lambs, and 237 were ewe-like, which  
19 covers ewes, yearlings and young rams. This results in  
20 a lamb to ewe-like ratio of .35 which is higher than  
21 average and indicates a healthy reproductive rate.  
22 Surveys planned for 2021 will help determine whether  
23 this translates into actual population growth.

24  
25 And then lastly, for an Ambler Mining  
26 District Road update, Park Service and the Federal  
27 Highways Administration issued a Record of Decision,  
28 otherwise known as a ROD, on the access route and  
29 right-of-way through the Gates of the Arctic National  
30 Preserve Kobuk Unit. The decision was based on the  
31 environmental and economic analysis and it determines  
32 the most economically feasible and prudent route with  
33 the least impact allowing for construction, operation,  
34 maintenance and reclamation of this private industrial  
35 access road within the Preserve.

36  
37 The EEA and decision includes  
38 mitigation measures to protect wetlands, fish, wildlife  
39 and their habitat as well as subsistence hunting and  
40 fishing activities. And the route selected across the  
41 Kobuk Preserve Unit follows the route selected by the  
42 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land  
43 Management Record of Decision, and the press release  
44 for this and the Record of Decision can be accessed  
45 through two websites that are listed in your update.

46  
47 I believe we also have Matt Cameron on  
48 the phone to answer any wildlife questions you might  
49 have about these updates.



1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any  
2 questions for Gates of the Arctic on the presentation.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question would  
7 be, why was the sheep survey done on the North Slope  
8 when at our spring meeting I was talking a lot about  
9 the two brutal winters on the South Slope, that  
10 disseminated sheep on the South Slope, and why was  
11 there a determination to do a North Slope survey.  
12 Matt.

13  
14 MR. CAMERON: Yeah, hi, Mr. Chair and  
15 members of the Council. This is Matt Cameron, wildlife  
16 biologist with Gates of the Arctic. Can you hear me  
17 okay?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We hear you fine.

20  
21 MR. CAMERON: Great, hi, Jack. Yeah, I  
22 can't really speak to that, that was -- Will Decey (ph)  
23 is our new sheep biologist and unfortunately he had  
24 some family things come up this week and can't be here.  
25 I know that they were limited by weather as well as  
26 mitigating Covid concerns and that was a pilot only  
27 survey. So I don't have a good answer for you but I  
28 can relay that question to Will and have him follow up  
29 with you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we'll discuss  
32 that further at the SRC meeting. One thing I would  
33 like to comment on is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
34 recent paper, effects of bugs on caribou. Bugs, you're  
35 referring to parasitic flies, but there's things that  
36 happen with caribou that managers don't pay attention  
37 to. Cool, wet summers actually are the highest benefit  
38 to caribou. Why is that. Because caribou eat  
39 basically flowering grasses and flowering forbes  
40 throughout the summer. If there's lots of -- if it's  
41 hot the insects -- the pollinating insects pollinate  
42 all the flowers and so they lose that whole protein  
43 source and that reduces their whole protein  
44 productivity for calf production. Wet summers  
45 restricts the pollinating insects which allows the  
46 caribou to eat flowers for a longer period of time. It  
47 also reduces the parasitic flies and mosquitos that are  
48 trying to bite them. So it's a double-whammy of what  
49 wet summers actually do for caribou. They cool better.

50

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1 They typically have better cooling, they don't over  
2 heat and so they're not panting and huffing and puffing  
3 either. Wet years allow lichen to grow more. Dry hot  
4 summers, lichen doesn't grow at all. And on wet  
5 summers it actually will engulf a cranberry -- an  
6 annual cranberry of the year, I've seen it.

7  
8 So there's some things that are not  
9 actually sought in this paper, what insects do the  
10 caribou -- pollinating insects are detrimental because  
11 they pollinate all the flowers that they use for  
12 protein sources and it's a major food source. I was on  
13 the North Slope this summer and I watched a caribou  
14 bull and I watched him for a half an hour straight, he  
15 ate five pink louseworts and then he nibbled on willow  
16 leaves, he ate five pink louseworts, there's flowers  
17 everywhere on the tundra, that's what they're eating.  
18 So there's some things that need to be looked at, or  
19 reevaluated in your peer review on this insect paper.  
20 I haven't read the insect paper but it's only focusing  
21 on harassing insects but there's the detriment of  
22 pollinating insects also.

23  
24 I wanted to get that on the record for  
25 the -- and for the Council who sit around watching  
26 caribou like I do.

27  
28 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jack.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any questions on  
31 this presentation, bears, or caribou, dall sheep,  
32 Ambler Road, we talked about Ambler Road earlier.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, so  
37 thanks so much Gates of the Arctic. And subsistence  
38 eligibility permit and individual customary and  
39 traditional use determination, Josh Ream. Dr. Ream,  
40 are you there.

41  
42 MR. REAM: I'm here, thank you, Mr.  
43 Chair. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the  
44 Council. Today I'll be presenting on a prospective (ph  
45 - muffled) change and procedures for individual  
46 customary and traditional use determinations. For the  
47 record my name is Joshua Ream, and I am the Regional  
48 Subsistence Program Manager for subsistence in the  
49 National Park Service. I also serve as the Agency's

50

1 representative to the InterAgency Staff Committee.

2

3 This topic is rather complicated so our  
4 Staff recently developed a comparison chart to show the  
5 existing process for these determinations as compared  
6 to what we are proposing. You should have received  
7 this in your emails earlier today, it was only recently  
8 developed after some confusion at the Southcentral RAC  
9 meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

12

13 MR. REAM: Requests for -- yes, go  
14 ahead, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a document  
17 that's standard operating procedure and issuance for  
18 subsistence eligibility in our book on Page 159, is  
19 there a different document?

20

21 MR. REAM: There is. And I believe  
22 Karen sent that out over the lunch break.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: I did. I sent that  
27 out via email to everybody. I know it's hard to keep up  
28 with all these emails, but it's just a one pager, or  
29 front and back.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So go ahead.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: And this was sent at  
34 11:38 a.m. today.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Let me.....

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do you want to give  
39 everybody a couple of minutes to look at that Josh, or  
40 to find it because we don't want to create the same  
41 confusion here and this document will be helpful.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. REAM: Sure, no problem. And this  
46 information is contained in the other briefing material  
47 that are in your books and what I intend to cover, but  
48 I think it's just an easy way to look at it, the change  
49 in the process.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I have a one  
2 pager here attachment and it's basically sort of an  
3 overview of what the changes are.

4  
5 MR. REAM: That's correct.

6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: That is it and I  
8 think, again, it would be helpful if people had that in  
9 front of them.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did everybody open  
14 that up, if you have email. I received it at 11:39  
15 a.m., this morning from Karen.

16  
17 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

20  
21 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I'm opening it up  
22 here. Is it the forward supplemental documents for  
23 WIRAC meeting next week, is that the one?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

26  
27 MR. HONEA: Sent at 3:01. Or maybe  
28 it's -- 3:01, I'll check.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's titled forward  
31 -- the forward is individual C&T comparison chart.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: Okay, got it.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. How about  
36 you, Jenny, do you have it?

37  
38 MRS. PELKOLA: I'm still looking.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have that  
41 Tim.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,  
46 Tim Gervais.

47  
48 MR. GERVAIS: No, but go ahead.

49  
50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hum. Would anybody --  
2 would you like me to go ahead and send it or do you  
3 think that perhaps we could go ahead and move forward  
4 and Josh can just use that part of it.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A lot of the  
7 plan.....

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....is also in the  
12 book here on Page 159, Josh?

13  
14 MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair, that is  
15 correct.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Proceed  
18 with.....

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....your  
23 presentation, Josh.

24  
25 MR. REAM: Thank you. So requests for  
26 individual customary and traditional use determination  
27 are very rare and less than a dozen of them have been  
28 requested to date. These determinations only apply to  
29 National Park and Monuments.

30  
31 During the last Federal wildlife  
32 regulation call for proposals, one of these requests  
33 was made by an individual seeking to hunt in Denali  
34 following a long existing pattern of use.  
35 Unfortunately the proposal was invalidated by OSM based  
36 on erroneous information regarding the process. The  
37 situation brought to light a need to provide a clearer  
38 streamlined process for responding to these requests.  
39 The National Park Service Staff developed one such  
40 process for consideration by the Board, and this is  
41 what I'm speaking to your Council about today.

42  
43 At their July work session, the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board deferred action on a delegation of  
45 authority to the National Park Service Alaska Regional  
46 Director for making individual customary and  
47 traditional use determinations for lands managed by the  
48 National Park Service and requested that the RACs be  
49 briefed and have an opportunity to provide input on the  
50

1 delegation at your fall meeting.

2

3 The Federal Subsistence Board is  
4 considering a delegation of authority to the Park  
5 Service, which would grant the Regional Director the  
6 authority to make individual customary and traditional  
7 use determinations. The draft delegation of authority  
8 letter and the draft SOP, standard operating procedure,  
9 can be found beginning on Page 159 of your meeting  
10 book, and in preparation for this requested  
11 administrative change, Staff with the National Park  
12 Service did develop the standard operating procedures  
13 for both the 13440 subsistence eligibility permit,  
14 which are within the purview of the Park Service, and  
15 for individual C&Ts, which are currently heard by the  
16 entire Federal Subsistence Board.

17

18 I'll be presenting you with a brief  
19 overview of both topics. The Park Service suggested  
20 changes to existing processes and the reason that this  
21 is being pursued.

22

23 To begin, it's important to recognize  
24 that eligibility to engage in subsistence activities in  
25 National Parks and Monuments in Alaska is different  
26 from that of National Preserves and other types of  
27 Federal public land as you all are likely aware. To be  
28 eligible in these units one must not only be a  
29 Federally-qualified subsistence user, but also have his  
30 or her primary permanent home located within a resident  
31 zone community or alternatively, to have obtained a  
32 13440 subsistence eligibility permit from the Park  
33 Service. Additionally, the subsistence user must also  
34 have a customary and traditional use determination for  
35 the area and species that they intend to hunt.

36

37 Customary and traditional use  
38 determinations acknowledge an existing pattern of  
39 subsistence use. The Federal Subsistence Board  
40 frequently receives requests to evaluate or reevaluate  
41 these, but predominately this is for inclusion of  
42 communities and areas. For lands managed by the  
43 National Park Service, the determination can also be  
44 made for individuals. And this is set forth in 50 CFR  
45 10016. This says for areas managed by the National  
46 Park Service where subsistence uses are allowed the  
47 determinations may be made on an individual basis. The  
48 request for these, again, have been really rare and  
49 we've gotten less than a dozen of them in the history

50

1 of the Federal Program. We have no reason to believe  
2 that this is going to change. Given that they are  
3 rare, and the applicability to only those lands managed  
4 by the National Park Service, we feel that the Program  
5 and its stakeholders can be better served if the  
6 Agency's Regional Director is given delegated authority  
7 to make the individual customary and traditional use  
8 determination. If this were to be delegated the  
9 process would alleviate burden on the Office of  
10 Subsistence Management and the Federal Subsistence  
11 Board, it would provide a more substantive role for the  
12 Subsistence Resource Commission. It would also allow  
13 for requests to be acted upon outside of the normal  
14 regulatory cycle, and it would provide better  
15 mechanisms for documenting and archiving these  
16 decisions.

17  
18 If the Board delegates authority for  
19 individual C&Ts, the Park Service intends to follow the  
20 procedures that we outline in your book.

21  
22 In order that the responsibilities of  
23 all involved are clearly defined, to provide  
24 consistency and continuity across our Park Unit, to  
25 streamline both the 13440 permit process and the  
26 individual C&T process, and to provide mechanisms for  
27 evaluating and documenting the request and subsequent  
28 decisions. These procedures are consistent with Title  
29 VIII of ANILCA and with existing regulation.

30  
31 I will not walk the Council through  
32 every step and document outlined in the standard  
33 operating procedure, I will, however, point out that  
34 the eight criteria for evaluating individual C&T is the  
35 same as those for community and area C&Ts. The Park  
36 Service would continue to analyze these criteria in a  
37 manner consistent with the Board's policy.

38  
39 Delegation of authority on these  
40 matters is considered an administrative action of the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board. Before approving the  
42 process, however, the Board did ask that the Regional  
43 Advisory Councils review the proposed procedures and  
44 offer feedback, especially given that the  
45 responsibility for making recommendations on  
46 individual C&Ts will shift from the Regional Advisory  
47 Councils to the Subsistence Resource Commissions. The  
48 Park Service believes that the Commissions are perhaps  
49 best equipped to evaluate patterns of subsistence use

50

1 in their associated Parks and Monuments, and each  
2 includes representation from the associated Subsistence  
3 Regional Advisory Councils.

4  
5 This is an action item.

6  
7 We would appreciate your feedback on  
8 these processes and specifically request that your body  
9 vote on whether to endorse this change.

10  
11 I will mention that today the Eastern  
12 Interior RAC voted unanimously to support our proposed  
13 process and the delegation. And this included the  
14 Chair, who had previously expressed reservation at the  
15 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC meeting.

16  
17 The Kodiak/Aleutians RAC voted in  
18 unanimous support.

19  
20 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC took no  
21 action. They don't have Park Service lands in their  
22 region.

23  
24 The Southcentral RAC actually voted  
25 unanimously to defer until the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC  
26 could review further. And the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC  
27 voted in unanimous opposition until they have more time  
28 to consider it.

29  
30 The Denali SRC actually took no action  
31 on this but discussion was in favor of our proposed  
32 standard operating procedures.

33  
34 I'd be happy to try to answer any  
35 questions that you have.

36  
37 Thank you so much for your time.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Joshua.  
40 Questions from the Council on what this actually is and  
41 the change in procedure.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we used to have  
46 Ray Collins which was on the Gates of the Arctic -- or  
47 correction, on the Denali Subsistence Resource  
48 Commission and so he usually gave us an insight into  
49 that Commission's working. I'm on the Gates of the

50



1 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, we have not  
2 held a meeting, we will on November 18 or so. So I  
3 have not seen this change in process. But I do feel  
4 that this has merit, because it would be very few  
5 people that would actually qualify for a 13440 permit.  
6

7 Was there any discussion during any of  
8 the deliberations of the Councils or the SRCs about an  
9 appeal process if the Regional Director arbitrarily  
10 made a decision that impacted the individual, is there  
11 a methodology for appeal to the Federal Subsistence  
12 Board or was there discussion about that?  
13

14 Josh.  
15

16 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
17 did take our proposed standard operating procedure to  
18 the Solicitor's Office and he recommended that there  
19 not be an appeal process. He did, however, advise,  
20 that this is a delegation of authority from the Federal  
21 Subsistence Board and at any time there could be a  
22 request by a member of the public of the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board to repeal that delegation if the  
24 procedures are handled inappropriately.  
25

26 Thank you.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That was  
29 a good clarification. And who is your Solicitor?  
30

31 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. That would be  
32 Ken Lord.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's Ken Lord  
35 also. So I feel that the SRCs, or the Subsistence  
36 Resource Commissions are actually best suited to deal  
37 with this issue because they're typically made up of  
38 individuals that surround that Park and are aware of  
39 the Park uses and areas within the Park. So I would  
40 support this change in procedure in that it opens  
41 continuously the application window instead of a  
42 biannual process through the Federal Subsistence Board.  
43 It's more face to face with the agency that actually's  
44 going to make the determination and the Subsistence  
45 Resource Commissions, and so I feel that this has  
46 viability to it.  
47

48 So I would be supportive of  
49 entertaining a motion to adopt this change in procedure  
50

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1 for issuance of 13440 permits for individuals to hunt  
2 or fish within the National Parks within Alaska, hard  
3 Park. Is the Council agreeable to that, to my line of  
4 thinking.

5  
6 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I certainly am, Jack.  
7 This is Don.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don.

10  
11 MR. HONEA: And I would make that  
12 motion.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don makes the  
15 motion to that effect. Do we have a second.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded by Tim.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim seconded. Any  
20 further discussion or ideas or comments.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
23 Karen Deatherage, could you repeat the motion slowly  
24 again so I can just make sure I have it correct on the  
25 record.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The motion should  
30 read that the Western Interior Regional Advisory  
31 Council supports the change in process of the National  
32 Park Service for issuance of 13440 permits, which are  
33 individual use permits within Hard Park within Alaska,  
34 that the procedure of utilizing the Subsistence  
35 Resource Commissions is more of a interface with the  
36 users and that Commission within the Park Unit, and I  
37 was satisfied with Dr. Ream's response, that if an  
38 individual felt that the Regional Director had acted in  
39 an inappropriate manner, that the individual could make  
40 a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to repeal  
41 that delegation of authority to the Regional Director  
42 to issue these permits.

43  
44 That's basically what my line of  
45 thinking was, so that's basically the motion.

46  
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

50

1 Any further discussion.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a  
6 question.  
7  
8 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's call.  
11 Would you do a roll call, Karen.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,  
16 Karen.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen must have  
21 dropped off the phone.  
22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: Do you want me to do the  
24 roll call, Jack.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, if you would.  
27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Mr. Semaken.  
29  
30 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.  
31  
32 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Kriska.  
33  
34 MR. KRISKA: Hello.  
35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: Was that -- are you in  
37 favor Tommy.  
38  
39 MR. KRISKA: Hello. Hello.  
40  
41 MR. GERVAIS: On the motion.  
42  
43 MR. KRISKA: I lost you guys for a  
44 minute, I had to walk back over here and I just called  
45 back in, so I lost about four or five minutes.  
46  
47 Yeah.  
48  
49 MR. GERVAIS: Do you understand what  
50

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1 we're voting on, we're voting to -- do you want to read  
2 the motion, Karen.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll do my best here,  
5 thank you Mr. Gervais.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: The motion is to adopt  
14 changing the process of the National Park Service for  
15 issuing individual use permits within Parks in Alaska,  
16 the Council also supports the procedure of utilizing  
17 the SRCs as the interface with the users and the Park  
18 Unit. If the individual believed that the Regional  
19 Director acted inappropriately in the issuance of these  
20 permits, or a permit, then the individual could make a  
21 proposal to the Board to repeal that delegation of  
22 authority from the Regional Director.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So how do you vote  
27 on that Tommy.

28  
29 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And continue to call  
32 the roll, Tim.

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Jenny Pelkola.

35  
36 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.

37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: Donald Honea, Jr.

39  
40 MR. HONEA: Yes.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Jack Reakoff.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: And Tim Gervais, myself,  
47 yes. Unanimous six to zero, Karen.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr.

50

1 Gervais, through the Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anything else on  
4 that issue or any other issue of the Park Service.  
5 Joshua.

6

7 MR. REAM: No, sir. I would just  
8 mention that our regional office Staff is growing by a  
9 couple of members and we're really excited about that.

10

11 As we've reduced, over the past decade,  
12 our Staffing capacity at the Park Service the Parks  
13 have had to absorb a lot of the responsibilities, which  
14 they are now wanting to give back to our regional  
15 Staff, so we have a couple of really great people  
16 coming on line. I did recently hire Dr. Kim Yocum who  
17 has been managing the wildlife program at Ft. Greely  
18 and she moved last week from Delta Junction, so I'm  
19 excited to have her on board, and I'm sure that your  
20 Council will be interacting closely with these Staff in  
21 the near future.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So thanks so  
26 much for the update and interaction.

27

28 So we're moving on to OSM, tribal  
29 guidelines, Orville Lind, are you there.

30

31 MR. LIND: Yes, good afternoon, Chair,  
32 Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the  
33 Office of Subsistence Management. First of all, it's  
34 really good to hear everybody on. I miss our face to  
35 face RAC meetings, but I'm also happy that this is  
36 working out better than I expected.

37

38 So I'm going to be very brief.

39

40 This topic is the tribal guidelines.  
41 Again, they are on our website, subsistence website.  
42 And since adopted in January of 2015, the  
43 implementation guidelines are our living document that  
44 really provides additional guidance to our Federal  
45 Staff and the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
46 tribal consultation policy. And it has gone unchanged  
47 up until about two months ago. There was a question  
48 asked about special actions, which you'll find on Page  
49 7 of the guidelines, and the question was asked, what

50

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1 if a requested special action that spans multiple units  
2 or multiple agencies or multiple delegations. And of  
3 course the answer is whoever the in-season manager is  
4 as specified in a delegation of authority letter, they  
5 would be responsible for coordinating the tribal  
6 consultation regarding the special action.

7  
8 There was another question asked about  
9 that, what if there is no delegation of authority in  
10 place, and, of course, the answer is the in-season  
11 manager would -- must have delegated authority from the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board in order to announce the  
13 special action. And of course there would not be a  
14 time when a manager would act on a special action  
15 without delegated authority from the Federal  
16 Subsistence Board.

17  
18 This is informational for now, it was  
19 accepted at the last August work session with the  
20 Federal Subsistence Board and again this is  
21 informational for the RACs. I'm just letting folks  
22 know. And very shortly I will send out the revised  
23 document for everybody to have.

24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is all I  
26 have.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And that  
29 revised document will come out pretty soon within the  
30 next couple of weeks or so or.....

31  
32 MR. LIND: I'm going to get it out in  
33 the next couple of weeks.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sounds good.

36  
37 MR. LIND: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so  
40 much, Orville.

41  
42 So OSM update -- did you have any other  
43 issues, Orville?

44  
45 MR. LIND: No, I sure don't. Just  
46 happy to hear you guys on.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so  
49 much. So Greg Risdahl, OSM update.

50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
2 and members of the Council. For the record this is  
3 Greg Risdahl, I am the OSM Fisheries Division lead.  
4

5 First of all, like everyone else, I  
6 want to thank you all for the hard work that you have  
7 done and, again, for hanging in there to get through  
8 all this information and I have to say this has been  
9 actually one of the best meetings for me because my  
10 phone did not actually drop this time. Last week it  
11 dropped five times. So I think technology is catching  
12 up.  
13

14 These have been pretty difficult times  
15 for all of us, even at OSM, dealing with the Covid19  
16 environment. Everyone pretty much is teleworking from  
17 home and that's just the way it is for now but we're  
18 doing the best we can. As you all know, the  
19 teleconferences are how all of the Regional Advisory  
20 Council meetings are being held this fall. This  
21 decision was made with the utmost consideration and  
22 concern for the health and safety of Council members,  
23 their families, rural communities, the public, and all  
24 Staff who are all part of the Council meetings. The  
25 health and safety of everyone is the highest priority.  
26

27 The Regional Advisory Councils remain  
28 the foundation of Alaska's Federal Subsistence  
29 Management Program and we do recognize that holding the  
30 face to face Council meetings in rural communities  
31 across Alaska is preferable for engaging the public  
32 most effectively, and we hope to be able to return to  
33 that as soon as possible. We are fully committed to  
34 resuming person to person Council meetings as soon as  
35 possible, when it is safe to do so.  
36

37 We've also had a number of Staff  
38 changes at OSM over this past few months since we last  
39 met. The following Staff changes have occurred  
40 beginning with -- I'll start with Tom Doolittle.  
41

42 Tom Doolittle, he is our former acting  
43 Assistant Regional Director and Deputy Assistant  
44 Regional Director. Tom has basically held the acting  
45 position for close to three years, I believe, and he is  
46 retiring this fall. We're going to hate to see him  
47 leave, probably no one more than me. He's been a good  
48 mentor to me and I've really enjoyed working with Tom.  
49 He's headed out to the happy hunting grounds, he's been  
50

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1 doing a lot of hunting this fall already and he'll be  
2 heading back home in Wisconsin in short order here.

3  
4 Most of you know by now that we do have  
5 a new Assistant Regional Director, that is Sue  
6 Detwiler. And Sue is -- she's got a fair amount of  
7 knowledge and experience with OSM from the early days  
8 and we are doing our best to bring her up to speed in  
9 these modern times with all the many changes that have  
10 taken place since the Program's inception.

11  
12 Most of you remember Chris McKee, he  
13 was the OSM wildlife division leader. He took a  
14 position with the.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,  
21 Greg.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, goodness, did he  
28 get cut off.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Right during  
31 his presentation.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: No kidding.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So he'll probably  
36 call back in in a couple seconds.

37  
38 So in the interim until he comes back  
39 I've identified one more annual report topic that I  
40 would like to put on the list after discussion with the  
41 BLM about this guide issue.

42  
43 The annual report topic should be that  
44 the BLM promised a guide use permitting process to  
45 select guides on BLM lands if the State of Alaska did  
46 not implement a guide use permitting process from State  
47 and BLM lands. Well, they didn't. The State didn't do  
48 it. They haven't done it for several years now. And  
49 BLM needs to develop a guide use permitting process

50



1 that's mirrored like the National Park Service, Park  
2 Preserve permitting process for guides, and the Refuge  
3 permitting process, and guide use areas are delineated,  
4 guides, they compete for those, they make application  
5 for those and the highest going guides actually achieve  
6 those permits then they don't hunt all over the top of  
7 each other, and they're under specific allocation of  
8 resources in those areas  
9

10 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chair. I shouldn't  
11 have spoken when I did because I got dropped.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
14

15 MR. RISDAHL: So anyway.....  
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Could you hold on  
18 one second, Greg.  
19

20 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, yeah, you bet.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since you dropped  
23 off I started into an annual report topic and we'll  
24 pick you right back up again.  
25

26 MR. RISDAHL: Okay, sounds good.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this guide use  
29 area for the BLM lands is an important issue. Henri  
30 Bison, Regional Director in 2004 promised this Council  
31 that they would implement a guide use area if the State  
32 permitting process failed. And so the State permitting  
33 process has failed. We also have concerns about  
34 populations and the allocation of too much resources to  
35 the commercial uses because of the -- without  
36 consideration the -- the .810 analysis consideration of  
37 the subsistence users and the need for those resources  
38 on the BLM land.  
39

40 So that's basically an annual report  
41 topic that I would like to put on the list for our  
42 review at our winter meeting.  
43

44 So did you encapsulate that, Karen.  
45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 I sure did, thank you.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So since  
50

1 Greg's phone heard him say that it didn't drop him, it  
2 dropped him, so you're back on Greg, go right ahead.

3  
4 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman.  
5 That is just the strangest thing, I mean what a  
6 coincidence.

7  
8 (Laughter)  
9

10 MR. RISDAHL: Okay. I was just  
11 discussing our Staff changes.

12  
13 And I mentioned Tom Doolittle's  
14 leaving, Sue Detwiler is our new ARD. Chris McKee left  
15 to work for the Bureau of Land Management as the ISC  
16 person there, for that agency so that's a good thing,  
17 he's still working in subsistence.

18  
19 Suzanne Worker, she was one of our  
20 wildlife biologists, she took another position with the  
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Service  
22 Program down in Portland, Oregon.

23  
24 Lisa Maas, she's right now our only  
25 remaining biologist, but she's currently the acting OSM  
26 policy coordinator.

27  
28 We've also had some changes in the  
29 fisheries program.

30  
31 Frank Harris, he transferred to the  
32 Kenai Fisheries Field Office, but he will continue to  
33 work on subsistence and specifically in the Kuskokwim  
34 River area.

35  
36 Scott Ayers, another OSM fish  
37 biologist, he took a promotion and he has gone to work  
38 here at the Regional Office with the Wildlife and  
39 Sportfish Restoration Program.

40  
41 Fortunately we've also been able to  
42 hire two new fisheries biologist. You heard briefly  
43 from Jared Stone today. Jared did work for us before  
44 as a technician, but he's doing a great job, he was  
45 very familiar with the Program when we picked him up.  
46 And we've also hired Cory Graham, who is a fisheries  
47 biologist with both a Masters and Bachelors out of the  
48 University of Alaska-Fairbanks and had done a number of  
49 years, I think close to seven years of work before he

50

1 took a position down in California and we were able to  
2 bring him back just recently.

3  
4 We've also hired Sherry Gould as our  
5 third administrative assistant.

6  
7 And low and behold we've finally been  
8 able to hire a new supervisory anthropologist, Dr.  
9 Brent Vickers, who will begin sometime in December of  
10 this year. And that position has been vacant literally  
11 for three years so we are really really happy, pleased  
12 and excited to have Mr. Vickers coming to join us.

13  
14 A few policy changes I think you guys  
15 all know about, we'll just be briefly outlining these.

16  
17 The Federal Subsistence Board approved  
18 changes to the closure policy and the non-rural  
19 determination policy. The Councils have all been  
20 briefed on these in the past. The Board also approved  
21 revisions to the special action section of the tribal  
22 consultation implementation guidelines. These  
23 documents are available upon request as well as on the  
24 OSM website.

25  
26 We were asked to remind the Councils  
27 this year that the Real IDs are going to be required,  
28 at least that's the way it appears to -- it's been  
29 postponed from October 2020 to October 1st, 2021. So  
30 we've all gotten a bit of a reprieve, but those things  
31 will be needed in order for Council members to travel,  
32 if we ever do start going to villages and stuff again.

33  
34 You've all heard a little bit about the  
35 lawsuit, even at this meeting. Today we have a short  
36 update that we ran past our Solicitor's Office that we  
37 will share with you here.

38  
39 On August 10th, the State of Alaska  
40 filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board  
41 after it adopted emergency Special Action WSA19-14.  
42 This special action allowed the village of Kake in the  
43 Southeast to engage in a community harvest that  
44 included two antlered moose and five male Sitka  
45 blacktail deer. Also included in the lawsuit was  
46 Temporary Special Action WSA20-03, which closed Federal  
47 public lands in Units 13A and B to non-Federally-  
48 qualified moose and caribou hunters.

49  
50

1                   As part of the lawsuit the State asked  
2 the court to issue two preliminary injunctions, one to  
3 prevent the Unit 13 closure from taking effect, and the  
4 other vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board  
5 from allowing any additional emergency hunts related to  
6 the impacts of Covid19. And as I believe Carol Damberg  
7 mentioned, that's still up in the air and that will  
8 probably be discussed for some time. Anyway, on  
9 September 18th, the U.S. District Court denied the  
10 State's request for a preliminary injunction on the  
11 Unit 13 closure. The Court found that because the  
12 State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of  
13 success or serious questions on the merits of its  
14 claims. The Court need not consider the remaining  
15 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

16  
17                   As of this writing, the Court has not  
18 yet ruled on the request enjoining the Kake hunt or the  
19 adoption of other Covid19-related emergency actions  
20 related to food security. A ruling on the preliminary  
21 injunction does not resolve litigation. Barring a  
22 settlement with the State, the questions raised by the  
23 State concerning the Board's authority to take these  
24 actions will be argued over the coming months. The  
25 Solicitor's Office estimates that the briefings should  
26 be complete by late winter or spring of 2021 and the  
27 Court will issue its decision in early summer.

28  
29                   And that is essentially all that we can  
30 comment on based on the legal guidance that we have  
31 been given.

32  
33                   Last but not least, most of you all  
34 have heard by now that the wildlife rules just last  
35 week were approved and they will be published --  
36 actually I heard that they were going to be published  
37 this week, I don't know if they've come out yet, I  
38 haven't seen anything on that.

39  
40                   Anyway, thank you all again for the  
41 hard work that you've done for the rural users of  
42 Alaska and stay well and hope to see you soon.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
45 Greg. That's quite a bit. Any questions for Greg  
46 about OSM internal workings and the litigation and et  
47 cetera.

48  
49                   (No comments)

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will comment as a  
2 Regional Council member and a subsistence user. It was  
3 confusing as to the Federal Subsistence Board passing  
4 regulatory changes that were not published and actually  
5 applied during the hunting season from July 1 until  
6 now, that's like months into the hunting season. In  
7 the future it would be good to send out like an  
8 addendum or a cheat sheet or something that tells the  
9 subsistence users that there are no subsistence  
10 regulations, changes at this time, and use the old book  
11 of '19/20 regulations.

12  
13                   If this happens again, can that be done  
14 to the subsistence users themselves.

15  
16                   MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chair, this is Greg.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Greg.

19  
20                   MR. RISDAHL: I don't see any reason  
21 why we could not do that.

22  
23                   Karen, have you got any thoughts on  
24 that?

25  
26                   (Teleconference interference -  
27 participants not muted)

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting bleed  
30 over, somebody's not on mute.

31  
32                   MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This  
33 is Greg Risdahl again. I don't see any reason why we  
34 could not do that and it certainly seems likely that it  
35 will happen again. We could send out a.....

36  
37                   (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39  
40                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, Don, is that you,  
41 this is Karen. Don, can you mute your phone.

42  
43                   (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, mute your  
47 phone.

48  
49                   MR. HONEA: Yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mute your phone.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Oh, yeah, okay, are we  
4 almost done?

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, we're almost  
7 done.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Yeah, because I've been  
10 changing phones because mine ran out of juice and I had  
11 to get another one and so bear with us, uh.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yep,  
14 understandable.

15

16 So, Greg, you were stating that it's  
17 most likely to occur that the regulatory changes  
18 adopted by the Board will -- they did not apply but yet  
19 the emergency closure to non-subsistence users in 13  
20 did, that was where I got confused.

21

22 MR. RISDAHL: Okay, yes, Mr. Chairman,  
23 I thought you were asking about OSM sending out a  
24 letter to the Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I did say that.

27

28 MR. RISDAHL: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I'm also  
31 confused by actions taken by the Board that applied and  
32 then did not apply.

33

34 MR. RISDAHL: Yes. So I'll just read  
35 this again real carefully.

36

37 The Court ruled that the request to  
38 enjoin the Kake hunt or the adoption of the other  
39 Covid-related emergency actions -- wait a minute -- has  
40 not yet ruled on those, so they're just sitting out  
41 there in limbo. And the U.S. District Court did deny  
42 the State's request for a preliminary injunction on the  
43 Unit 13 closure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it was my  
46 understanding from the news media, that the Federal  
47 Board sided with Ahtna to close Unit 13A and B,  
48 whatever it was, to non-subsistence users and that  
49 applied, and non-subsistence users could not hunt

50

1 there. Correct? This year?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a lot of  
6 people -- as far as I could tell that Federal  
7 Subsistence Board action was enforced.

8

9 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, that's the way I  
10 recall it too now, is that the Unit 13A and B closure  
11 did take effect.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So what my  
14 question is, why didn't the actions of the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board on all regulatory proposals, why  
16 don't they take effect. They have to be published,  
17 there's a different Federal Register published, publish  
18 or approval process through the Interior Department,  
19 the Interior Department approved the 13 closure but  
20 they didn't approve the regulations. That's where I'm  
21 unclear.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
24 Karen.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think there's two  
29 different issues. The issues that the State had were  
30 with special actions that were taken for food security  
31 purposes, I believe. Whereas the issue of the  
32 regulations being noticed in the Federal Register is an  
33 issue of simple delay versus involvement with the legal  
34 process.

35

36 Am I correct in saying that Greg. I  
37 thought they were two different issues.

38

39 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, they are definitely  
40 two different issues.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.

43

44 MR. RISDAHL: And so.....

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, because that's  
47 the issue, Jack -- I think we've had some delays in the  
48 past of getting Federal Register notices in the  
49 regulations and I think that's where we are now, but

50

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1 the issue with special actions, the information I sent  
2 you allowed for 13, the community of Kake, and the  
3 issues at that location have not yet been resolved; am  
4 I correct in that Greg?

5  
6 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, that's -- like I  
7 said it's kind of sitting out there in limbo right now,  
8 the food security Covid-related hunt, that has not been  
9 resolved at this point.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I understand  
12 that part. But I'm confused -- I'm still confused as  
13 to why 13 non-subsistence uses was implemented  
14 immediately, and the regulatory changes were not  
15 implemented immediately.

16  
17 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

20  
21 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa, I can answer  
22 that if you'd like.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, answer that.

25  
26 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Lisa.

27  
28 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Lisa Maas for the  
29 record. And the Unit 13 closure was a special action  
30 and so this is an out of cycle temporary regulation  
31 change and the Board acted on that in July and special  
32 actions do not require publication in the Federal  
33 Register.

34  
35 All the regulations that were adopted  
36 in April, are the, quote, permanent regulations, that  
37 require publication in the Federal Register.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40  
41 MS. MAAS: So the difference was a  
42 special action request versus, quote, permanent  
43 regulation changes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Understand  
46 now. Thanks so much, Lisa, appreciate that.

47  
48 MS. MAAS: Yep.

49  
50



1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Lisa.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further  
4 questions or comments for Greg on that OSM report.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, we'll  
9 move.....

10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: I have one Jack.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead, Tim.

14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Hi, Greg, this is Tim  
16 Gervais. I don't know how much of our meeting you  
17 heard. We have an issue where one of our members had  
18 put in an application a year ago and it didn't get  
19 processed and we've had a big back log with getting our  
20 other seats filled, I think we have three vacant seats  
21 not counting this application in question. Is there  
22 anything that can be done from your position to  
23 maintain the eligibility to remain on the Council, that  
24 application that -- Tommy Kriska's application was, for  
25 whatever reason, was not processed?

26  
27 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Mr. Gervais.  
28 Through the Chair, this is Greg Risdahl. I have been  
29 pretty much been on this entire meeting except for the  
30 few minutes when my phone finally got cut off.

31  
32 But to be honest, yes, so I definitely  
33 heard that discussion. I don't know the answer to  
34 that, and there may be people better able to respond to  
35 your question. But I do know that once the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board approves the list of nominations it  
37 goes up to the Secretary's Offices, and what goes on up  
38 there, we're really not privy to. So that's what  
39 caused so much trouble last year and we tried lots of  
40 different things to try to push that through and in the  
41 end there were some additional appointments made. But  
42 as far as a situation where an application is lost or  
43 misplaced or somehow doesn't find its way to the  
44 Secretary I'm not sure how that will be handled.  
45 Somebody else may have a better idea, I simply cannot  
46 answer that question. I don't know what kind of  
47 exceptions might be made to allow that appointment to  
48 go through the rest of the process.

49  
50

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1 Lisa, do you have any ideas on that?

2

3 MS. MAAS: Thanks, Greg. No, I would  
4 agree with you that -- I mean to be honest it's just  
5 kind of a black box once they go to D.C., and why or  
6 how they determine who to appoint and not is like Greg  
7 said, is not information that OSM is privy to.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is, can  
10 Tommy act as an alternate?

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, I can  
13 answer that, Jack.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
18 Deatherage. Unfortunately, alternates were not  
19 approved for filling vacancies. So let's go through  
20 the scenario that an exception is not made for Mr.  
21 Kriska's application and there is an additional vacancy  
22 on the Council, no alternate could fill any of the four  
23 vacancies that are currently on there. The only seat  
24 that an alternate can fill is if after -- or even  
25 between now and December 2nd, somebody had to drop off  
26 the Council or heaven forbid passed away, then an  
27 alternate could step in. And so it does -- alternates  
28 have limitations on what they can fill or not.

29

30 As far as going into any exception and  
31 what or will not happen with that, I can assure you at  
32 this point, that at OSM, anyway, we do not have the  
33 capacity to make that decision, we can only put forth  
34 the request, as you guys have asked us to do, in a  
35 letter, to make that exception on behalf of Member  
36 Kriska. But we are not, as a Staff, in a position to  
37 remark or assume any kind of action by the Secretary's  
38 Office with respect to these nominations. But we will  
39 put a letter forth and act on behalf of the Council to  
40 try to get an exception made.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,  
47 understand. So appreciate that clarification, Karen.  
48 Any other questions or comments, Tim.

49

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: No.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've  
4 covered -- anybody else, for OSM.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So closing comments  
9 from the Regional Council, we're coming down with  
10 adjournment. So we'll start with closing comments  
11 starting with Jenny, you want to give a closing  
12 comment.

13  
14 MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. Just before that  
15 I was going to say that our charter, we have a charter  
16 on the back and on Page 189 it talks about the  
17 alternate members. So if we can just look at it.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20  
21 MRS. PELKOLA: I think that was what  
22 Karen was talking about. Do you see it, Jack, it's in  
23 your meeting book.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I see it. I  
26 see our charter, I'm looking for the alternate  
27 discussion.

28  
29 MRS. PELKOLA: 189 right on the top  
30 almost.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Oh, yeah, I  
33 see it now. Go ahead, Jenny.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I think the key  
36 word for that, is if they occur out of the cycle, this  
37 vacancy by Member Kriska is not occurring outside of  
38 the cycle because he is still on the Council until the  
39 next cycle, which effectively begins December 2nd.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42  
43 MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. Okay, thank you,  
44 I just wanted to bring that up.

45  
46 But anyway my closing remarks are I'd  
47 just like to thank our tribe for allowing me to use  
48 their office to call in. And on that same note, if we  
49 do have to meet by teleconference again, maybe, somehow

50

1 we can get speaker phones to borrow or whatever, I'm  
2 sure there's lots around out there somewhere.

3  
4 And I forgot to put this in my opening  
5 remarks that there were -- people were telling me that  
6 there's increase of grizzly bears, more so than ever.

7  
8 And also I didn't get to say that our  
9 berries, we didn't have blueberries and lowbush  
10 cranberries in our area, some places. We did find some  
11 blueberries, but no lowbush. So some of the people  
12 here in Galena are hurting for lowbush cranberries.

13  
14 And I'm very concerned about the  
15 continuation of our fish, and I would just like to urge  
16 everyone to take only what you need and, you know,  
17 don't overfish until we can get more fish back. Maybe  
18 we'll just have to share, we'll have to do without, but  
19 -- and also there's other fish like whitefish and all  
20 this fall fish that we could use.

21  
22 We talked -- when we were talking about  
23 the annual report, you were talking about what to put  
24 in there and I know you talked about the appointments  
25 of the Council members and then you dropped off, so  
26 what happened, did we get cut off or -- the next thing  
27 I knew we were talking about something else so I didn't  
28 hear that, but anyway.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you like to  
31 address that Karen.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Jenny, I'm not sure what section but we have three  
35 items in the annual report. The Council has three  
36 items, the first is dealing with the Council  
37 appointment issue. The second is dealing with the high  
38 water mark. And the third is dealing with the BLM and  
39 hunting guide permitting process and guide use area and  
40 guide use program.

41  
42 So those are the three that I have  
43 right now.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we also have  
46 the.....

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: So this is a draft  
49 annual report that will be finalized and moved on by  
50

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1 the Council at their winter meeting. So we will first  
2 draft it and then provide this to you at the winter  
3 cycle meeting.

4  
5 MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. Okay, thank you.  
6 I was just -- I just missed that whole part and Jack  
7 was just talking there and getting all steamed up and  
8 it was getting interesting and then we got cut off.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's okay, I  
11 captured it all and we'll go ahead and include this in  
12 the annual report.

13  
14 MRS. PELKOLA: Okay. I just want to  
15 thank the Council for sitting, you know, all day in the  
16 meeting. It's pretty hard, you have to get up and walk  
17 around. And I know how it is to call on a cell phone,  
18 so I didn't want to call on my phone or hold my phone  
19 all day, but thanks to all of you and hopefully our  
20 next meeting will be in person.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
23 your diligence and staying on the call also, Jenny, and  
24 your participation.

25  
26 Goodwin, did you want to have a closing  
27 comment.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there  
32 Goodwin.

33  
34 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

37  
38 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, thanks to everybody  
39 for being here and listening in.

40  
41 Yeah, there was a lot of bears, a lot  
42 of bear problems in Kaltag here too, they were coming  
43 into town so I guess there must have been some  
44 problems. There wasn't just brown -- black bears,  
45 there was brown bears too. I guess there was hardly  
46 any fish going back to the creeks. That's what I  
47 noticed. Hardly no black ducks coming down this year,  
48 I seen a bunch but not as much. Not as much ducks as  
49 there used to be.

50

1 And are you guys still there?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we're here,  
4 keep talking, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay. Okay, yeah, it got  
7 quiet so I enjoyed the meeting and listening and thanks  
8 for everything.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
11 staying on the call there, Goodwin, you stuck it out  
12 real well on this one and have a great fall and early  
13 winter.

14

15 MR. SEMAKEN: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tommy are you  
18 still there?

19

20 MR. KRISKA: Yep, still here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, you got a  
23 closing comment.

24

25 MR. KRISKA: Well, let me see, I  
26 apologize to Bob a little bit, if he's still there, a  
27 little bit about getting a little forward today but  
28 other words everything on that part is good.

29

30 I heard Jenny say that they were  
31 missing berries, and I was told by my Uncle Roger that  
32 when the water is really high and when the water in the  
33 spring went up higher than when the berries are,  
34 normally the berries won't grow back that year and if  
35 the water went up over where those blueberries are and  
36 the cranberries, those berries won't grow back. You  
37 have to look above that -- wherever that water line is  
38 that year and then you'll find some. But I was looking  
39 around and I found that to be true. Because around my  
40 camp there's a lot of blueberries but where that high  
41 water went there was nothing. We found other places  
42 where there was an abundance. But anyway and that  
43 part.

44

45 And the fishing, like some of them  
46 said, take only what you need, and it was kind of hard  
47 to even do that last summer. But the different fish,  
48 and fishing methods have to be thought about and looked  
49 at in your areas, I guess, on the high water at the

50

1 time.

2

3

4 The moose, like I said, last year  
5 yearlings a lot of them were not there but this year  
6 there were a lot of new yearlings, hopefully they don't  
7 wind up being lost like last year but we never know  
8 about the winter and how the snow will be.

9

10 And the grizzly bears, there's quite a  
11 few of them around. I know in our area, we try to  
12 manage that and even though we thought we did a good  
13 job, there's still a bunch out there that are still  
14 causing problems right now in the fall and I don't like  
15 them when they're coming around in the fall time with  
16 the cubs because that means, you know, they're just  
17 gong to hang around and going to be there first thing  
18 in the spring again.

19

20 But in other words, the Council, I  
21 enjoy being on the Council and hopefully that's  
22 something that will get resolved or somehow magically I  
23 wind up right back on the Council. Didn't mean to get  
24 off, if I knew that I would have went back and filled  
25 out another application but I know I did fill one out  
26 while I was in there, and what happened, it's lost I  
27 guess. But anyway I'm still here and I still have my  
28 concerns and hopefully be here for the longrun if I can  
29 and anything with the people of Alaska. I say the  
30 people of Alaska because we're all here together,  
31 Native, non-Natives, we do all this -- the regulations  
32 and all right, and things like that, I think everything  
33 will work out, when you start fighting about things  
34 it's not going to go anywhere.

35

36 So hopefully the agencies and everybody  
37 up above us can see our way of living and consider it  
38 and, you know, I respect the way they live and they're  
39 all from subsistence users too, and hopefully, you  
40 know, they put a note in their books on that so that  
41 it'll be a little easier for us.

42

43 But, anyway, I better -- I can talk all  
44 day, but -- I'm okay with the way the meeting went and  
45 in some ways, let's keep in touch and if I get back on,  
46 I get back on, and if not then I'll just apply later.

47

48 But, anyway, thank you for your time,  
49 and thank GCI because this is the first time my phone  
50 never went off for 16 hours so usually drop calls, drop

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1 calls, drop calls, and then I don't know why it stayed  
2 on but anyway thank you guys so much, all of you.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
7 sticking in there Tommy. We hope that they make an  
8 exception to maintain you on this Council, we need you  
9 on here pretty bad. You got your hand on the pulse of  
10 the lower Koyukuk and middle Yukon area there.

11  
12 So, Don, do you want to give a final  
13 comment.

14  
15 MR. HONEA: For myself?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, to you.

18  
19 MR. HONEA: Yeah, yeah, okay. Well, I  
20 can't top Tommy there, I mean he took all my ideas,  
21 everything I was going to say.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. HONEA: But I actually appreciate  
26 everybody for having to put up with this thing. Like I  
27 said, I had to change up my phones a couple times so I  
28 appreciate everybody hanging in there and the input. I  
29 think we sometimes get more input maybe just.....

30  
31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted)

33  
34 MR. HONEA: Is somebody talking?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hey, Tommy, do you  
37 want to mute out now.

38  
39 MR. KRISKA: Okay.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Okay. But, anyway, I think  
42 sometimes we get -- this has turned out better than I  
43 expected even though it's taken a lot of time, personal  
44 time away from me, I have things to do, even as I hang  
45 up the phone here, but I have to kind of reiterate what  
46 cousin Jenny said there, too, also about the fishing  
47 and my cousin Tom also mentioned it, that we have to  
48 conserve. I mean even if I'm on the InterTribal Fish  
49 Commission, I've been kind of harping on that, we have  
50



1 to conserve. I know, even our leaders, I mean I'm  
2 going to be vocal about it. You know, we see abuse in  
3 this system here. So I think that we should take the  
4 lead on this and really, really do some conserving  
5 there. Because I mean to me it's really ironic that  
6 we've always been -- I mean in the past we've even  
7 taken steps to -- like I mentioned, to eliminate  
8 fishing for the chinook, for the kings, and it's just  
9 the irony of it, we always depended on the summer and  
10 fall chum and it's still -- it's just baffling what the  
11 heck happened.

12  
13 So anyway I appreciate each of you and  
14 for putting up with all of us and, you know, a big  
15 concern I'd still like to see the Kusko and Innoko,  
16 those areas represented.

17  
18 So all right, thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so  
21 much for sticking it out, Don, always appreciate your  
22 input.

23  
24 Tim Gervais.

25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 This is Tim Gervais. I'd like to thank everybody on  
28 the Council and the agency Staff for working with us on  
29 the teleconference. I know it's probably hard to hear  
30 what we're saying or have to wait for us to mute or  
31 unmute, but anyway I appreciate it. The end goal is to  
32 keep maintaining a healthy subsistence economy in the  
33 Western Interior Region and that's really more  
34 important than all of our own inconveniences for  
35 dealing with the Covid and the social distancing.

36  
37 I appreciate agencies working together,  
38 Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G working on the  
39 Mulchatna Caribou, Yukon fish, Kuskokwim fish, working  
40 with the InterTribal Fish Commission, I realize maybe  
41 there's different agendas that are happening and  
42 different personalities but even though it might not  
43 enjoy making a compromise or work with somebody, it's  
44 what I think -- the more people that are collaborating  
45 on these projects the better it is overall for the  
46 result.

47  
48 I feel that if we can't retain Tommy  
49 it's going to be a big detriment to our Council so I  
50

1 hope some creative thinking can occur so we can keep  
2 him active in the Western Interior Council.

3  
4 I've seen incidences in the course of  
5 this meeting, we have commercial fishing happening and  
6 I don't feel that commercial fishing should occur when  
7 escapement's not being met, or when subsistence needs  
8 aren't being met. Thinking about the Goodnews Bay  
9 fishery, I'm not particularly convinced with the  
10 ADF&G's manager's, what's it called -- it's called a  
11 theory that none of the fish caught in that fishery in  
12 the Goodnews Bay are not bound for the main stem of the  
13 Kuskokwim River. So we need to do more thinking and  
14 research on that and make sure that we're not  
15 supporting the commercial fishery when we have the low  
16 run strength on the chinook and the chum salmon on the  
17 Kuskokwim. And then as I was looking at some of the  
18 other information on the Kuskokwim overall, and the  
19 Yukon overall, it's still a glaring reality that  
20 neither of these Kuskokwim or Yukon mainstem king  
21 fisheries have been healthy since the inception of the  
22 BSAI trawl fishery and I think I should put together  
23 some information with the pertinent points and I'll  
24 probably suggest at our winter meeting that that goes  
25 back on the annual report. Because we -- there's not  
26 enough fish to spare to give them that bycatch that was  
27 legalized and I think we need to -- I know a lot of  
28 people are tired of hearing about it, they're tired of  
29 hearing me talk about it but once, again, I don't feel  
30 if subsistence needs are not being met, escapement's  
31 not being met, why do we have these -- lose these fish  
32 in the bycatch in a commercial fishery, it's not the  
33 way it's supposed to work.

34  
35 I would like to clarify for the record  
36 a few times during the meeting researchers and  
37 research, that some of this research was coming out of  
38 Washington State University, that's unlikely, it's most  
39 likely University of Washington, their Fisheries  
40 Research Institute in Seattle is the school that works  
41 and does a lot of research on the Alaskan fisheries,  
42 you know, the Federal fisheries or that are abutting up  
43 to Alaska.

44  
45 So let's see a few times during the  
46 meeting, Jack and myself have sounded critical of  
47 ADF&G, sounded too aggressively or too critically, or  
48 not -- let me restart that -- too aggressively -- too  
49 much harvest opportunity and I would like to state that  
50

1 we support all the work that ADF&G does, we support  
2 those people being career managers, we need that kind  
3 of continuity and expertise into the management  
4 process, we are just trying to point out that -- I  
5 don't know exactly where it comes from because we're  
6 not in that organization, but maybe it's from the  
7 Dunleavy Administration, maybe it's from the  
8 Commissioner of ADF&G, or whatever, but we keep saying  
9 subsistence needs aren't being met, stocks are not  
10 being met, escapements are not being met, they need to  
11 back off of the aggressive harvesting and get the,  
12 whatever it is, fish or animal stocks in a healthier  
13 population than they currently are. So I hope those  
14 people can just listen to our comments and understand,  
15 we're just trying to promote healthy game populations  
16 and good opportunity for subsistence users and not  
17 being critical of their work or their theories, we're  
18 just trying to say what we're here on the Council to  
19 do, and that's promote subsistence and to promote  
20 healthy populations.

21  
22 The two special action request items,  
23 like Kuskokwim River on the chum salmon and Koyukuk and  
24 the other villages on trying to get additional moose  
25 harvest, I would like those parties who put in those  
26 special action requests to not take that personally,  
27 the Federal Subsistence Board is trying to work within  
28 whatever legal framework they're set up with and to  
29 operate with and so don't give up on the system or feel  
30 like you're being prejudiced against by these special  
31 action requests not being put through but just stay  
32 active with it, stay open with good communication and  
33 thank you for expressing your frustration with those  
34 special action requests not being granted.

35  
36 That's all I have for right now.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate all those  
41 words, Tim. I do feel that this Council's primary job  
42 is to work towards a healthy -- and you've coined the  
43 phrase, healthy subsistence economy, which is healthy  
44 populations of fish and wildlife using recognized  
45 scientific principles, that's actually what the statute  
46 says. And the Federal agencies need to understand,  
47 they're under a Federal Congressional mandate to  
48 maintain that and this Council is working for  
49 conservation, most of the time, we also work for the

50

1 subsistence users so that they have a priority use when  
2 needed to maintain their subsistence needs.

3  
4 So I agree with everything you say  
5 there.

6  
7 I misstated the Washington State  
8 whatever, there's fisheries -- a lot of documentation  
9 of Alaskan Fisheries and Bering Sea Fisheries with the  
10 universities in Washington, whatever they are and I'm  
11 bad with names, sorry about that Tim.

12  
13 So I do want to have this Council give  
14 a condolence to Pollock Simon, if Karen could transmit  
15 a condolence from this Council about this daughter,  
16 Sheryl, passing away and his not being able to be at  
17 this meeting.

18  
19 Jenny's exactly right, I had to borrow  
20 a speaker phone from the visitor center, Karen used to  
21 work there she remembered they had some. But the  
22 Councils, if they're going to have a meeting on the  
23 telephone, I have to have a speaker phone, and I  
24 plugged it into my landline, I'm sitting on my couch,  
25 tied to this phone, but at least I'm not holding a cell  
26 phone in my hand and the stupid thing's going dead all  
27 the time, I'm not sure what kind of a phone Tommy's  
28 got, but it's got a bullet-proof battery, that's for  
29 sure, so we do need -- the OSM should -- if you're  
30 going to contemplate having conference call meetings  
31 with the Regional Councils, Regional Councils should be  
32 provided with a speaker phone, I don't have one and I  
33 think that the Council members -- the travel savings is  
34 phenomenal by not having a face to face meeting, at  
35 least OSM can buy a gross -- a pallet of speaker phones  
36 to send out to the.....

37  
38 MR. HONEA: Yes.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....110 Council  
41 members that are having to deal with this phone issue.

42  
43 So I appreciate all the work that Karen  
44 does on a daily basis to maintain our Council's  
45 paperwork and so forth. I really appreciate OSM  
46 assistance, they usually have an answer within seconds  
47 of when we're asking specific questions, and so I'm  
48 happy to hear that the OSM Staff is increasing to  
49 provide for the overall Subsistence Program. I feel  
50

1 that we go to all this trouble to go to these meetings  
2 and get these regulations pass at least the Secretary  
3 of Interior should approve their arm, the Federal  
4 Subsistence Board's regulatory changes and have those  
5 published on time.  
6

7 I appreciate all the Federal agencies  
8 and State agencies that attend our meetings on the  
9 phone, and if we telegraph what kind of information we  
10 need, Mulchatna Caribou, Yukon Kuskokwim fish, what we  
11 need they provide that information, which helps us make  
12 good management decisions. So I really appreciate the  
13 State and Federal agencies and OSM providing that  
14 information to these Councils so that we can make  
15 informed decisions and proper comments regarding those.  
16

17 And I appreciate all of the Council  
18 members on this call and at all of our meetings, the  
19 information that these Council members have is integral  
20 on managing the fish and wildlife within the Western  
21 Interior region.  
22

23 So I'm up for reappointment in  
24 December, don't know what's going to happen there so  
25 I'm hoping that I'm reappointed, I've made application  
26 but we'll see what happens.  
27

28 And at this point that's my final  
29 comments so thanks so much.  
30

31 Any further comments from the Council.  
32

33 (No comments)  
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if not the Chair  
36 will entertain a motion to adjourn.  
37

38 MRS. PELKOLA: So moved, this is Jenny.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny to  
41 adjourn.  
42

43 MR. HONEA: Second, Don.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
46 Roll call, Karen.  
47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Donald Honea.  
49  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, what do you want --  
2 oh, yeah, yeah, yes, go ahead.  
3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.  
5  
6 Jack Reakoff.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tommy Kriska.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Timothy Gervais.  
15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
17  
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Jenny Pelkola.  
19  
20 MRS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.  
23  
24 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.  
25  
26 MR. KRISKA: Yes.  
27  
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: And then we'll go back  
29 to see if Tommy's on, Tommy Kriska, the motion to  
30 adjourn.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Maybe his phone  
35 finally died.  
36  
37 MR. HONEA: Okay, all right, you guys  
38 we'll see you in McGrath, is that the next place?  
39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: The next meeting is  
41 actually scheduled for Fairbanks.  
42  
43 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay.  
44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And -- oh, go ahead.  
48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: I also wanted to thank  
50

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1 everybody, and, particularly Jack for a great job and  
2 to the Council and the presenters for a relatively  
3 flawless teleconference considering what could have  
4 happened, I think it went really well. And I'd like to  
5 offer a special thank you to our elders for enduring a  
6 two day teleconference, I know it's really challenging  
7 to be on the phone that long. And last but not least I  
8 would like to express my deep sympathies to Pollock  
9 Simon for his recent loss and I will go ahead and pass  
10 along the condolences from the Council. And I'd like  
11 to say take care everyone and wear a mask and stay  
12 healthy.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stay healthy and  
19 great meeting, we are adjourned.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

24

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