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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Telephonic
February 17, 2021
9:07 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jenny Pelkola, Acting Chair
Don Honea
Goodwin Semaken
Pollock Simon

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

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

2

3 (Telephonic - 2/17/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Three of the four
8 seated members are present and we can proceed with the
9 meeting. I would like to -- this is Karen Deatherage
10 with the Office of Subsistence Management. First of
11 all I'd like to welcome everybody to the call and thank
12 everybody for their patience as we work through these
13 teleconferences. The most important thing is to
14 please, please mute your phone when you're not
15 speaking. This is very important as a lot of our rural
16 community members don't have good connections to begin
17 with and any disturbance in the background makes it
18 that much more difficult.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Also if you could --
24 yep, there's an example. So everybody could please
25 mute your phone when you're not speaking. When you are
26 speaking, whether you're a presenter or a Council
27 member, could you please state your name for the record
28 so that all the folks on the phone know who is
29 speaking. While we recognize some voices after our
30 teleconference experience, it's still hard to determine
31 who's speaking. And so we appreciate, again,
32 everybody's patience.

33

34 We have four seated members on this
35 Council and that situation can be addressed later, but
36 right now I'd like to invite anybody who would like to
37 give the invocation to do so, and then the Chair for
38 today's meeting is Jenny Pelkola of Galena, and she can
39 call the meeting to order.

40

41 Thank you, I'll turn it over.

42

43 Thanks.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don, can you say
46 the invocation.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Pardon me?

49

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1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Could you say
2 the invocation.

3
4 MR. HONEA: I could give it a whack.
5 Do you want me to go ahead?

6
7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

8
9 (Invocation)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
12 Don.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Sure.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, we'll call
17 this meeting to order at 9:07. Karen, could you do
18 that, please.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
21 Chair. I'd be more than happy to.

22
23 Donald Honea, Jr.

24
25 MR. HONEA: Here.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

28
29 MR. SIMON: Here.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Goodwin Semaken.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: And, Jenny Pelkola.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Here.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. Three of the four seated members are present
45 and, therefore, a quorum is established.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
48 Good morning, everyone. This is my first time doing
49 this so I hope you will bear with me. Welcome to Jack
50

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1 and Tim and the rest of the Council members who are on,
2 and the rest of the -- from the Office of Subsistence
3 Management. Okay, let's see, review -- okay, adopt --
4 I'd like to -- is there anything else to add to the
5 agenda, or anything else, Karen.

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
8 Chair. What I might suggest is you go ahead and do
9 welcome and introductions, and then the next section
10 would be to approve the agenda, and, yes, I do have
11 some additions for the Council to consider.

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
14 Chair.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
17 So would you please introduce yourself and, Karen,
18 could you take the names down please.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, absolutely,
21 Madame Chair, thank you.

22
23 MR. BLIHOVDE: Good morning. This is
24 Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager at Yukon Delta National
25 Wildlife Refuge.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff in Wiseman,
28 public member.

29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald
31 Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
32 Fairbanks.

33
34 MR. GUSSE: Good morning. This is
35 Walker Gusse with the Bureau of Land Management out of
36 Anchorage, law enforcement.

37
38 MS. MORAN: This is Tina Moran, Deputy
39 Manager for Kanuti Refuge.

40
41 MS. FOX: This is Joanna Fox, Refuge
42 Manager, Kanuti Refuge.

43
44 MR. GRAHAM: This is Cory Graham,
45 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
46 Management.

47
48 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, this is Catherine
49 Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
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1 Association.

2

3 MR. REBARCHIK: Good morning. This is
4 Bob Rebarchik, Refuge Manager for the
5 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuges out of Galena.

6

7 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is
8 Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game. Currently the acting summer season manager for
10 the Yukon.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Could you
13 please repeat that. And I know this is really hard,
14 probably one of the hardest things of the meeting is to
15 get introductions down, so could the person from Fish
16 and Game please repeat that.

17

18 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, no problem. This is
19 Deena Jallen currently the Acting Summer Season manager
20 for the Yukon.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, thanks, Deena.

23

24 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is
25 Serena Fitka, Executive Director for the Yukon River
26 Drainage Fisheries Association.

27

28 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
29 the Office of Subsistence Management.

30

31 MR. CAMERON: And this is Matt Cameron,
32 Wildlife Biologist with National Park Service in
33 Fairbanks.

34

35 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. Bruce Seppi,
36 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

37

38 MS. MILLION: Good morning. This is
39 Bonnie Million. I'm the Field Manager for the
40 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

41

42 MS. JULIANIES: This is Erin Julianies,
43 Wildlife Biologist for the BLM Central Yukon Field
44 Office in Fairbanks.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is
47 Vince Mathews with Kanuti, Arctic and Yukon Flats in
48 wonderful Fairbanks. Thanks.

49

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1 MR. WHITWORTH: Good morning. This is
2 Kevin Whitworth with Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
3 Commission here in McGrath.

4
5 MR. MOSES: This is Aaron Moses,
6 Subsistence Coordinator, Yukon Delta.

7
8 MR. ROWE: Good morning. This is Eric
9 Rowe from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else from
12 Tanana Chiefs.

13
14 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, good morning, this
15 is Ben Stevens. And I work with the Task Force, Tanana
16 Chiefs, from Stevens Village, working in Fairbanks.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, thank you, Ben.
19 Kind of get a little bit of order here. Let me try,
20 anybody else from the National Wildlife Refuge system.

21
22 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, good morning. This
23 is Jeremy Havener with Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National
24 Wildlife Refuge.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else from the
27 National Wildlife Refuge System.

28
29 MR. HARWOOD: Good morning. This is
30 Chris Harwood, Biologist with Kanuti Refuge.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Chris.
33 Anybody else from the National Park Service.

34
35 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good morning. This is
36 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
37 Preserve.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Marcy.

40
41 MS. FLOREY: Hi, this is Victoria
42 Florey from the National Park Service here in
43 Anchorage.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Welcome, Victoria.

46
47 MS. FLOREY: Thank you.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else with.....
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1 MR. DEACY: This is Will Deacy,
2 Biologist with the National Park Service out of
3 Fairbanks.

4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hey, there, Will,
6 thanks. Anybody else from the National Park Service.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, let's go to BLM.
11 Anybody else from the BLM, I have Bruce and Bonnie and
12 Erin.

13
14 MR. GUSSE: And also Walker Gusse with
15 the BLM.

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, well, yes, Walker.
18 Thank you so much for being with us Walker.

19
20 MR. GUSSE: My pleasure.

21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: I've got Glenn Chen
23 from the BIA. Anybody else from the BIA.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else from the
28 Office of Subsistence Management.

29
30 MR. KRON: Good morning everybody.
31 Yeah, this is Tom Kron. I'll be the leadership team
32 rep for OSM for this meeting.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks Tom. So let's
35 go -- we have a couple folks from the Yukon Drainage
36 River -- oh, gosh, long day -- from YRDFA, anybody else
37 from YRDFA on the phone with us, Catherine and Serena.

38
39 MS. FITKA: No.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, great. We've
42 got Kevin Whitworth from the Kuskokwim River
43 InterTribal group. And we've got Eric Rowe and Ben
44 Stevens from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

45
46 MR. SIMON: Yeah, this is Jim Simon with
47 the Tanana Chiefs Conference Hunting and Fishing Task
48 Force, and the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
49 Commission.

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Fantastic, thanks,
2 Jim, welcome. Any public members.....

3
4 MS. SCHOMOGYI: This is Terese
5 Schomogyi with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
6 Commission. Good morning.

7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning. I've
9 got Jack Reakoff as a public member, any other public
10 members wish to introduce themselves that haven't done
11 so already.

12
13 MR. SEMAKEN: Goodwin Semaken, Kaltag.

14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, Goodwin. Hi
16 Goodwin, welcome.

17
18 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: So we have four of the
21 four seated members now on the phone for the Council.
22 And those are the folks I have on the phone right now,
23 did we miss anybody.

24
25 MS. GLEASON: Christy Gleason with Fish
26 and Game.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, what was
29 your name again.

30
31 MS. GLEASON: Christy Gleason.

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, Christy, great.
34 Welcome Christy.

35
36 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is
37 Holly Carroll with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
38 Yukon Subsistence Fishery Manager.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi there Holly with a
41 new hat.

42
43 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Ron Chythlook with Fish
44 and Game, Sportfish Division.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron, what's your last
47 name?

48
49 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Chythlook.

50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody else from Fish
2 and Game.

3
4 MR. BURCH: This is.....

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, good morning. This
7 is Brooke McDavid.....

8
9 MR. BURCH:Mark Burch with.....

10
11 MS. MCDAVID:with the Subsistence
12 Division in Fairbanks.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, Mark.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: It looks like we have
19 Mark Burch on the phone from Fish and Game. Anybody
20 else from Fish and Game.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, did I miss
25 anybody that didn't have an opportunity to introduce
26 themselves.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not I'd like
31 to.....

32
33 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair.

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, go ahead.

36
37 MS. PELTOLA: This is Mary Peltola from
38 the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission
39 listening in. Thank you.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks Mary, welcome.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA:" Thank you.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll turn it over to
46 Jenny Pelkola, Madame Chair, for the next agenda item.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

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ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you everyone and welcome again. And now I'd like to review and adopt the agenda. Do we have any additions to the agenda or deletions.

Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. And, yes, we do have some additions and clarifications for the agenda.

This morning we would like to add three Alaska Department of Fish and Game presentations to -- to actually move those from lower in the agenda to the before the call for wildlife proposals. Fish and Game and the Office of Subsistence Management believe it would be helpful to the Council to have the updates for various wildlife population issues brought forth before the call for proposals to help the Council determine if there's any type of proposal they wish to submit. So that would be the Mulchatna Caribou Herd update, a small game regulatory update, and the Kuskokwim River post-season survey update from the Subsistence Division. Then we'll move those up before the call for wildlife proposals on the agenda.

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Karen,
this is Jenny. Where are we moving to where?

MS. DEATHERAGE: Those three reports will be moved before -- under new business, Section 11, before the call for wildlife proposals.

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. And who are we -- who's going there?

MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Oh, okay.

MS. DEATHERAGE: They'll have three different reports to go ahead and present prior to the call for Federal wildlife proposals.

MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch. Could you repeat those reports, please, thank you.

MS. DEATHERAGE: The three I have,

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1 Mark, you're welcome -- through the Chair. The
2 Mulchatna Caribou Herd update. Small game regulatory
3 update. And the Kuskokwim River post-season survey.
4 Are there any additional presentations, Mark, that you
5 feel should be added before the Federal wildlife
6 proposals.

7
8 MR. BURCH: Those are the only ones I'm
9 aware of. I do believe Glenn Stout will be on the
10 line, too, and -- but I don't think he has anything in
11 particular to present. You might -- if you start to
12 get into those subjects with projects he'd be online to
13 be able to address any concerns or questions.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.
18 Thank you, Mr. Burch. We appreciate having Glenn on
19 board. The next item for the agenda is another move
20 for presentations, or clarification on a timing for all
21 the NOAA presentations on the marine water fisheries
22 issues, there's three different presentations.
23 Unfortunately the folks that are doing those
24 presentations are not available today so they are
25 scheduled between 11:00 and 1:00 o'clock tomorrow,
26 February 18th. The three such presentations on the
27 agenda. Please bear with me, one will be a bycatch
28 update from Diana Stramm, the other is the Eastern
29 Bearing Sea research by Ellen Yasumiishi, and the third
30 is the Northern Bering Sea juvenile salmon ecology
31 presentation by Jim Murphy with NOAA and Sabrina Garcia
32 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Again,
33 those three presentations will occur on February 18th
34 between the hours of 11:00 and 1:00 p.m.

35
36 The next item to add to the agenda is
37 the Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management
38 Plan update, Bonnie Million with the Bureau of Land
39 Management will go ahead and provide an update for
40 that.

41
42 The next item to add to the agenda is
43 the National Park Service individual customary and
44 traditional use determination permit update. Lots of
45 words. This is an issue that the Council reviewed at
46 their last meeting and the National Park Service will
47 provide an update from the Board actions.

48
49 Thank you.

50

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1 And the last item to be added under OSM
2 Staffing reports is the Fisheries Resource Management
3 Program funding opportunities, which will be presented
4 by OSM Staff.

5
6 Those are the items that I have to
7 recommend to the Council for adoption under the agenda.
8 If there are any additional items, the floor is open
9 for individuals or Council members to add to the
10 agenda.

11
12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
15 Do we have any more additions.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If not, can we
20 entertain a motion to accept the additions to the
21 agenda.

22
23 MR. SIMON: So moved.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Motion by Pollock
26 Simon.

27
28 MR. SIMON: Yes.

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is there a second.

31
32 MR. HONEA: Second. Don.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
35 Call for the question.

36
37 MR. SIMON: Question.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you. All
40 in favor say aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: All opposed,
45 same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, motion
50

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1 carries. Next on the agenda is the election of
2 officers. I believe we were going to hold off on that
3 Karen.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
6 Chair. If you would give me a minute here, I would
7 like to read for you the Council's option in this
8 regard.

9

10 The Council is invited to pass a
11 motion, if they wish, to hold another election during
12 their fall 2021 meeting, with the officers from that
13 election serving just until the 2022 winter/spring
14 meeting. This way the Councils can be back on track
15 with the standard process of holding elections in the
16 winter/spring regulatory cycle.

17

18 So the Council Chair can entertain a
19 motion for the Council to defer its elections until the
20 fall 2021 meeting.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Council
25 members, what's your preference.

26

27 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair, this is Don.
28 I would support that. I would entertain that motion to
29 defer.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Is there a
32 second.

33

34 MR. SEMAKEN: Second. This is Pollock.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, second by
37 Pollock. Karen, before we vote, could you state the
38 motion.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
41 Chair. The motion by the Council is to defer the
42 elections for Council officers until the fall 2021
43 meeting cycle.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
48 very much. Any discussion.

49

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. SIMON: Question.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Question
6 called by Pollock. All in favor say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Goodwin on.

11

12 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, aye.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Yes.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So motion
19 passed. All in.....

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
22 Karen Deatherage.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. I would like to make one quick announcement
28 regarding elections. The Council membership
29 application period for 2021 was previously scheduled to
30 end on February 15th, that application period has now
31 been extended until March 12th, 2021 of this year to
32 allow for additional applicants. So the Office of
33 Subsistence Management and the Board -- the Federal
34 Subsistence Board would like to ask all those
35 participating in this meeting to please encourage
36 individuals from throughout the region to apply for
37 Council membership.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
42 Okay, with that we'll go on to approve the previous
43 minutes from the last meeting.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair, this is Don.
46 Are we looking for a motion to accept it.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes. Yes.

49

50

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1 MR. HONEA: Okay. I make a motion to
2 accept the meeting minutes of October 14/15, 2020.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Motion by Don,
5 is there a second to his motion.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Second by
10 Pollock. All in favor say aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, sorry.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don again.
19 Before we take a motion on that, don't we have to --
20 any comments, any whatever on the meeting itself.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Do you
23 have any comments.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Well, no, I just thought
26 from the other Council members or something, okay, I
27 mean before we actually accept this and if there's no
28 -- I don't know the parliamentary thing here, but if we
29 go ahead and accept it then all comments or questions
30 or something are passed?

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
35 Karen Deatherage.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I think
40 what Member Honea is saying is that we have public
41 members on the phone who participated in the fall 2020
42 meeting and what Mr. Honea is doing as a Council member
43 is inviting those public members to weigh in, if there
44 are any amendments or changes to these minutes, prior
45 to the Council's approval.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead.
2 Yes.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, this is Jack. Yeah,
5 I looked at the minutes, they reflect basically what
6 happened at the meeting, I don't see any issue with it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Jack.
11 Okay, with that we'll go ahead and vote. All in favor
12 say aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. All
17 opposed, same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, I guess
22 the motion carries. Now, the next one we'll go on to
23 Council reports -- Council member reports.

24
25 Don.

26
27 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Okay, I just
28 received something here from Bob this morning,
29 Rebarchik, on maybe the count -- I didn't have time --
30 the moose count, that they probably took within the
31 last month or so. I haven't had time to look at that
32 but right here in the village, and it'd be interesting
33 to know, you know, between here and Nowitna the wolf
34 count. There was some moose -- there was some wolves
35 taken at a kill site about nine, 10 miles up there --
36 up the river from the village here. And Sam, that
37 lives up there, Yukon River Lodge, about 15 miles above
38 Ruby, noted that there was a lot of -- well, one day he
39 was out there, he heard wolves up from him, down from
40 him, so there's a lot of wolves here. And I -- it'd
41 just be interesting to see what -- what the counts are.
42 I was looking at Bob's report there and he says the
43 deep snow probably had an impact on the moose
44 population, I'm just -- I guess that's a negative
45 thing, he didn't say if it was pro or -- I'm just
46 saying -- thinking it has to be a negative impact.

47
48 Other than that, there's a lot of lynx
49 around. And the snow pack is not as bad as it was last
50

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1 year so hopefully we -- the moose would have a little
2 easier time I'm thinking here.

3

4 Other than that in -- in the way of the
5 -- it'd be interesting to know what -- well, Middle
6 Yukon had a teleconference maybe last week or something
7 and I wanted to be on there to find out their concerns,
8 what's going on in the Kaiyuh and there, but I -- I
9 wasn't able to sit in on that but, other than that, it
10 -- it's going pretty good, and we're just getting tired
11 of this Covid, we want to get out.

12

13 That concludes my report. I don't -- I
14 can't think of anything right now that's pressing.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Don. Any
22 questions or comments for Don.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Could somebody please
25 mute their phone while they're typing away.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If not we'll go
30 to Goodwin in Kaltag.

31

32 MR. SEMAKEN: Good morning.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Good morning,
35 Goodwin.

36

37 MR. SEMAKEN: The snow is pretty deep
38 and there seems to be some moose around across the
39 river but I haven't gone but one time. There've been
40 wolves down below Kaltag, like I say, I know what --
41 like Don is concerned about the count because it's
42 pretty deep snow, if there's any count going on, Kaiyuh
43 Flats.

44

45 Other than that it's been a chilly
46 winter. The moose seems like a pretty -- I seen a
47 couple, but they're pretty thin, so surviving, I guess.

48

49 That's about it.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Don
2 -- I mean, are you done Goodwin -- sorry.

3
4 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
7 much. Okay, any comments for Goodwin or questions.

8
9 I'm getting a feedback on my phone.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: I hear that, Jenny --
12 Madame Chair. This is -- if you wish, you can hang up
13 and call back in again to see if that corrects the
14 issue.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, I don't
17 hear anything now. Okay, with that we'll go to
18 Pollock.

19
20 MR. SIMON: Yes, thank you. This is
21 Pollock. This is kind of a mild winter, not too cold,
22 forty below at the most, last year it was over 50 below
23 for two months, but this year it isn't. There's not
24 enough snow either. There's two or three feet of snow
25 and weather has been good. And so we're not wrestling
26 with the firewood.

27
28 There's no caribou again this winter by
29 Allakaket and there's a little bit number of moose, but
30 I think most peoples got moose. And the agency
31 extended moose season to October so that was good, you
32 know, more opportunities to get moose so that helps.

33
34 So sadly there's not much salmon, the
35 king salmon run was pretty low and not much chum salmon
36 through most -- but not much chum salmon and it was
37 kind of wet, really lots of wet, and the water come up
38 and larger makes people for setting fishnets, we have
39 to fish in the water sometimes but it was high water in
40 springtime and we -- some of our fishing spots changed,
41 where there was a good eddy, water was running around
42 this year, just this past summer. So we have to find
43 another fishing spot because of high water in
44 springtime.

45
46 Other than that everything is fine, we
47 had tough time, not enough meat, so we had a tough time
48 and four peoples passed away this fall so some sad
49 times also but it's good weather so we manage -- we're
50

0019

1 managing pretty good.

2

3 That's all, thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
6 Pollock. Any comments or question for Pollock.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not,
11 I'll just do my report for Galena. Along with -- we do
12 have a lot of snow from what I understand in the woods.
13 I see a couple of moose around town. I hear there's a
14 lot of lynx around town. We have some foxes also
15 visiting us.

16

17 Other than that, with this Covid, I
18 think people have just been hanging low and close to
19 their homes, and that's all I have from Galena, our
20 area.

21

22 Anything.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If not, there is
27 -- okay, Karen.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. Could somebody please mute their phone if they
34 haven't done so already. Yes, Madame Chair?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, are you
39 still on the phone.

40

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
47 Deatherage with OSM, did we lose folks on the phone?

48

49 MS. KENNER: Karen, this is Pippa, I'm

50

0020

1 still here.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Madame Chair,
4 are you still on the phone?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Honea, are you
12 still with us on the phone?

13

14 MR. HONEA: Hey, I'm still here.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Goodwin, are
17 you still with us on the phone?

18

19 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, I'm still here.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Goodwin.
22 How about you, Pollock, are you still with us on the
23 phone?

24

25 MR. SIMON: I'm still here.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, Pollock. Madame
28 Chair, did you just join us -- rejoin us on the phone?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, did you
33 just join us on the phone?

34

35 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, I got
36 knocked off for some reason.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: You sure did. Okay,
39 thank you. It looks like we can proceed.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, back on
44 now. Can you hear me Karen?

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can, Madame Chair,
47 thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, what was I

50

0021

1 about to say -- oh, the Chair's report, only thing I
2 have right now is we had our meeting last fall and we
3 had most of our members on. Any -- Jack Reakoff, do
4 you have anything to add to that?

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: What's the question,
10 Jenny?

11
12 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I said, do you
13 have anything to add since our last meeting?

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: I listened to the Federal
16 Subsistence Board on the fisheries pretty much the
17 whole thing. And I was on the Koyukuk River Advisory
18 Committee, they had a meeting about two weeks ago. So
19 basically the Department of Fish and Game should give
20 you an update on the Board of Fish and Board of Game
21 has pushed their meeting cycle back.

22
23 If I could I'd give a public comment.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: The conditions here in
28 the Brooks Range, the snow depth is about at 25 percent
29 of what it was last year. We got about 14 inches of
30 snow, the wind -- the snow came in October, it didn't
31 rain in the snow, the snow is dry and the wind's
32 blowing the snow off the mountains. The sheep here
33 were doing real well with that. And there's caribou to
34 the east of us, caribou to the north and the Western
35 Arctic Herd is over in the John River. Caribou are
36 apparent but not right here. The wolf population is
37 high. The wolves are moving to the caribou and are not
38 in the Valley that I'm in here but they're going to --
39 there are quite a few caribou around. The population
40 of -- the lynx keep moving in here, the lynx population
41 is really fluid right now so everybody's seeing lynx,
42 from Kotzebue all the way up here in the Brooks Range,
43 all over the place.

44
45 So I do want to talk about the Bureau
46 of Land Management Central Yukon Management Plan which
47 will be coming up in the agenda, so I'd like to speak a
48 little about that. I have some deep concerns about
49 that resource management plan.
50

0022

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
4 Mr. Reakoff. With that, I'd just like to say also that
5 -- I didn't attend -- but I listened to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board. That was very interesting. I wish
7 we had invited or we had some of the members at our
8 meeting, I mean, you know, call in, maybe we should
9 invite them next time.

10

11 Okay, with that, Karen, do you have
12 anything else to add?

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
15 Chair. No, not at this time. I appreciate your input.
16 I would like to -- on behalf of the Federal Subsistence
17 Program thank Member Jenny Pelkola for attending the
18 Federal Subsistence Board meeting on behalf of the
19 Western Interior Council. Due to the appointment
20 issue, Jenny was acting Chair and she did a great job
21 on behalf of the Council.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
26 I see where every morning we're going to have nonagenda
27 items available for the public if they have anything to
28 talk about. And right now we're on that, public and
29 tribal comments on nonagenda items.

30

31 Anyone have any comments.

32

33 MR. VENT: This is Darrell Vent,
34 Huslia.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

37

38 MR. VENT: Hello.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hello, Darrell.

41

42 MR. VENT: Good morning. Yes, I just
43 heard Jack Reakoff speaking earlier and I have a
44 nonagenda item concerning the Federal Subsistence Board
45 meeting. I was there attending via teleconference
46 also. And addressing the need for the Western Interior
47 RAC, which only has four members right now. You know
48 that we were left out when they appointed members. And
49 I recently put in my application again so I'm just
50

0023

1 letting you guys know I'm still trying to get back on
2 to the WIRAC Board, hopefully one of these days I'll be
3 able to make it again. And, you know, it's interesting
4 that all the stuff that we got going on in our area
5 that we're not able to participate in the meeting with
6 WIRAC. It's a pretty important area that we have and
7 concerning what's going on is we have this Ambler Road
8 that the State is trying to put through the upper
9 Koyukuk River area and it's becoming an issue of
10 whether we're going to be able to sustain our
11 subsistence use of the area because it's, for one, our
12 caribou migration will be affected because we rely on
13 the Western Arctic Herd, and the Hughes/Allakaket area
14 depend on the Teshekpuk Herd, and also Western, you
15 know, it depends on what the migration patterns are
16 using. And also the fish, we're having a problem with
17 our fish, we're getting low fish counts, so, you know,
18 we're really being affected, this Koyukuk River area,
19 if they do plan on putting a road through, I wonder
20 what the impact will be. So, you know, that's my
21 concern.

22
23 Thank you for letting me participate in
24 the WIRAC meeting.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you,
27 Darrell. Anything for Darrell at this time.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, any other
32 comments, nonagenda items.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Madame Chair, this is
35 Jack Reakoff again. I wanted the Council to know that
36 I've reapplied -- or, as far as I know our past
37 applications were just overlooked by the Secretary of
38 Interior. Southeast, Yukon-Delta Regional Advisory
39 Council and the Western Interior did not receive any
40 appointments, that's why we do not have our Council up
41 to speed. But I did reapply and so we're waiting for
42 something to happen with the new Secretary of Interior,
43 who has to be confirmed, but at some point, hopefully
44 sooner rather than later, our Council -- or the Western
45 Interior Council will have adequate representation.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Jack.

50

0024

1 It's an issue, guys. It seems like we're just shoving
2 along with a broken arm and a broken leg here but we'll
3 try our best.

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Did somebody try to
9 speak. Madame Chair?

10
11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I don't know, I
12 didn't hear anything.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not,
17 we'll go on to the old business. Any old business,
18 Karen.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, I
21 currently have no old business to report.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. I think
24 the only old business I can think of is we keep harping
25 about our low count on our Council. We don't have all
26 our members, and I'm glad to hear Jack and Darrell --
27 Jack reapplied, and Darrell applied, and I believe Tim
28 has reapplied also.

29
30 With that, we'll go on to new business.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. At this time, and per the Council's amendment
34 to the agenda, I would like to invite the Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game to provide its wildlife and
36 other reports.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Go ahead.

41
42 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
43 from the Department of Fish and Game, Madame Chair. I
44 believe we have Todd Rinaldi on to talk about the
45 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, population situation. Todd, if
46 you're ready.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

49
50

0025

1 (Pause)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, we're
4 still waiting.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Rinaldi, are you
9 on the phone?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Rinaldi, have you
14 joined us on the phone?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: If not, Mr. Burch, if
19 you could advise Rick Merizon or Chris McDevitt to
20 present their reports at this time. Thank you.

21

22 MR. BURCH: Yeah, hello, Madame Chair,
23 thank you. I'm getting a communication from Mr.
24 Rinaldi, but, yes, I think it's appropriate for Rick
25 Merizon to give his report. Thank you.

26

27 MR. MERIZON: Yes, thank you, Madame
28 Chairman, and Council members. This is Rick Merizon.
29 Just for the record I'm the statewide small game
30 Program Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish
31 and Game. And I very much appreciate the opportunity
32 to join your meeting today and provide a very brief
33 update on some of the proposals that Fish and Game,
34 specifically small game issues that have been in the
35 works that may impact your area.

36

37 One proposal that was scheduled to be
38 heard this year, which obviously as you know the Board
39 of Game has deferred all proposals this year until next
40 year, so this proposal will be heard at next -- the
41 next statewide meeting in March of 2022.

42

43 Our program has submitted a proposal
44 addressing salvage requirements for snowshoe hare.
45 Currently under State regulations there is no salvage
46 requirement for snowshoe hare statewide. We have
47 submitted a proposal to create a salvage requirement
48 that would be defined as for human use. So under State
49 regulations there are two types of salvage for -- one
50

0026

1 is defined as human consumption, the other is defined
2 as human use. The use requirement provides a much
3 broader context for what is legally considered salvage.
4 So for human use includes a wide variety of legal
5 means. So that includes using it -- using the snowshoe
6 hare for hide to make various products from, salvage
7 the meat whether it's for human use or to feed dogs.
8 It also legally allows the use of hare to be used for
9 trapping. So it's a fairly broad definition. And that
10 is the definition that is in the current proposal.

11
12 We also have a proposal seeking to
13 create a season date, bag limit and salvage requirement
14 for Alaska hare in Unit 17. And I know that's outside
15 of your area, but it's sort of on the periphery of your
16 area. So currently Alaska hare have a season date and
17 bag limit in their entire biological range in Alaska
18 with the exception of Unit 17 and we just simply wanted
19 to close -- create and streamline the regulations for
20 that species across the range in Alaska.

21
22 And that concludes my report. I'm
23 happy to entertain any questions.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. HONEA: Hello.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, are you
36 still on the phone, this is Karen Deatherage.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: We may have lost her.

41
42 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Karen, this is Don.
43 I had a question for the gentleman that was just on the
44 phone.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Don. It's
47 fine, uh-huh.

48
49 MR. HONEA: I missed his name.

50

0027

1 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, through the Chair.
2 Again, my name is Rick Merizon. I'm the statewide
3 small game Program Coordinator for the Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game.

5
6 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay. Hey Rick, I just
7 had a question, I thought we were going to get kind of
8 a report on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and instead you
9 went to some of the hare populations, are we going to
10 hear about what the population is doing, what measures
11 have been taken and how they're working and such. Are
12 you going to give a report on the population of the
13 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

14
15 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.
16 Again, this is Rick Merizon, so I am the -- I just
17 wanted to give a very brief update on small game issues
18 that the State is addressing through our regulatory
19 process. I believe Todd Rinaldi is planning on joining
20 the meeting and he'll be able to provide that update
21 when he's available, which I believe, hopefully will be
22 either next or very shortly.

23
24 MR. HONEA: Okay, great, thank you.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, everyone, this
27 is Karen Deatherage checking in. Jenny, have you --
28 Madame Chair, have you rejoined us on the phone?

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes. My phone
31 keeps cutting out. I'm back on though.

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
34 Chair. We just heard the small game program report and
35 we're waiting to hear from Todd Rinaldi with Alaska
36 Department of Fish and Game for the Mulchatna Caribou
37 Herd and also a Kuskokwim River salmon report.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. This is
42 Todd Rinaldi with Division of Wildlife Conservation.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So it sounds -- we
47 haven't collected much more information since the last
48 time we spoke. I think the last time we talked we had
49 completed a population assessment. It was the second

50

0028

1 year in a row where we derived a population number of
2 13,500.

3
4 There is some concern, as we discussed
5 in the past, that last year's survey might have missed
6 large groups of caribou but we provided considerably
7 more effort, additional planes, and additional flight
8 days to cover the -- most of the full range of the
9 Mulchatna caribou to identify if we missed any large
10 groups and we did not miss any large groups. What we
11 did understand with our satellite collars and our VHF
12 collars on the herd is that most -- GPS or VHF collars
13 only represent a handful of animals. Although we know
14 that there's been animals down near Platinum and we
15 know that there's isolated groups of animals near
16 Iliamna, they have been included, or for the most part
17 we believe they've all been included in our population
18 estimate. So while we don't assume the population
19 estimate to be a precise number of animals, we
20 understand it to be an accurate depiction of what the
21 population is doing out there, and it's currently at
22 13,500 animals.

23
24 We did -- we were able to complete a
25 composition survey this past fall in October and that
26 provided some additional information on our
27 understanding of what the population is doing and where
28 we were at.

29
30 As you know we look at the Mulchatna in
31 terms of the Eastern and the Western segment. The
32 Eastern segment is the Unit 17 portion east of the
33 Wood-Tikchiks and the Western portion is in Unit 18.
34 We found a combined ratio of 36 calves per 100, which
35 is higher than last year, and is above the objective of
36 30 to 100, and this is the second time in the past
37 seven years that we've seen this number. That's a good
38 number. That's a positive number. It shows growth and
39 it shows survival, at least until the fall. The
40 percent of calves in the herd is 21 percent, and that's
41 also higher than last year and it's also the highest
42 since 2010. So another positive indicator. We also
43 look at bulls to cows, and the combined ratio of 34
44 bulls to 100 cows is slightly lower than '19 last year
45 and it is lower than most of the past seven years. The
46 percent bulls in the herd overall is 19 percent and
47 it's the lowest marginally since 2013. However, there
48 is a large group, a large cohort of young bulls coming
49 up in the second and in the third year age class and
50

0029

1 it's really intriguing, it -- it actually forced us to
2 fly an additional day to go refly those groups to
3 determine that we were actually seeing the high
4 proportion of bulls in those groups and we actually did
5 observe that. And so we're looking at that as a posit
6 -- another positive sign of maybe some getting lean
7 winters or some years with very low calf predation that
8 might be the contributing factors to this increased
9 group of bulls coming up. So we're pretty excited
10 about that.

11
12 So we got this information in October.
13 We routinely do captures when we deploy collars out in
14 the fields -- in the field, we typically collect
15 different types of samples, biological samples. And
16 one of the samples that we collect is blood. And from
17 blood we can spin that up and we can get plasma and
18 serum out of that and then we can run the serum for all
19 sorts of different antibodies and bacterias and things
20 like that. And obviously we still have many
21 capabilities, we can do all sorts of interesting
22 investigations with that information. While doing
23 routine disease screening of samples that we collected
24 over the past few years on the Mulchatna we detected a
25 higher than expected prevalence of antibodies to a
26 bacteria called brucella, or brucellosis, and this is
27 relative to other herds. And this indicates that
28 there's likely been exposure and likely incidence of
29 the disease in the Mulchatna Herd. We've had a few
30 reports over the past few years and our biologists and
31 Staff in the field have observed caribou with typical
32 swollen front knees, enlarged scrotums. And we also
33 detected the bacteria in tissues of two dead caribou
34 this fall. And so these observations and this evidence
35 further supports the finding of an increase in the
36 brucellosis of the herd. The bacteria mainly spread
37 amongst caribou from contact with birthing fluids
38 during -- during calving. And so I guess how it
39 impacts -- so there's a couple of different components
40 here. So this is important because humans can become
41 infected with brucellosis if they come in contact with
42 body fluids of infected animals. And that's
43 specifically the birthing fluids, the womb, the uterus,
44 it's very important not to cut into that during
45 butchering. And so the situation with brucellosis and
46 the population information that we have seems to be
47 another piece of the puzzle that's going to add to our
48 understanding into the decline of the Mulchatna
49 caribou. It's not the smoking gun. We're not sure --
50

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1 we're not fully aware of what the prevalence is and so
2 we're going to go back and analyze some more historic
3 samples to see if we can determine when it will -- when
4 the higher prevalence was first detected and determine
5 where we are in the stage of the disease outbreak. Are
6 we ramping up, are we in -- at the peak of it or is it
7 something that we're only seeing the lasting effects of
8 in the animals. We're not seeing widespread
9 miscarriages on the -- or abortions on the landscape.
10 And the number of swollen knees and other types of --
11 of physical abnormalities haven't really been reported
12 to the Department, although, you know, hunting activity
13 in the Mulchatna in the last couple years has been --
14 has been reduced significantly. We still are not
15 getting reports on issues with animals. So while it's
16 there and we do have reports, we just don't know where
17 the disease is in its outbreak. So we're going to
18 continue to monitor, not only the Mulchatna, and we're
19 going to be reanalyzing and looking to make sure that
20 the Nushagak samples have been analyzed. We'll be
21 working with our Federal counterparts on that. And
22 we'll also be analyzing some new samples. But we have
23 no indication that this is an issue in our moose
24 population in Unit 17. So -- but we will be doing the
25 routine screening.

26
27 So -- so what can it do to humans and
28 what should residents be concerned with. People that
29 become infected with the brucella bacteria, they often
30 exhibit flu-like symptoms. I know this is an
31 unfortunate situation considering some of the other
32 things that are going on in the world right now. And
33 some of those symptoms include fever that comes and
34 goes. You can get chills, loss of appetite, sweats and
35 fatigue. Untreated infections can cause severe medical
36 complications. In rare cases, but, again, it is
37 treatable. So how to avoid infection, hunters should
38 be aware of the constant low level presence in
39 potential risk of brucellosis in all caribou herds.
40 People butchering and preparing food from animals
41 should always getting the blood of, or any bodily
42 fluids from the animals in breaks in the skins, or the
43 eyes, or nose or mouth and it's an emphasis on wearing
44 rubber gloves and thoroughly washing hands and all
45 processing equipment. Do not cut into enlarged or
46 abnormally large or weird looking organs or meat, and
47 do not cut into the womb, the uterus, again, that's
48 where the majority of the fluid is. Unfortunately
49 smoking, drying and pickling may not kill all the
50

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1 potential pathogens in the game meat, so cook all the
2 game meat thoroughly and that's to the internal or
3 recommended temperature of 165 degrees. Wash your
4 hands, knives, food processing surfaces with hot soapy
5 water after handling game meat. Do not consume raw
6 bone marrow as this is a high risk for infection of
7 brucellosis. And, please don't feed diseased and
8 uncooked parts to pets because they will carry the
9 disease and pass it on potentially.

10

11 So as I mentioned. The Department
12 monitors the health of caribou, which includes periodic
13 testing, and specifically in caribou for brucellosis.
14 We're going to continue to monitor and investigate the
15 prevalence of brucella as well as other factors that
16 may be contributing to the population decline in the
17 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. And so what we're asking folks
18 to do is if anyone experiences symptoms and are
19 concerned about infection they should tell their
20 healthcare provider that they may have been exposed to
21 brucella. And if signs of the disease are seen in
22 wildlife, specifically caribou or moose, it should be
23 reported to Fish and Game, whether it be in Bethel or
24 Dillingham or any office really.

25

26 And then, finally, we have a bunch of
27 resources on our website that'll help understand the
28 disease and how to work with the disease. Also a
29 reminder, there is currently no caribou hunting in Unit
30 18 and 17 right now, all seasons are closed. So, you
31 know, the additional harvest of Mulchatna caribou and
32 the risk of disease shouldn't be an issue in that
33 respect but, you know, it's likely that people have
34 harvested animals this past fall, if they have been
35 frozen, and I don't know, the freezing of the meat is
36 not going to -- is not going to kill the bacteria, so
37 the frozen meat would still have to be cooked to 165 to
38 avoid the disease.

39

40 So I know that's a lot of information.
41 I'm just going to pause there and wait for any
42 questions.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, do we have
45 any questions.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. Todd, I
2 had a question. I guess -- I guess this is Mulchatna,
3 Nushagak Herd report, and I -- because it falls within
4 the Western Interior it's a concern of all of us in the
5 Western Interior, both herds, especially the Mulchatna
6 Caribou Herd, and I was just wondering, you know, you
7 threw out some numbers, 13,500, I don't know what -- is
8 that -- is that the herd size presently or whatever,
9 but I was just wondering some of the measures that were
10 conservative in trying to keep those numbers stable, is
11 it too early to see whether that's working or not. I
12 believe one of the measures was cutting down the amount
13 of caribou that was taken and stuff. So I'm just kind
14 of concerned, overall, the population, is it stable, is
15 it looking good, or whatever, and I think -- so if you
16 could answer that I'd appreciate that.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, through the Chair,
21 thank you. Thank you for that question. You know we
22 only have two years of information currently that does
23 -- you know, this is a short-term, year to year, we
24 consider that pretty short in terms of population
25 biology. But we have two data points and we have a
26 bunch of other positive indicators. And I'm cautious
27 there because over the last number of years when we
28 thought the population was higher and we were unable to
29 get a population estimate and we did see positive
30 indicators and we thought the herd was, you know, doing
31 better than what it's doing. We're confident the herd
32 is where it's -- the herd is where it's at. As I
33 mentioned, you know, there are some positive
34 indicators. That big group of two and three year old
35 bulls are certainly going to contribute to the
36 population. Calf to cow ratios are seemingly up. This
37 year we do have some -- we have pretty good effort and
38 participation in same day airborne and wolf control
39 efforts in Unit 17. So we're optimistic, but we're
40 cautious just because we have limited information. And
41 the recovery of the Mulchatna caribou is going to be a
42 long-term effort. I know you've heard that before
43 after the decline in the early 2000s. But, you know,
44 we're looking at a significant number of years before
45 we see it probably into an objective -- or even meeting
46 the mid-point of the objective. Currently the
47 objective is 30,000 caribou to 80,000 so the mid-point
48 is 55,000 or something like that. We like to strive
49 for the mid-point. When we thought we were close to
50

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1 the minimum, we thought we were in the 20s for a number
2 of years prior to getting these two last estimates. So
3 we have a bunch of information, we did review -- we did
4 reduce harvest the last couple of years. Last year
5 there was a shortened Federal and State season. The
6 winter seasons were shortened. And I believe, as I
7 recall, both bag limits last year were bulls only. This
8 past fall both the Federal and the State season was
9 limited to the fall season and was bulls only. We had
10 about 800 permits issued, and we have a reported
11 harvest of only 50-something caribou, which I believe
12 to be a minimum number of caribou harvested. I'm not
13 clear -- I don't know how many of those permits are
14 still yet unreported, but I would consider the 54 to be
15 a minimum number of caribou harvested across Unit 18
16 and 17 and potentially even a portion of 9.

17

18 So that's kind of where we're at.

19

20 We're eager to get more information.
21 Unfortunately where we're at right now, we don't -- we
22 don't see a harvestable surplus in the Mulchatna
23 Caribou Herd.

24

25 MR. HONEA: All right, thank you. No
26 further questions.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
29 More questions.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
36 Deatherage. I did want to say if any of the Council
37 members who don't have proper access to the Fish and
38 Game website regarding the brucellosis information, I
39 would be happy to print that out and mail it to you so
40 just let me know and we'll go ahead and send that to
41 you if you need it.

42

43 Also I'd like to invite anybody who has
44 joined on the phone since this morning, if they did not
45 introduce themselves, to do so now.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. TRAINOR: Good morning. This is

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1 Alida Trainor. I'm the Acting Regional Program Manager
2 for the Subsistence Division here in Fairbanks.

3

4 MR. DEMOSKI: Good morning. My name is
5 Arnold Demoski, Nulato Tribal Council.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning, Arnold.

8

9 MR. RILEY: Good morning. This is
10 Brian Riley, Area Biologist for the Dillingham Office
11 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

12

13 MR. MOOS: Good morning. This is
14 Kenton Moos. Refuge Manager for Togiak National
15 Wildlife Refuge and in-season Manager for Mulchatna
16 Caribou for the Federal side.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If we don't have
19 anymore, welcome to all of you. Good to have you
20 online. With that, if we don't have any more questions
21 we'll go on to the next report.

22

23 MR. BLIHOVDE: Madame Chair, is it okay
24 to ask a question from agency reps?

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Sure, go ahead.

27

28 MR. BLIHOVDE: Yeah, this is Boyd with
29 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. And I just
30 had a question for the presenter on brucellosis. I
31 think I heard you say that brucellosis is not
32 necessarily uncommon in Alaska within caribou, but did
33 I hear you right that the major concern here is that
34 brucellosis is at a higher level in Mulchatna, is what
35 you've detected?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. RINALDI: Yes. Through the Chair,
40 this is Todd Rinaldi, with Fish and Game. Yeah, that's
41 correct. So brucellosis commonly occurs in some of the
42 herd's Western Arctic, and a few of the herds at pretty
43 low levels, less than a few percent, or even less than
44 one percent. And the level of detection in the
45 Mulchatna was a magnitude higher than that. So, yeah,
46 so it's -- it's pretty high relative to other herds.
47 IT does show signs that there is or has been an
48 outbreak and we're trying to pinpoint when that was
49 through historical analysis and continued

50

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1 investigations. Again, it's a weird one because for
2 the level of prevalence that we observed we would
3 expect to see, you know, more observable indications
4 out on the landscape and we haven't seen that. So --
5 but we know that -- we know the disease is there.

6
7 MR. BLIHOVDE: Okay, thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Any more
10 questions for Todd.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if.....

15
16 MR. RINALDI: Okay, thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not
19 we'll go on to the next report.

20
21 MR. BURCH: Hello, Madame Chair, this
22 is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game
23 again. If you wish I believe Chris McDevitt is
24 available to give his report on the Kuskokwim.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. MCDEVITT: Thanks, Mark. Thanks,
29 Madame Chair. Again, my name's Chris McDevitt. I work
30 for the Subsistence Division with Fish and Game out of
31 Fairbanks. I'm briefly going to talk about the
32 Kuskokwim Management Area Post-Season Salmon Harvest
33 Survey Project. This is a project that's funded by the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
35 Management.

36
37 A little bit of the background.

38
39 We began collecting harvest information
40 on the Kuskokwim all the way back to 1960. Since 1999
41 ONC in Bethel has partnered with us to complete the
42 Bethel portion of the project and the purpose of the
43 project, of course, is to estimate the annual salmon
44 harvest in the Kuskokwim area, and typically we survey
45 about 28 communities total, all the way from South
46 Kusko Bay up to the headwaters.

47
48 This year was a little different, of
49 course, considering our circumstances with the pandemic
50

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1 and what not. So we began some contingency planning
2 back this spring making sure that we were aligning our
3 plans with community health and safety guidelines, so
4 on and so forth. And those who are familiar with the
5 project, you know, ordinarily we're going door to door.
6 We're invited into people's homes to complete the
7 survey. This year, of course, we couldn't do that. So
8 in the outlying villages, outside of Bethel, that is,
9 we contacted everyone by phone to get their harvest
10 information from them. In Bethel we did go door to
11 door but we stayed outside the home, maintaining a safe
12 distance so on and so forth, and, of course, all our
13 surveyors had PPE on and were being as safe as
14 possible.

15
16 In a typical year, communities with 40
17 households or less we try to talk to every household in
18 the community. Communities with greater than 40
19 households, we'll take a sample of that community.
20 This season, because of the different circumstances we
21 censused all communities with the exception of Bethel.
22 Bethel, we try to get about 25 percent of the
23 households in Bethel, which comes out to about 525
24 households total.

25
26 But I have some preliminary results
27 here to share. These are drainage-wide results.
28 Again, this includes South Kusko Bay and the entire
29 river all the way up to the headwaters. We were able
30 to survey 27 communities this year. We completed just
31 over 1,800 surveys with folks. And our estimates show
32 that approximately just over 41,000 kings were
33 harvested in the 2020 season and that's actually up 9
34 percent from the previous year, 2019, where close to
35 38,000 kings were harvested. The chum harvest this
36 past season was just over 27,000 fish compared to
37 almost 34.5 thousand in 2019 so about a 20 percent
38 decrease in chum. For reds, this past season, 2020,
39 just over 47,000 reds compared to just over 48,000 reds
40 in 2019 so not too much of a drop there, about 3
41 percent. For silvers, silver harvest was a little
42 higher this past summer with almost 33.5 thousand
43 silvers compared to last year, which was just over
44 31,000 silvers. And then almost 1,200 pinks this past
45 summer compared to about 864 in 2019.

46
47 Now I also have middle and upper river
48 community harvest results. If there's anyone on the
49 call who's from middle or upper river communities who
50

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1 is interested in hearing those results, I could share
2 those with you now.

3

4 MS. PELTOLA: Yes, please.

5

6 MR. MCDEVITT: Okay. Any particular
7 community or?

8

9 MS. PELTOLA: No. This is Mary, I'm
10 just curious how many are up there and I think Kevin
11 Whitworth will be too.

12

13 MR. MCDEVITT: Okay. So for this past
14 summer for Aniak, 1,500 king, 658 chum, 1,700 reds, and
15 about 3,100 silvers. Compared to the previous season
16 for Aniak. The king harvest was a couple hundred fish
17 higher this past summer. The chum harvest was
18 significantly lower compared to 2019, wherein just over
19 2,000 chum were harvested in 2019 compared to, again,
20 this past summer where the estimate was around 658.
21 It's possible that we missed speaking with some
22 households that typically harvest more chum, that's a
23 possibility but I can't say for sure. The reds were
24 also down for Aniak, almost about half -- half what
25 they had gotten in 2019, so about 1,700 in 2020
26 compared to almost 3,300 in 2019. And the silver
27 harvest was albeit a little higher this past summer but
28 comparable to the 2019 season. And that's for Aniak. I
29 can go on through the remaining villages in the middle
30 and upper river communities, if you'd like.

31

32 MS. PELTOLA: No, I don't want to
33 belabor it, could I make a comment, Madame Chair.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go right ahead.

36

37 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you. This is Mary
38 Peltola. I work for the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
39 Fish Commission. And based on harvesters catches and
40 the community based harvest monitoring in-season that
41 the Fish Commission and Bering Sea Fishermen's
42 Association do together, we were very concerned about
43 the chum returns. And we submitted a special action
44 request to the Federal Subsistence Board, OSM Staff
45 indicated in their Staff analysis that there was a
46 concern for a chum and that it would be outside of
47 ANILCA, it'd be, you know, going against ANILCA if the
48 Federal Subsistence Board didn't vote in favor of
49 Federalizing the chum run as well as the king run, and
50

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1 the Federal Subsistence Board failed to do so, 4-4.

2

3 And clearly, I mean I don't really
4 think that you guys, Chris McDevitt, I don't
5 necessarily think you guys missed households in Aniak
6 or Bethel, I think that, you know, even the Fish and
7 Game Department -- the Department in-season indices
8 also indicated that -- like the Bethel test fish son--
9 or Bethel sonar, excuse me, showed fewer chum passage
10 than king passage, which is really amazing.

11

12 So I just want to note that the Fish
13 Commission is concerned about the chum stock as well as
14 the king stock at this point, and hopefully this year
15 we see a much larger return. But, you know, those chum
16 -- historical chum runs were tremendous, they were
17 enormous runs and, you know, we're definitely feeling
18 some concern that they're coming back in such small
19 numbers.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
24 Any more questions.

25

26 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair, I have
27 another question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead.

30

31 MR. SIMON: Thank you. My name is Jim
32 Simon and I'm a consultant with the Kuskokwim River
33 InterTribal Fish Commission. And, Chris, thank you
34 very much for your report. I was wondering, rather
35 than give us the total numbers, including the Bay,
36 could you just give us the Kuskokwim River harvest
37 estimate because those are, you know, associated with
38 separate amounts necessary for subsistence findings by
39 species, and that would be really helpful.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. MCDEVITT: Thanks, Jim. Through
44 the Chair. Unfortunately, Jim, I'm at home actually
45 with my kids today, I'm not in front of my work
46 computer so I cannot give you those numbers right at
47 this moment but I can send them to you. The numbers
48 without South Kuskokwim Bay.

49

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1 MR. SIMON: Great, thank you, Chris.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, any more
4 questions for Chris.

5

6 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

9

10 MS. PELTOLA: This is Mary again. One
11 of our middle river commissioners just texted a
12 question to me and asked if this up river report is
13 available online, and just noticing the difference like
14 in the lower portion it's kind of a cumulative report
15 and then in the middle and upper it's by community.

16

17 MR. MCDEVITT: Through the Chair.
18 Mary, this is not available online yet. This is --
19 these are all preliminary results. But, again, I am
20 able to parse out, you know, lower, middle, upper,
21 separate from South Kuskokwim Bay and am able to share
22 those results with you.

23

24 MS. PELTOLA: Okay. Chris McDevitt,
25 perhaps it's best if I meet you offline like next week
26 to work on -- to get some of these figures.

27

28 MR. MCDEVITT: That sounds good, Mary.

29

30 MS. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you. Thanks,
31 Madame Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

34

35 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Yes, again, Jim Simon again.
40 Thank you, Chris, and Mary, the Kuskokwim River
41 InterTribal Fish Commission has requested those
42 preliminary numbers a couple of weeks ago from Dave
43 Coster, who actually produces the estimates, so I do
44 hope to receive an email with those data soon.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
49 Any more questions or comments.

50

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1 MR. BLIHOVDE: Madame Chair, if I could
2 ask a question.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go right
5 ahead.

6
7 MR. BLIHOVDE: Hey, Chris, this is Boyd
8 Blihovde, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. I'm
9 just curious if the survey methodology has any way to
10 discern whether there is a difference in catch per unit
11 effort from those folks that might be fishing. Is
12 there any way to determine if the effort was lower this
13 year compared to other years and that's possibly
14 leading to differences in the catch, just curious.
15 Thanks.

16
17 MR. MCDEVITT: Thanks for your
18 question, Boyd. Through the Chair. Yeah, so like I
19 mentioned, we did have some different methods this
20 year, you know, the door to door in Bethel. People
21 also had the option of filling out online or a self-
22 administered mail-in survey, and, again, we contacted
23 everybody out in the outlying villages by phone, but
24 they also had those options of online and mail-in. And
25 as far as participation goes we did receive more
26 participation than usual this past season. I think a
27 lot of it has to do with the fact that just contacted
28 more households than we normally do. In regards to
29 your question, I'm not exactly sure, unfortunately.
30 That would be a question for Dave Coster, our analysis
31 person down in Anchorage. But I'd be happy to get with
32 Dave and get an answer on that.

33
34 MR. BLIHOVDE: Okay. Thank you, Chris,
35 appreciate it.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

38
39 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go right
42 ahead.

43
44 MR. SIMON: Yes, this is Jim Simon
45 again. Just to having overseeing that program for many
46 years, there are no effort data collected through those
47 post-season salmon surveys so what Chris is referring
48 to, with respect to participation, is more
49 participation in providing their individual harvest
50

0041

1 estimates. So there is no way to evaluate catch per
2 unit effort with the post-season salmon survey program.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So any
7 more questions, or not -- if you have any questions
8 maybe you can contact him and maybe he can answer your
9 questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
14 Chris.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go right
19 ahead, Karen.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. First, I do want to
23 thank Fish and Game for their presentations and for
24 accommodating the schedule prior to the call for
25 Federal wildlife proposals. And I also do appreciate
26 the question and answer process for the Kuskokwim River
27 surveys, largely because we do not have a
28 representative from the Kuskokwim region right now on
29 the Council, and so this is a very good process to go
30 through for the Council members that we do have. And
31 so thank you very much for that. I do have a report
32 from Fish and Game from Mr. McDevitt that I will be
33 sending out to the Council and to the regional contacts
34 report that has those numbers that were references.

35

36 So thank you very much.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
39 Karen. And since we don't have a rep from the Kusko, I
40 hope Kevin would put his application in. Kevin, you
41 hear that.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. WHITWORTH: Madame Chair, this is
46 Kevin.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

49

50

0042

1 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, I did have --
2 thank you, Madame Chair. I did have some questions for
3 Chris but I'll hold on those. I was just going to ask
4 him -- I mean if we did have a minute or two I was just
5 going to ask Chris if he can share salmon harvest
6 numbers for McGrath and Nikolai area. That'd be
7 helpful because, I mean being in the Western Interior,
8 I mean it's our communities up in the Upper Kuskokwim
9 and the middle is Aniak, but very little information
10 shared from his report for the Western Interior region.

11

12 And just so you know I did apply --
13 originally I did apply on the first go around for the
14 RAC position for Western Interior RAC and I'm going to
15 have to reapply it sounds like. So that's where I'm
16 at.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 And I understand if we are crunched on
21 time I'll just email Chris questions about that
22 program.

23

24 Thanks.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Well, if he can
27 answer you we'll give him a few more minutes.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I
34 certainly enjoyed the conversation with everybody that
35 asks some of these questions because we never have a
36 chance to hear what the Kusko is doing, much less the
37 Yukon River Panel, this past winter especially, it's
38 pretty interesting to see that they actually at least
39 had a -- they mentioned the chum numbers were down in
40 2020 as opposed to 2019, and, we, on the Yukon didn't
41 have anything at all. So I was -- it's -- it's real
42 good to see if it's a crises we're going through with
43 our fall chum, if they are experiencing that in the
44 Norton Sound, in the Kusko, in the Nushagak, whatever
45 rivers that is this -- you know, maybe it's not the
46 right time to bring it up but it's good to see that --
47 that we all are sharing the same concerns and it's --
48 it's good to see what our -- our brothers and sisters
49 are doing on the Kuskokwim. I really enjoyed that

50

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1 conversation, sir, thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Like Don said we
4 don't have a rep from that area and, Kevin, I would
5 encourage you to put your application in. With that,
6 do we have any more questions.

7

8 MR. HONEA: No, but, Madame Chair, I
9 just wanted to.....

10

11 : Yeah, hi, Madame Chair.....

12

13 MR. HONEA:I just wanted to.....

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, there's
16 two people talking -- go ahead, Don.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just wanted to -- I
19 appreciate your letting others actually ask some of
20 these questions and it brings more light to all of us
21 so thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you.

24

25 MR. BRAZIL: Hi, Madame Chair. This is
26 Charles Brazil with the Department of Fish and Game.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

29

30 MR. BRAZIL: I'm the Regional
31 Management Coordinator for the Division of Commercial
32 Fisheries. If you would like, I might be able to
33 clarify and provide some additional information on the
34 dearth of chums that returned this year.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go right ahead.

37

38 MR. BRAZIL: Okay. So I know most of
39 the folks are aware that the Department, in conjunction
40 with Fish and -- with the Federal agencies conduct
41 Northern Bering Sea trawl surveys for juveniles
42 salmonids in the fall, and one of the things that we
43 noticed this year in the returns, when they started
44 coming back lower than anybody anticipated, was that we
45 started looking at the age composition. That's one of
46 the first things we look at if the runs aren't coming
47 back as we anticipate. So we look to see if we're
48 missing an age class. And what we found first on the
49 Yukon was that we were missing our four year old fish,

50

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1 they weren't coming back in the number that we
2 expected. So at that point we went and looked at the
3 trawl survey and the Department produced a handout and
4 it's been distributed widely. I don't necessarily know
5 to the RACs but we distribute it across the region.
6 And one of the things that we saw in the 2016 juvenile
7 survey was that it was one of the lowest numbers of
8 juvenile chum that we saw in recent times. And all
9 across Western Alaska, and even in the state we saw a
10 decrease in abundance in the number of four ocean fish.
11 So the conversation of Nushagak, Kuskokwim area, Yukon,
12 Norton Sound, abundance was low for that reason. And
13 so there's a probability, you know, that we think that
14 there was some kind of failure in the ocean that
15 precluded those -- the four year old fish from
16 surviving. Now, what we saw in the following years was
17 very large abundance of juvenile chum in the Northern
18 Bering Sea trawl survey. So I'm not going to hang my
19 hat on it, but it's some of the highest numbers that
20 we've ever seen so there is some optimism, but we won't
21 know until those fish return in 2021. That would be
22 this summer.

23
24 And I know there was some conversation
25 on the Kuskokwim, yes, the numbers were extremely low
26 but we did achieve the lone escapement goal that we had
27 on that system and, you know, at that point, you know,
28 I just wanted to provide some additional information.
29 And hopefully you all can, you know, take that and
30 we'll see that there is some optimism for this summer,
31 and, hopefully things, you know, return to a little
32 bigger abundance and folks can get the chum that they
33 need.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
36 Do we have any more comments or questions.

37
38 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair. Mary here.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Mary, go ahead.

41
42 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you again. This is
43 Mary -- yeah, Mary from the Kuskokwim. And I do
44 greatly appreciate the latitude that you're giving for
45 this discussion. And, Chuck, thank you for chiming in
46 and joining the discussion. I just want to say that
47 the Fish Commission does not feel that the chum
48 escapement is robust, either in, you know, the
49 territory it covers, I think it's one tributary, the
50

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1 Kogrukluk, and it's a, you know, the Feds are, I think,
2 looking at different ideas for more robust escapement
3 goals that are not drainage-wide but look at a myriad
4 of different producing tributaries. So, you know,
5 that's just one of the things the Fish Commission is
6 looking at long-term, is will we be getting a handle on
7 escapement goals and are they adequate.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, very
12 much. And we appreciate.....

13

14 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:all your
17 comments. Yes, somebody on the phone.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, I just
20 had a comment right before Mary spoke here. I
21 appreciate the guy, I think he hit it on the nail what
22 I was really asking for, whether this was area-wide,
23 and I guess it is, and so I'm actually looking forward
24 to what the guesstimate is for this year, and maybe
25 YRDFA or somebody would answer some of those questions.
26 But appreciate all the concerns that's from the Kusko
27 and from the Yukon.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
32 very much. This has been very interesting. Any more
33 comments or questions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If not, where
38 are we on the agenda, Karen.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Madame
41 Chair. The next item on the agenda is the call for
42 Federal wildlife proposals. And so I invite Pippa
43 Kenner, Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
44 Management to present.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Karen. Can you
49 hear me?

50

0046

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, ma'am.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Yep.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair and
8 Council members. I'm Pippa Kenner and I'm an
9 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
10 Management. The materials for this presentation begin
11 on Page 13 of your Council books.

12

13 This is the opportunity for the Council
14 to submit proposals to change Federal wildlife
15 regulations and customary and traditional use
16 determinations. You may propose changes to Federal
17 subsistence season dates, harvest limits, method and
18 means of harvest and customary and traditional use
19 determinations. A call for proposals to change Federal
20 subsistence regulations is usually published in the
21 Federal Register in January and this starts the call
22 for proposals. The period during which proposals are
23 accepted is no less than 30 calendar days and proposals
24 must be submitted in writing within this timeframe.

25

26 However, this year is different. With
27 the new Administration in Washington, D.C., all Federal
28 agencies in the process of opening calls for proposals
29 were directed to withdraw those requests so they could
30 be reviewed by the new Administration. And this is a
31 common practice and has occurred the last two new
32 Administrations. But our Program at OSM requested
33 special consideration of our proposed rule and this
34 request was accepted by the new Administration. We
35 submitted our proposed rule and we're still waiting for
36 it to go through the clearance process.

37

38 But at this time, even though we don't
39 have the call for proposals published, and the Program
40 can't accept proposals, as a Council, you can still
41 meet, discuss and draft wildlife proposals. You may
42 also accept proposals from the public and once the call
43 for proposal is published, we will accept your
44 proposals and enter them into the system and proceed as
45 we would in our normal cycles.

46

47 So the message there is that you should
48 go ahead and do what you normally do and develop
49 Federal wildlife proposals if you so choose.

50

0047

1 I am on -- I have regulations in front
2 of me and I am prepared to answer any questions you
3 might have. Also we have Federal and State wildlife
4 and other Staff online and I encourage them to jump in
5 if they have answers to Council member questions.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 That's the end of my presentation.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, very
12 much. Do we have any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not
17 that was -- I didn't get your name.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner
20 with OSM.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
29 Deatherage. Thank you, Pippa, for that presentation.
30 I did want to let the Council members know that as we
31 proceed with this meeting, if there are issues that
32 come up after agency reports and new information is
33 shared that you feel you may wish to draft a wildlife
34 regulatory proposal for this call for proposals, that
35 option could still be available to you.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
40 very much. This is Jenny with -- Chair -- I'd also
41 like to say that when you start giving a report, could
42 you give your name maybe twice because it's sort of
43 hard to hear on the phone -- on our phones. Okay, with
44 that our next report, if we don't have any more
45 comments or questions.

46
47 MR. HONEA: This is Don. But I
48 appreciate that, Madame Chair, you making that
49 statement because I'm trying to keep track of who I'm
50

0048

1 actually -- who is presenting and it clarifies that,
2 when they mention twice, who they are.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 I think you're doing a great job.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Don.
9 Okay, with that.....

10
11 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:yes, go
14 ahead -- was that Goodwin?

15
16 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, yeah, yeah, I was
17 just going to listening to Don there, yeah, you're
18 doing a great job. Just having trouble following who's
19 who here. But if they could repeat their name it would
20 kind of help out.

21
22 Thanks.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
25 Goodwin. And we.....

26
27 MS. KENNER: Hello -- hello, Madame
28 Chair, this is Pippa again.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, go ahead,
31 Pippa.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Hey, after -- while I was
34 doing that, I had my speaker off and so I was unable to
35 hear you speaking, so I'm sorry if that caused any
36 confusion.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, are you
39 talking to me, Jenny?

40
41 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
42 Pippa Kenner again.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

45
46 MS. KENNER: Yes, I just wanted to
47 apologize because I had my speaker off so I wasn't able
48 to hear anything you had to say so I apologize if it
49 caused confusion.

50

0049

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Well, all
2 I said was when you give a report just give your name
3 twice in the beginning so we can hear and write it
4 down. I'm trying to write names down and I'm making
5 all new names for you.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. With
10 that.....

11
12 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Excellent. Will do.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. With
16 that, the next report. Karen.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. And, again, this is
20 Karen Deatherage.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: And the next agenda
25 item is the Council charter. However, I would like to
26 invite the Chair, if she's willing, to call a short
27 five minute break, if anybody would like that.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. We'll
32 have a five minute break, and I'm really good on
33 breaks, so five minutes, we'll be back in five.

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
36 Chair.

37
38 MR. HONEA: Great idea.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Pollock is
47 here.

48
49 Don.

50

0050

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, we'll wait
8 for them.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hum, they don't
21 believe me when I said five minutes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, maybe that's the
24 last break.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I hear somebody
29 returning. Don.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hum.

38

39 (Pause)

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is Pollock on.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I think Pollock
44 was on.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, are you
47 still on the phone?

48

49 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm here.

50

0051

1 (Pause)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Donald Honea or
4 Goodwin, on the phone?

5

6 MR. SEMAKEN: Goodwin here. Hello.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah, Goodwin,
9 you're on, we hear you.

10

11 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: We're just
14 waiting for Don.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. HONEA: Hello.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Don, we're trying
21 to get you on the phone right now.

22

23 MR. HONEA: I'm on the phone, hey, I'm
24 on the other phone, bye.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, it
27 appears that we have all members of the Council right
28 now on the telephone.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. We'll go
33 ahead with the next agenda item and that is who?

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: The next item is the
36 Council charter review.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Charter review,
39 okay. And that's on Page -- I remember seeing it.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Council charter is
42 on Page 17 of the meeting book. Thank you, Madame
43 Chair.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. What are
46 we going to review on that?

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
49 Chair. Members of the Council. This is Karen

50

0052

1 Deatherage. And what I'll be doing is reading you what
2 the Council needs to take action on today with respect
3 to its Council charter. And there are also some
4 recommendations for the Council to consider to add
5 language to their charter. And so when you are ready
6 I'll go ahead and proceed.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Karen.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair and
13 Council members. If you could refer to the charter on
14 Page 17 of your meeting material.

15

16 Under the Federal Advisory Committee
17 Act, your Council charter is renewed every two years.
18 Before the charter is renewed, the Council has a right
19 to review it and discuss any changes they would like to
20 propose to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board
21 then reviews proposed changes and if the Board agrees,
22 the request for proposed changes is forwarded to the
23 Secretary of the Interior. A lot of the language in
24 your charter is actually required by the Federal
25 Advisory Committee Act and its implementing policies so
26 you can't change that language. The changes that you
27 can request are a change to the name of your Council,
28 or to the number of members on your Council, but you
29 will need to have a reasonable justification for it.

30

31 As a reminder, during the charter
32 review in 2019, the Secretaries, the Secretary of
33 Interior and Agriculture, approved new language
34 suggested by the Councils to their charters that,
35 alternate members may be appointed to the Council to
36 fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An
37 alternate member must be approved and appointed by the
38 Secretary before the meeting as a representative. The
39 term for an appointed alternate member will be the same
40 as the term of the member who's vacancy is being
41 filled. However, in order to have alternates there
42 needs to be a sufficient number of applications in your
43 region. Alternates are appointed as members only if a
44 seat was vacated because of a member passing, resigning
45 or moving out of the region. Again, it's really
46 important that we get as many applicants as possible so
47 that if there is a need for an alternate on the Council
48 one can be appointed.

49

50

0053

1 This is the most important part that
2 I'd like the Council to listen to -- because of the
3 delays to Council appointments experienced over the
4 last few years, the Council also may want to consider
5 requesting adding a provision to its charter that
6 allows a member to serve after the expiration of his or
7 her term until a.....

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participant put line on hold - constant beeping)

11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE:successor is
13 appointed. This is what is called a carryover term
14 that will come in play if appointment letters are late,
15 rather than the member's term expiring and the Council
16 having an empty seat on the Council, that member could
17 continue to serve until an appointment letter comes in.

18
19 So this is something the Council can
20 consider as an additional language to their charter
21 that could be put forth to the Federal Subsistence
22 Board and the Secretaries for approval.

23
24 If the Council is satisfied with all
25 charter provisions as is and.....

26
27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participant put line on hold - constant beeping)

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE:(indiscernible -
31 beeping interference) then the Council can simply vote
32 to forward the charter to the Board.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 I'm available for any questions if you
37 have them.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
40 Karen. Any comments Don.

41
42 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Karen -- I mean thank
43 you, Madame Chair. I just had a question on this, I
44 guess we are actually (indiscernible - beeping) the
45 mandates on this, if you -- if you want to call it
46 that. I think we, as a Council, are doing our duties
47 and I wish we could say the same about whoever is doing
48 this charter thing here because I actually find if it's
49 -- if it helps us as a -- as a committee -- as an

50

0054

1 Advisory Council to have -- to be able to take
2 advantage of that -- what you had mentioned, to have a
3 -- have someone designated, even after that they were
4 -- to have someone designated to fill in for that, am I
5 making sense Karen?

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Member
8 Honea. Through the Chair. So what would.....

9
10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE:happen here if
13 you added this additional language, which I have
14 language that you could consider in a motion if you're
15 interested, if you added this, then Member Gervais and
16 Member Reakoff would still be serving on this Council
17 as incumbents until an appointment was made. Whether
18 their appointment was rejected or approved, it doesn't
19 matter, but they would still serve on the Council until
20 an appointment was made. So it's -- you know,
21 appointment letters are due by December 2nd of every
22 year, and as you know there have been some delays or no
23 action on some of these appointments and, therefore,
24 this (indiscernible - beeping) way for the Council to
25 ensure that they had additional members to participate
26 in their meetings. With the Council, as it knows,
27 right now, you have four seated members, this would
28 allow members who had not yet been appointed to serve.
29 And, again, I want to be clear this is only for
30 incumbents, it (indiscernible - beeping) applicants.

31
32 Thank you, very much.

33
34 Did that answer your question, Mr.
35 Honea.

36
37 MR. HONEA: Yes, it kind of and in part
38 it does. I don't know if this is an action item where
39 we have to do that immediately or -- but I certainly
40 like the idea and it would be great to have, you know,
41 input from the other Council members. Are we taking
42 care of this today? Is this an action item that we
43 have to submit now?

44
45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don.....

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair --
48 first I'd like to ask the operator if people have our
49 line on hold if they could please disconnect that
50

0055

1 person, if that's possible, because there is somebody
2 who has put us on hold.

3

4 REPORTER: Okay, yep, I'll jump on and
5 ask, just a second you guys.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very, very
8 much. In reference to Mr. Honea's question, yes, this
9 is an action item. The Council must approve its
10 charter either as written or the Council may choose to
11 approve its charter with additional language that would
12 allow any member of the Council to serve after the
13 expiration of the member's term until a successor is
14 appointed.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair, and Mr. Honea.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, any.....

19

20 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is just my
21 personal opinion. That's why I was wondering if we had
22 to take care of that immediately. I -- it certainly
23 sounds like it would benefit us if we had either one of
24 those Council members to be able to fill in temporarily
25 or whatever, and I'm just looking at the pros on this
26 -- or cons -- or -- so I guess if we had to take care
27 of it -- is there a way that we could insert that and
28 -- and -- I'm kind of confused on whether that's a good
29 thing or a bad thing. I mean it certainly would sound
30 like a good thing if we could have had them sitting in
31 in the future.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Goodwin,
34 do you have any comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Nope.

43

44 Pollock.

45

46 MR. SIMON: Yes. We should until our
47 term expires or when the process is being -- is getting
48 (indiscernible - beeping) terms expire so right now we
49 -- we don't have a quorum and the process of
50

0056

1 reappointment is kind of slow so it is important for
2 communities (indiscernible - beeping) Board members are
3 current now so, it's a concern to me. I wish the
4 Secretary would hurry up and make appointments to the
5 Board so we could make important decisions for our way
6 of life and even things like (indiscernible), that's my
7 concerns.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

12

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you,
Pollock. Goodwin.

13

14

15

16

17

18

MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah, that -- I
think it's good to have them serve instead of just --
because we meet only twice a year, they would be able
to fill in until they get -- to get somebody
interested. We have very few meetings.

19

20

That's it.

21

22

MR. KRON: Madame Chair.

23

24

25

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I don't think
Goodwin was done, hang on.

26

27

MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. Yeah.

28

29

30

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, you done
there Goodwin.

31

32

33

MR. SEMAKEN: That was my comment.
Yes.

34

35

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.

36

37

MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.

38

39

40

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, who got
on.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
Tom Kron from OSM. I just wanted to let you know that
the Bristol Bay Council met last week, and when they
reviewed their charter issue they decided that they
want to incorporate the carryover provision that Ms.
Deatherage just talked about. They want to incorporate
the carryover provision in their charter for review by
the Federal Board and then submitting to the Secretary.

50

0057

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank.....

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:you -- yes,
8 go ahead.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
11 Karen Deatherage. And I did want to let the Council
12 know that the Subsistence Resource Commissions for this
13 region would be the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
14 Resource Commission, they currently have this provision
15 in legislation for them, or in the code, but they have
16 this provision that they -- if Jack Reakoff was on
17 their Commission and he was not reappointed immediately
18 by the deadline, he would continue to serve on that
19 Commission until an appointment is made. And so,
20 again, what this allows is for continued service when
21 we have delays like we've seen in the past, and in the
22 case of this year we've seen where three Councils did
23 not receive any appointments. And so this is something
24 that could be a real benefit, potentially, to the
25 Council. As Mr. Kron remarked, Bristol Bay did go
26 ahead and approve this language.

27

28 If the Council decides it wants to put
29 this language in, then what they would do today, is
30 move to adopt the Charter, including new language that
31 would stipulate, any member of this Advisory Council
32 may serve after the expiration of the member's term
33 until a successor is appointed. This would just be
34 draft language. It may be tweaked if the Council
35 approves it and it moves forth, but this is the general
36 concept, is to allow these members to continue to serve
37 until appointments are made.

38

39 Thank you, very much.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank.....

42

43 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:very -- oh,
46 wait hang -- yes.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, and
49 that would be my motion.

50

0058

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, before you
2 make a motion I would like to also make a comment.....

3
4 MR. HONEA: Okay.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:on that. I
7 don't see where we don't need a name change, we don't
8 need the numbers decreased or increased, I think we
9 have enough. But with the alternate, I also agree that
10 we should have them serve after their term has expired,
11 you know, to make our Council stronger and give us more
12 input and with that I would like to -- go ahead, Don,
13 and make your motion.

14
15 MR. HONEA: Yeah, that would be my
16 motion. I guess, Karen, or somebody, can go ahead and
17 insert that language in this but, yeah, whatever the --
18 my justification is, I think we're facing times like,
19 presently, right now, calling in and we're not getting
20 this, and I think that would at least alleviate some of
21 the problems that we're facing. So I -- that would be
22 my justification.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, so Don made
25 a motion to add on the language that Karen has given
26 us; is there a second to the motion.

27
28 MR. SIMON: Pollock. Second.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Pollock
31 second the motion, and Don made the motion -- what do
32 the heck you call that -- comments -- discussion.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If not, a call
37 for the question.

38
39 MR. SIMON: Question.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Question by
42 Pollock. All in favor say aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. All
47 opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

0059

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, the motion
2 carries. So, Karen, are you going to get that out, the
3 change?

4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
6 Chair. Yes, I recorded the motion with the new language
7 for the charter, and also to approve the remaining
8 provisions in the charter as written.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
13 very much. So with that, Council -- review and approve
14 the 2020 annual report.

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
17 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. What I'd like to
18 recommend, with the Chair's approval, is that the
19 Council members take a couple minutes to review the
20 draft fiscal year 2020 annual report that starts on
21 Page 24 of your meeting book. It's a three page
22 document and this document cites those issues that the
23 Council felt that it wanted to bring to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board that are outside of the regular
25 regulatory process, so issues of concern that the
26 Council had.

27
28 The Council has the option of approving
29 the annual report as written, or adding any additional
30 topics from last year that they would like the Board to
31 be aware of.

32
33 So what I would like to ask, with the
34 Chair's approval, is that the Council members take a
35 couple minutes to read through the report. If they
36 believe that it captures the Council's intent, Madame
37 Chair can call for a motion to finalize this 2020
38 annual report to the Board as written.

39
40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, so this
43 repo -- Karen, this is Jenny. This report was written
44 at our last meeting last fall.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
47 Karen Deatherage. And, yes, you are correct. This
48 report was drafted at the fall 2020 meeting that was
49 held via teleconference last October.

50

0060

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. I've read
2 over it and I see it looks good to me.

3
4 Anybody that.....

5
6 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
7 Don. I had a question about this.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go right ahead.

10
11 MR. HONEA: Yeah, does either you or
12 Karen, any of these concerns were already addressed, I
13 mean, you know, it's kind of ongoing, the member -- the
14 Council membership and some of -- some of the things --
15 and I -- I guess I just had a question whether we
16 submit these on a yearly basis, or -- and have any of
17 these been addressed yet, and I'll just pose that to
18 maybe Karen.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair, and
21 with the Chair's permission. This is Karen Deatherage.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead,
24 Karen.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Don, you are correct. This is a report that is
28 done annually. In the fall the Council comes up with
29 the issues that they believe are important for the
30 Board to hear, and in the winter cycle meeting or
31 during that meeting the Council approves that. After
32 these reports are finalized, they go to the Board for
33 responses, and the Board will respond to the Council,
34 generally over the summer after the responses from
35 various subject matter experts are received and
36 recorded, so those are sent to you afterwards.

37
38 As far as the three issues that are
39 currently on this draft annual report, other than the
40 Office of Subsistence Management and our continued work
41 and with the Board and the Secretaries of the Interior
42 for appointments to the Council, the other two issues
43 have not been resolved and so the recommendation would
44 certainly to be keeping those issues in the annual
45 report as written, and so that the Council can receive
46 a reply or response from subject matter experts.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0061

1 MR. HONEA: Okay, so actually this is
2 FYI and these are the -- the things that are mentioned
3 here, the four -- or three -- or -- problem areas are
4 probably still being worked on and so there's no action
5 on this. Okay, I -- I guess.....

6
7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, with that
8 is there a.....

9
10 MR. HONEA:Mr. Chair, I guess we
11 -- I have no problems with this other than whatever
12 we've been submitting in the past and I have no
13 concerns that need to be addressed, at -- I'm guessing
14 right now so do you need a motion to.....

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don, maybe
17 before you.....

18
19 MR. HONEA: Do you want anything here.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, before you
22 make a motion I'd like to hear from Goodwin or Pollock.

23
24 MR. HONEA: Sure.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Pollock.

31
32 MR. SIMON: Yeah. What was that again?

33
34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: We were just
35 going to make a motion on to accept the -- approve the
36 annual report, you know, that we do every year.

37
38 MR. SIMON: Okay.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Are you good
41 with it?

42
43 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm good with it. I
44 don't have too much comments on it.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Okay,
47 thank you.

48
49 Goodwin.

50

0062

1 MR. SIMON: It looks good to me.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Oh, okay. How
4 about you, Goodwin.

5

6 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, sorry, I -- I missed
7 that last one, I got cut off, I had a phone call --
8 hello.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Well, we just --
11 Don was just about to make a motion to accept and
12 approve our annual report and I just wanted to see if
13 you had any comments on it.

14

15 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, no, no, no. It seems
16 to -- the high water mark seems to be coming up all the
17 time, that's about it. Yeah.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, good,
20 thank you. With that, you can go ahead and make your
21 motion.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think that's Don,
26 Madame Chair.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Multitasking.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Was that Don
33 making a motion?

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
38 Don. I don't know, do we have to do this in a motion,
39 I mean is this an FYI, I'm kind of confused on this.
40 Didn't want to jump ahead or anything like that without
41 comments from the other guys so do we have to -- is
42 there a motion to accept this -- I mean do we have to
43 do it like that?

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I think we
46 should.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Okay.

49

50

0063

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Karen Deatherage. Yes, the Council will need to make a
3 motion to finalize the annual report to the Board as
4 written.

5
6 MR. HONEA: Okay, then that would be my
7 motion then.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
10 Is there a second.

11
12 MR. SIMON: Second by Pollock.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Second by
15 Pollock. Okay, any discussion -- I think we had our
16 discussion already.

17
18 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: And I also.....

21
22 MR. HONEA: Question.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I also agree
25 with the rest of the Council that we should just go
26 ahead and do this. It looks good to me. With that all
27 in favor say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: All opposed,
32 same sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, motion
37 carries. We have accepted our annual report.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
40 Deatherage. Thank you, very much, Madame Chair and
41 members of the Council.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes. We're
44 cruising right along, where are we, on agency reports,
45 or where are we?

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
48 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. Yes, we are on
49 agency reports and as we generally do, we open the
50

0064

1 invitation up first to our tribal governments and our
2 Alaska Native and non-profit organizations.

3

4 I would, before that happens, like to
5 see if anybody new has joined this meeting on the phone
6 so that we can record your participation. So if
7 there's anybody who did not introduce themselves this
8 morning, if you'd like to do so now we'd appreciate it.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
13 Any new joiners on the phone.

14

15 MR. VICKERS: Hello. My name is Brent
16 Vickers. I am a -- I'm a new anthropologist, Cultural
17 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
18 Management. And I've just joined in the meeting as I
19 learn more about the Western Interior and hear from the
20 Council members and learn what's going on there so I'll
21 be silently listening but I thank you all for letting
22 me join.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, welcome.
25 Thank you, very much. Anybody else on the phone.

26

27 MR. STOUT: This is Glenn Stout with
28 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, welcome
31 Glenn. Anybody else.

32

33 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. Frank
34 Harris with the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation
35 Office.

36

37 MS. STICKMAN: Good morning, Madame
38 Chair. This is Danielle Stickman and I am the
39 Indigenous Specialist for InterAgency Research Policy
40 Committee. And I'm happy to hear some of your voices.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hey, Danielle,
43 it's good to hear your voice.

44

45 MS. STICKMAN: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Hello, Danielle.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Haven't seen you

50

0065

1 in a long time.

2

3 MS. STICKMAN: Hi. Yeah.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, with that,
6 anybody.....

7

8 MS. STICKMAN: Good to hear you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:else joined
11 us. Anybody else on the phone who's joined us.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
14 Chair. This is Robbin LaVine and I'm also an
15 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
16 Management listening in because, of course, attending
17 all of these Regional Advisory Council meetings is
18 vital to the work we do and we are just grateful for
19 your continued participation and support.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, very
24 much. Anybody else.

25

26 MR. LAMAR: Hello, Madame Chair. This
27 is Tim Lamar with the Bureau of Land Management. And
28 I'll be providing part of the BLM agency update a
29 little bit later on.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
34 Anybody. Any new.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, with that.
39 Everybody got on -- Karen, do we have the tribal
40 governments, anybody representing tribal governments.

41

42 MR. VENT: This is Darrell Vent,
43 Huslia.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead,
46 Darrell.

47

48 MR. VENT: Yes, I'm currently trying to
49 get a hold of Carl to call in to let me -- let him know

50

0066

1 that I'm representing the Huslia Tribe.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.
9 Mr. Vent, if you are able to have some representation
10 or represent the tribe and you wish to speak later
11 after you have received permission to do so, we can
12 certainly add you to the agenda at a later time.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. VENT: Yes, thank you, he will give
17 you a call -- give us -- give you a guys a call and let
18 you know that I'm trying to represent the Huslia Tribe.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: And who's going
21 to call in?

22

23 MR. VENT: Carl Burgett, Chief for the
24 tribe.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Okay.
27 Okay, with that we'll go ahead and go to the Native
28 organizations, Tanana Chiefs.

29

30 MR. ROWE: Hi, this is Eric Rowe with
31 Tanana Chiefs Conference. Through the Chair. I just
32 would like to thank everyone for your time today.

33

34 I just wanted to give a brief
35 announcement about Henshaw Creek. I'm the Henshaw
36 Creek project manager. And last year due to the
37 pandemic we weren't able to get any escapement
38 estimates. But I just wanted to give an update that
39 this year we plan to go ahead with running the Henshaw
40 Creek weir and we're excited to get out there and get
41 escapement numbers, especially with what's going on
42 with the chum and chinook escapements recently being
43 low. And we are working with the Fish and Wildlife
44 Service and plan on conducting the science camp as
45 well.

46

47 And with that I am happy to answer any
48 questions, but just wanted to give a brief update and
49 thank you for your time.

50

0067

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Eric.
2 Any questions or comments for Eric.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Madame
5 Chair. This is Don again. Eric, the -- I believe you
6 guys didn't operate that Henshaw Creek this summer; is
7 that correct, and was there a reason, because of high
8 water or what was up?

9

10 MR. ROWE: Hi, Don. Through the Chair.
11 Last summer we did not conduct it because we weren't
12 able to travel to villages because of the pandemic and
13 we rely heavily on Allakaket to receive shipments for
14 gear. But we were able to get out there and do
15 maintenance to the weir because back in 2019 the weir
16 was damaged from debris. So we were able to get out
17 there and fix the weir so the weir can be operational
18 this season. And that way we can get out there and get
19 some enumerations this year.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Okay, great. Hey, that's
22 -- that's good to hear. I mean I'm -- I'm glad there's
23 actually some projects like Henshaw out there doing
24 some of the surveying work and employing people and I
25 know probably the village of Allakaket is probably
26 happy to have that going again just to be able to help
27 their young people to be able to go out and do these
28 studies and I'm glad there's money for it.

29

30 So, thank you.

31

32 MR. ROWE: Thanks, Don.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
35 Don.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If there's no
40 more comments or questions, we'll go to the Kuskokwim
41 River InterTribal Fish Commission.

42

43 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Madame Chair,
44 this is Kevin Whitworth. Can you hear me okay?

45

46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

47

48 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay. Thank you,
49 Madame Chair and Council members. This is Kevin

50

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1 Whitworth again with the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
2 Fish Commission. I'm a fish biologist here based out
3 of McGrath and I'm a member of McGrath Native Village.
4

5 So in your meeting packet you should
6 have two handouts. One is the summary for the
7 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission. It's one
8 page. And then the other handout is the -- it's the
9 outreach flier for the management strategy evaluation
10 that we are involved with; it's called -- at the top
11 it's called Kuskokwim River Salmon Need Your Help.
12

13 I will be going through our summary,
14 the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission summary
15 and I would like to introduce Daniel Schindler, he will
16 be going through the management strategy and evaluation
17 handout that you guys all have.
18

19 So just briefly -- I'll be brief that
20 way I can give Daniel some time, and he is on the call
21 right now.
22

23 So the Fish Commission -- so just a
24 quick update. Last year we didn't have our annual
25 meeting because of the Covid restrictions of travel and
26 -- we wanted to have an in-person meeting, just
27 couldn't happen because of Covid, so this year we have
28 our annual meeting scheduled for April 7th and 8th, and
29 it will be through teleconference and Zoom. We're not
30 going to have an in-person meeting. And there can be
31 some changes to come out of that meeting, especially
32 Commissioners will be voting on new Executive Council
33 members, a new Chairperson, and in-season managers can
34 be voted too at that meeting. It may not change, it
35 depends on the Commissioners and how they want to vote.
36 But there can be some changes come out of that meeting.
37

38 Also, this season, 2021 projects that
39 the Fish Commission are involved with. This is our
40 fifth year we are involved with the community based
41 harvest monitoring project. So it's where we hire
42 local people from the communities in the lower river.
43 Last year I think we interviewed at four different
44 villages. So they collect harvest information on
45 salmon after each opener. And this is important
46 information, especially early season and in-season, we
47 don't have very much information on the runs and
48 strength, and this is provided to in-season managers,
49 Commission in-season managers, Federal in-season
50

0069

1 managers, and anybody else who wants to look at the
2 data. It's pertinent information. And we're looking
3 -- we're trying to expand this program from the four
4 villages. ONC, they do interviews in the community of
5 Bethel, and then we try to do interviews in the other
6 four villages, and we're trying to expand to maybe six
7 or seven villages. But so far we have the funding to
8 do four villages.

9

10 Another project that we are involved
11 with. The Takotna River weir, it's the fifth year that
12 we are running this weir, previously it was run by Fish
13 and Game and the community of Takotna was heavily
14 involved. We are using the Fish and Game's weir
15 through a cooperative agreement, to use that weir, and
16 the facilities there in Takotna. The weir is just a
17 couple miles from Takotna on the road system there so
18 it's easy to access from the community. And everybody
19 who works at the weir, including myself, are all local
20 fishery technicians or fishery biologists. Everybody
21 -- so we're looking to run that. Last year we ran it
22 with Covid. I didn't have to travel to the weir site
23 at all last year so just having a constant, consistent
24 crew being able to run that weir for the past four
25 years really helped last year with Covid to run it. We
26 didn't have to travel in and out of the villages or
27 anything, everybody was from that community of Takotna
28 so we were able to -- we were successfully able to run
29 it.

30

31 This year the Fish Commission is
32 involved with the Kwethluk River weir, along with the
33 Organized Village of Kwethluk, Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, Frank Harris out of the Kenai Office, and the
35 Refuge Staff at Yukon Delta. It's a partnership. And
36 last year we weren't able to run the weir because of
37 Covid and travel restrictions in and out of Kwethluk
38 and Bethel. So this year we are working on a plan to
39 try to run this weir, and it's looking okay. Still
40 unclear whether we're going to be able to do it. Frank
41 Harris is now working on a Covid plan, but it's looking
42 okay, like we'll be able to run it -- or -- but it's
43 still very preliminary so I can't really -- it's not
44 certain.

45

46 Another thing, over the winter, that
47 we've been working on with Fish and Wildlife Service,
48 our Fish Commission Staff, Executive Council Staff of
49 the Fish Commission and in-season managers have been

50

0070

1 working with Boyd, at Yukon Delta and his fisheries
2 Staff on a management strategy, a 2021 management
3 strategy. This is a strategy to guides in-season
4 managers with decisions, it's a 10,000 (ph) foot level
5 management strategy, it lays out guiding principles and
6 objectives for the season. It goes through salmon
7 declines and unmet subsistence needs, some of the risk
8 factors facing chum and chinook salmon, goes through
9 some of the data from previous years. For instance,
10 like the Kogrukluk weir it's seen -- this last year we
11 saw a 70 percent decline over the 20 year average, at
12 the George for the chum we saw a 67 percent decline
13 from the 20 year average, Bethel test fishery chum
14 salmon saw 80 percent decline from the 20 year average
15 for catch per unit effort -- the cumulative catch per
16 unit effort. And at the sonar there was an 83 percent
17 decline in 2020 -- in 2020 compared to the previous
18 three years, or compared to the previous two years at
19 the sonar. The sonar hasn't been there very long. The
20 management strategy also goes through some risk factors
21 facing the -- some of those I just went through. Also
22 it takes a conservation based harvest management -- I
23 mean excuse me -- the last thing that we are working on
24 is a harvest strategy. We haven't started that yet
25 with Boyd at the Refuge, it's something that's going to
26 come up before the season starts. It gets into more
27 detail on how we're going to manage the salmon fishery
28 in Federal waters.

29
30 And let's see, the last thing, I'd like
31 to introduce Daniel Schindler, he's on the call. And
32 Dr. Daniel Schindler, he's coordinating this effort
33 along with Curry Cunningham, who -- Curry's not on the
34 call right now, but Daniel is one of the coordinators
35 for this management strategy evaluation process that we
36 went through working with Organized Village -- I mean,
37 excuse me -- working with the Fish and Wildlife
38 Service, and Fish and Game, ONC there in Bethel, along
39 with the Fish Commission. Daniel, he's a salmon
40 fishery and ecological researcher based in Seattle at
41 the University of Washington who has extensive work in
42 the Bristol Bay region on salmon and he will talk more
43 -- a little bit more about the process, so go ahead,
44 Daniel, are you on.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Daniel, are you
49 on?
50

0071

1 MR. WHITWORTH: Daniel Schindler, if
2 you are on, I can't hear you. If you are on mute, can
3 you unmute right now.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I'm calling on
6 Daniel Schindler.
7

8 (No comments)
9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Schindler.
11

12 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Daniel, are you
15 on?
16

17 (No comments)
18

19 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, it sounds like
20 he's not on. I just text him earlier, he was on. He
21 was standing by. Let's see, Madame Chair, can he speak
22 a little bit later when he does come on?
23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Sure.
25

26 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay. So I guess at
27 this point if you -- do you guys have any questions for
28 me about Fish Commission for the 2021 season, I'll open
29 it up for questions, and, if not, you can reach Mary
30 Peltola, Executive Director or I, just privately and/or
31 email with questions or comments of you want -- if you
32 would like to see more of our management strategy or
33 our harvest strategy as it gets developed you're
34 welcome to see that too.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Did you
37 have.....
38

39 MR. WHITWORTH: And I apologize for
40 Daniel not being here. I will keep texting him and
41 we'll try to get him in the agenda when he gets on.
42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
46 Kevin. Any questions or comments for Kevin from the
47 Board.
48

49 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
50

0072

1 Don. I had a question for Kevin, and good morning
2 Kevin, hope you get on the WIRAC here. I know it's
3 still pending, your application. But I just had a
4 question, I mean you're reporting out for the Kuskokwim
5 River InterTribal Fish Commission, so what's your
6 capacity on that Commission and I -- I know that -- I
7 believe that Joe up in Nikolai is also on there and,
8 you know, I don't know much about the Commission, I
9 guess it's something like the InterTribal Fish
10 Commission that we have on the Yukon here and so I was
11 just -- you gave a pretty thorough presentation about
12 all the projects that you -- that you guys are doing
13 and I'm actually glad that you're involved with all of
14 these things here because it was a pretty big loss for
15 us to lose Mr. Collins there, Ray, and so I'm actually
16 glad that somebody that's involved in the fisheries and
17 concerns for the Kusko -- so are you -- it was kind of
18 interesting that you are presenting for the Kuskokwim
19 River InterTribal, and I guess your organization is
20 comprised of reps up and down that river; is that
21 correct?

22
23 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Madame Chair.
24 Don, thanks for that question. So my capacity with the
25 Fish Commission is a fisheries biologist. We have four
26 Staff members. There's Mary Peltola, she's the
27 Executive Director, I'm a fisheries biologist, and we
28 have a couple other Staff members, a finance lady, her
29 name's Cacy, and we then we have Terese out of Bethel,
30 she's our outreach coordinator. And like the Yukon
31 River Fisheries Commission, the Kuskokwim River
32 InterTribal Fish Commission is made up of Commissioners
33 from each of the tribes that are a part of the Fish
34 Commission. And so like you had mentioned Joe Petruska
35 there in Nikolai, he's our Commissioner, and we have
36 Commissioners throughout the entire river all the way
37 out to the Bay.

38
39 And so my main job is to lead projects,
40 like the Takotna River weir, the community based
41 monitoring project, the assessment projects, and also I
42 advise the in-season managers and the in-season
43 management group for the Fish Commission as far as
44 going through the data in-season between openers,
45 looking at the data and advising the in-season managers
46 on making decisions on openers and closures. My role
47 is helping to write the management strategies. I'm
48 heavily involved with that and harvest strategy as
49 well.
50

0073

1 So there's a lot of things that I do
2 besides that, but that's the main things.

3
4 And the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
5 Fish Commission's unique compared to the Yukon River
6 because we have an MOU with the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service to co-manage the fishery. So I think this
8 year, the seventh year, to potentially Federally manage
9 the salmon fishery. And last year the chinook salmon
10 run was managed by this group, the Fish Commission with
11 the Commissioners at the table making decisions on
12 openers and closures. Our in-season managers are made
13 up of four different people from the villages. So
14 they're with -- at the table with Boyd making Federal
15 decisions on openers and closures.

16
17 And, anyway, I hope that helps Don.

18
19 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Yeah. It -- Kevin,
20 yeah, it kind of explains a lot and I think you guys
21 have a pretty good relationship up and down -- at -- up
22 and down the Kuskokwim, whether it's the lower Kusko or
23 the upper, and that you guys are really involved within
24 your fisheries. So good luck on the -- good luck on
25 getting on the Board here.

26
27 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you. And, Madame
28 Chair, Daniel Schindler is on. He got cut off there,
29 but he is on now, can I ask him to give his report.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes. Go right
32 ahead.

33
34 MR. WHITWORTH: Okay, Daniel, go ahead.

35
36 MR. SCHINDLER: Thanks, Kevin. And
37 thanks everyone there for the opportunity to give a
38 real brief presentation today. I don't know if Kevin
39 introduced, I'm Daniel Schindler, I'm a professor in
40 the School of Fisheries at the University of
41 Washington, and I've worked on Western Alaska salmon
42 ecosystems and fisheries for almost 25 years now,
43 including some work on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon over
44 the last 10 years or so. And the -- Kevin, did you
45 pass around that flier that we pulled together, I'm
46 wondering if people have that at their disposal.

47
48 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Daniel, they
49 should have the flier. It was mailed to all the
50

0074

1 Council members. Thanks.

2

3

4 MR. SCHINDLER: Okay. So some of what
5 I'll mention today is on a one page flier that Kevin
6 sent around to all of you. You know in a nutshell what
7 we're doing is trying to develop a cohesive community
8 to try to understand and explore alternative ways to
9 manage Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries. The challenge
10 as, I think, most people on the call certainly
11 recognize is that the Kusko is such a huge and remote
12 river that you really don't fully understand how it
13 operates in an ecological sense, and through -- (phone
14 ringing) oh, shoot, sorry -- there's also a lot of
15 knowledge about the ecosystem and about the fisheries
16 that people hold that are stakeholders, people who live
17 in the watershed, people who actually fish for the
18 resource, that really isn't incorporated into our group
19 understanding of the ecosystem, so a lot of the so --
20 the Western Science that is brought to the table is
21 produced by Fish and Game and by academics, but that we
22 also recognize that there's a lot of knowledge held by
23 people who live in the watershed. And the intention of
24 this management strategy evaluation that we are
25 embarking on, is to try to get everyone together at the
26 same table, on the same footings, and try to pull
27 together all of that knowledge into a coherent
28 understanding about how the system works.

28

29

30 The second part of it is to really more
31 fully appreciate the different values that people hold
32 for the fishery, you know, different communities, and
33 different fishers may have different goals for what
34 they want out of the ecosystem and out of the fisheries
35 and that diversity of value, we believe, is currently
36 not particularly well captured by the current
37 management process.

37

38

39

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41

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And then, last, we want to talk about
and hear from people about different ideas about how
these fisheries could be managed to achieve those goals
that are expressed from a range of different people
involved in the ecosystem.

So so far we've convened a small
advisory body. Kevin is on it, I'm on it, Curry
Cunningham, who's a professor at UAF is on it, it has
representatives from Fish and Game, from the Fish and
Wildlife Service, from the Office of Subsistence
Management, from Kwik'Pak, from several other tribal

0075

1 organizations, and together we're trying to plan our
2 way forward. That really involves getting into the
3 communities and giving people who live out there the
4 opportunity to have input into developing this data
5 knowledge for the system and exploring different ways
6 to manage the fisheries. Covid, of course, has put our
7 activities on hold because we don't want to do this
8 electronically, we want to meet with people in person
9 and incorporate people's ideas and knowledge
10 respectfully and properly. So right now we're hoping
11 that maybe by next fall we could have a couple of our
12 first community meetings to develop some of this common
13 understanding. And the flier we've used, the term,
14 Talking Circle, which some people, of course,
15 appreciate and know very well, and it really reflects
16 our intention for everyone to be at the table with
17 equal footing. And the additional intention is that we
18 incorporate the variety of types of knowledge and views
19 that people have for the ecosystem. We use that to
20 inform some analysis of what the outcomes might be for
21 managing the fisheries with different strategies,
22 including thinking about how we move into a future
23 where the climate is warming, the ecosystem is changing
24 in lots of ways, in lots of ways that people recognize
25 and that adds uncertainty to the management process.

26
27 So that's the overall goal of what
28 we're trying to do. You know, the first next steps
29 will be involved with meeting with people out there in
30 the communities and we really can't do that, of course,
31 until the threats of Covid are gone.

32
33 Kevin, I don't know if you'd like to
34 add anything else, or I'm happy to answer any questions
35 if people have them.

36
37 MR. WHITWORTH: Yeah, Daniel, this is
38 Kevin, that's good. Your summary is perfect. So thank
39 you, Madame Chair, for this time.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
42 Daniel. That was very good. It looks like you guys
43 are reaching out to your people on the Kusko and just
44 keep up the good work.

45
46 MR. WHITWORTH: Thank you.

47
48 MR. SCHINDLER: It's an exciting
49 process and we collectively have already learned a lot
50

0076

1 just by opening the communication pathways up a little
2 bit and we've a long ways to go to give people the
3 opportunity to have a little more input thank it has
4 been in the past.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I think that's a
7 good way to reach people, when you, you know, include
8 them and a lot of people don't speak at meetings will
9 speak up and you can hear their concerns, which I think
10 is very good.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. SCHINDLER: Can I make one more
15 final point.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. SCHINDLER: I guess I need to
20 clarify that the purpose of this is not to provide a
21 single solution that will become the management
22 process, it's possible that what we learn could be
23 implemented at some point in the future but the
24 intention is not to change policies, the intention is
25 to inform policy and maybe it will be changed in the
26 future. But that's, as you know, of course, more of a
27 legal and technical part of the process that we're not
28 going to tackle. We're really in the exploration and
29 co-development of knowledge phase of the whole problem.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
32 for that explanation. Okay, with that we'll go ahead
33 and go to the -- oh, Karen, what are we going to do
34 about lunch, you want to go on or do you want to do the
35 Yukon.....

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:River.....

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, can you
42 hear me?

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. I want to
47 apologize, earlier, I'm not sure if a question was
48 asked, I had been dropped from my call, regarding any
49 materials. But the discretion is up to you and the

50

0077

1 Council members. If you'd like to hear from YRDFA
2 before lunch and then after lunch we can go right into
3 the agency reports, or if you'd like to break for lunch
4 now.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I would like to
9 hear from YRDFA if everybody else is in agreement.
10

11 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, hey,
12 Jenny, it would be great to hear from them. I don't
13 think we're looking at a -- the presentation -- and we
14 don't get served lunch here until 12:30 so, hey, I'm
15 open for it.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, sounds
18 good. Okay, go right ahead, YRDFA.

19
20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay, can you hear me,
21 this is Catherine Moncrieff?
22

23 MR. HONEA: Yes.

24
25 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Sorry, just give
26 me one second.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Catherine
29 Moncrieff.

30
31 MS. MONCRIEFF: All right, good
32 morning, Madame Chair and Council members. Thank you
33 for the opportunity to present.

34
35 I'm pleased to represent the Yukon
36 River Drainage Fisheries Association. It sounds like
37 Serena had to jump off the call but she'll be back on
38 shortly, I think. So I would like to introduce myself
39 and give a portion of our report, and if she's able to
40 get on then I will let her finish her part.

41
42 So my name is Catherine Moncrieff, and
43 I am YRDFA's Staff Anthropologist.

44
45 I'd like to bring your attention to our
46 report, which was provided as supplemental material to
47 your meeting book on an email on January 25th, or
48 maybe mailed out to you, and in this report we
49 highlight our accomplishments and updates to the RACs
50

0078

1 on our Fisheries Resource Management Program projects
2 and other related activities.

3

4 I'd like to start with some projects
5 that I lead on.

6

7 The first one is an In-season
8 Subsistence Salmon Survey program. This is a Fisheries
9 Resource Monitoring Program funded project through
10 March of 2024. As you may know, through the In-season
11 Subsistence Salmon Survey program, YRDFA hires a person
12 in 10 communities along the Yukon River stretching from
13 Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers about chinook
14 salmon season in their community. The information
15 collected about weekly harvest and observations are
16 shared anonymously with managers and with the Yukon
17 River via the weekly teleconference. This important
18 communication tool helps managers ensure that both
19 Yukon River escapement is met and as many subsistence
20 fishers are meeting their goals as possible. We are
21 currently working on revising the survey forms for this
22 coming season and we will begin rehiring our surveyors
23 in April and planning an annual training event. We
24 expect to be working in all 10 communities this summer.

25

26 The next project I'd like to give you
27 an update on is Traditional Ecological Knowledge of
28 anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on
29 Draanjik drainage. Currently we are developing a
30 community review packet to be sent to each community to
31 provide them an update on the project and ask for their
32 feedback. We expect to be doing biological field work
33 this coming spring, summer and fall with the TCC Staff
34 conducting an aerial survey in the Draanjik and
35 Teedraanjik drainage to identify and locate the coho
36 salmon spawning areas that has not yet been added to
37 the anadromous waters catalog. This location has been
38 identified as a traditional knowledge and with positive
39 eDNA analysis. Additional field work is planned for
40 the spring and summer of 2021 to document rearing
41 juveniles and spawning adult chinook salmon. This
42 project wraps up in March of 2022.

43

44 We have two new exciting new projects.

45

46 The first one, titled: They Told Us
47 There'd Come a Time, Conserving Fish, Preserving
48 Tradition on the Yukon River, a catalog of elders
49 warnings. It's funded by the North Pacific Research

50

0079

1 Board, it is a partnership with the Tanana Chiefs
2 Conference Young Adult Emerging Leaders. Through this
3 project we will research documented local and
4 traditional knowledge of salmon. The goal of the
5 project year one is to review local and traditional
6 knowledge archives for warnings from elders about
7 salmon shortages or threats. We held a workshop in
8 late January to learn about the archival materials and
9 how to access them. Currently our team is working on
10 going through the archives and we will meet later this
11 year to share our results and begin analysis. In year
12 two we will conduct ethnographic interviews and in year
13 three we will produce outreach materials to showcase
14 what we have learned.

15
16 We also have a newly funded project
17 which has not yet begun. It's titled, Integrating
18 Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge into
19 Anadromous Waters Catalog and Fish Inventories of
20 Selected Drainages of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, 2021
21 to 2023. This project is funded by the Alaska
22 Sustainable Salmon Fund, or AKSSF will have YRDFA
23 partnering with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 Habitat Division to document important areas with
25 anadromous fish. Together we will work with the
26 communities of Tanana, Nenana, and Manley Hot Springs,
27 to identify important fish locations for the anadromous
28 waters catalog.

29
30 And that concludes the reports that I
31 wanted to take the lead on. If Serena has been able to
32 join the call, which I think she has, she can report on
33 the -- starting with our Board meeting. Are you there
34 Serena.

35
36 MS. FITKA: Yes, I am. I apologize for
37 just calling in, I was double-booked. So good
38 afternoon, Madame Chair and Council members. Thank you
39 for the opportunity for us to present to you today. My
40 name is Serena Fitka and I am the Executive Director
41 for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

42
43 I'd like to first report on our 30th
44 annual Board meeting that took place December 15th and
45 16th via teleconference. A few of our accomplishments
46 that we filled our Board seats. We have new Board
47 members, Stanley Pete from Nunam Iqua, Al Von Finster
48 from Whitehorse, and we have new alternates Richard
49 Tuluk from Chevak and Paul Andrews from Emmonak and
50

0080

1 Michelle Peterson from Mountain Village, James Roberts
2 from Tanana and Carl Sidney from Teslin.

3

4 We did pass four of the six resolutions
5 that were presented to the Board. And the delegation
6 reported poor fishing throughout the Yukon River
7 drainage along with high water levels with reports of
8 ichthyophonous in fish and the current impacts of
9 climate change.

10

11 We held our post-season meeting on
12 December 17th via teleconference and had 47
13 participants join the call and it lasted for 180
14 minutes. The YRDFA Board members gave reports of
15 fishing in their districts and concerns for the
16 community. Low to no subsistence harvest were reported
17 throughout the drainage along with high water
18 conditions making it difficult to fish. The coastal
19 communities reported large pods of beluga at the south
20 mouth and the middle river reported that the short
21 openings caused combat fishing where everyone did try
22 to go out and catch during those 18 hour fishing
23 periods. A Russian Mission fisher reported catching
24 bright and healthy looking chum and sockeyes in their
25 ice nets in November and December. In the up river
26 communities, reports of ichthyophonous were prevalent in
27 the salmon and were not suitable for consumption. Many
28 subsistence fishermen held off on fishing for chinook
29 and waited for fall chum, which many were not able to
30 harvest because of conditions (indiscernible -
31 muffled).

32

33 This year we held off-season
34 teleconferences that were -- there were monthly
35 teleconferences in October, November and February. The
36 teleconferences were topic driven and focused on
37 providing fishers with information related to the Yukon
38 River. We understood that the travel restrictions
39 (indiscernible) inability to wait -- to make sure that
40 there was an opportunity for (indiscernible) people on
41 the river to hear about research and other related
42 issues that were affecting the Yukon River. And we're
43 hoping to continue providing information that gives
44 reports to the Yukon River communities as we move
45 forward in this Covid world.

46

47 And upcoming activities, the 2021 YRDFA
48 Board meeting is scheduled for April 27th and 28th and
49 we are going to have a face to face meeting with just

50

0081

1 the Board themselves in Fairbanks. The Board felt it
2 was very necessary to it to effectively discuss issues
3 around the Yukon River.

4
5 There are 12 Board member seats that
6 are up for reelection in 2021 and three alternates.
7 And if you would like to see which seats are coming up
8 for reelection you can go visit our website at
9 yukonsalmon.org and we have a friendly website, go
10 check it out.

11
12 We've also scheduled our 2021 pre-
13 season meeting that will be held virtually on April
14 29th.

15
16 We are also in the planning process of
17 holding -- hosting district meetings before the pre-
18 season meeting which will give the opportunity for
19 fishing districts to discuss their concerns in regard
20 to management during the pre-season meeting.

21
22 And so we'll have more information in
23 the coming weeks, so, please, check our website at
24 yukonsalmon.org or our FaceBook page at Yukon River
25 Drainage Fishery Association for any upcoming events
26 and news.

27
28 Other activities.

29
30 We are scheduled to have our first in-
31 season teleconference beginning June 1st 2021 at 1:00
32 o'clock p.m., we'll use the same call in numbers, same
33 PIN. We will also be sending out posters and letters
34 to all the tribe and First Nation offices, so, please,
35 keep an eye out for them, posting in your community.
36 We really encourage your participation during the call.
37 Last year we did have a low participation from the
38 middle river, from Holy Cross up to Koyukuk. So we
39 really encourage the communities to call in, they don't
40 have to be community leaders, it's open up to
41 everybody, fishers, anybody that fishes in the
42 community, we really encourage participation during
43 those calls.

44
45 And that concludes our report, unless
46 Catherine would like to say anything more, I'll open it
47 up for discussion or questions.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0082

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Do we have any
2 questions or comments.

3
4 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair. This
5 is posed to either Serena or Catherine, this is Don,
6 Council member. I'm just wondering, you know, usually
7 about this time of the year, and she mentioned April
8 27th and 28th, in Fairbanks, I guess, so I guess we
9 could attend just telephonically if we wanted to --
10 actually I -- I -- whether we are going to hear from
11 the State of Alaska today, or State fisheries or -- I'm
12 just more interested in what their estimates are for
13 this summer, and -- and I don't know, whether YRDFA
14 does or not -- whether they have a biologist or
15 something to report on that but, you know, I'd be
16 interested in what their predictions are. And so -- so
17 Serena gave a pretty good -- pretty good update of
18 their meetings. And I believe they had one last week,
19 I -- I just -- I kind of missed it, a day late or
20 something like that. But I -- I appreciate -- I was
21 just wondering if that's the one on April 27th and
22 28th, is that -- is that specifically for the Board for
23 the YRDFA Board that's comprised of all the members on
24 the Yukon.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. FITKA: Through the Chair, this is
29 Serena. I'll answer those questions, thanks, Don. The
30 planning stages right now for the Board meeting that's
31 going to happen on April 27th and 28th in Fairbanks,
32 we're just going to have the Board members there. We
33 are keeping an eye on district mandates as well. We
34 will provide any either virtual or call-in numbers for
35 anybody that wants to participate during the Board
36 meeting. So the pre-season meeting on April 29th, it
37 will be a virtual meeting, but we decided to -- to be
38 more effective, we will have district -- post-district
39 meetings and that will be virtual, and right now we're
40 looking at the calendar and going to schedule that out.
41 We just want to make sure that we had -- or have -- or
42 giving the opportunity to the districts to voice their
43 concerns and provide any feedback. So during the pre-
44 season meeting we will have the districts report out of
45 what they discussed.

46
47 Does that answer your question, Don.

48
49 MR. HONEA: Yeah, sure. Certainly.

50

0083

1 Yeah, I just -- I guess we could just go ahead and do
2 it then.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.

7

8 MS. FITKA: You're welcome.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Any more
11 comments or questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not,
16 thank you very much for your report.

17

18 MS. FITKA: Thank you.

19

20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, it's a
23 quarter after 12:00,. what's your preference, do you
24 want to go for lunch now.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Karen, are you
29 on.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
32 Chair. I think that's at your discretion as well as
33 the other Council members.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Sounds good.
36 Okay, well, lunch, we'll break until what time?

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I would
39 offer up an hour for lunch and have folks perhaps
40 return at 1:15 if that's agreeable to you and the
41 Council members.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
46 very much. So we'll see you at 1:15, and have your
47 lunch.

48

49 (Off record)

50

0084

1 (On record)

2

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MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen

Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence Management.

And first off I'd like to thank everybody for their

patience on this teleconference. I think it's gone

very well considering that we've had up to 60 people on

the phone for this meeting and so it's very much

appreciated. I'd like to thank the elders, in

particular, because I know this can be on the phone for

this many hours and so we want to extend our

appreciation to our elders on the phone.

Secondly, I'd like to talk about the

conversation I had with the Chair, Jenny Pelkola,

regarding public member comments and agency questions

and comments. Given that we have several public

members who are either former or pending or future

applicants to the Council, Chair Pelkola has agreed to

allow those individuals to ask questions and to comment

on the various issues that are coming up before the

Council and agency reports, and this holds true for the

public at large, given the circumstances with this

small number of Council members. We believe that it's

beneficial to everybody if they have an opportunity to

speak, we just ask that it's done respectfully and that

the time is respected, to make sure that the Council

members have an opportunity to ask the most questions.

Secondly [sic], I'd like to, again,

remind folks not to put us on hold so we don't have to

listen to the beep and also to please mute your phone

when you're not speaking. And then as the Chair's

requested, please say your name two times for the

record so that everybody knows who's speaking.

And then lastly I'd like to open up the

phone lines to any new people who are joining us for

the second half of the meeting today who may not have

introduced themselves this morning.

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of

the Council. And I'll go ahead and mute myself now,

thanks.

ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. With that

we'll continue on with our reports. I don't know if

Goodwin got back on but I'm sure he will join us soon.

0085

1 And I believe we're on Eastern Bering
2 Research, is that the one we're on Karen?

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. It
5 looks on my agenda like we are next on U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife Service starting with the 20/21 Yukon River
7 preseason outlook.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Oh, okay.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
12 Chair.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So.....

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: There's probably some
17 confusion because the Bering Sea Western Interior
18 Alaska Resource Management Plan was added to the
19 agenda.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, so who are
22 we hearing from now?

23
24 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. This is
25 Gerald Maschmann with Fish and Wildlife Service. I
26 have the 2020 Yukon report.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: My name is Gerald
31 Maschmann. That's Gerald Maschmann, I'm with the U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. I am the
33 assistant Yukon River Federal in-season salmon manager.
34 For those who haven't heard, Holly Carroll, has
35 replaced Fred Bue as the Federal in-season manager.
36 Karen has sent you via the mail my handout. I'm sorry
37 if you haven't received it yet.

38
39 But the 2020 post-season analysis is
40 just getting finalized, and the 2021 preseason outlook
41 won't be final until after the Yukon River Panel this
42 spring. If you did happen to get it, on Page 2 of this
43 handout is a brief review of the 2020 season. I
44 reviewed the 2020 season at your meeting last fall and
45 the Department of Fish and Game has published pretty
46 detailed season summaries for both the summer and fall
47 seasons, so I'm not going to spend much time on last
48 year.

49
50

0086

1 Again, if you do have the handout, I'll
2 direct you to the top of Page 3. This paragraph
3 summarizes the 2020 subsistence harvest estimates, and
4 that's fairly new information so I'll go ahead and
5 summarize that now.

6
7 Approximately 23,000 chinook salmon
8 were harvested in 2020. This is below the recent five
9 year average of 29,000 and approximately half of what a
10 normal harvest year might have. 43,000 summer chum
11 were harvested, which, again, is approximately half of
12 a normal summer chum harvest. Only 6,200 fall chum
13 were harvested in 2020 and this is well below a typical
14 harvest of 77,000 fall chum. This isn't surprising
15 considering that subsistence salmon fishing was closed
16 for most of the fall season. 3,000 coho were harvested
17 and this is also below the recent five year average of
18 9,000. That's also not surprising since coho and fall
19 chum overlap in their migration and since subsistence
20 fishing was closed for most of the fall season, it's
21 not surprising that harvest for coho were down too.

22
23 The historical salmon harvest estimates
24 are available on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
25 website. I provided a link in the handout. If that's
26 of interest to you, you can go there and get more
27 detailed information on subsistence harvest.

28
29 I also wanted to address a concern that
30 Councils have had, as well as the public, they've been
31 concerned about possible undocumented enroute mortality
32 of chinook salmon and I wanted to let the Councils know
33 that biologists from multiple agencies are looking into
34 this. No conclusions have been drawn yet but I would
35 expect a report on this topic to be presented to the
36 Councils sometime at a future meeting, possibly at the
37 fall meeting, I'm not sure yet.

38
39 But, anyway, starting midway down Page
40 3, the 2021 season outlook is mostly pinned down now
41 but it's still considered preliminary. So just be
42 aware that some of the information could change, but
43 for the most part I think we've got an outlook down for
44 the 2021.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

49
50

0087

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm very sorry to
2 interrupt, Mr. Maschmann, but because this report was
3 being finalized we did not receive it in time to get
4 distributed and we are planning to distribute this
5 report after the meeting, along with a few other
6 supplemental materials. So what I might recommend is
7 if you have information on that report that you want
8 highlighted, that you would go ahead and share that
9 versus referring to the report.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 And, again, I very much apologize for
14 the interruption.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
17 I was looking for it and.....

18

19 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Karen.

20

21 The chinook salmon run for 2021 will be
22 similar to 2020 or smaller, with a drainage-wide
23 estimate of between 102,000 fish and 189,000 fish. A
24 run of this size will likely require subsistence
25 fishing restrictions to meet escapement and harvest
26 sharing goals. And fishermen should anticipate a first
27 pulse closure and possible restrictions to selected
28 gear early in the season. The summer chum salmon run
29 should be near 1.2 million and should provide for
30 escapement and a normal subsistence harvest, as well as
31 additional commercial, personal use and sportfishing
32 opportunities. This estimate does take into account
33 the uncertainty associated with the reduced
34 productivity of the returning five year old fish. The
35 fall chum forecast is for approximately 542,000 to
36 762,000 fall chum salmon. This fall chum salmon run
37 size is expected to be sufficient to achieve escapement
38 objectives, and provide for a normal subsistence
39 harvest. This outlook will be adjusted at the
40 beginning of the season based on the summer chum, fall
41 chum relationship. The coho salmon run outlook is
42 based on parent year escapements assuming average
43 survival. Expectations are that the 2021 coho run will
44 be near average. Coho salmon are mostly harvested
45 during the second half of the fall chum salmon run and
46 surpluses are expected to be available for subsistence
47 and other uses.

48

49 Management strategies and options for

50

0088

1 2021 will be formulated after consulting with fishermen
2 prior to the season, but will likely include similar
3 strategies to those that we've been implementing the
4 last few years.

5
6 And we have a few upcoming events and
7 announcements.

8
9 The Yukon River Panel met January 26th
10 and 27th and 2020 post-season presentations can be
11 found at the link which I've included in the handout,
12 when you receive it. And they're pretty good
13 presentations. I'd recommend visiting those if you
14 have the chance.

15
16 The Joint Technical Committee, or the
17 JTC of the Yukon River Panel will meet March 10th
18 through the 12th. The JTC will be publishing the Yukon
19 River salmon 2020 season summary and the 2021 season
20 outlook report shortly after this meeting in time for
21 the Panel meeting. This is also a great document that
22 summarizes last year's season and presents a pretty
23 good outlook for 2021. And I'd encourage you to look
24 for that document if it's of interest to you.

25
26 The U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel will
27 be meeting April 12th through the 14th virtually, and
28 the Panel will be finalizing the outlooks and time will
29 be allowed for public participation and testimony at
30 this meeting. And, again, visit the Yukon River Panel
31 website for more details on how to log in to that
32 virtual meeting.

33
34 As Serene mentioned earlier, YRDFA will
35 be having their preseason fishermen's meeting as well
36 as their Board meeting and the managers look forward to
37 working with fishermen on strategies for the 2021
38 season and anyone who wants to participate in that,
39 please get in touch with YRDFA. We're definitely open
40 to hearing what folks think.

41
42 And, lastly, you heard Eric Rowe with
43 TCC mention, they're working hard to get the Henshaw
44 Creek weir operational for 2021. Our office is working
45 really hard, too, with the local tribes and local city
46 councils to operate the Eastfork Andreafsky weir, as
47 well as the Gisasa River weir, and the Chandalar River
48 sonar for next season. We want to thank, you know, the
49 Loudon Tribal Council and the Galena City Council.

50

0089

1 We've asked for their support in helping us formulate a
2 safety plan to operate that weir, the Gisasa weir and
3 we appreciate their support. We're also working with
4 the tribal councils in St. Marys and the city Council
5 in St. Marys to get the Andraefsky weir operational,
6 and we appreciate their support. And we'll be working
7 with Circle and Ft. Yukon on a safety plan for the
8 Chandalar River sonar.

9

10 So that's the end of my report.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 Ultimately we're looking for guidance
16 from headquarters on ultimately if we can get those
17 projects to operate. So if there's any questions I'd
18 be happy to take them.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Could
23 somebody mute their phone please, thank you. I ask
24 whoever's speaking to mute their phone.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Department of Law
30 is.....

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: We can hear
33 their conversation.

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Someone in
36 Sportfish, Klaus Wuttig, would you mute your phone.

37

38 MR. WUTTIG: Thank you. My apologies.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.
41 I'm sorry, Gerald, again. And as Gerald indicated now
42 is the time for any questions.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, do we have
47 any questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not,
2 thank you very much Gerald. That was a good report and
3 I'm sure we'll bet getting that shortly in the mail.

4
5 MR. HONEA: Hello, Madame Chair.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

8
9 MR. HONEA: Yeah, hey, I'm sorry, I
10 guess my phone was muted. I did have a question for
11 Gerald. I mean he actually gave us a pretty healthy
12 prediction of the summer chum at about 1.2 million. I
13 thought that was really, really high in considering
14 what happened last year. I just wanted to -- because
15 his office or his agency, or whoever he works for, can
16 they pinpoint any specific reason or come up with --
17 it's been about a year almost, what happened to the
18 crash last year, what do they attribute that to. If he
19 could answer that.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, Madame Chair, this
24 is Gerald Maschmann.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. MASCHMANN: Again, this is Gerald
29 Maschmann. Thanks, Don, that's a good question.

30
31 You know summer chum return primarily
32 as age four and age five but they're more age four, and
33 as everyone's heard the age four class did not do well,
34 so it's possible that those age four fish that would be
35 returning this year as age five, we might be seeing
36 fewer age five than we would normally see, but, again,
37 it's the age four that re more predominant than the age
38 five, and as we're seeing from -- as Chuck Brazil
39 stated earlier, from the Bering Sea trawl, they think
40 the returning age four chum for this year might look
41 really good. So the 1.2 million that we are
42 projecting, that the Department's projecting does take
43 into account some uncertainty with those returning age
44 five. So unless Deena is on the line with Fish and
45 Game, if she wants to clarify it. But I think the 1.2
46 million is maybe a little lower than they might
47 normally project due to that uncertainty. But we're
48 definitely going to keep an eye on it. We don't manage
49 with optimism, we manage what actually comes back. But
50

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1 we think the fish that are coming back are going to be
2 fairly healthy and robust. So that's where the 1.2
3 million comes in.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. JALLEN: Thank you, Gerald. I
8 think -- yeah, Madame Chair, this is Deena Jallen with
9 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Yeah, if I
10 could add a little bit. Gerald's report was excellent,
11 it was a really good overview of last year and an
12 outlook of what we might see this coming year. Yeah,
13 as fish come in the river we'll just be monitoring. We
14 expect to have projects operating out of Emmonak at the
15 lower Yukon test fishery, and the Pilot Station sonar,
16 and those are two of our main projects that we use to
17 see what the runs look like as they're coming in the
18 river. And, you know, there's a very good chance that
19 we'll have to have subsistence restrictions this year
20 with runs of this size.

21

22 And also just a quick reminder, that
23 for the State Board of Fisheries process, the deadline
24 for proposals has been extended to May 10th, it was
25 originally a month earlier.

26

27 So, yes, that's all I got to add for
28 summer season but I'm online if there's any more
29 questions. And, yeah, thanks Gerald for that report.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if there's
32 no more questions, thank you Gerald, that was very
33 good. Thank you, Tina [sic].

34

35 Okay, the next one would be
36 Nowitna/Innoko/Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge update.

37

38 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
39 Chair. Sure appreciate the opportunity to speak here
40 today. My name is Jeremy Havener. I'm the Refuge
41 Subsistence Coordinator for Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko
42 National Wildlife Refuges.

43

44 And I -- we did submit a report to the
45 handouts this year and it begins on Page 37 and I hope
46 everybody had a chance to kind of look through that.
47 I'm not going to cover it verbatim here today just
48 because of the amount of time we have and I kind of
49 want to leave this open for questions so we can answer
50

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1 those.

2

3

4 But the big things I kind of wanted to
5 touch on here today is, I guess, the first thing is
6 some management changes we've had. And just want to
7 point out that we do have a new Refuge Manager, he's
8 not new to Galena, but he did just accept the Manager
9 position a while back and that is Bob Rebarchik, he was
10 acting as our Deputy since 2014 and just recently
11 accepted that position. Kenton, he left, I think it's
12 been well over a year ago now and he's down in
13 Dillingham. And Bob filled his place and he's doing a
14 good job so far so we're excited to have him in that
15 position. And because he took that position, that left
16 our Deputy position vacant and we just filled that
17 recently and his name is David Zubrisky, and he's
18 coming back up from the Lower 48, but prior to that he
19 has been out in Kotzebue for, I want to say four or
20 five years, working for Selawik National Wildlife
21 Refuge, and so he's definitely got some Alaska
22 experience and kind of hitting the ground running.
23 We're excited to have him on board as well. And then
24 finally was our fisheries biologist position was filled
25 and I want to say it was back in November of 2020, and
26 he kind of -- no, I'm sorry, it was August of 2019,
27 excuse me, and he kind of got here just in the nick of
28 time after Christmas Break and the New Year and just in
29 time for the pandemic to hit so he kind of was
30 shuffling through a move and trying to get out here,
31 but he's finally out in Galena and he's got everything
32 settled in and he's hitting the ground running, too,
33 jumping in on a bunch of different projects working
34 with Yukon fisheries management and talking to
35 different folks, and so we're excited to have him here
36 as well.

36

37 So those are some of the big changes we
38 have here in Galena.

39

40

41 And, you know, the other one that's
42 kind of on our list right now, there's nothing final on
43 it but we are really pursuing a Refuge Information
44 Technician, or an RIT for the Galena area, and that
45 one's on our list and we're going to make that a
46 priority and hopefully get the permission to advertise
47 that and get that position filled because that's one we
48 feel we really need. It's been since 2017, I want to
49 say, since we've had an RIT up in the Galena area. We
50 currently have one down in Anvik, his name's Ken Chase,

50

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1 but, you know, definitely looking for another Refuge
2 Information Technician.

3
4 The other thing with management, too, I
5 did want to touch on just so all the Council members
6 know, is with our office in Galena, because of
7 protocols during the pandemic, we are kind of keeping
8 our office closed and the majority of our Staff is
9 working from home, but there are folks in that office,
10 our Manager and Deputy are in there daily, and so if
11 anybody has any questions or things come up, you know,
12 say you read over this Refuge update and discover some
13 things you had questions on, we encourage everybody to
14 give us a call, and our phone number's on the header of
15 this update so you can find our phone number there if
16 you have anything you want to give us a call about.
17 We, again, just encourage everybody to call if you have
18 any questions.

19
20 Down the list, some subsistence things
21 I wanted to touch on real quick, and the big one that
22 comes to mind for the folks that are on the phone is
23 the Nowitna checkstation. And just so everybody knows,
24 the Nowitna checkstation is a moose hunter checkstation
25 that our office puts together every year working with
26 the State of Alaska. But it's at the mouth of the
27 Nowitna and, you know, we're checking in moose hunters,
28 issuing out permits, we're looking at moose meat coming
29 out, making sure everybody's in compliance there and,
30 you know, everything looks good, checking the quality
31 of the meat. And that's something that's been going on
32 since 1988. And last year because of our protocols
33 with Covid19 we were unable to hold that because of
34 safety concerns. And right now we're in that planning
35 process and we're going to be putting some things
36 together and we're going to really try to make that
37 work this year. No guarantees, obviously, but just so
38 everybody knows we understand the importance of that
39 and we definitely want to make our presence there and
40 we'll try to get something in place so we can be out
41 there.

42
43 Also on the subsistence aspect of
44 things, we do currently have a Federal moose hunt going
45 on in Game Management Unit 21E, and that's kind of
46 mostly on the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge but also
47 down there is a lot of BLM land, too, that is available
48 and parts of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge are
49 in that area.
50

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1 And one interesting thing just so
2 you're aware that took place this year, is a new State
3 registration hunt that exactly shadows that Federal
4 subsistence hunt. And, you know, we're still going to
5 have the Federal permit available, but we are
6 encouraging subsistence users in that area to take
7 advantage of the State registration permit right now
8 just because of the availability of permits in each
9 village from a vendor, and also they can get them on the
10 online system.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MR. HAVENER: And then also -- and
16 we've dealt with this in some of the areas in 21D but
17 there's a checkerboard land status down there and it
18 makes it challenging for subsistence users to, you
19 know, get to some of that Federal land because it's,
20 you know, again a checkerboard fashion. And so with
21 the State registration permit you can actually hunt on
22 regional corporation, village corporation lands and,
23 you know, essentially right next to the villages there.

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 MR. HAVENER: And it really provides a
29 lot more opportunity and, again, we're encouraging
30 everybody to get that registration permit. And so
31 that's taking place right now, it's been going for two
32 days and so I don't have any current information on how
33 many folks are hunting but should have something here
34 by March 15th.

35

36 And then, you know, in my report I've
37 got everything from all our subsistence hunts last year
38 so for the Nowitna check -- or not the Nowitna
39 checkstation, but the Nowitna Federal hunt is on there.
40 Last year's winter hunt in 21E and so you can find all
41 that in our report here.

42

43 And on to biology. The one thing I
44 will talk about real quick, because I know Mr. Honea
45 was interested in kind of hearing that, is just our
46 fall moose surveys that we do every year. And those
47 take place in November, you know, we do those -- we try
48 to do those roughly around the same time every year and
49 base that on snow conditions for sightability, and

50

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1 that, you know, first week of November, it just varies,
2 but we did those last year. Of course it took some
3 convincing and some safety plans in order to make those
4 surveys happen but we were able to conduct them. And,
5 you know, just kind of summing things up overall, you
6 know, we did experience a pretty harsh winter last year
7 and, you know, kind of overall what we were seeing in
8 all of our different trend count areas, which are the
9 areas where we go and we fly and we're looking for
10 bulls, cows and calves and coming up with some ratios,
11 we did kind of notice overall, lower production, and
12 recruitment in a lot of those areas. And so we
13 definitely are kind of watching that, areas up around
14 Huslia and the Huslia Flats and Treat Island area.
15 We're happy that it's recovering, but, again, we saw
16 those lower recruitment and production numbers so
17 we're, you know, kind of keeping our eye on that. But
18 the big one that comes to mind is the Nowitna and
19 you'll see this in our moose report that just came out
20 yesterday, is, again, lower numbers of overall moose
21 over there. So we are noticing it and we're keeping an
22 eye on it. But, you know, I guess the one good thing I
23 can say is that there was a very, very large burn over
24 there in 2015, and I think parts of 2016 as well, it
25 kind of carried through, and so, you know, we have
26 hopes in the future with succession -- I mean that
27 usually takes awhile but hopefully the habitat will
28 really improve over there and maybe we'll see that
29 moose population kind of come back up to those long-
30 term averages that we've been seeing.

31
32 So in a nutshell, though, we're, you
33 know, overall pretty happy with our moose numbers and
34 just kind of a harsh winter and a little bit lower
35 production or number of cows produced -- or calves,
36 excuse me, and then recruitment, so those calves that
37 make it through the year, we're kind of keeping our eye
38 on that.

39
40 But last thing I want to touch on, I
41 know I'm kind of dragging on, I'm getting short on my
42 time, was our moose hunt decision for, I think there's
43 five different winter moose hunts we make a decision on
44 in Game Management Unit 21D, 21B and 24D. And right
45 now we don't have a decision on those, of course, we're
46 looking at our moose survey report and we're going
47 through the process of consultation with folks at the
48 tribal Councils, the Advisory Committee Chairs, the
49 State of Alaska and we should have an announcement on
50

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1 that here fairly soon. So I just wanted you to be
2 aware of that.

3

4 But aside from that, I think I'll end
5 there and I'll open things up for questions at this
6 point.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Jeremy,
9 this is Jenny. I'm glad to hear that you're working to
10 get a RIT in Galena. I think -- or Galena area -- I
11 think we really need it. And also, do you have
12 anything to do with the Koyukuk checkstation. And the
13 other one is the moose deaths that we had last year,
14 did anybody take samples of the moose and find out why
15 they died, you know, right in town, and there were so
16 many deaths last year of moose.

17

18 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, this is Jeremy
19 again. And I appreciate those comments on the RIT,
20 we're definitely, you know, that's a very high priority
21 for us and hopefully get that moving forward soon.

22

23 As far as the Koyukuk checkstation,
24 that's really the State of Alaska, and Glenn Stout is
25 the one who oversees that and kind of, you know, has
26 people working it and is collecting all the data and
27 does the reports for that so I can't really speak on
28 that.

29

30 And as far as the moose deaths that
31 occurred last year, I'm not aware of anybody, at least
32 from our office, going out and doing anything, usually
33 the State of Alaska, when it comes to that kind of
34 stuff would be the ones that would be called. And I
35 don't have any information on that, and I apologize.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Well, the
38 reason why I ask on the Koyukuk checkstation is because
39 we were able to get the license here in -- or the
40 permits here in Galena, and so many more people picked
41 up, you know, licenses, or permits to hunt in the area
42 and I think somehow or some way I wish we could move it
43 back to Galena or closer.

44

45 MR. HAVENER: Gotcha.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, any other
48 comments.

49

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1 MR. HAVENER: I'd be happy to pass that
2 along, too, if Glenn's not on the phone.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
5 Any other questions or comments for Jeremy.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, I have
8 a question for Jeremy. I appreciate he's concerned for
9 Nowitna, I'm really close to that area and it's -- the
10 population up there, it's kind of out of the way
11 between here and Tanana and we -- it's kind of a
12 concern when the numbers, when they tell us the numbers
13 are kind of low or something because I know there's a
14 lot of wolves out there and run through there.

15

16 But I just had a question for him. You
17 mentioned the winter moose hunts and I'm just wondering
18 are they -- is there a winter moose hunt over there in
19 the Kaiyuh, or across from Nulato, or something, this
20 year, and, you know, what are the dates. We here in
21 Ruby never did have a moose hunt because pretty much
22 everybody got a moose or, you know, was pretty
23 fortunate to be able to get a moose in the fall here
24 and so I was just wondering what -- how is the
25 population -- I guess last year, because -- because --
26 mainly because of Glenn Stout that they opened up the
27 Nowitna hunt, it was supposedly a lot of cow -- cow
28 population was pretty high and everything and they had
29 really a lot of -- over -- a lot of moose there to be
30 able to justify that hunt and I was just -- is there a
31 hunt scheduled for this year?

32

33 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Don. Through the
34 Chair. I did sit on the Middle Yukon Advisory
35 Committee meeting, which they're the ones that kind of
36 take that up and reauthorize those winter hunts. And
37 this winter hunt in 21D within the Kaiyuh Flats is
38 going to happen, it's a to be announced March hunt.
39 And there was definitely some concerns from some of the
40 Committee members about the lower production and
41 recruitment that I was talking about earlier. And, you
42 know, with our moose surveys we feel that that
43 population is sufficient enough to support the quota of
44 moose that is set and I think this year it was 20 moose
45 total, and 15 cows, whichever comes first, and we feel
46 that population can sustain that. But some of the
47 Committee members didn't feel very comfortable about it
48 and they have to reauthorize that hunt for 2022 and
49 they expressed their concern and asked Glenn to close

50

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1 it for next March. And so that's all I know about
2 that. And, yeah, just currently that hunt is
3 anticipated to happen here in March and it'll be
4 announced by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

5

6 MR. HONEA: So I guess when you're
7 saying next March, you mean next March that's coming up
8 here?

9

10 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, so the March coming
11 up here next month, they are planning on having the to
12 be announced winter hunt in that area, but the year of
13 2022 in March they are going to -- the Committee
14 members voted to have it closed. They wanted to keep
15 it on the books but it is to remain closed, and that's
16 what happened at the latest Middle Yukon Advisory
17 Committee meeting.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Okay. I -- yeah, I could
20 see that. Hey, I appreciate your presentation.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
25 Jeremy. If there's more comments -- was somebody on?

26

27 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, yeah, this is
28 Goodwin.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead,
31 Goodwin.

32

33 MR. SEMAKEN: You know this Refuge is
34 called Innoko and they're saying Kaiyuh and on the maps
35 it doesn't seem to be right so for the records I think
36 they should clear it up because it's not Kaiyuh, it's
37 Innoko.

38

39 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, no, you're
40 absolutely correct. It's the northern unit of Innoko
41 National Wildlife Refuge and that area within it, that
42 we're talking about the hunt taking place is within
43 Kaiyuh Flats. But, nope, that's -- I appreciate that.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
46 Goodwin. If there's no other comments we'll go to
47 Kanuti update.

48

49 MR. HARWOOD: Good afternoon, Madame

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1 Chairman. This is Chris Harwood with Kanuti National
2 Wildlife Refuge. We have not done any field work
3 because of the pandemic since the last meeting so the
4 Council will not find a report from us in the
5 materials. But I am willing to just give a brief
6 update on a few topics, if that's okay.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go right ahead.

9

10 MR. HARWOOD: Okay. So most recently
11 the Staff has been involved with providing comments for
12 the Central Yukon Draft Resource Management Plan and
13 Environmental Impact Statement. As many of you know
14 Kanuti lies right in the middle of that planning area
15 so -- and is surrounded by BLM lands. So what happens
16 with that particular plan is important to the Refuge.

17

18 Also we had been involved with the lynx
19 movement project that has been going on at Tetlin,
20 Yukon Flats, Wiseman and Galena. We had trapping done
21 for two years, we do not -- we are not going to be
22 doing any trapping near Bettles or on the Refuge this
23 winter. We have seen more mortality this winter with
24 the collared lynx, most of it attributed to those being
25 caught, trapped or snared.

26

27 Let's see, what limited work we are
28 able to do we do -- we were able to complete our
29 January/February snow marker surveys on the Refuge and
30 we'll do those monthly through the winter. We are able
31 to do those.

32

33 And then in terms of field work for the
34 summer, it will be delayed. We hope that we're able to
35 get out to the Refuge in June but even that is sort of
36 up in the air. We do have some aerial surveys that we
37 should be able to get done. These are ones that are
38 done in winter, geese, and so we expect to have those
39 done.

40

41 And with that I'll take any questions
42 if there are any.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Any.....

45

46 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA:quest.....

49

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1 MR. HONEA: This is Don. I had a
2 question for Chris, is that your name, Chris?

3

4 MR. HARWOOD: Through the Chair. Yes,
5 Don, go ahead.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a question and,
8 you know, I'm always kind of concerned about the
9 population of game up there on the Kanuti. And, you
10 know, since you're the predation thing, I don't know if
11 that ran out or something, but how is your moose
12 numbers, are you -- has it come back from a low point
13 maybe three, four years back?

14

15 MR. HARWOOD: Through the Chair. Mr.
16 Honea. We have not been able to complete a winter
17 moose survey, November moose survey since 2017. It's
18 just been a string of bad late falls where we haven't
19 had the conditions, or other, you know, either didn't
20 have the funds or whatever, but every year we sort of
21 plan for it, but we haven't been able to complete such
22 a survey since 2017. We hope to, I would say again in
23 this upcoming fall, so November 2021. So our most
24 recent estimate would be for 2017, at which time that
25 was one of the higher ones, recently. I think the
26 Council has pointed out that the winters of 2018 and
27 '19 were particularly harsh so we don't know what sort
28 of mortality has occurred during some of those harsher
29 winters after our last survey.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay, thank you for
34 that response. I was just wondering, you know, because
35 of the -- well, Mr. Reakoff says that the snow depth is
36 not very -- is pretty good, it isn't really deep snow
37 up there and -- but I talked to somebody in Allakaket
38 and they -- they mentioned there was a lot of snow at
39 Allakaket so I was just, you know, wondering how much
40 affect that had on the population. But I appreciate
41 your response.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. HARWOOD: Sure, no problem.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
48 very much Chris. Any more comments or questions.

49

50

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1 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I got a question,
2 this is Pollock.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead,
5 Pollock.

6
7 MR. SIMON: Yeah. How much wolf is
8 there, this year -- since another -- few years ago,
9 wonder if the wolves is coming back or not.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MR. HARWOOD: Through the Chair.
14 Pollock, you were breaking up a bit so I didn't get all
15 of what you said. Were you asking if the moose
16 population was coming back on the Refuge?

17
18 MR. SIMON: Okay. How about the
19 wolves.

20
21 MR. HARWOOD: Okay. Did you ask about
22 wolves?

23
24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Chris, I
25 think.....

26
27 MR. SIMON: Yes. I want to know how
28 many wolves are in the Refuge.

29
30 MR. HARWOOD: Okay. Through the Chair.
31 Mr. Simon. Kanuti has not done a wolf survey but the
32 last agency to do so was the State of Alaska. I believe
33 that might have been two years ago and I'm wondering if
34 Glenn Stout might still be on the line where he could
35 speak to what the distribution and abundance of wolves
36 were at that time.

37
38 MR. STOUT: Yeah, this is Glenn. I can
39 address that.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead, Glenn.

42
43 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Mr.
44 Simon. This is Glenn Stout. We were able to get a
45 wolf survey done this last spring, as well as the year
46 before. And the primary purpose for that was to
47 address and monitor the recovery of the wolf population
48 after we had done that wolf control project over there
49 in Allakaket. We were about 65 percent of the way

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1 there two years ago and this year in our survey, last
2 March, March of 2020, we were back to where we were
3 before wolf control. So it was pretty much as we
4 predicted, that it would take about three wolves for
5 that wolf population to recover.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Okay, thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you,
10 Glenn. Okay, if there's no more questions or comments,
11 I thank you very much Chris. With that we'll go to the
12 Yukon Delta.

13

14 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Hello everybody. This is Aaron Moses, I'm the
16 subsistence coordinator for Yukon Delta.

17

18 I do have a brief talk about what we
19 were planning on doing this summer. Due to Covid
20 everything's still up in the air but we're going to try
21 to do as much projects as we can. A lot of the
22 projects that have the highest chance of going through
23 are going to be a lot of our waterfowl work. We're
24 going to be working out, hopefully, out in Kigak Island
25 doing some nest pot surveys and some other work out
26 there and we're going to try to get back into our
27 waterfowl banding. We have a bunch of places out on
28 the coast that we do a lot of banding on emperors and
29 cackling geese and ducks.

30

31 Right now over the next few weeks we
32 are doing our moose population counts from the lowest
33 Yukon all the way up to Russian Mission and the Paimiut
34 area. The last few years there's been some really deep
35 snow and there's been a -- there has been reported of a
36 lot of moose dying so we're up there trying to count
37 all the moose up there.

38

39 A lot of the stuff we're working on for
40 this summer is working with the Kuskokwim River
41 InterTribal Fish Commission like Kevin mentioned
42 earlier. We're working on a 2021 management strategy
43 and we're just starting our real preseason and trying
44 to figure out a harvest strategy. And during the
45 summer we'll be working with the Fish Commission and
46 we'll be flying the Kuskokwim in-season harvest
47 monitoring flights and usually that's during every
48 fishing opening we try to get out at least two flights
49 and that pairs along with the in-season monitoring that

50

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1 the Fish Commission that they do.

2

3 Our two Staff updates, Spencer Reardon,
4 who was our Deputy Refuge Manager is now our
5 supervisory biologist and Ty Binalli, who's coming from
6 the regional office is going to be our new Park Ranger
7 and visitor service manager.

8

9 With that, that's all I got for you
10 guys this time. Hopefully we'll get to see you guys
11 this fall.

12

13 So that's all I got, thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you,
16 Aaron. Any questions or comments for Aaron.

17

18 MR. BLIHOVDE: Madame Chairperson, this
19 is Boyd, Refuge Manager at Yukon Delta. I just wanted
20 to add something if it's okay.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go right ahead.

23

24 MR. BLIHOVDE: I failed to talk to
25 Aaron about this but one thing that I heard during the
26 meeting was from one of the other Refuges reporting
27 back on RITs and the hire of RITs. We're also hiring
28 two RITs here at Yukon Delta, at least we hope to. And
29 I just wanted to make everyone aware so that if you do
30 know of anyone that is interested in a position like
31 that, we're looking for, hopefully someone along the
32 Yukon River that would be willing to -- upper Yukon as
33 well, that we're hoping to get somebody through a local
34 hire there, and then we have some interest along the
35 Kuskokwim River for another person. So please let us
36 know, either Aaron or myself, if you have someone that
37 might be interested in one of those positions.

38

39 We're also trying to hire an aviation
40 mechanic, basically an apprentice for aviation work in
41 our Maintenance Department. That's also a local hire
42 located in Bethel.

43

44 And then one more local hire is we call
45 it a material handler or expediter, that handles
46 logistics with our aircraft, and that's another local
47 hire. So if you know of anyone, please send them our
48 way if you think they might be interested in one of
49 those.

50

0104

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Very good. What
4 did you say your name was?

5

6 MR. BLIHOVDE: Yes, ma'am. Boyd is my
7 first name, Blihovde, the Refuge Manager.....

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Boyd.

10

11 MR. BLIHOVDE:at Yukon Delta.

12 Yes, ma'am.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
15 I'm glad to hear that you're advertising for local
16 hire. I think it's very, very important. And also for
17 your RITs, I see you have -- RITs, you have openings
18 and wish you luck with that and I hope local people
19 would apply.

20

21 MR. BLIHOVDE: Yes, ma'am.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Any comments or
24 questions for Boyd or Aaron. Anybody has questions on
25 the Board or anybody else.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Moving right
30 along. Subsistence update.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Karen.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I'll
38 ask if Vince Mathews is on the phone, if he has any
39 subsistence update for the Refuges that he represents,
40 this is the time now that he can provide any comments
41 or reports.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Vince, are you
46 on line?

47

48 MR. KLAUSNER: Hello folks, my name is
49 Hans Klausner. I'm sitting in Vince's detail position

50

0105

1 currently starting yesterday. So I don't believe he's
2 on the line and I don't have any updates for you
3 currently. So I appreciate the opportunity. And I'm
4 new to the Western Interior so I'm here trying to learn
5 more about it. But I will be in the detail position
6 for Vince at least until March.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
9 I'm sorry, but I didn't get your name.

10

11 MR. KLAUSNER: Sure. My name is Hans,
12 H-A-N-S, last name is Klausner, K-L-A-U-S-N-E-R. And I
13 work out of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
16 very much Hans.

17

18 MR. KLAUSNER: Thank you. Sorry for
19 the inconvenience there.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: That's okay.
22 Welcome to the Western Interior region.

23

24 MR. KLAUSNER: Thank you.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, Madame Chair.
31 This is Karen Deatherage. And I apologize for that,
32 Vince Mathews is indeed doing a detail with U.S. Fish
33 and Wildlife Service. He is now serving in Carol
34 Damberg's position at the regional office. Carol
35 Damberg, for those of you who might recall, she has
36 retired from the Service and so Vince will be in that
37 position, as Tom said, until March. So appreciate
38 that, and thank you for your time.

39

40 Madame Chair.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
43 Karen. It's good to know what's going on because being
44 out in the Bush and away from everybody, we don't know
45 who's in what positions anymore.

46

47 With that, National Park Service.
48 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, update.

49

50

0106

1 MS. OKADA: Madame Chair, this is Marcy
2 Okada. And I think Victoria Florey from our National
3 Park Service regional office is going to go ahead and
4 give an update on the individual customary and
5 traditional use determination, and then we'll go ahead
6 with the Gates of the Arctic update.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

9

10 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Sounds fine.

13

14 MS. FLOREY: Yes, this is Victoria
15 Florey. Good afternoon, Madame Chair and Council
16 members. My name is Victoria Florey and I'm a
17 Subsistence Program Analyst with the National Park
18 Service's Regional Subsistence Team. Today I'm here to
19 report on recent decisions made by the Federal
20 Subsistence Board on the process used to make customary
21 and traditional use determinations for individuals.

22

23 So before I start talking about these
24 recent decisions, I just wanted to remind everyone that
25 individual C&Ts are not a new thing, but you might not
26 be familiar with them because they are so rare. Less
27 than 10 people have applied for them in the last 40
28 years. Also individual C&Ts and these recent Board
29 decisions will not, in any way, impact your ability to
30 fish, hunt, trap or gather resources.

31

32 These changes to the individual C&T
33 make the whole process easier and faster for the
34 applicant. It became more streamlined. We didn't want
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users waiting for years
36 to be able to go hunt and fish on Park lands so that's
37 why the Board modified these steps. So we are simply
38 now reporting to you what actions the Board took.

39

40 And this isn't something that you need
41 to vote on.

42

43 So the Federal Subsistence Board
44 adopted a revised version of the individual C&T process
45 at their January meeting. I will explain the adopted
46 process to you here following a short introduction to
47 individual C&Ts.

48

49 And, again, no action on your end is

50

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1 required, however, we would appreciate your feedback on
2 the process adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

3
4 So you might recall that National Park
5 Service Staff offered a lengthy presentation on this
6 issue at your fall meeting. As a reminder, individual
7 customary and traditional use determinations are rare,
8 and like I said before less than 10 have been applied
9 for in the last 40 years. And eligibility to hunt and
10 trap in National Parks and National Monuments is rather
11 complex compared to other Federal public lands. Almost
12 all customary and traditional use determinations are
13 for communities and areas, not individuals. So last
14 fall we asked all 10- Subsistence Regional Advisory
15 Councils and the seven Park Subsistence Resource
16 Commissions for feedback. We incorporated this
17 feedback into our proposed process and this is what was
18 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board at its January
19 2021 meeting.

20
21 The revised process includes two
22 critical recommendations made by the RACs and the SRCs.
23 First off.

24
25 First, there is no delegation of
26 authority to NPS. The Federal Subsistence Board will
27 retain the final decisionmaking authority.

28
29 Second, the process now includes a
30 formal recommendation from both the affected RACs and
31 the affected SRC.

32
33 Perhaps the biggest change is that the
34 process is no longer tied to the lengthy biennial
35 regulatory proposal cycle. Instead, the application
36 window is open continuously and once the RACs and SRC
37 have weighed in, the Board will take action on the
38 request at its next public meeting. This accomplishes
39 an important goal of being able to process applications
40 in a timely manner. Many of the RACs and SRCs voted to
41 defer action until they had more time to study this
42 issue. While the Federal Subsistence Board already
43 took action to help improve the process, the Board
44 still welcomes any feedback that you might have for
45 further improvement, either now or at any point in the
46 future. Ultimately the National Park Service and the
47 Federal Subsistence Board just wants this process to be
48 as streamlined and responsive as possible.

49
50

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1 Thank you for your time.

2

3 I am happy to answer any questions you
4 have and if you have any feedback for the Board I am
5 happy to deliver that too.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
10 Victoria. Any questions or comments for Victoria.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
17 Deatherage. Madame Chair, I would like to see if you
18 would be amenable to allow the BLM to do their
19 presentations next, there are some scheduling conflicts
20 and so Tim Lamar with the Bureau of Land Management
21 would like to know if he could do the presentations
22 next for the Bureau of Land Management.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I don't have any
27 problem with that. He could go right ahead.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: BLM.

32

33 MR. LAMAR: Thank you. Thank you,
34 Madame Chair. My name is Tim Lamar, and I am the Field
35 Manager for the Central Yukon Field Office of the
36 Bureau of Land Management here out of Fairbanks.
37 Again, my name is Tim Lamar. And I'm going to be
38 providing two updates for you on BLM items.

39

40 The first I want to speak to is going
41 to be speaking from one of the supplemental handouts
42 that came out more recently on authorization and
43 harvest of dall sheep on BLM Central Yukon Field Office
44 lands. It's a guide use area, it's 2403, 2502 and 2503
45 for the past 10 years, from 2010 through 2020. So if
46 folks have that handout available, that's what I'm
47 going to be kind of speaking from here initially. It's
48 about a page and a half there and it starts with a bar
49 graph up on the top there.

50

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1 And it basically just characterizes and
2 kind of graphs information related to dall sheep
3 permitted hunting guides on BLM lands in our field
4 office here. And the data there shows numbers of
5 clients that -- who have been authorized through the
6 program, number of clients guided, and the number of
7 sheep actually harvested. Just below that bar graph
8 there, you see that data, it's basically in tabular
9 form and what I'm going to focus on here is just some
10 of the averages and the ranges. And going back for the
11 past 10 years, we've had an average of 18 clients
12 authorized in the Central Yukon Field Office, and that
13 has ranged from as low as 12 to as many as 22. Average
14 number of clients that actually have been guided is 9
15 over the last 10 years with a range of 4 to 17 over
16 that period. Average number of sheep harvested is 3
17 per year, with the range of zero to 7. And those --
18 the harvest data are based on post-use reports
19 submitted to the BLM by our hunting guides that are
20 permitted but, of course, that data's also submitted to
21 the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

22
23 A couple of other items that I'll add
24 on here is that we did not have enough time to tease
25 out some of the specifics related to GUA2403 this time,
26 and Staff availability didn't allow us to get further
27 in the weeds there to be timely for this meeting. But
28 over that period we've permitted 12 clients in the
29 GUA2403. I don't know how many sheep per year have been
30 harvested, but it would be a subset of that average of
31 3 per year, and that range of zero to 7. So it'd be a
32 subset of that -- those numbers.

33
34 I'd also point out that sheep hunting
35 west of the Dalton Highway is not permitted under our
36 hunting guide special recreation permits, and so that's
37 just something that we put in place a number of years
38 ago. It's not allowed under our permits.

39
40 We also don't allow buddy hunts. So in
41 other words, any non-commercial hunts are expressly
42 disallowed under BLM permits for commercial guides.

43
44 That's just a summary of dall sheep
45 information that we were requested to provide at the
46 last RAC meeting.

47
48 I was hopeful to provide more detailed
49 information on other species, but our Staff
50

0110

1 availability and time did not allow for us to go any
2 further than where we have to this point on that.

3

4 I will point out that I know there's a
5 lot of concern about dall sheep populations up in the
6 east Brook Range -- Brooks Range there. And the BLM
7 does plan to conduct our population surveys, our dall
8 sheep population surveys this year. We're hoping --
9 last year we did a bit of an abbreviated approach due
10 to Covid protocols that we put in place, but this year
11 we want to try and get back to our normal, more
12 thorough flights. And then we're also gearing up to
13 try and do the same in 2022. We're in a budget request
14 cycle right now and so we're putting together and
15 prioritizing budget requests to keep collecting data on
16 the dall sheep populations up in that area.

17

18 And with that, that's the summary that
19 I have for today on this. If there are any comments or
20 questions I'll take those now.

21

22 Thanks.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Any comments or
25 questions for Tim.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Madame Chair, this is
28 Jack.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, Jack, go
31 right ahead.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Tim, these statistics
34 here of harvest of sheep, these are strictly on BLM
35 land, that's not counting the State harvest?

36

37 MR. LAMAR: Through the Chair. That's
38 correct. Yeah, we don't have State data, those are just
39 -- these are from the BLM permits from BLM lands,
40 correct.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. So I'm glad that
43 you're going to be flying the surveys. I do want to
44 see, if I'm reappointed to the Council, that Unit 24A
45 is separated in the survey from Unit 25A, the
46 population, it's mixing apples and oranges and it's
47 allowing a lot more harvest in Unit 25A that's had the
48 most decimation, 25A (indiscernible - beeping) bad of
49 impact as -- from the deep snow. So I would like to
50

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1 see that broken out.

2

3 So that'd be my comment.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Jack.

8 Okay, so where are we now Karen?

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame

11 Chair. Mr. Lamar, through the Chair.....

12

13 MR. LAMAR: Yes.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE:are you planning

16 on doing the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan

17 presentation at this time?

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. LAMAR: Yes, thank you. Madame

22 Chair, Tim Lamar again with the BLM. I'll just stay on

23 here for a couple more minutes and provide an update on

24 the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan revision.

25

26 The draft resource management plan and

27 EIS was released for public comment back on December

28 11th for a 90 day public comment period on that so the

29 comment period ends on March 11th. Over the past

30 couple of weeks, from January 26th through February

31 9th, we held seven virtual public meetings and ANILCA

32 .810 hearings targeting communities where we had -- may

33 significantly restrict findings under ANILCA .810. We

34 did have 160 public members attend those meetings, and

35 we're soliciting -- we're continuing to solicit public

36 feedback, I think, the Central Yukon Field Office

37 report that's part of your packet or the supplemental

38 materials includes our National NEPA Register website

39 for the resource management plan, and so you can go

40 there and either comment directly from that website on

41 the plan or it gives you other options for how to

42 comment, you can email us or send us letters or even

43 fax at the BLM here in Fairbanks.

44

45 One thing that we have been telling

46 folks through the course of our public meetings, and

47 I'll reiterate it here because that has not changed,

48 is, you know, we recognize that this RMP is going to be

49 completed under a different Presidential Administration

50

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1 than the one under -- you know, that we've been under
2 for the previous four years until recently, of course,
3 we have not had any direct contact from the Biden
4 Administration on the resource management plan and so
5 folks have been asking that question about whether, you
6 know, the new Administration is going to change our
7 direction compared to where our preferred alternative
8 for the plan currently lies. And so we just don't know
9 that yet, we haven't heard from them but, you know,
10 we'll -- at this point our planned schedule is to
11 publish the final RMP -- proposed RMP, final EIS in --
12 this coming summer, late spring, early summer, and
13 reach the point of a record of decision in late summer.
14 Again, that's barring any changes in course that might
15 occur.

16
17 And let's see, with that, are there any
18 questions on the Central Yukon RMP.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: Madame Chair, this is
21 Jack.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, Jack.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: I have a -- I would like
26 to read into the record a comment for the Council. I
27 sent this comment to Karen Deatherage but I'll read
28 that after other Council members who have questions.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Okay, any
33 questions or comments from the Council.

34
35
36 (No comments)

37
38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. If not,
39 go ahead, Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: So Jack Reakoff. I live
42 in Wiseman, Alaska. And these are comments to the
43 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council on the BLM
44 Central Yukon Resource Management Plan and EIS and
45 ANILCA Section .810 hearings.

46
47 1. I urge the Council to call into
48 question the legality and oppose the process used to
49 inform for public participation in commenting on the
50

0113

1 BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Plan
2 alternatives.

3
4 2. I strongly urge the Council to
5 oppose any BLM Resource Management Plan alternative
6 that recommends to the Secretary of Interior to violate
7 ANILCA Statute within the utility corridor. The Public
8 Lands Order 5150 must remain in place. ANILCA's clear
9 that the vast majority of the utility corridor is to
10 remain in Federal ownership. The customary and
11 traditional Federally-qualified subsistence users of
12 the region would be devastated without the Federal
13 lands within the 2.1 million acre utility corridor.

14
15 3. I strongly would recommend that the
16 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council request a
17 blend of alternatives, without any recommendation to
18 the Secretary of Interior to lift any portion of the
19 utility corridor's Public Land Order 5150 for
20 conveyance of land to the State of Alaska. This
21 updated plan, a blend of alternative B with true
22 considerations for fish and wildlife habitat
23 protections found scattered in other alternatives that
24 would provide provisions for prudent multiple uses is
25 imperative to attempt to move forward a legal BLM
26 Central Yukon Resource Management Plan to a final
27 record of decision.

28
29 Those are the three points. I can give
30 you the overview of where I'm coming from of that, if
31 you would care to hear that, Madame Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, please. Go
34 ahead, Jack.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Illegal public review and
37 comment process. The affected communities in the
38 region have very limited access to electronic means or
39 bandwidth capacity to download the documents, let alone
40 navigate the pre-registration and approval to comment.
41 Most of the affected communities cannot obtain the
42 login links or toll numbers, phone numbers, to
43 participate in the virtual meeting. No hardcopies were
44 provided to the communities. Long distance charges to
45 call Continental United States numbers are prohibitive
46 for most people. When I called in, I had to call in on
47 my phone and I paid a lot of money to access the
48 meeting, the virtual meeting. The meeting process is
49 currently provided for the BLM Central Yukon Resource
50

0114

1 Management Plan is not compliant with the Federal Open
2 Meeting Statute under public law 9404 referred to as
3 the Sunshine Act, or the Federal 40 CFR 1506(c)(6) NEPA
4 regulations, or ANILCA, Title VIII, Section .802(2).
5 And there's language that says, when selecting
6 appropriate methods for providing public notice,
7 agencies shall consider the ability of affected persons
8 and agencies to access electronic media. It's
9 virtually impossible to electronically access the
10 planning documents or decipher the scattered
11 information for the alternatives. The sheer volume of
12 material is laid out in a format that's not user
13 friendly. It would take anyone many days to compare
14 the alternatives. Synopsis keys are few and obscure.
15 The rushed BLM hearing process does not statutorily
16 comply with ANILCA, Title VIII, Section .802(2) to
17 inform the subsistence users of the effects, affect to
18 them, and to receive their comments in a meaningful
19 way. If you exclude basically most of the public
20 because they can't access the document or participate
21 basically by phone, then it's not a meaningful way of
22 taking comment.

23

24 The transfer of the utility corridor to
25 the State is illegal. The Central Yukon Resource
26 Management Plan's preferred alternative contains many
27 issues that will have extremely detrimental effects on
28 subsistence and resources. Regarding the proposed
29 illegal conveyance of the utility corridor to the State
30 there'd be outright elimination of critical subsistence
31 uses. Some communities in or near the corridor would
32 completely lose all subsistence use of wildlife. The
33 greatest concern contained in the proposed plan's
34 alternative is not only to myself, as a subsistence
35 user, but also to the other people who use the Federal
36 lands known as the 2.1 million acre BLM utility
37 corridor to include, Stevens Village, Evansville,
38 Bettles, Allakaket, Alatna, Coldfoot, Wiseman,
39 Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut. The Secretary of Interior
40 1971 withdrew the 2.1 million acre utility corridor
41 issuing a public land order PL05150. The order
42 excluded the State of Alaska or Native Corporations to
43 select any lands within the utility corridor. In 1980
44 Congress made the decision when evaluating Alaska lands
45 for the Alaska Lands Interest Lands Conservation Act,
46 ANILCA, to not allow the State of Alaska to select all
47 of the lands in the utility corridor except for
48 community expansions found in the Statehood Act, in 6A
49 and B of the Statehood Act. ANILCA, Section 906(e) and
50

0115

1 (J) (1) are crystal clear regarding the Congressional
2 intent, referring to the BLM utility corridor, Public
3 Lands Order 5150, quote, from ANILCA, to continue to
4 prohibit selections of certain lands, such lands shall
5 remain unavailable to future State selection except for
6 provided as, in Section E of this Act. ANILCA (j) (1)
7 is clear, the utility corridor remains withdrawn from
8 State selection. ANILCA Section 906 Section E is
9 primarily referring to the Statehood Act, Public Lands
10 Order 85508, the Statehood Act. Sections A and B of
11 the Statehood Act specifically state that Sections A
12 and B, that for selections vacant, or unappropriated
13 lands or unreserved at the time of their selection.
14 Statehood Act 6A, for the purpose of furthering
15 development and expansion of communities, the State of
16 Alaska is hereby granted entitled select.

17
18 The current BLM resource management
19 plan that's in place right this minute, the utility
20 corridor, after Alaska National Interest Lands
21 Conservation passage, accomplished the wishes of
22 Congress to convey 7,000 acres around Coldfoot in 1991,
23 there are no other communities in the utility corridor
24 than the private lands in Wiseman. ANILCA 906 is
25 Congress' decision to retain the utility corridor in
26 Federal ownership.

27
28 The BLM preferred Alternative C(2) is
29 recommending that the Secretary of Interior commit a
30 violation of Federal laws by lifting and repealing the
31 Public Law 5150 to allow the State selection of the
32 utility corridor.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 And Karen has that document, I sent it
37 to her and I would encourage the Council to adopt this
38 as your comment.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Jack,
41 that was very good. Any other comments from the Board.

42
43
44 (No comments)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don, are you on?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0116

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I think we lost
2 Don.

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Don Honea.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Karen maybe you
7 can reach Don.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pollock Simon, are you
10 on the phone?

11
12 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'm here.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Goodwin Semaken,
15 are you on the phone?

16
17 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. I can call
20 -- Madame Chair, I can call Don Honea and see if he got
21 cut off, but in the meantime.....

22
23 MR. HONEA: Hey, I'm on here.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE:you might
26 want.....

27
28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Oh, he's on.

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Don, did
33 you hear Jack's comments.

34
35 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I certainly did. I
36 find them all valid and so are we supporting him for
37 this -- is this an action item that we're going to be
38 taking, that needs a motion.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Karen,
41 help.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. No worries at all. Yes, Public Member Reakoff
45 is asking for the Council to make a motion to submit
46 the comments he provided to the Bureau of Land
47 Management as comments from the Western Interior Alaska
48 Council. So the Council would need to make a motion
49 and have discussion and vote on whether or not they
50

0117

1 would accept Mr. Reakoff's comments to the BLM as their
2 own regarding the Central Yukon Resource Management
3 Plan.

4
5 Thank you, very much.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
8 That clears it up a little bit more for me.

9
10 So do we have a motion -- want to make
11 a motion to that effect.

12
13 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock, I so move.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, moved by
16 Pollock, is there a second to the motion.

17
18 MR. HONEA: Second by Don.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, second by
21 Don. Any discussion.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Well, under discussion. I
24 think there's a lot of research went into -- went into
25 this motion and I believe, myself, that it's past due.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah, I agree
28 with you, Don. I think this needs to really be taken
29 up, not only by our Board, but somehow I hope the
30 tribal councils will get involved and support this
31 action. Maybe, Karen, you can send us a copy of that
32 -- a hardcopy of that comment and then, you know, we,
33 as members, we can probably pass it on to our tribal
34 councils.

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. I will do that. And also just to report that
38 this -- these comments from Mr. Reakoff have also been
39 sent to some of the other affected Councils region that
40 utilize subsistence resources along the Central Yukon
41 Field Office area, so the other Councils may be
42 weighing in as well. At this point what I will do is
43 work with Mr. Reakoff to develop a letter, with the
44 Council's approval of this motion, that encapsules
45 these comments so that they can be forwarded to the
46 BLM, as well as yourselves, so that you can share those
47 with your members, with your community members.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0118

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, very
2 much, Karen.

3
4 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair. I would also
5 like to see in this motion, that a copy is made to all
6 tribal organizations, Native Councils, because I think
7 Doyon is getting it to -- going to be meeting and stuff
8 and maybe can give it to them.

9
10 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair, I got some
11 comments, this is Pollock.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead,
14 Pollock.

15
16 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I just want to say
17 that since the early 1900s, all the peoples used to go
18 up to the mountains even if you were 20 years old, or
19 early teens, and after their traditional
20 (indiscernible) in the mountains, and so today there's
21 young peoples around here who still go up and now with
22 (indiscernible - cuts off).....

23
24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
25 Pollock. Very good, now, any more discussion on this.

26
27 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Call for the
30 question. All in favor say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: All opposed.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, motion
39 carries. And, Karen, you'll get that letter out.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
42 Chair. I will draft the letter, working with Mr.
43 Reakoff, and we will also do our best to distribute
44 this letter to the tribal entities as suggested by Mr.
45 Honea.

46
47 Thank you, very much.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
50

0119

1 very much. Okay, with that, I think we'll go back up
2 to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

3

4 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Madame Chair and
5 Council members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm the
6 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
7 National Park and Preserve. I'll just be giving a
8 quick update on the Subsistence Resource Commission
9 meeting that took place on November 18th via
10 teleconference, and then I'll be passing it on to Matt
11 Cameron to give an update on Western Arctic Caribou
12 Herd and moose.

13

14 So the SRC met November 18th of last
15 year, and the SRC received updates on the Ambler Mining
16 District Road project as well as the Federal
17 Subsistence Board wildlife proposals that passed. The
18 SRC also heard updates from Park Service Staff on
19 wildlife projects that are going on in the Park and
20 Preserve. And finally the SRC took action to send a
21 letter to the new Secretary of Interior, if and when
22 she is appointed, and the SRC has concerns about the
23 appointment process, the appointment and reappointment
24 process, and the amount of time it takes for the
25 process to occur. The SRC will also be submitting a
26 comment letter to the Board of Game on proposals that
27 are proposed to affect the Dalton Highway Corridor
28 Management Area. Our next meeting is scheduled for
29 April 14th and it'll be via teleconference.

30

31 Do you folks have any questions.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Did Marcy get
34 cut off?

35

36 MS. OKADA: I'm still here. I just
37 hope that folks were able to hear my update and just
38 asking if there's any questions.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I was able to hear
43 it. I have no questions, Marcy.

44

45 MS. OKADA: Okay, thanks, Don.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: I heard it too,
48 thank you.

49

50

0120

1 MS. OKADA: So now we'll just hear an
2 update from our biologist Matt Cameron on the Western
3 Arctic Caribou Herd and the moose populations in the
4 Gates of the Arctic.

5
6 MR. CAMERON: Hi, thanks, Marcy. Can
7 everyone hear me.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

10
11 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

12
13 MR. CAMERON: Great. Good afternoon,
14 Madame Chair and members of the Council. This is Matt
15 Cameron, and I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates of the
16 Arctic. It's great to hear your voices on the call
17 today and I appreciated hearing your updates and
18 observations from your areas earlier this morning.

19
20 For the Western Arctic Herd update, we
21 witnessed another abnormal fall migration last year.
22 We think of the typical fall movements of the herd as
23 moving south from the North Slope, crossing the Kobuk
24 River and spending the winter to the south. And as
25 recently as 2011, the first caribou normally cross in
26 August but the caribou have been coming later and later
27 in recent years. We had a team of ADF&G and NPS
28 biologists at Onion Portage in October last year to
29 deploy collars and we didn't see any caribou crossing
30 while we were there. We had to leave due to the river
31 icing and left without getting any collars out. This
32 year no GPS collared caribou crossed the river until
33 late October making this the latest fall migration on
34 record. And so because we didn't get any collars
35 deployed at Onion Portage last year and in other recent
36 years, it's important for herd monitoring to get more
37 collars deployed. And so we're working closely with
38 ADF&G and plan to deploy collars by net gunning from a
39 helicopter in late March in the Gates of the Arctic
40 area.

41
42 We also have a caribou diet and health
43 project we'll be doing in April where we pick up
44 caribou poop and analyze the samples in the lab. And
45 we plan to collect samples in the Nulato Hills and
46 Gates of the Arctic area and we'll avoid any areas
47 being used by subsistence users.

48
49 I'd like to turn your attention to a
50

0121

1 handout that we -- a separate handout we provided and
2 the title is Why Do Caribou Calve Where They Do, and
3 that has a picture of a cow and a calf on the top left.
4 And this is a project that we finished just recently
5 that documented the calving areas for the Western
6 Arctic Herd and look to understand trends across years
7 in the calving areas. We analyze these calving areas
8 from 2010 to 2011 and we used GPS collar data to find
9 where females delivered their calves. You can see the
10 map of the calving areas in the bottom right of the
11 handout, and we found that calving areas varied each
12 year but they were centered on an area of consistent
13 overlap there in the NPR-A up on the North Slope, which
14 was used every year. And so the color there, the red
15 is an area that they used every year, and then as you
16 move out to the outer areas, in blue, that was a
17 calving area just in one year. And this area is
18 consistent with studies going back to the 1960s and
19 this highlights the impress consistency that the herd
20 is using this area. And so we looked into vegetation
21 patterns using satellite data and we found that use of
22 the calving area coincides with the flush of high
23 quality vegetation at the average time when females
24 have their calves in the period we looked at. And this
25 suggests that caribou are using memory to guide them to
26 the general calving area in the spring. And once in
27 this general area, females are searching for high
28 quality forage such as flowering heads of cotton grass.
29 And all this likely results in the annual variability
30 we see in the calving areas each year.

31
32 And so we published these findings in a
33 scientific article and the link is on the bottom of the
34 handout there.

35
36 Switching back to the other handout
37 that had the NPS, the National Park Service logo on the
38 top left, for a moose update, Kyle Joly, was part of a
39 project looking at GPS collared moose movement and how
40 moose respond to warm temperatures. They found that
41 moose seek shade by moving to dense forest as
42 temperatures rise in the summer and that moose in the
43 Gates area did so even more than other populations
44 further south that they looked at. And there's a write
45 up there of the project, and information of the
46 scientific paper that they published on the handout.

47
48 And so before -- up next we have Will
49 Deacy, who will present an update on sheep in Gates of
50

0122

1 the Arctic but before we pass it off, I wanted to see
2 if there were any questions I could address.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, any
5 questions for Matt.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not, go
10 ahead for the next person.

11

12 MR. DEACY: All right, thank you, Matt,
13 and thank you, Madame Chair. This is Will Deacy, a
14 Biologist with the National Park Service. I'm going to
15 quickly talk about the Park Service's effort to monitor
16 dall sheep in Gates of the Arctic Park and Preserve.
17 And, again, for the record my name is Will Deacy.

18

19 So during the last meeting I gave a
20 summer of results from a dall sheep survey we flew from
21 last July. I believe you received a supplemental
22 handout which goes into more detail about that survey
23 so, please, take a look at that if you want all of the
24 details. To briefly review, we were unable to fly our
25 normal aerial survey because of concerns about Covid19
26 transmission, so instead we flew a small pilot only
27 survey of portions of the Killik Preserve in northeast
28 Gates of the Arctic. The survey results indicated
29 approximately average lamb recruitment in 2020, and, in
30 addition there were no clear changes in population size
31 compared to the previous few years. But the caveat
32 there is that it's a small area that we surveyed.

33

34 In terms of our plans for surveying
35 sheep this next summer, there have been concerns that
36 poor weather conditions on the south side of the Brooks
37 Range has caused a major decline in sheep populations
38 there and that that decline is not reflected in the
39 surveys that we do every single year on the north side
40 of the Brooks Range. So this summer our plan is to
41 survey sheep habitat in southeast Gates of the Arctic
42 Park, it's approximately the east area inside the Park
43 between the John River and the Dalton Highway. This
44 will be in addition to our regular surveys of the area
45 around Anaktuvuk Pass and the survey inside the Killik
46 Preserve. And what we're hoping is that overall these
47 surveys will allow us to return to this meeting next
48 fall with information about the status of sheep on both
49 the north and the south side of the Brooks Range in

50

0123

1 Gates of the Arctic Park and Preserve.

2

3 And that's all I have about sheep. I'm
4 happy to answer any questions.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Any
9 questions or comments for Will.

10

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Nope. Okay,
15 thank you Will. It's 10 to 3:00, do you want a little
16 break.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Anybody want a
21 break.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair, could
24 we have a five minute break.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, I'll give
27 you 10, how about that.

28

29 MR. HONEA: All right, that sounds even
30 better. I will call back in.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (On record)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Karen, are you
39 there?

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: I sure am, Jenny,
42 thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Do we have the
45 Council members back on.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don.

50

0124

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Pollock.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Goodwin.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hummm.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Now's your chance,
14 Jenny, you can vote to have the winter meeting in
15 Hawaii if you want since no other Council members are
16 on board.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's a Council of one.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: They must have
29 long cigarettes.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: We're cruising
34 right along Karen.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: We are. We still --
37 we'll have to meet tomorrow but I have some
38 recommendations when the other Council members are on
39 board if you'd like that I can share with you, and then
40 you guys can figure out if you'd like to go ahead and
41 do it that way. Okay.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, sure.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don are you back
48 on.

49

50

0125

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hum. Goodwin.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Pollock.

8

9 MR. SIMON: Here.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Pollock is
12 here. Council of two.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's right, see if
17 Pollock wants to go to Hawaii.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah, we're
20 going to go to Hawaii and leave those other ones
21 behind.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Don are you back
26 on.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Hum.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Once we get additional
35 Council members on board I'd be happy to share what's
36 left on the agenda and what is scheduled for tomorrow's
37 meeting.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Hey, good afternoon.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, you're
46 back. How about Goodwin.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Did we come back to order?

49

50

0126

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah. We're
2 waiting for Goodwin.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Karen, I
7 guess you can go ahead.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. I wanted to just briefly go over what remains
11 on today's agenda and also to share with you what will
12 be on tomorrow's agenda. Today we have left the Office
13 of Subsistence Management Staff report. And also a
14 report on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
15 Notice of Funding Opportunity, that will also be given
16 by Staff from the OSM. We also need to confirm the
17 fall 2021 meeting date and location, and select the
18 winter 2022 meeting date and location. And then
19 closing comments.

20
21 There are currently four additional
22 agenda items that will be on the agenda tomorrow due to
23 scheduling conflicts. The first three are those items
24 that the Council agreed earlier in the meeting to move
25 to tomorrow on the agenda, and those are from the
26 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
27 bycatch update, Eastern Bering Sea research, and the
28 Northern Bering Sea juvenile salmon ecology
29 presentation. These are supposed to be excellent
30 presentations and, I, therefore, encourage everyone to
31 call in tomorrow to hear them starting at 11:00
32 o'clock. Prior to that we have a request to have a
33 brief update on the Bering Sea Western Interior Alaska
34 Resource Management Plan from the BLM.

35
36 My recommendation for today is that the
37 Council complete the agenda with the OSM reports, the
38 selection for future meeting dates and then tomorrow --
39 and adjourn for today, and then tomorrow begin the
40 meeting at approximately 10:30 to hear the Bering Sea
41 Western Interior update followed at 11:00 by the three
42 NOAA presentations.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So you're
47 saying tomorrow we'll start at 10:30.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: With the Council's
50

0127

1 permission, that would be my recommendation based on
2 the agenda items that we currently have and the
3 required timeframes that we will need tomorrow for the
4 presentations, particularly from NOAA.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, that
9 sounds good to me. How about the rest of you, Council
10 members.

11
12 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair. Could
13 we.....

14
15 MR. SIMON: This is Pollock.

16
17 MR. HONEA: Oh, yeah, go ahead.

18
19 MR. SIMON: It's okay with me.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Well, actually, Madame
24 Chair. I would like to get early so we don't have to
25 tie up our afternoons, there's things I'd like to do,
26 could we start at 10:00 and maybe cover something in
27 between 10:00 and 10:30?

28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, if you
30 wish I could respond to Mr. Honea's request.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. Member Honea, the issue at this point is that
36 there is only one additional agenda item that has the
37 flexibility in scheduling and that's the Bering Sea
38 Western Interior Alaska Resource Management Plan
39 update, that shouldn't take very much time and that's
40 why my recommendation is to start tomorrow at 10:30,
41 and then at 11:00 o'clock we'll be hearing the three
42 reports regarding the marine environment from NOAA.
43 And I want to make a correction that we will recess
44 today and then resume tomorrow and then adjourn the
45 meeting tomorrow after the NOAA presentations.

46
47 Thank you, very much.

48
49 MR. HONEA: Okay, I have no problem

50

0128

1 with that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So we'll
4 resume tomorrow at 10:30. I was just wondering, you
5 know, we had Darrell Vent on the line earlier, did he
6 ever get his permission to speak for the Council, do
7 you know, Karen?

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. I have not heard from Mr. Vent about his Chief's
11 permission for Mr. Vent to speak on behalf of the tribe
12 but that could certainly be something that the Council
13 could add today or tomorrow, if Mr. Vent is available.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead, Don.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair. Did he
24 have something specifically that he wanted to speak
25 toward?

26

27 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: He didn't say.

28

29 MR. HONEA: No, I was just wondering
30 whether Darrell had something specifically that he
31 wanted us to address.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah, I don't
34 know.

35

36 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay, alrighty.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Maybe he'll call
39 back later or call Karen or something, or maybe he'll
40 call in tomorrow.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Okay.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, with that
45 we'll go ahead and do the Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game subsistence update, is that where we are?

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
49 Chair. No, I think you're reading off the agenda

50

0129

1 that's in the meeting book which has been updated since
2 then. We have heard the subsistence report to my
3 knowledge which was the harvest report records for the
4 Kuskokwim River. What we have next is the Office of
5 Subsistence Management report from the leadership team
6 member, Tom Kron, with OSM, followed by the FRMP
7 program update from Pippa Kenner and Cory Graham.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Go ahead,
12 Office of Subsistence Management, go right ahead.

13
14 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Yes, this is
15 Tom Kron from OSM.

16
17 First of all we wanted to thank you all
18 for your work. It is very hard on everybody and I
19 definitely appreciate everybody's hard work and
20 frustration, you know, these teleconferences are really
21 hard and thank you for hanging in there, we very much
22 appreciate it.

23
24 The other thing we've got happening on
25 top of everything else is the Covid19 situation and I
26 know that is affecting all of you in the villages and
27 makes things very difficult with all of the survey work
28 that Staff are having to delay.

29
30 First I'd like to talk a little bit
31 about teleconferences. We are holding all 10 winter
32 2021 Regional Advisory Council meetings via
33 teleconferences. This decision was made with the
34 utmost consideration and concern for the health and
35 safety of Council members, families, rural communities,
36 the public and Staff, who are all part of the Council
37 meetings. The health and safety of everyone is our
38 highest priority. The Center for Disease Control and
39 Prevention guidelines suggest that people avoid travel
40 and refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
41 to help prevent the spread of Covid19.

42
43 The Regional Advisory Councils are the
44 foundation of Alaska's Federal Subsistence Management
45 Program. We recognize that holding face to face
46 meetings in rural communities across Alaska is
47 preferable for encouraging the public's most effect
48 involvement. The Federal Subsistence Management
49 Program is fully committed to resuming in-person
50

0130

1 Council meetings across Alaska when we can do so
2 safely.

3

4 Next, I'll give you an update on
5 Staffing changes since our last meeting. The following
6 changes have heard.

7

8 Doctor Brent Vickers started at OSM as
9 OSM Anthropology Chief in December. Brent signed on
10 for you this morning, so you heard his voice. I don't
11 know if he's on now.

12

13 Greg Risdahl moved over to U.S. Forest
14 Service in January, and will be on their representative
15 on the InterAgency Staff Committee.

16

17 We are grateful to have experienced
18 people on the InterAgency Staff Committee that will
19 remain in the Program as advisors to their Board
20 members.

21

22 George Pappas is currently the acting
23 OSM Fishery Division Chief, in addition to his normal
24 job as liaison to State Wildlife and Fisheries
25 Programs.

26

27 Katya Wessels, Council Coordinator, is
28 currently acting OSM Policy Coordinator. Katya was
29 just selected as Council Coordination Division Chief
30 and will be starting in mid-March.

31

32 Steve Fadden, came to us from the U.S.
33 Fish and Wildlife Refuges and is currently acting OSM
34 Wildlife Division Chief.

35

36 Sabrina Schmidt has served as one of
37 OSM's clerks and she took a promotion with the military
38 in January.

39

40 Next I'll talk about Council
41 appointments and applications.

42

43 Annual Council appointment process is
44 very complex and takes about 15 months to complete. It
45 begins in September of each year when the Federal
46 Subsistence Board announces the opening application
47 period for Council membership. During this six month
48 application period the Program conducts extensive
49 statewide recruitment and efforts. The Program
50

0131

1 distributes approximately 2,000 applications throughout
2 Alaska via mail and email to individuals, agencies and
3 organizations. Additionally the Program conducts
4 wide-ranging outreach through a variety of media
5 outlets including, but not limited to newspapers,
6 radios, TV, internet, FaceBook and public conferences.
7 Last year, in 2020, the effort resulted in 74
8 applications to fill 62 [sic] vacancies or expired
9 seats. After the InterAgency Nominations Panel
10 conducted interviews, the Federal Subsistence Board
11 reviewed the applications and forwarded their
12 recommendations to the Secretary of Interior and
13 Agriculture on September 4th, 2020. On January 15th,
14 2021, last month, OSM received copies of the Regional
15 Advisory Council appointment letters signed by the
16 former Secretary of Interior. The Regional appointment
17 letters were sent out by regular post and applicants
18 whose appointments were approved should be receiving
19 the letters soon, if they have not already received
20 them. We received full appointments for three
21 Councils, the Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, and Seward
22 Peninsula, and partial appointments for four Councils,
23 Eastern Interior, Northwest Arctic, North Slope and
24 Southcentral. Three Councils, Western Interior, your
25 Council, the YK Delta Council and Southeast Council did
26 not receive appointments at all. Some Councils that
27 received partial appointments left them with three or
28 four vacant seats. We are working with our U.S. Fish
29 and Wildlife Service Headquarter's officials as well
30 with the Department of Interior to see if we can get
31 additional appointments considered out of cycle. The
32 application period for this year's Regional Advisory
33 Council appointments is open until March 12th, it was
34 just extended and by December 2nd of this year we're
35 going to have 62 open seats for appointment or
36 reappointment, and as of today we have received a small
37 number of applications for this appointment cycle. We
38 are encouraging Council members, whose terms will
39 expire in December 2022 to reapply. Your Council
40 Coordinator should have contacted you if your
41 membership expires this coming December. We also
42 encourage other rural Alaskans to apply for Council
43 memberships. Serving on the Regional Advisory Councils
44 is the best way to participate in the Federal
45 Subsistence Management Program and help to sustain the
46 traditional way of life. Your participation in the
47 Regional Advisory Councils allows for better
48 regulations to be developed that satisfy the needs of
49 users in the region, and, at the same time, assures
50

0132

1 continued viability of fish and wildlife populations.
2 Please let Karen know if you want to reapply or apply
3 so they can get you the application information.
4

5 Next, and, again, we are very hopeful
6 that we'll be able to actually meet in person again
7 this fall, and to that vein, over the -- we'll talk
8 about RealIDs.
9

10 This is something we've mentioned the
11 past couple meetings. Over the past two years we've
12 been reminding Council members about the change in
13 requirements for identifications at airports. This has
14 been postponed now until October 1st, 2021, so this
15 coming fall, this coming October, note that all Council
16 members will need to make sure that they have the
17 required ID for travel next fall. If you do not have
18 the correct ID, please make sure you get it before the
19 fall 2021 Council meeting cycle.
20

21 Next I'll talk about the lawsuit from
22 the State of Alaska.
23

24 On August 10th, 2020, the State of
25 Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence
26 Board after it adopted emergency special action WSA19-
27 14. This allowed the village of Kake in Southeast
28 Alaska to engage in a community harvest of two antlered
29 moose and five male Sitka black-tailed deer. Also
30 included in the lawsuit was temporary special action
31 WSA20-03 which closed Federal public lands in units 13A
32 and 13B to non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou
33 hunters. As part of the lawsuit the State asked the
34 court to issue two preliminary injunctions. One to
35 prevent the unit 13 closure from taking effect and
36 another vacating the Kake hunt and prohibit the Board
37 from allowing any additional emergency hunts related to
38 the impact of Covid19. On September 18th the U.S.
39 District Court denied the State's request for a
40 preliminary injunction on the Unit 13 closure. The
41 court found that, and I quote, because the State has
42 not demonstrated either a likelihood of success or
43 serious questions on the merits of its claims, the
44 court need not consider the remaining elements of the
45 preliminary injunction analysis.
46

47 Two months later on November 18th, the
48 Court also denied the State's motion for a preliminary
49 injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge Gleason
50

0133

1 concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
2 likelihood of success on the merits, raising serious
3 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated
4 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

5

6 While these rulings on preliminary
7 injunction are encouraging, they do not resolve the
8 litigation. Settlement negotiations between the
9 Department of Justice, the DOI Solicitor's Office, and
10 USDA Office of General Counsel, and the State are
11 ongoing. The parties have agreed to delay the court
12 proceedings while these discussions are ongoing.
13 Barring a settlement, the Solicitor's Office now
14 estimates that the briefing should be complete in
15 summer 2021 and that the court will issue its decision
16 in summer 2021, before your next meeting, and that the
17 Court will issue its decision in late summer.

18

19 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
20 does not comment on any active litigation directed
21 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
22 been set forth here.

23

24 I'd be happy to answer any questions
25 that you have.

26

27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you, Tom.
30 Any questions or comments for Tom.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, if not,
35 thank you, Tom. That was very good, a very good
36 report. Okay, with that, if we're done with that
37 report we're going to -- okay, confirm our -- or.....

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
40 Karen.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
45 Chair. If you recall, at the begininng of the meeting
46 we added the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
47 notice of funding opportunity under the Office of
48 Subsistence Management agency report. So if you would
49 like, we could invite Pippa Kenner to deliver that

50

0134

1 report to the Council.

2

3 Thank you, very much, Madame Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair
8 and Karen. Cory Graham will be presenting this portion
9 of the meeting.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair and members
14 of the Council. My name is Cory Graham. Once, again,
15 for the record, my name is Cory Graham, and I am a
16 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management. I'm here today to update the Council on
18 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the
19 funding opportunity that closes on March 15th. I want
20 to point out that this is not an action item.

21

22 We are seeking applications for
23 projects that address priority information needs you
24 developed at your last Council meeting and that gather
25 information to manage and conserve subsistence
26 fisheries in Federal public waters in Alaska. The
27 Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting
28 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by
29 Alaska Native, and rural organizations and promoting
30 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and
31 local organizations.

32

33 For the 2022 funding cycle it is
34 anticipated there will be roughly 2.25 million
35 available for the first year of new projects. Anyone
36 wanting to apply can find information about the program
37 at the Federal Subsistence Management Program web page
38 or by visiting www.grants.gov.

39

40 After this funding opportunity window
41 closes, applications will be reviewed by the Technical
42 Review Committee. The results of that review will be
43 presented to you at your next meeting.

44

45 Again, this is not an action item. If
46 there are any questions I would be happy to address
47 them now and this concludes my presentation.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0135

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
2 Cory. Any comments or questions for Cory.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Nope. Okay.
7 Okay, Karen, are we on confirm fall meeting?

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Yes, so the Council can now confirm their
11 Council meeting for the fall 2021 and then select the
12 date and location for the winter 2022 meeting.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. For our
17 fall meetings, I usually.....

18
19 MR. VENT: Madame Chair, this is
20 Darrell Vent.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Who?

23
24 MR. VENT: Darrell Vent.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Oh, okay,
27 Darrell.

28
29 MR. VENT: Yes, I tried getting a hold
30 of you guys, I guess Carl called in and he wasn't able
31 to get -- he tried to respond but I don't know if you
32 heard him or not. He wanted to let you know that
33 tomorrow that I could speak on behalf of the tribe if
34 you had time for, you know, I'm not putting any
35 resolutions in, I just want to speak on behalf of the
36 Huslia Tribe on our subsistence use and what Jack spoke
37 about, I just want to further reiterate on that too.
38 Is it okay, he gave me the okay to speak for the tribe,
39 but do I have to call him again to let him know to call
40 in?

41
42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: If he told you
43 to call in, call in.

44
45 MR. VENT: Tell him to call in?

46
47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah, maybe for
48 tomorrow.

49
50

0136

1 MR. VENT: He's right here, hold on,
2 he's right here. Hey, Carl, could you let them know
3 that I'm speaking on behalf of the tribe.
4

5 MR. BURGETT: Yes, I'm first Chief.....
6

7 MR. VENT: I got you on speaker phone.
8

9 MR. BURGETT:carl Burgett.
10 Darrell Vent does have the authority to speak on behalf
11 of the Huslia Tribe.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.
14

15 MR. VENT: Did you get that, Madame
16 Chair?
17

18 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you. I
19 got that.
20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)
23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Darrell, do you
25 want to speak now?
26

27 MR. VENT: I could speak tomorrow, I'll
28 have everything prepared for tomorrow.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. We're
31 going to start at 10:30 tomorrow.
32

33 MR. VENT: 10:30, okay, I'll be ready,
34 thank you.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
37 Darrell.
38

39 MR. VENT: Yep, no problem, thanks.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Thank you.
42 Okay, with that we're going to confirm our fall meeting
43 dates and it's usually in October. Is Jack still on, I
44 know a lot of times we have to base around -- I hope
45 he's on.
46

47 MR. REAKOFF: I'm still here, Jenny.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.
50

0137

1 MR. REAKOFF: Any date in October.....

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Uh?

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Any date in October would
6 be good for me.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. We
9 usually have it on the second week, I think, in
10 October.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
17 Deatherage. At the last Council meeting, the Council
18 selected October 13th through 14th in Anchorage to be
19 the location and dates for the fall 2021 meeting. So
20 you can either confirm those dates and location or
21 change them. I would like to make a comment, if you
22 would allow, on the location.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: My comment is that the
27 Council did, in fact, want to meet in Anchorage, which
28 is not a normal hub for this Council, but they
29 justified their reasons for that. I think given the
30 circumstances with Covid19, however, the Council could
31 possibly reconsider the location, because it does add
32 additional travel time and additional travel exposure
33 to Council members that are coming from rural Alaska.
34 We can all hope that everybody would receive the
35 vaccination by then and that we can meet in person and
36 that the capacity to get this virus is much lower than
37 it is today, but it's just a consideration that most of
38 the Council members, current Council members anyway,
39 will have to travel through Fairbanks to Anchorage and
40 that adds additional time on the aircraft and also
41 another large metropolitan area where the Covid virus
42 would be more of a threat to the Council members and
43 them taking that back to their rural villages. So just
44 something to consider, you can certainly hold it in
45 Anchorage but you may want to change the location to
46 Fairbanks.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0138

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Do we have any
2 preference from the Council.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Well, Madame Chair, this is
5 Don. I think some of the things that we have to
6 consider, like Karen had mentioned, the Covid, and
7 whatever, and then Tom Kron mentioned something about,
8 and I think it's been put on the back burner about
9 being able to get an ID for traveling or something,
10 whatever, I thought that was something of the past, or
11 maybe it was put on the back burner, but, yeah, I'm not
12 too keen on going to Anchorage if we don't have to. I
13 mean Fairbanks is pretty centralized and -- but I do
14 like the idea of Anchorage because we have much more
15 resources are right there and, you know, they're able
16 to meet with other RACs and but other than that I would
17 prefer -- I mean either Fairbanks or Anchorage or
18 McGrath. I mean, you know, we -- we -- I'd like to
19 spread that out and McGrath is always good hospitality
20 and a good place to stay. It's accessible, pretty
21 accessible, so as for the dates I'm open to whatever --
22 I have no problem with the dates.

23

24 That's just my input.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
27 Don. How about you Pollock.

28

29 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I don't have a RealID
30 card and so I kind of can't travel to Anchorage but the
31 October is not here yet, I could probably go about
32 getting a RealID card, I'm not sure how I'll get it
33 yet. It's good to meet in the urban centers because
34 all the different agencies are there, but it's good to
35 meet in the rural areas too, you meet all the peoples
36 that you represent. We haven't met in Aniak for quite
37 awhile, we don't even have a member from Aniak anymore,
38 so something to think about. That's my comments.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you
41 Pollock. How about you Goodwin.

42

43 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, the dates are fine
44 with me. It'd be good to -- McGrath would be fine if
45 you could swing that. I'm always open.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
48 For myself, Fairbanks, McGrath would work for me,
49 doesn't matter.

50

0139

1 MR. SIMON: Yeah, Fairbanks is good for
2 me too, this is Pollock.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Where?

5
6 MR. SIMON: Fairbanks is good. I mean
7 Fairbanks is good, too.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, Fairbanks.
10 Okay, Fairbanks sounds good, maybe Fairbanks.

11
12 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Madame Chair.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead, Don.

15
16 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. I --
17 yeah, I would say Fairbanks and if not then my second
18 choice would be McGrath because we've always had pretty
19 good luck in assembling over there and, you know, we
20 like to throw the Kusko in there, too, I mean Aniak
21 would be preferable but there -- the sites that we've
22 seen in the past, I mean the capacity or whatever, the
23 sound systems and stuff all, and McGrath has really got
24 a nice building right across the street where we stayed
25 and that's why I would prefer that. I think what we
26 ought to do is just maybe narrow it down and then have
27 Fairbanks, if Anchorage was not accessible. But that's
28 what we chose, but I would say Fairbanks and then my
29 second preference would be McGrath.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
34 I would go with Fairbanks and it sounds like Pollock is
35 with Fairbanks, and, Goodwin, I think you're Fairbanks,
36 right?

37
38 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So maybe
41 Fairbanks.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, go ahead,
46 Karen.

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, this is
49 Karen. So right now what I would have with the
50

0140

1 Council's approval is February -- I mean October 13th
2 through 14th in Fairbanks as the fall 2021 meeting site
3 and date.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: With a second
8 preference for McGrath if Fairbanks did not work out.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yep.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yes, that sounds
15 good. And now we have to set our winter meeting for
16 2022, wow.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: I know. Yes, you need
19 to select your dates and location for the winter 2022
20 meeting.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Any
23 preference on that.

24
25 MR. HONEA: No, but I -- this is Don, I
26 just -- I didn't realize that we went that far ahead,
27 you're saying the winter, you mean like a year from
28 now.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah.

31
32 MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay, I didn't
33 realize we went out that far. I mean, you know, can --
34 do we have to do it now, I mean we -- it's another six
35 months before we meet again.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
40 Karen Deatherage.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead, Karen.

43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair, and
45 responding to Mr. Honea. What I recommend is go ahead
46 and select the sates and locations now, you'll have the
47 opportunity to review that in the fall but these slots,
48 so to speak, for Council meetings fill up very quickly
49 as the Councils continue to meet and so you're going to
50

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1 possibly be greatly limited on the dates for the winter
2 2022 meeting if you don't select those now.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So we'll
7 just go ahead and select a couple dates. Don't we
8 usually meet on Wednesday and Thursday, or does it
9 matter, Tuesday, Wednesday, whatever.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Right
12 now it really doesn't matter what days of the week that
13 you meet, the window opens February 7th and it closes
14 March 25th, and as of today all available slots are
15 open for you to have the meeting any time during that
16 period.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So how
21 does February 15th and 16th and 17th sound.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Good. Whatever
26 dates, or how many days -- Pollock.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Yeah, okay, Madame Chair.
29 I'm going to throw out a location, tentatively, I -- we
30 haven't been back in Galena for awhile and we've always
31 had good reception there, we've always had good -- and
32 their sound system, everything is set up pretty good,
33 and the B&Bs, and everything, so -- and we've always
34 had pretty good attendance. So I would like to --
35 because we always pick McGrath and Galena and they're
36 pretty centralized and stuff so I would like that to be
37 considered.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Anybody.....

40

41 MR. SIMON: That's fine.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Pardon?

44

45 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Pollock, what
46 did you say?

47

48 MR. SIMON: I said that's fine.

49

50

0142

1 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. How about
2 you Goodwin.

3
4 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, that's fine with me
5 too.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. So sounds
8 like it's going to be February -- second week in
9 February, maybe 15th, 16th or 16th, 17th, whatever
10 dates, one of those dates.

11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, it's a
13 two day meeting so you can choose the 15th and 16th or
14 16th and 17th.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. 16th and
17 17th, how does that sound?

18
19 MR. HONEA: That sounds terrific.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

24
25 MR. HONEA: I was hoping you'd say
26 that.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, that would
31 be Galena the first choice, how about the second
32 choice, any choice.

33
34 MR. SEMAKEN: Anchorage. Can we have
35 Anchorage.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Anchorage.

38
39 MR. HONEA: Sure, I'm agreeable. Maybe
40 I'll have an ID by then.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay. Anybody
43 opposed to Anchorage.

44
45 MR. SIMON: That's good for me too.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, sounds
48 good I guess. Second choice Anchorage. Geez, this is
49 hard work trying to figure out dates, harder than we
50

0143

1 did all day.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, with that,
6 where are we on the agenda -- are we done for the day?

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, this is
9 Karen Deatherage.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Go ahead.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: It seems to me like
14 the Council is done with the agenda items for the day
15 and can recess, knowing that tomorrow we will have --
16 we'll probably start with either the Bering Sea Western
17 Interior RMP by BLM, or Mr. Vent's tribal report from
18 Huslia, and then go into the marine environment reports
19 from NOAA and ADF&G.....

20

21 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE:after which the
24 Council can have closing comments and then adjourn the
25 meeting.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, that
30 sounds good. Okay, so I guess we'll go ahead and -- if
31 there's no comments or anything we'll recess for the
32 day.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Well, I'd like to comment
35 and thank those that are online, as someone mentioned
36 it's not easy being online like this because on my
37 personal cell phone that I'm on, I -- I -- it -- I
38 could hear it -- hear you guys, I could hear
39 everything, but after three hours, it just -- it quits,
40 it just dies on me even though it -- I -- it's fully
41 charged and so I use my home phone and that thing is so
42 full of static that it's hard to hear. But -- so -- it
43 does take quite a bit out, and I appreciate you guys
44 being on. I'll see you tomorrow if there's nothing
45 else, 10:00, 10:30.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Yeah. And on my
48 speaker phone, too, if I put it on mute, I just get cut
49 off so I just have to leave it, you know, leave it on.

50

0144

1 MR. HONEA: Sure. I have one question,
2 Madame Chair, or Karen, are we calling in on the same
3 number?
4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.
6 Yes, Mr. Honea, it's the same call in number and
7 password, and, please encourage anybody you know that
8 may not be on the phone now to call in and let them
9 know that the meeting will start tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MR. HONEA: Okay. All right.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you.
16 Any other comments from the Board.

17

18 MR. SIMON: Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR PELKOLA: Okay, thank you,
21 we'll see you tomorrow at 10:30.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

26

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0145

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

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

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

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered __ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the
15 17th day of February;

16

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

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th
27 day of February 2021.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22

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