

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE
October 28, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Tom Gray, Acting Chairman
Deahl Katchatag
Ronald Kirk
Lloyd Kiyutelluk
Leland Oyoumick
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312; sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 10/28/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, well, the
8 first thing that we're going to do is an invocation so
9 let's take a minute to be with our Lord.
10
11 (Invocation)
12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good, so I'll
14 call this meeting to order and let's get a roll call.
15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.
19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
21 Deatherage with OSM.
22
23 Lloyd Kiyutelluk.
24
25 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Here.
26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.
32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Here.
34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.
36
37 MR. KATCHATAG: Here.
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Deahl.
40
41 Leland Oyoumick.
42
43 MR. OYOUMICK: Present.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
46
47 MR. SEETOT: Here.
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Charles Saccheus.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk, you on
8 board.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the number
11 of Council members participating, the Council has
12 established a quorum.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good, okay.
17 We're going to go around the room or the telephone and
18 get everybody else to chime in and I understand it's
19 going to be kind of a pain in the butt doing it because
20 we can't look and see each other. The other thing that
21 I want to throw out is Louis called me earlier and he's
22 got a problem with his shoulder, he was going to the
23 hospital and hopefully he can get on line and take over
24 the meeting. Later on today he did say he had a water
25 heater problem that is leaking water all over his house
26 so anyway he's got a bunch of problems this morning and
27 that's why he's not here.

28

29 So let's have everybody that isn't on
30 the Board chime in and let us know who they are.

31

32 MS. KOELSCH: Hi, this is Janette
33 Koelsch with National Park Service.

34

35 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with.....

36

37 MR. GUSSE: Good morning, Walker Gusse
38 with the Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field
39 Office.

40

41 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen
42 Hyer with OSM.

43

44 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
45 Hannah Voorhees with OSM.

46

47 MR. SPARKS: Morning, Tom Sparks, BLM.

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: Eugene Peltola, OSM.

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
2 Park Service.

3
4 MS. HUGHES: Letty Hughes, National
5 Park Service based here in Nome.

6
7 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is
8 Nikki Braem at Bering LandBridge National Preserve here
9 in Nome.

10
11 MR. UBLACKER: Good morning. Brian
12 Ublacker, Bureau of Land Management.

13
14 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. Chris McKee,
15 Bureau of Land Management.

16
17 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
18 Pat Petrivelli, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

19
20 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning.
21 This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
22 Subsistence Management.

23
24 MS. ATKINSON: Hi. This is Hannah
25 Atkinson with the National Park Service in Kotzebue.

26
27 REPORTER: Okay, so, sorry, this is
28 Tina, the court reporter. I didn't get your -- the
29 last person that just called in from Kotz, could you
30 repeat your name please.

31
32 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah
33 Atkinson.

34
35 REPORTER: Thank you, Hannah.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Sounds like
38 -- is there anybody else before we move on.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Sounds like we got
43 a telephone full of people and hopefully we have a good
44 meeting today. It's going to be a pain in the butt
45 trying to do this over the telephone, teleconference,
46 so be patient and be courteous about talking. I heard
47 Charlie try to chime in and he got stepped on and
48 didn't chime back in. But Charlie's also on the phone,
49 Charlie Lean. So anyway we'll get through this meeting

50

1 and hopefully we have a good meeting.
2
3 So next thing is review the agenda. On
4 the agenda we have:
5
6 Approval of minutes.
7
8 Reports -- Council member reports.
9
10 Chair's report.
11
12 Service awards.
13
14 Public and tribal comments, non-agenda
15 items.
16
17 Under old business we have:
18
19 I'm trying to -- it's a report, .805(c)
20 report.
21
22 Norton Sound Crab -- king crab issue.
23
24 Under new business we have:
25
26 Fishery closures.
27
28 Regional closure reviews.
29
30 Let's see.....
31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)
34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Pardon.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Then it looks like
40 we have a bunch of proposals to address.
41
42 Agency reports.
43
44 Tribal government.
45
46 The Park.
47
48 BLM.
49
50

1 Fish and Game.
2
3 OSM.
4
5 Future meeting dates.
6
7 Closing comments.
8
9 Is there anything else that needs to
10 get on the agenda, you guys from the public, did you
11 hear where your participation is in the meeting, if you
12 don't have a slot speak up so we can make a slot for
13 you.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. For the
18 Board, is there anything else we need to put on the
19 agenda.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, Karen, did
24 you have something.
25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you
27 very much. This is Karen Deatherage. A couple items.
28 After the meeting minutes are approved by the Council,
29 the Council needs to -- the Chair needs to invite a
30 motion to accept the current slate of officers until
31 the formal elections are scheduled, for this winter,
32 are held because the Council did not elect officers at
33 the last Council meeting.
34
35 Also there are some issues that will be
36 removed from the agenda this morning. If you'd like me
37 to just -- the service awards, we don't have any
38 service awards currently so we won't be having that on
39 the agenda.
40
41 And then Federal Fisheries Closure 21-
42 06 is being removed and our anthropologist Hannah
43 Voorhees will explain why that fisheries closure review
44 is no longer on the agenda.
45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Back to the
49 Board, is there any other additions, deletions.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If not, I need a
4 motion to adopt the agenda.

5

6 MR. KIYUTELLUK: This is Lloyd, I make
7 a motion.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission, I
10 second the motion.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any
13 discussion on the motion.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. SEETOT: Call for question, Brevig
18 Mission.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All those in favor
21 say aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed, same
26 sign.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Motion's carried,
31 so we do have an agenda. The next thing is the
32 previous minutes. I do not have the minutes in front
33 of me.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm throwing it out
39 to the Board, I don't know that -- one of the things I
40 was a little frustrated about this meeting is I got a
41 digital packet yesterday or two days ago and I just
42 told myself I'm not going to sit through a meeting with
43 a digital packet trying to go through a computer to
44 keep up with things so I ended up going down to my
45 Native Corporation's office and I had them print out
46 the majority of that digital packet so I do have the
47 meeting minutes in front of me. And, Karen, pay
48 attention, I think in the future, at the very least we
49 need to get packets out to the Board members so they

50

1 have a packet in their hand, not a digital packet that
2 we got to go through the computer in trying to keep up
3 and figure out where we're at.
4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 This is Karen Deatherage. The meeting materials,
7 including the meeting book were sent out over a month
8 ago to all Council members. I'm not sure -- I know
9 some of the Council members received their materials in
10 printed form. It doesn't appear like Nome ever got
11 their materials, but some did, so I'm not sure what
12 happened, but I can assure you that the meeting book,
13 the printed copy of the meeting book is always sent out
14 at the very least a month before the meeting occurs so
15 there appears to be a little bit of a mail problem.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Right. And
20 I apologize if I spoke out of turn, I don't have that
21 meeting packet and I know Louis doesn't have the
22 meeting packet. How many people in the villages have
23 something in their hand that they can refer to. How
24 many of you guys?
25

26 MR. OYOUMICK: I got one in the mail.
27 That was Leland.
28

29 MR. KIRK: I got one.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ron Kirk, you got
32 one?
33

34 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I got one.
35

36 MR. SEETOT: Brevig Mission, one.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, it seems like
41 Nome didn't get theirs for some reason. And then I --
42 and Charles Saccheus wasn't able to locate his but I
43 found that out in time to get another one out to him so
44 it seems like the issue was in Nome for some reason
45 because neither you or Louis received your meeting
46 materials.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, so
2 meeting minutes, if you guys have gotten them you have
3 probably gone through and read the minutes and are
4 ready to deal with them.
5

6 Is there -- I'll entertain a motion to
7 adopt the minutes.
8
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So Board members,
13 is there a motion to adopt the minutes.
14

15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission,
16 I so move.
17

18 MR. KATCHATAG: Second.
19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And is there any
21 revisions or corrections that need to happen to the
22 minutes.
23

24 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig
25 Mission. Under my -- under paragraph two, under line
26 two it says Elim, it should be changed to Brevig
27 Mission. Mr. Seetot said Elim has seen a lot of
28 beluga, it says -- it should say Mr. Seetot said Brevig
29 Mission has seen a lot of Beluga. Change Elim to
30 Brevig Mission.
31

32 Thank you.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
35 corrections.
36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Could the
38 person who seconded the motion please state your name.
39

40 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig
41 Mission.
42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I know you moved
44 but it was seconded by somebody and if they could.....
45

46 MR. KATCHATAG: Deahl.
47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE:say their name.
49
50

1 MR. KATCHATAG: Deahl.
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who?
4
5 REPORTER: Deahl.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl. Thank you,
8 Deahl. Any time that you second -- make motion or
9 second a motion could you please state your name, that
10 would be awesome.
11
12 Thanks.
13
14 MR. KATCHATAG: Okay.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
17 corrections.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. All in favor
22 of adopting the minutes say aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Opposed, same sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. The next
31 thing, Karen, why don't you explain this officer thing
32 again, I didn't really understand what you were talking
33 about.
34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 This is Karen Deatherage with OSM. Every winter
37 meeting during the winter cycle the Council is required
38 to elect officers for the Council, that's President,
39 Vice President -- or Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.
40 Due to some unforeseen circumstances last meeting this
41 did not happen. Therefore, in order to keep the
42 Council in cycle I'm asking the Chair to invite a
43 motion to accept the current slate of officers until
44 formal elections are scheduled again for the winter
45 2021 meeting.
46
47 Right now the current Chair is Louis
48 Green. The current Vice Chair is Tom Gray. And the
49 current Secretary is Elmer Seetot.
50

1 So if the Council agrees then the Chair
2 can invite a motion to accept this current slate of
3 officers until formal elections are held at the winter
4 2021 meeting.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I would say this
9 is a good idea because we're not sitting at the table
10 and can't interact with each other. And the other
11 thing is we've got people missing out of the meeting
12 today that we should try and get as many people as we
13 can. So if we could get a motion to keep the officers
14 the same until the next meeting that'd be awesome.

15
16 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Good morning, this is
17 Lloyd. I make that motion to keep the officers the same
18 until winter 2021 meeting.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there a second.

21
22 MR. OYOUMICK: This is Leland, I
23 second.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Did you get that?

28
29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Did you guys get
30 that second?

31
32 REPORTER: Yes, that was Leland.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any discussion.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All in favor say
39 aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Motion's carried.
49 So we're going to keep the same officers until we can
50

1 get together later on this winter again.

2

3 Okay, reports. We'll go around the
4 table and get reports from members. Let me find a list
5 again. Who wants to start here.

6

7 Lloyd, do you want to start.

8

9 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Good morning. This is
10 Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shishmaref. This spring and fall we
11 did pretty good as far as our hunting and gathering.
12 Lack of ice we had to go quite a ways to look for
13 walrus though. But other than that we had no issues.

14

15 Caribou traveled earlier this year so
16 everybody was able to get some. We were able to get
17 moose now that there was hardly any guiding. The moose
18 -- bull moose came down more and earlier too.

19

20 So other than that we had a pretty good
21 year.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Deahl.

26

27 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. Can you hear me?

28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, I could hear.

30

31 MR. KATCHATAG: Okay. Our moose season
32 was good. We had a good moose season but we found one
33 with (indiscernible) inside his rib cage. So that
34 means our moose are starting to get infected by some
35 kind of disease coming out of the ground into their
36 feet or water that they drink.

37

38 And also our fishing. We had hardly
39 any silver salmon, hardly any dog salmon. Millions of
40 pinks. Millions and millions of pinks. That's about
41 all we had was pinks.

42

43 I went up river this past fall and
44 noticed that there was very few jumping, all the beaver
45 houses along the banks were dead. Very few on what
46 beaver were alive.

47

48 Our seal hunting was pretty good, we
49 got our oogruk, got our seal.

50

1 And bird hunting was great.
2
3 There's a lot we have to discuss
4 concerning global warming and climate change.
5
6 And I'll wait until Fish and Game and
7 what not comes on and I'll ask questions from there.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Perfect. Okay,
12 Leland.
13
14 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, Doug pretty much
15 hit everything there. I don't have too much to add to
16 that.
17
18 But moose season seemed to do -- did
19 real well.
20
21 Big problem we had this summer was
22 hardly any silvers. I mean usually I catch at least
23 40, I caught only one this year on rod and reel. So
24 people still got them but they were very, very, very
25 few compared to what it used to be. I don't know if it
26 was caused by a flood we had maybe five, six years ago
27 or what's going on but somebody's got to figure it out.
28
29 Otherwise I don't have much else to add
30 to what Doug said.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you. Elmer,
35 you have something.
36
37 MR. SEETOT: (In Native) everybody. I
38 guess what Deahl said is reality in pretty much all of
39 Seward Peninsula, what our ancestors have told us.
40
41 Our spring mammal harvest was pretty
42 minimal. I don't think very many people got oogruk
43 even though our ice was pretty thick -- the ice in the
44 Bering Strait went by pretty fast.
45
46 Our salmonberries were pretty much non-
47 existence. We had dry weather in the first part of May
48 and that pretty much kind of got our tundra pretty dry.
49
50

1 The salmon fishing wasn't that very
2 hot. I think the majority of the major catches that
3 were recorded at Salmon Lake, they came in kind of late
4 and low.

5
6 Other than that our -- first time I
7 seen a -- pretty much stayed west of Brevig Mission in
8 the Brevig and easy to go across Port Clarence Bay to
9 really see the huge number of snow geese coming in,
10 going down south, but this was the first time I seen
11 big numbers of snow geese staged down there.

12
13 And then the moose registration hunt
14 permits went by pretty fast. I did apply for one even
15 though I did not go out in the field, but I was
16 summoned to -- I was summoned -- I was told to turn in
17 my moose registration permit for them to keep track of
18 what was gotten and how many weren't.

19
20 Other than that I hope everybody have a
21 good fall season this coming around.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 And other than that I need to check out
26 about 9:40. I have an eye appointment at the clinic.

27
28 Thank you, very much.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you, Elmer.
31 And we'll look forward to you coming back after awhile.

32
33 Okay, so Ron you have any comments.

34
35 MR. KIRK: Good morning. Thank you,
36 Mr. Chair. Yeah, our fishing was pretty much not that
37 good too. We didn't get that many silvers.

38
39 Our seal hunting was good.

40
41 We did good bird hunting and seal
42 hunting and we did real good this fall with the young
43 oogruk seal hunting and moose hunting. We got some
44 moose. We had a couple of wolves hanging around. I
45 hope they got rid of them. They were -- I couldn't
46 believe that we had wolves this summer hanging around
47 close to the village.

48
49 Other than that we had really good

50

1 summer of gathering for our winter needs. My freezers
2 are full. We have a lot of berries.

3
4 So -- and this Coronavirus is a big
5 problem in our villages, especially in Stebbins. People
6 traveling medically are bringing this virus to the
7 village.

8
9 Global warming is another issue that
10 we'll need to discuss some time again when it gets
11 around to it, I'll have more to say about it.

12
13 Other than that we did pretty good this
14 summer. And I hope everybody's safe out there.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thank you.
19 Did Charles Saccheus get on line.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: How about Louis
24 Green, Jr., Louis are you on line.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I'm
29 the only one left to give a report, I guess.

30
31 The Nome area, White Mountain,
32 Kuzitritin, on and on, our moose season, we blinked our
33 eyes and the moose season was over. I mean it happened
34 so fast -- faster than any other year, I think. It
35 opened and closed a few days later, five days later or
36 something in some areas. So there must be a lot more
37 moose or something going on.

38
39 Caribou. Last winter caribou was
40 pretty sparse. It was hard to get. People were
41 traveling past Koyuk or up by Serpentine Hot Springs to
42 get caribou. And, you know, the normal caribou hunt
43 didn't happen last year. And we're faced with the same
44 thing, I talked to Fish and Game a few days ago, Onion
45 Portage didn't happen, or it was a big flop, where they
46 put on satellite collars at Onion Portage and it sounds
47 like the majority of the caribou are still up on the
48 North Slope, they haven't moved down yet. So looks
49 like we're going to have another terrible year for

50

1 caribou.
2

3 I heard somebody say they had berries.
4 You know I'm a hunting guide and I see, especially
5 blueberries, I see lots of blueberries, hot spots, when
6 I'm traveling around and this year I didn't hardly see
7 any berries. You guys that had berries, God bless you,
8 because the Nome area didn't have a whole lot.
9

10 Our fish numbers. You know we also had
11 10 million pinks and a handful of silvers.
12 Unfortunately we had commercial fishing going on even
13 with the low silvers, even late in the season. You
14 know I had talked to Menard, when they realized there
15 was not very many chums I said -- I told Menard, I
16 said, be careful because we're not going to have many
17 silvers. If you don't have a lot of chums, that
18 correlates with silvers. And sure enough we -- nobody
19 had a real good silver run. But on the books it sounds
20 like the Fish River had a good silver run. And I'm here
21 to say no we didn't.
22

23 You know beluga hunting. Lots of
24 belugas. I saw a migration of belugas that -- there was
25 thousands of whales go by Cape Nome one day and I just
26 happened to be there, thousands and thousands of
27 whales. Just an amazing site you only see -- I've seen
28 it three times in my life. So beluga whales are doing
29 good.
30

31 The crabbing last year was just
32 horrible. I sat crab pots last winter. I've
33 commercial crabbed in the past and last year I didn't
34 commercial crab, nobody did. But I set pots for my
35 family. And normally I'll bring crabs out and we'll
36 put anywhere from 100 to 200 crabs in our freezer. I
37 did not get any crabs in my freezer this year. And I
38 set pots out and I'd get one, two crabs after a few
39 days, enough for my family to eat occasionally, not
40 nearly the crab I've caught in the past. And it's just
41 unfortunate they way this crab thing has gone. I grew
42 up as a kid crabbing outside of Nome and we would go
43 out in the night handlining and get 50 crabs or 70
44 crabs, it ain't happening no more. There's no crab.
45 So that was a disaster. It still is a disaster. I set
46 pots this summer. I set three pots trying to catch
47 crab, I never caught a crab and I moved them around in
48 probably four or five places thinking that I'm crabbing
49 in the wrong spot, never caught a crab, so I pulled the
50

1 pots and that was that.
2

3 I did set a halibut skate and caught a
4 couple of halibut and some Pacific cod. And that was
5 in early August, I think. And I tried again in
6 September, I didn't catch any halibut. I didn't catch
7 any cod. They moved out early. That, here, again, is
8 a resource, you know, hopefully we learn a little bit
9 about that resource before it's raped and gone. I mean
10 if these fish are fish that are moving through the
11 area, that's one thing, but if they're local fish,
12 let's not wipe them out.
13

14 So, anyway, I hopefully have given an
15 idea of what's been going on around Nome.
16

17 Okay.
18

19 And the next thing I have is Chair's
20 report and I just got a phone call this morning that
21 Tom, you're the Chairman today and to be honest I don't
22 have a Chair's report. I think there's something in
23 the packet, and I'm digging here -- there's something
24 that Louis had put together and sent in to somewhere.
25 Anyway I don't have a Chair's report.
26

27 So we will move on to No. 9 is public
28 and tribal comment on non-agenda items, available each
29 morning. So is there somebody from the public or the
30 tribes wanting to comment.
31

32 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, checking out
33 for eye clinic. Thank you.
34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Good luck. I hope
36 you get a good result.
37

38 Okay.
39

40 Anybody that want's -- one last time
41 here, do we have anybody from the public or the tribes
42 wanting to comment.
43

44 (No comments)
45

46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're going
47 to move on to is there -- before I move on, is there
48 anybody on a timeframe crunch that needs to get moved
49 up on the agenda, otherwise we'll just stay with the
50

1 agenda.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Okay.

12

13

14

15

16

The next thing I have is the .805 report. Karen, why don't you fill me in on what we're talking about here, where in this packet I got to dig to.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Karen Deatherage with OSM. I'm going to try to find -- in your book on Page 9, in your meeting book, if you have it, if it's on line it's still on Page 9 of the meeting book, is what we call an .805(c) report. And the .805 is referring to ANILCA, where we report to the Councils how the Board acted with respect to, in this case, wildlife proposals that were before them, and whether or not the Council's recommendation for adoption, modification or opposition to those proposals was considered by the Federal Subsistence Board.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

So in this letter we have cited those proposals that the Seward Penn Council made recommendations on, as well as wildlife closure reviews -- so wildlife proposals and wildlife closure reviews. The Board acted consistent with the Council's recommendations and either adopted or adopted with modification all of those recommendations for proposals, largely dealing with moose hunting in Unit 22D remainder and moose hunting closures in Unit 22A and also some Western Arctic Caribou Herd issues that were brought up by the Northwest Arctic Council.

41

42

43

44

45

All the wildlife closure reviews that were before the Council last meeting were approved by the Board as far as adopting to maintain the status quo, those wildlife closures dealt with muskox.

46

47

48

49

50

The one proposal where the Board did not act consistent with the Council's recommendation was Proposal 42 that requested that the Federal public land closure in Unit 22A remainder moose hunt be

1 rescinded. The Board did adopt that proposal even
2 though the Council opposed it. One of the reasons why
3 the Board felt like it could open up that area to non-
4 resident moose hunting was because it's an area where
5 the moose population is believed to be higher due to
6 the growing moose population in adjoining Game
7 Management Units, or Units in that region.
8

9 I do want to tell the Council, though,
10 and the Board did want to tell the Council that there
11 will be -- they recognize there's a lack of specific
12 population data in Unit 22A remainder and that the
13 Federal land managers have agreed to work with Fish and
14 Game to conduct a survey in the near future. So if
15 there's an issue and people don't get their subsistence
16 needs met, the Council also has an opportunity to
17 restrict the area under an emergency special action.
18

19 So two things that we're hoping will
20 happen here or that are available here is, one, there
21 should be a survey conducted in the near future to
22 actually look at the actual population of moose in this
23 area, Unit 22A remainder, and, again, if the
24 subsistence users are not able to get their needs met
25 from this unit, then they can close the unit via
26 emergency special action.
27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm available
29 for any questions if you have them.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Before I get
32 on a roll anybody have any comments or concerns on
33 this, what she just reported on.
34

35 (No comments)
36

37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So Tom Gray
38 has a concern, I guess, that their recommendation was
39 to open this area up to guided. And I'm, number 1,
40 what -- how many animals are they talking about? Is it
41 -- and I understand -- I'm a guide also and I kind of
42 sympathize with guides and so on and so forth but my
43 loyalty is to the local people. And I'm very
44 concerned, all over the Seward Peninsula, you know,
45 we've had a crash in numbers in the wolves, in the
46 bears, in the people, and moose have taken a real hard
47 hit and it's a hard walk coming back from low numbers.
48 I mean it's -- I've lived here on the Seward Peninsula
49 all my life and, you know, I remember back in the day
50

1 when we had high numbers and here we are, you know, I'm
2 65, years later we're still struggling trying to get
3 back to numbers that we saw in the '70s.

4
5 So, anyway, it's -- again, I'm
6 concerned that opening it up, especially to -- at the
7 expense of subsistence users, we need to be careful.
8 And, you know, again, I'm not very sympathetic when it
9 comes to guides and even though I'm a guide, I don't
10 know how to send this message to the power players in
11 the system. And when I say power players, I'm talking
12 about our people, our big Board, but also to Fish and
13 Game, Fish and Game needs to do their best to count
14 numbers and make sure that there's not a problem. And
15 if numbers and counts aren't happening, they need to
16 review this action that's been taken here.

17
18 So through my wandering here, can you
19 pull something out of that and put it in the minutes,
20 Karen.

21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, we can
23 make your concerns known. If you'd like I can read the
24 portion of what I put in the .805(c) report to talk
25 about the potential -- one of the key issues is that
26 there's only one guide permit, or issued right now for
27 guiding on the National Wildlife Refuge lands, and all
28 non-Federally-qualified users will be limited to taking
29 of bulls only and while there could be increased guide
30 use on the Bureau of Land Management lands, that only
31 comprised 7 percent of this unit, or this area, and a
32 priority would still exist for Federally-qualified
33 users as their season is split and longer by several
34 months. And right now harvest data do not show that
35 over harvest is occurring by any user group. So these
36 are the things that the Board addressed and looked at
37 when they considered this proposal.

38
39 I think it's really important for
40 Council members, any that may use this area or areas
41 adjacent who think that the moose may be over harvested
42 by non-Federally-qualified users, to keep on top of
43 that, and make sure your subsistence needs are getting
44 met because there are options for this Council to take
45 if there are any concerns about having non-locals take
46 the moose out of the area.

47
48 Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So because of your
2 little spiel there, some of the concerns that I have is
3 that, you know, this action reflects on Federal lands,
4 well, up to this point I assume that the State lands
5 have been closed to non-resident, and any time there's
6 an action, a lot of times there's a reaction and I'm
7 concerned the State is going to open up their lands
8 now, and maybe they're open, I don't know, open their
9 lands -- I don't think they are because it seems like
10 we addressed this at a meeting several years ago. "I
11 sit on the Fish and Game Advisory Board, but, again, I
12 realize and I think everybody realizes that the Yukon
13 moose population's exploding and people in Emmonak can
14 shoot two moose and on and on. And I'm sure there's
15 overlap in this area that we're talking about. But,
16 you know, without surveys and staying on top of looking
17 at numbers and stuff it's going to be very easy to get
18 behind the eight ball on managing animals. And anyway
19 it concerns me that number 1, they're opening it, but
20 through the concerns we need to wisely manage and have
21 surveys and have accountability to justify this opening
22 of Federal lands.

23
24 So, anyway, I'm going to move on.
25 Anybody else have any concerns on that before I walk
26 away from that.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're going
31 to move on to Norton Sound king crab. I am -- is
32 Menard on line.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Jim. Jim Menard,
37 are you on the line.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I really have
42 to.....

43
44 MR. CLARK: Hello, this is Kevin Clark
45 with Fish and Game, can you hear me on the line?

46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: This is who?

48
49 MR. CLARK: Kevin Clark, you've got me

1 here -- Jim is getting on the line right now, he's
2 calling in.
3

4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, well, awesome.
5 Awesome. Awesome. Okay. So I guess we're going to
6 have you guys go first on where we're at with this king
7 crab problem. What you guys foresee in the future.
8 And anyway I would like to see you guys kind of lead
9 the path on where we're at and where we're going.
10

11 MR. CLARK: Yeah, roger. Jim is
12 collecting to the teleconference right now. He can
13 hear your comments there from my phone also, so he's
14 been keeping up.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So he should
17 be here in a few seconds then.
18

19 MR. CLARK: Yeah, momentarily.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, Ma'am.
26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
28 Deatherage. Maybe we could take a couple minutes to
29 have anybody who has joined us since the beginning of
30 the meeting where introductions were held, are there
31 any new people who have joined us who would like to
32 introduce themselves.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: There you go.
35 She's way ahead of me. Is there anybody else new to
36 the game here.
37

38 MR. MENARD: This is Jim here, if you
39 can hear me now?
40

41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, there, yeah, we
42 were kind of waiting for you.
43

44 MR. MENARD: Okay. So in regards to
45 your questions that were given to me, you were asking
46 about the five to 10 year trends for the subsistence
47 harvest. We kind of peaked in this decade and then
48 she's gone down starting about 2018 winter, if we start
49 in January, when I say winter, that's when most folks
50

1 get on the ice. And most of our subsistence harvest
2 does occur during the winter so we started dropping
3 from like 15,000 in the '17 winter, to 12,000. Then
4 there was a big drop, '19 was 4,000. And last year was
5 only -- this past year, 2020, was only about 1,200.
6 That was actually the lowest in 20 years since the 2001
7 winter.

8
9 We had reports of small crab. People
10 weren't doing too good. Some confusion. People
11 thought it was closed, I guess, because of the
12 commercial idea going on, that it wasn't -- there
13 wasn't a buyer. So a lot of people just didn't seem to
14 go out. The effort was the lowest since the 2001 year.
15 So we had about 80 permits that were issued. And so it
16 was pretty poor in that sense.

17
18 You asked about direct impacts of
19 commercial crab fishing. We don't quantify it for
20 specific villages, like Golovin and others. We don't
21 get sex and size information from the subsistence
22 harvest, we get that from the commercial harvest, but,
23 of course, we get the anecdotal information that comes
24 in from fishermen that it was small, and they do report
25 their sex that they kept, you know, males versus
26 females. Almost everyone throws the females back. So
27 we did have that.

28
29 And you asked about the priority for
30 subsistence users. And we have to provide, of course,
31 subsistence opportunity, reasonable subsistence
32 opportunity. The opportunity is that it is open 365
33 days a year and there is no catch limit and there is no
34 size limit in subsistence fishery.

35
36 You asked about opening up the
37 commercial red king crab fishery for next season. What
38 we do have is it was closed east of 164 degrees west
39 longitude, so if you go by about oh say west of Port
40 Clarence and draw a line directly south, so most where
41 all the commercial fishing occurs was closed this
42 summer. Therefore, we had no commercial fishing effort
43 this summer, nobody signed up to commercial fish, there
44 was no buyer, so it would have had to been
45 catcher/seller, so it was probably not economic viable.
46 We had a couple sign up for the winter crab fishery,
47 can't give you those catches, it's confidential, when
48 there's so few fishing. But suffice to say the big
49 catch is in the summer commercial fishery. And the

50

1 Board making that closure east of 164, then that pretty
2 much eliminated the fishery that does sunset here, so
3 that's not in effect for 2021.
4

5 So harvest next year would be, you
6 know, if we have a fishery, that people get out there,
7 it is on the books, the crab planning team is going to
8 be presenting the data to the North Pacific Fisheries
9 Management Council, and they would have -- right now
10 they're estimating ABC, allowable biological catch of
11 close to 400,000. That would be up about 100,000-some
12 from last year. What we have -- this was projected,
13 this drop off in the crab, they did project it. What
14 was the big surprise was in 2019 we only caught about
15 half the crab in the commercial fishery, so I don't
16 know if the idea is once it gets so low it's more
17 difficult for those guys to get the crab or there's
18 just not the amount around, you know, but they did do
19 the trawl survey this summer and they've run the
20 numbers and it's on the books. And because the legal
21 male biomass is over 3 million, that once you have over
22 3 million then we can harvest up to 15 percent. But we
23 are limited by the ABC, the allowable biological catch,
24 so if we did have a fishery, it would be down about
25 seven percent of the legal male biomass, which would be
26 on the guideline harvest level.
27

28 So it all depends what happens there at
29 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on the
30 crab planning team, and the science and statistical
31 committee, when they give the numbers and what the
32 Council's going to decide there.
33

34 So that's for crab and that was the
35 questions you did ask. So it looks like on the books
36 there would be a crab fishery, a winter fishery, and
37 there was a change in the Board of Fisheries
38 regulations, and the crab fishery now will start on
39 February 1st. There's no more flexibility as far as,
40 you know, I used to back it up into later February and
41 it was kind of our decision, the Board just has set
42 February 1st as the opening date for the commercial
43 crab fishery and that's through the ice. And like I
44 say subsistence is open 365 days a year, irregardless
45 of whether you're going to fish through the ice or from
46 a boat, but the commercial fishery has to be through
47 the ice for the winter fishery.
48

49 So I can take questions on the crab.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
2 want to -- before we go to questions, is there anybody
3 else that wants to comment on this subject.
4

5 MR. LEAN: This is Charlie Lean, I'd
6 like to comment.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, Charlie.
9

10 MR. LEAN: Hello. I'm Charlie Lean.
11 I'm speaking as the Chair of the Northern Norton Sound
12 Advisory Committee. And I felt that I should update
13 you. I spoke to your group at your March meeting last
14 spring shortly after the Board of Fish ruled that the
15 management plan for crab was inappropriate.
16

17 The trawl survey was conducted this
18 summer. The data from that trawl survey was officially
19 distributed Friday afternoon, so just got a chance to
20 look at it myself. There's some good things that came
21 out of that survey. The Norton Sound waters were
22 cooler than they've been for the last several years,
23 that means -- actually that's a favorable thing for
24 king crab. And another thing that came out of that was
25 that the clutch size or the overgerity of females
26 observed in the trawl survey were more like normal,
27 instead of the last two years where we had a high
28 number of partial clutches, you know, in other words
29 the females weren't carrying nearly as many eggs as you
30 would have expected, this summer it appears that the
31 egg load on each of the females is pretty much normal.
32 The females significantly out number the males. The
33 number of legal males observed in this past summer's
34 survey was three-quarters the number that was observed
35 the previous year. So the number of legal males is
36 down. Another point to be made on the negative side is
37 approximately a third of the legal males had not
38 molted, had not grown. In other words, they're putting
39 all their energy into reproduction and they don't have
40 any energy left to grow. On this sub-legal size crabs,
41 those crabs that aren't yet legal, it was 15 percent of
42 the crab had failed to grow, or skip molted, so that --
43 that's one-sixth approximately, so that's half the rate
44 of the larger crab, but it's still terribly unusual if
45 you compare statistics over the last 40 years of
46 surveys. Having crab three years from reaching legal
47 size fail to molt is just plain different, really
48 weird.
49
50

1 So those are indications that any crab
2 that sexually matures is pretty focused on chasing
3 females. In other words, the mature male population is
4 not really sufficient to carry the number of mature
5 female.
6

7 Now, everybody goes, well, they got
8 mated though, so why is that a big deal. If the crab
9 that mature first have an advantage to mate then those
10 crab will have more offspring, more kids, and that
11 produces a genetic factor that will gradually shrink
12 the size of the mature males and we'll see fewer crab
13 mature to legal size or good size, and we might
14 actually see crab die before they reach legal size if
15 that goes to the furthest extent because when crab fail
16 to molt three years in a row their shells wears out and
17 they kind of bleed to death. So if you look at really
18 big old crab that you've caught in the past and think
19 about how bendy their shell was, how flexible it was,
20 that's an indication that crab's not in great health,
21 his shell is wearing out, the shell is their skin, it's
22 not only their skeleton it's their skin.
23

24 So one thing a lot of people aren't
25 aware of, that the market for king crab is demanding
26 larger crab and legal size, so in Norton Sound our
27 legal size is 4-3/4 inches across the peropus, but the
28 market wants crab that are five inches or greater
29 across the peropus, so that difference in size equates
30 to about half a years worth of growth on average. So
31 what happens is that even though we have so many crab
32 above legal size, really what matters is how many crab
33 we have above the commercial threshold of five inches.
34 Given the age structure that we have right now with
35 nearly all the legal crab just being what they call
36 recruit crab are just reaching legal size, over a third
37 of those crab are not market size. And those crabs
38 that are market size probably another half are old
39 shell crabs that did not molt. So when you're selling
40 king crab and you'll have to scrub every crab or half
41 the crab that you catch so that you can sell them, that
42 adds cost. So right now and what's projected for next
43 year using the trawl survey results is that one in 10
44 crab that's likely to be caught in the pot is going to
45 be a marketable crab. And of those marketable crab
46 about half of them are going to require a lot of work
47 to make salable. So regardless of the regulations,
48 whether it's -- whether there's "harvestable surplus"
49 or not, the market is not going to be excited about
50

1 buying commercial crab, and that's really what opens
2 and closes the commercial fishery, is there a place to
3 sell the crab.
4

5 Another consideration I think many of
6 you would be wanting to talk about, is that, had we had
7 a fishery this past summer, and using the trawl data,
8 two crab in 100 or one in 50 would have been legal
9 size. So if there'd been a winter fishery and you went
10 out and you caught 50 crab, you might bring one home to
11 sell, of course you might bring home several for
12 subsistence, but all those other crab get thrown back
13 in the water. You're doing this in the winter, there's
14 a really high mortality on those crab that are returned
15 to the water. The dead loss is phenomenal. Years ago
16 I was a participant in a study of loss injury on crabs
17 that were returned to the water and it only took a
18 couple minutes of frost to mortally wound a crab.
19

20 So it's really confounding to me and
21 many of the people I speak with that we would ponder a
22 commercial fishery this coming winter considering dead
23 loss, considering pot loss and looking at the current
24 sea ice conditions. I suspect this is going to be one
25 of the worst ice years ever judging from the lack of
26 ice in the Chuckchi Sea at this time. The Chuckchi Sea
27 is essentially ice free at this date. You know 20
28 years ago the Bering Strait would be closing about now.
29 The Chuckchi Sea would be 100 percent covered.
30

31 So not to be all gloom and doom, a big
32 recruitment in the legal size is expected in 2022. And
33 even with, you know, 15 percent of the crab not
34 molting, or in other words, not growing that last it'll
35 still be a very significant recruitment for legal size.
36 It would be another year, probably 2023 before there's
37 a lot of good marketable crab and handling discards
38 would be less than 50 percent. But right now any
39 fishery would encourage a real high handling loss.
40

41 So doing an informal poll with the
42 Norton Sound Advisory Committee, we're thinking of
43 recommending a -- whether we go to the Board, whether
44 we go to the Council, or whether we go to the buyers,
45 we're going to recommend commercial fishing for this
46 coming year is ill-advised.
47

48 I'd be glad to take questions.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is that it,
2 Charlie?

3
4 MR. LEAN: Yes.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I sure thank
7 you for opening our eyes a little bit. I'm going to go
8 to the Board now and let them talk a little bit. I do
9 want to say, Jim, and his partner weren't here when I
10 talked about my trying to crab last winter and I want
11 Jim to hear this.

12
13 Earlier I told the Board that I tried
14 crabbing last winter, I didn't commercial crab, but I
15 tried just crabbing on my own, and I set three crab
16 pots and normally I put hundred, 200 crabs in the
17 freezer, I wring them out and I package them and put
18 them in the freezer, and this year I had pots out for
19 quite awhile and even towards the springtime when the
20 crab normally come into the beach and you can get lots
21 of -- shoot I had pots plumb full of females in past
22 years, this year I don't think I caught but -- shoot
23 maybe half a dozen females all total during the whole
24 time I had pots down. I caught enough crab to feed my
25 family a few feeds of crab. There was no crab out
26 there for subsistence. I finally ended up pulling my
27 pots because it was just too discouraging and I wasn't
28 'catching anything. So I thought well I'll set pots in
29 the summer time with my boat and I moved my pots to --
30 I set three pots, I moved them to probably four, five
31 different places, some places six miles off the coast,
32 some places a mile off the coast, I did not catch one
33 crab, not one crab. So I'm out there trying to
34 subsistence crab and this is very very discouraging.

35
36 You know anyway I'm going to let the
37 Board now ask questions and then I will ask a couple of
38 questions. So I'm going to open it up to you guys on
39 the Board, do you have any comments, concerns on this
40 crabbing issue.

41
42 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ron.

45
46 MR. KIRK: Hey, this is to Charlie
47 Lean. Hey, Charlie, we're having difficulties trying
48 to subsistence for crab in our Norton Sound area and
49 I'm looking at a letter from Anthony Christianson to
50

1 the Chairman, Louis Green, concerning Norton Sound red
2 king crab fisheries. And in this letter it states that
3 the Board of Fisheries effectively at the end of April
4 2020 and through the remainder of the year, overall,
5 the red king crab population, however, is not expected
6 to recover until 2023, so if that's the case, I'm
7 wondering why is Fish and Game allowing Norton Sound to
8 be open for commercial fishing, and here also in this
9 letter it states that the commercial fishing harvest
10 was 80,000 of the 150,000 quota were met, so if we're
11 having difficulty trying to subsistence crab for our
12 use, why is Fish and Game allowing Norton Sound to be
13 open for commercial fishing.

14
15 I'd like an answer to that and wonder
16 why it should be open, it should be closed to
17 commercial fishing if we can't put subsistence food on
18 our table, which we've been doing for thousands of
19 years.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

24
25 MR. MENARD: Okay, do you want me to
26 jump in here Tom?

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Who wanted to jump
29 in there?

30
31 MR. MENARD: This is Jim.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh.

34
35 MR. MENARD: I said, now is that a
36 question that you want me to answer?

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Jim. Jim, he
39 directed the question to Charlie, let's go Charlie and
40 then Jim in rebuttal, but let's let Charlie have his
41 opportunity.

42
43 MR. MENARD: Oh.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Charlie.

46
47 MR. LEAN: Okay. So we were able to
48 get this discussion item on the Board of Fish agenda
49 last year, it was out of the normal cycle and so they
50

1 wouldn't -- we really had to work hard to get the Board
2 to talk to us about this as the Advisory Committee and
3 as NSEDC with our interest in it.
4

5 Six of the seven Board of Fisheries
6 members agreed that the commercial fishery was ill-
7 advised for this year. And because the meeting
8 occurred so late they weren't able to close the winter
9 fishery but they did close the summer fishery. They
10 left that area out beyond 164 degrees open for blue
11 king crab, not red king crab, the season in this
12 section is for king crab in general, you know, the
13 tonasaki crab, blue king crab and red king crab. The
14 Board of Fish, in their comments said that, you know,
15 if the fishermen can't catch the crab, if subsistence
16 and commercial fishermen are having a hard time
17 catching crab it doesn't seem like the model is working
18 up to standard. And so they agreed to close it for a
19 year, I think their thought was that this would give
20 time for the modelers, the statisticians to reexamine
21 their methods and see if they could sort out the
22 discrepancy between real life and the model. The model
23 says there's lots of crab, the real life experience
24 says there's not.
25

26 And, you know, the one thing people
27 should understand is the Council, the crab plan team,
28 they set upper limits on what the maximum allowable
29 harvest should be. And that maximum limit they
30 consider, you know, what they think the population is,
31 they consider what they think accidental catch in other
32 fisheries is, they consider dead loss, they consider a
33 lot of things. It's up to the managers, it's up to the
34 managers to set the quota.
35

36 And so your question, why would they
37 have a fishery this year really should be asked of Jim,
38 it's his decision, and he's not making the one I would
39 make.
40

41 So, thank you.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Jim, your
44 on.
45

46 MR. MENARD: Okay. Yeah, thanks, Tom.
47 First off, Tom, we have been here since the start, it's
48 -- you know, you've been in the office, Kevin's phone
49 is right across from me so it's been on his phone so
50

1 we've heard -- yeah, I heard your comments from the
2 start so that's no issue. I just called in on my phone
3 now so I can sit in front of my computer if there's any
4 questions. So we have heard all the comments since the
5 start.

6
7 So one of the things is, like Charlie
8 says, the Board closed the fishery, you know, east of
9 164 and, you know, you could fish to the west but it
10 wasn't, you know, economical, there was no buyer. Now,
11 you get into what's called an allocative decision. The
12 Board makes those allocative decisions, they made the
13 determination to close. So they look back, they're
14 going to run the numbers, the crab planning team, the
15 science and statistical committee runs the numbers,
16 they're going to present them to the Council, they're
17 going to give us the numbers and like I say, in
18 regulation it says, okay, if it's this much you can go
19 this high, if it's this much you can go that high. So
20 I would be making an allocation decision, I feel if I
21 closed it. So if the Board's going to give us the
22 direction to close it we will close it. But if there's
23 not a buyer, that's fine there's not a buyer. You
24 know, if somebody wants to go out in the winter and do
25 some crab and sell them in town, you know, that's fine,
26 they can sell down to 4-3/4, the buyer wants five. So
27 maybe there's not going to be a buyer next year and
28 that'll limit things. But the Department does not make
29 an allocative decision.

30
31 And what I'm saying is if the Board
32 closes it, then, yeah, okay. Or if the Council tells
33 us that's the direction they want to go, the crab
34 planning team has run the numbers, they've done the
35 trawl survey, the argument is they've seen this coming,
36 that this was going to bottom out here, and they
37 projected it and if you would have seen the catch rates
38 as we were giving them going down, down, down, for our
39 forecast and it just, you know, hit bottom here, and
40 now like Charlie said it's coming back up but, you
41 know, when it the majority going to come into legal
42 size, it may be more and more, like some say 2022, 2023
43 and, you know, we will bounce back up with the legal
44 size. But they're giving me the numbers, they're
45 showing me what the legal male biomass is, the crab
46 planning team, the science and statistical committee
47 and they'll go to the Council, and, you know, Simon
48 *Kenien from Nome, he chairs the Council there, and so
49 they'll give their answer and then the Board, if the
50

1 Board wants to take that decision, that's their
2 decision. But otherwise the Department is going to
3 open it up if they say there's sufficient fish.
4

5 So.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Did you get
8 your question answered?
9

10 MR. KIRK: Yeah. But I'm still -- I'm
11 still looking at this letter that I received -- that we
12 received from Anthony Christianson. Jim, it says that
13 the number of fertilized eggs on female crab for nearly
14 half the expected normal. Biologists believe this will
15 negatively impact the recruitment and is likely caused
16 by the abundance absence of large male crabs. Now, if
17 that's the case I'd like to -- I'm wondering if we, as
18 a Board, can recommend that we do not open our area for
19 commercial fishing, winter or summer, but for
20 subsistence use due to the low abundance of red king
21 crabs in our area. The letter I'm reading is stated,
22 Norton Sound red king crab fishery, so it's not talking
23 about blue crabs, it's talking about red king crabs in
24 our area, and it's largely stating that our crabs are
25 getting fewer instead of getting more. So the part
26 that I read off this letter, like I stated earlier it
27 said although ADF&G expected a lower catch decision,
28 they were alarmed when only 80,000 of the 150,000 quota
29 were met. Now, again, that's stating that they did
30 open for commercial fisheries when it also states that
31 they were going to close for the remainder -- April
32 2020, this year close the commercial fishing.
33

34 MR. MENARD: Okay. This is Jim again.
35 The answer to that, the trawl survey, and I think we
36 have Jenn Bell on, our research biologist, who's on it,
37 but all the female crabs this year were -- did have
38 eggs, did have clutch size, so that was some unusual
39 occurrence but maybe if Jenn Bell is on here she could
40 better answer that question.
41

42 MS. BELL: Yeah, thanks, Jim. This is
43 Jenn with Fish and Game. And the trawl surveys this
44 year did show that the female maturity -- or the clutch
45 fullness was, as Charlie mentioned, back to normal.
46 What ended up happening is, I do believe, we were in a
47 low point with large males and started happening in '18
48 and '19, and then '19 it was -- we saw the effect of
49 that in the fishery, but what was also happening
50

1 because we had been doing annual trawl surveys is we've
2 been detecting this recruitment event. So we detected
3 these crabs when they were very small and in 2017 and
4 then we really saw them in '18, and saw them in '19 and
5 saw them again in 2020. What happened in 2020 was that
6 the males -- so this is the cohort, basically an age
7 cohort that we've been tracking and there has been
8 numerous males in this cohort as well as females,
9 there's definitely a lot more females, according to the
10 trawl survey -- according to the trawl survey catch,
11 right, so we don't exactly know what's out there, but
12 the males that we have been tracking along with these
13 males last -- in 2020 were larger than the females. So
14 when crab are growing, they're growing at about the
15 same pace up until maturity for females. Once females
16 come mature, their growth rate tends to slow down, that
17 is, they don't grow as large as they were growing
18 before maturity. So we don't even know what the female
19 growth increment is, but they tend to slow down, right,
20 because they're putting their energy into producing
21 eggs. So once their growth slows down, males in this
22 age class then in over a year's time the males will
23 then molt to be larger than those females and therefore
24 be able to breed. So what happens with crab is a male
25 has to be able to grasp a female to successfully mate,
26 which means that smaller crab -- small males or males
27 that are the same size as females probably aren't
28 nearly as successful at mating, and that's why there's
29 the belief that larger males are more successful,
30 right, because they're able to grasp and hold on to
31 females to successfully mate.

32
33 But when 2020 happened, those males
34 grew larger than the females and I believe started
35 mating with those females, that is why we're seeing the
36 egg clutch sizes return to normal because we now have
37 these males that are large enough to breed with these
38 females.

39
40 This age class, this cohort, we believe
41 will start being legal size in 2021, it's a -- it's a
42 -- you know, it's not a knife edge, there's a peak of
43 the size composition, and they molt between 10 and 15
44 millimeters each year and we have seen this for the
45 last couple of years that we've been tracking this
46 cohort. We have every reason to believe that this
47 cohort is going to start being legal size 4-3/4 next
48 year with the bulk of them being 4-3/4 in 2022 and then
49 market size, there will be some in 2022 and then the
50

1 rest of them will be in 2023. We deal with legal size.
2 All of our decisions are based on the legal size class,
3 not market. So all of the management through CPT, SSC,
4 all the numbers that come down are guideline harvest,
5 are based on legal size. And so because we're seeing
6 this recruitment that we have been tracking, we have
7 the expectation that those crab are going -- they're
8 molting now, that they're going to be legal size in
9 2021 and that's what the numbers are based on.

10

11 I hope that answered your question.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Let me ask a
14 -- before we get too far away from Jenn, you're talking
15 legal size 2021, I heard somebody say earlier that from
16 last year to this year the productive size or some
17 size, the amount of biomass is down, it's three-
18 quarters of what it was a year ago, if I'm saying this
19 right. And in my head I've got -- if we have 1,000
20 crabs that are ready to go molt -- go mate, this year
21 we have 750 crab and maybe I heard this wrong but I'm a
22 little bit concerned that we're not -- at least I'm not
23 getting the right picture here in my head.

24

25 The other question I have is, and maybe
26 Jim this is directed to you more than anybody, you
27 know, our whole subsistence world revolves around
28 catching whatever's out there, whether it's moose, or
29 bears or fish or whatever it is, and when you have a
30 crash in decline like this, the State of Alaska is not
31 doing the subsistence world a favor by saying, well,
32 we're open 365 days a year and you can go catch crab
33 but -- and I sit here and look -- you guys have taken
34 the crabs to task and there are no crabs left so, you
35 know, it's kind of ironic that the system said, go
36 ahead, go catch a crab, catch subsistence crab, it's
37 wide open now but to me there's nothing out there. I
38 tried last year. And I'm concerned that we're hitting
39 the bottom of this growth in the biomass and we're just
40 chipping away at it just to satisfy a little bit of
41 commercial world, and it's keeping our crabbing at bay,
42 so to speak, and it can't grow, it's growth is slowing
43 down because of the commercial industry and opening it
44 up. You know, it's -- I grew up here, I crabbed when I
45 was a kid out here and we had crab, today we don't.
46 It's a whole different world today. And, Jim, you're a
47 new comer even though you've been here 20 years, you're
48 a new comer to this country. And, you know, some of us
49 just grit our teeth when we go out and try to catch

50

1 something that we caught as kids here and all we do is
2 spin our wheels. It's very frustrating.

3
4 I look -- Jim, you talked earlier about
5 a biomass of 3 million crab, it sounds impressive, but
6 I looked at your commercial king crab report back in
7 1979, commercial crabbing harvested -- harvested almost
8 3 million crab, so the biomass -- if the biomass is 15
9 percent, you know, if that's 15 percent of the biomass,
10 that biomass had to be huge, so the habitat for these
11 animals is huge.

12
13 So anyway I -- hopefully somebody can
14 say something to this.

15
16 MR. MENARD: Yeah, Tom, this is Jim.
17 Yeah, you are right, they fished on a virgin population
18 of king crab as far as commercial fishing and
19 definitely when you're taking 2 million pounds like
20 they took in the late '70s, '78, '79 and then, you
21 know, that was definitely kind of a wild west fishery
22 there. And like you say you've been there a lot longer
23 than me. We did have, you know, a commercial fishery
24 that settled down somewhat in the '80s as things
25 dropped off. Of course they caught huge numbers of
26 crab. And trying to get where the replacement was
27 going to be, the value in the commercial fishery,
28 things did go south on us in the late '90s, like '97,
29 '98, '99 where we caught like 30,000 crab or 20,000
30 crab in the commercial fishery. That was that three
31 year down trend. And then we're definitely in that
32 trough again. So that's where we are now 20 years
33 later and we do see it coming back up. We see the
34 smaller ones there, that are going to replace, you
35 know, move into the legal size crab, so, yeah, we are
36 definitely at the low point right now.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Again, the question
39 -- one of the questions I had was if we're seeing
40 three-quarters of the legal size this trawl survey
41 versus a trawl survey before, you know, I crunch some
42 numbers and in 2019 you had 150,000 pound quota and on
43 3,000 biomass you're going to have a 225 pound quota
44 and yet you're minus a quarter of the legal size crabs
45 that's not only going to impact what's catchable but
46 it's going to impact fertilization of the females and
47 blah, blah, blah. You know, the biology of this
48 biomass. So I'm very concerned, just like some of the
49 others on this Board, are we ready to open it up to

50

1 commercial crabbing. And, you know, I don't -- there's
2 a decision that needs to be made not only on your part
3 and your team, you know, I'm not one of these guys that
4 just roll over and say, okay, they said it's okay so
5 it's okay.

6
7 You know, I think in some cases we need
8 to question where we're at in this process and make
9 good, solid decisions.

10
11 MR. MENARD: Right, Tom. And that's --
12 like we say that's where the Council's going to come in
13 and that's where the Board's going to come in.

14
15 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. LEAN: This is Charlie. So I think
20 you and the previous Council member are on the mark.
21 At what point is it allocative, at what point is it
22 conservation. And in my mind a depression in the
23 population is conservation.

24
25 To speak to the history of this thing,
26 from '78 through '81 the exploitation rate on this crab
27 fishery was anywhere from 40 to 60 percent at the time
28 estimated harvest. Today, you know, we're talking 10
29 percent on average. So in other words, the harvest
30 greatly overwhelms the population. So by the end of
31 the '80s the crab that the legals were gone. I mean we
32 knocked the socks off the fishery. I can say we
33 because I was one of the managers. Then, you know,
34 roughly seven, eight years later we saw another wave of
35 depression sweep through the fishery, that's the one
36 Jim referred to. And then seven, eight years after
37 that there was a ripple in the fishery. So what's just
38 happened for the last two years, possibly three, we had
39 a partial reproductive failure because there weren't
40 enough eggs on the females. That's going to come back
41 and bite us in seven, eight years. That is a
42 conservation issue. That is not an allocative issue.

43
44 The Board of Fish, the Federal
45 Subsistence Board, the Council all agree there's a
46 subsistence priority, you don't have to worry about
47 size limits, you don't have to worry about seasons, you
48 don't have to worry about catch limits or pot limits,
49 it's all -- there's this opportunity and as someone

50

1 else pointed out that it's not an opportunity if
2 there's nothing to catch.
3

4 So really, you know, by laying all the
5 blame on somebody else and saying, oh, they told me to
6 do this, that means you didn't even review the data.
7 If you're doing conservation first and foremost, the
8 State Constitution says sustained yield management, if
9 you're affecting the reproductive potential of a
10 population, you are not doing sustained yield
11 management. I strongly question the idea that there
12 could be a commercial fishery this coming season.
13

14 Thanks.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Jim you kind
17 of got cut off there, did you have anything more to
18 add.
19

20 MR. MENARD: No.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay.
23 Board, we're in a discussion period. Anybody else have
24 any comment.
25

26 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,
27 Stebbins. Just one more.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
30

31 MR. KIRK: There was a lady on the
32 phone that stated that a male crab has to mature to a
33 certain size in order for it to fertilize the female
34 with eggs and now we're talking about crabs that are
35 low abundance in our area and yet you're -- and they're
36 referring back to '75 and '80 but we're in 2020. Now
37 if our crabs are low in our area and the males have to
38 reach a certain mature age in order to fertilize a
39 female, how -- you know, we're not the only predators
40 out -- the human predators that are going after the
41 crab, you also have mammals out there that are feeding
42 off the crab, they have to take that into
43 consideration, not only the human consumption. The
44 mammals out there also live off the crab, how do we
45 know that they're not interfering with the males that
46 are trying to become mature to fertilize. They eat the
47 young crabs. Now, we're talking about losing a lot of
48 our crabs to marine mammals out there, just as the
49 humans, so I don't see why we should try and open our
50

1 area for commercial fishing. I think we should not
2 open it because we're talking about our subsistence way
3 of life and putting food on our table.
4

5 So we need to take that into
6 consideration. Send a letter to the Board. I
7 recommend that we send a letter to the Board from this
8 Board to the Board of Fisheries and recommend that we
9 do not open our area for commercial fishing due to the
10 lack of king crabs out in our area.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. Anybody else have any comments.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Board of Directors,
18 I'm looking for comments from you guys.
19

20 MS. BELL: Tom, this is Jenn again with
21 Fish and Game.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.
24

25 MS. BELL: Sorry, I'm not a director
26 but I wanted to reiterate or maybe clarify. So
27 Charlie's correct, the number of legal males that we
28 captured this year in the trawl survey was down but in
29 closing the fishery we didn't make any legal males,
30 right, so we wouldn't have necessarily expected the
31 number to go up because we hadn't been seeing the year
32 -- like in 2019 trawl survey we didn't see the crab
33 that would have been a legal size minus one year,
34 right, so minus one molt, we didn't see those guys in
35 2019. So we wouldn't necessarily expect the number of
36 legal crab to go up again in any detectible fashion for
37 our trawl survey. So that number is correct. The
38 management, or not even the management right now, the
39 numbers are based on the fact that the crab we caught
40 this year, in 2020, will molt and are, in fact,
41 probably molting at this point, they're molting now,
42 are molting into legal size. So we're not necessarily
43 talking about just the legal crab we caught in the
44 trawl survey but the fact that there will be a molt and
45 crab will come into legal size for 2020. And I know
46 you.....
47

48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So let me interject
49 something before we get too far away from that. The
50

1 concern we're speculating, or you're speculating that
2 they will molt. I've heard through this discussion
3 that because these males are trying to breed, they're
4 putting all their energy into breeding and they aren't
5 molting. And the concern that I would have, I guess,
6 is we all look for signs in herd size, and biomass, or
7 we look for signs within the biomass that, yep, our
8 concerns are over with, now we can move on and change
9 the program a little bit, my concern is we're
10 speculating, yes. We're speculating they're going to
11 molt and there's going to be a new size bigger but is
12 this the right thing to do in opening it up on
13 speculation or should we wait a year and look at the
14 trawl survey again and say, yep, we did have a change
15 by golly, Fish and Game was right it's happening and
16 now let's take a conservative approach and look at down
17 the road.

18
19 One thing that caught my ear a minute
20 ago was Charlie talked about the fertilization of eggs
21 and the impacts it's going to have seven years from
22 now. You know a crab takes so many years to get to a
23 certain age that's legal to sell. And reading between
24 the lines I assume it's seven, eight years. So not
25 only are we in a down swing now but seven, eight years
26 from 2019, I would imagine we're going to have a
27 problem again, and, you know, this -- the -- one of the
28 big concerns I have as a subsistence user is before the
29 Western world came here we had all the resources we
30 wanted at our fingertips. There was people that went
31 and got sled loads, literally sled loads of crabs and
32 took them to their villages and shared them. I haven't
33 ever heard in my lifetime, I haven't ever heard of a
34 sled load of crabs going to Nome Alaska or a village.
35 So this commercial crabbing has changed our world so to
36 speak. But, again, if we're seeing three-quarters of
37 the legal crab that we saw in a trawl a year ago,
38 something's going on. And maybe they're breeding, and
39 maybe they're molting, but are we ready to gamble and
40 make it happen. Three-quarters of the biomass a year
41 ago and now we're going to up the take, the commercial
42 harvest by 40,000 pounds with less legal crabs and run
43 with it. I'm sorry, something just don't add up here.

44
45 And maybe you guys have different
46 insight or better insight than me, I'm just a layman.
47 So if you do, please let us know, because at the end of
48 this discussion for all of you guys, Jim and Jenn and
49 Charlie, all you guys, we're going to talk about -- at
50

1 some point we're going to talk about where do we go
2 from here as a Board.

3
4 So anybody else have any comments
5 before we get away from this.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Am I out here by
10 myself?

11
12 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair, this is Kevin
13 Clark.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Kevin.

16
17 MR. CLARK: Yeah, I think there's some
18 confusion. Basically what the model is projecting is
19 next year's based on this year's trawl survey. So the
20 legal crab that we're looking at that would be coming
21 into the fishery next year would be what we would have
22 been -- would have been the smaller crab that we caught
23 this year, so, you know, it is a projection as far as,
24 you know, we're not going to say that it is an estimate
25 of what that crab population will be, but all the
26 indications we have at this time are telling us that if
27 all these crab molt or a majority of them do, that
28 those will be available next year. They're not in the
29 trawl survey this year as legal crab because they
30 haven't molted into legal size yet, but the three-
31 quarters of the legal size crab in the trawl survey
32 this year does not mean that they won't molt and become
33 legal size next season. And I think that there's a
34 disconnect there.

35
36 And another point I wanted to make, as
37 I've been listening, is a lot of the old shell
38 discussion we have been having on old shell percentages
39 are not outside of historical norms. I just wanted to
40 add that too.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, you know, I
48 believe.....

49
50

1 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'll let you go
4 after me, Charlie. I believe that we should be
5 speculating on crab that is of age and is fertilizing
6 females, you know, and I use this projection. I've got
7 three grandkids and I can say my grandkids are coming
8 of age and by golly we're going to have six
9 grandchildren, but until they have grandchildren we
10 don't have anything. And managing a resource on
11 speculation is kind of dangerous, I would say.

12
13 So, anyway, Charlie you had a comment.

14
15 MR. LEAN: Yeah, actually I have two.
16 One is that the crab -- the big bullets of recruit crab
17 is not due right now, it's due a year from now. So
18 I'll stand by my statement earlier, that in 2022 is
19 when the vast majority of recruitment will occur.
20 Granted some recruitment will occur this season, but
21 it's still a year away mostly.

22
23 And, secondly, although males molt this
24 time of year, the females molt and mate in March and
25 April, right during the winter fishery.

26
27 So if you're fishing hard on the winter
28 fishery, you're going to affect the success of mating.

29
30 So, anyway, those are two points I
31 thought were important.

32
33 Also as I said in my earlier report,
34 when you were asking where we should go -- or where you
35 should go, the Board of Fish may not take up your
36 proposal this season, it's out of cycle, but the fish
37 buyers very well must consider if they're going to buy
38 or not and they control the commercial fishery, so you
39 might want to consider letters to commercial fish
40 buyers.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, so
43 we're actually in a Fish and Game cycle, Board of Fish
44 cycle is not -- not at this -- not going to happen that
45 we can impact this coming year, so to speak. So all
46 right, just to clear the air, when is the next Board of
47 Fish cycle going to happen?

48
49 MR. MENARD: Yeah, Tom.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah.
2

3 MR. MENARD: The Board of Fish cycle,
4 so, we just had it here this past year, so the next one
5 will be March 2023, and the proposal deadline will be
6 April 2022 to put a proposal in.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So -- and
9 clarify me, Jim, unless the Board of Fish took up this
10 issue of opening and closing and blah, blah, blah, out
11 of line, the next time to get this addressed is 2023?
12

13 MR. MENARD: Yeah, unless they take it
14 up as an emergency.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, does
17 Board -- Board members, do you guys have any additional
18 questions. I think we've kind of beat this up and I
19 think where we're going to go with this is we will put
20 this on the back burner until the end of the meeting.
21 We'll go into executive session, discuss this a little
22 bit, and then come out of executive session and lay our
23 game plan out to the world.
24

25 So now.....
26

27 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead. Did I
30 hear somebody trying to get in here.
31

32 MR. KIRK: That was Ron. I was saying
33 it sounds good, Mr. Chair, we can discuss it at
34 executive session.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Does anybody
37 at all have any comments or concerns, this is the last
38 chance to get in what -- get info to us so we have
39 something to run with.
40

41 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot of Brevig
42 Mission. Are you talking about the crab issue, I just
43 checked in.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, yes, yes.
46 We're kind of wrapping up the crab issue and getting
47 some comments, whoever, the Board members and then
48 we'll address where we're going to go later on in the
49 meeting. But do you have any concerns Elmer.
50

1 MR. SEETOT: I have a comment or
2 experience I would like to give out. I got a crab
3 permit last spring after the meeting, I think. And
4 then I also have an underwater camera so I was able to
5 check Cape Douglas, Cape Willy, Northwest side of
6 Sledge Island and also Port Clarence point to try to
7 see if there was any crab available. I know that
8 between King Island and Sledge Island is pretty much
9 blue crab. We weren't able to catch any crab during
10 that time. So the -- usually we see crab or get crab
11 during the regular crabbing time but this time they
12 were pretty much -- we didn't see any on the bottom
13 crawling. So I would think that's a major concern.
14 Too much stuff going into our salt water, sewer, the
15 stuff that come from the Russian side, whatever we put
16 out from our sewer system, so that's affecting the
17 water quality. And also anything that is within the
18 water system, I think from bottom down, from the krill
19 to the fish, I think they're going to experience
20 something -- a drastic die-off due to the warm up of
21 the waters below us.

22
23 So that was one observation I made.
24 Was really very few or no king crab, either red or blue
25 sighted with an under water camera, and that was this
26 last spring.

27
28 Thank you, Tom.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you for your
31 input. You know, I think you're hitting on the same
32 song that a bunch of us are talking about. We're just,
33 as subsistence users, we are struggling trying to get
34 our fair share so to speak, or what we're used to
35 catching, and, you know, I understand that things
36 change and times change, but this is too big of a
37 change.

38
39 So, anyway, if there's no other
40 concerns, I thank all you guys that participated in
41 this discussion, and trying to enlighten us of where
42 we're going to go, or what's going on, and give us
43 insight so we can make a decision where we're going.

44
45 I propose to the Board members that
46 later on in the meeting we'll go into executive session
47 and discuss this further and then come out and decide
48 what we're going to do and where we're going to go.

49
50

1 And so with that I'm going to move on
2 to -- I'm going to move on to Jim, and, Jim, do you
3 have anything -- or let me ask this, are you going to
4 be around when we go through our updates, agency
5 updates, so Fish and Game, do you have somebody or are
6 you, yourself, going to be around for agency reports?
7

8 MR. MENARD: Yeah, we'll be here.
9 We'll keep one line open and if you -- or we'll just
10 call in again.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Perfect. Okay,
13 well, I'm going to go on schedule then and I -- again,
14 I thank all of you guys for stepping up and
15 enlightening us on your programs and your thoughts.
16

17 So the next thing on the agenda is
18 fishery closures. And I don't know if.....
19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 This is Karen Deatherage. Might I suggest a 10 minute
26 break for everybody.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Uh?
29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: I know.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You want to take a
33 break, I got a beluga net I got to check -- no, we can
34 take a break.
35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Then you got 10
37 minutes to do it, man. So, it's up to the Council and
38 the Chair.....
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: No, I don't mind.
41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE:of course,
43 but.....
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I don't mind, I'll
46 say we'll come back at 11:15 and resume again.
47

48 (Off record)
49
50

1 (On record)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Are we at the time
4 that we decided to come back into our meeting?
5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, we are
7 beyond that time so if you'd like to call the meeting
8 back to order and proceed that would be great.
9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
11 call the meeting back to order and let me see where
12 we're at.
13
14 Proposals. Fishery closure reviews.
15 And I'm trying to dig them out of my packet. So.....
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. This is
18 Karen Deatherage, have you called the meeting back to
19 order?
20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, I called the
22 meeting back to order.
23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much.
25 And I do want to say before this gets started and our
26 Staff present these closures, that on Page 18 of the
27 meeting book is the presentation procedure for these
28 proposals and closure reviews. And we only have
29 closure reviews on the agenda but they are under the
30 same process as regular proposals so you have to go
31 through these steps for each one of these as we go
32 through the process.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So you don't want
37 Tom Gray just doing it Tom Gray's way.
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Exactly. Thank you,
40 Mr. Chair.
41
42 REPORTER: We want some order.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I'll tell
47 you what I'm going to throw each one of these out as we
48 go and you can talk about and we will go from there.
49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. What happens
2 generally speaking is that once this starts, you'll see
3 the introduction and presentation of draft Staff
4 analysis. One of the OSM Staff will go ahead and
5 present this and then we'll go down this list
6 ultimately getting the final motion and the Council's
7 vote on each one of the closure reviews.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Who's the
12 Staff that's going to address this then?

13
14 MS. HYER: Hello, Mr. Chairman, Council
15 members. This is Karen Hyer, and I'm presenting the
16 first closure review. Can you hear me okay?

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I can. Is this 21-
19 01?

20
21 MS. HYER: It is. And I am ready to
22 proceed if you're ready for me to proceed.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I am, go ahead.

25
26 MS. HYER: All right. Well, before I
27 begin presenting Fisheries Closure FCR21-01, I want to
28 briefly bring to your attention, the Federal
29 Subsistence Board's review closure policy. If the
30 Board deems it necessary to close the Federal public
31 lands or waters to subsistence users, all closures will
32 be periodically reevaluated to determine whether the
33 circumstances necessitating the original closure still
34 exists and warrants a continuation of the closure.

35
36 Today we will be presenting several
37 closure reviews for your input. Your recommendations
38 are forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board. As you
39 listen to the presentations of the closure review,
40 please keep in mind that the Council can recommend that
41 the Federal Subsistence Board maintain the closure,
42 modify the closure or eliminate the closure. When a
43 closure is located in another region, the Council may
44 also take no action and defer the proposal to the home
45 region Advisory Council.

46
47 So that's kind of an overview.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So you have

50

1 maintain, modify and what?
2

3 MS. HYER: So you can maintain the
4 closure. You may modify the closure. Or you can
5 eliminate the closure. And we have some proposals that
6 we're going to present today that are in other regions
7 but this Council has C&T for those regions and so on
8 those proposals you can do all of the -- you can do the
9 three actions I spoke about or you can defer to the
10 home Regional Advisory Council. It's whatever the
11 Council prefers.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. You got the
14 floor.
15

16 MS. HYER: All right. So Fisheries
17 Closure Review 21-04 for the Unalakleet River begins on
18 Page 19 of your book.
19

20 The Unalakleet River up stream of the
21 confluences of the Chirosky River is closed to the
22 taking of chinook salmon from July 1 to July 31st for
23 all users. All residents of Norton Sound and Port
24 Clarence area have customary and traditional use
25 determination for salmon in the Unalakleet River.
26

27 This closure was initiated in 2009 when
28 the Federal Subsistence Board recognized the efforts of
29 the local subsistence users, affected villages and the
30 State local Fish and Game Advisory Committee to close
31 Federal public waters in the interest of protecting
32 chinook salmon resources and to rebuild the stock.
33 This closure was reevaluated and reaffirmed in 2010.
34

35 The majority of chinook salmon
36 subsistence harvest occurs under State jurisdiction in
37 the marine waters at the mouth of the Unalakleet River.
38 Federal waters in the upper 81 river miles of the
39 Unalakleet contain a spawning habitat for this chinook
40 salmon. Chinook salmon returns to the drainage have
41 been poor since 2000. Due to the low numbers of
42 returning chinook salmon the commercial fishery has
43 been closed since 2005. Salmon escapements for the
44 Unalakleet River have ranged from 505 to 6,641 fish.
45 Over time the chinook salmon escapement has not
46 increased in response to the commercial fishing closure
47 and increasingly restrictive sports and subsistence
48 fishery. While the chinook salmon escapement of 6,641
49 fish in 2019 was the highest on record, this occurred
50

1 only after severely restricting the subsistence
2 fishing.

3
4 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
5 maintain the closure with the following justification.

6
7 The Unalakleet River chinook salmon
8 runs have been below expectations since 2000. A
9 chinook salmon directed commercial fishery remains
10 closed and the subsistence and sport fisheries continue
11 to be restricted. While the 2019 numbers show an
12 increase in returning chinook salmon, conservation
13 efforts on Federal public lands of the Unalakleet to
14 continue until a positive trend is established.

15
16 So, again, the Council's options are to
17 recommend the Federal Subsistence Board maintain this
18 closure or modify it or eliminate it. And this is an
19 action item.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Okay.

22
23 MS. HYER: That ends my presentation so
24 I can take comments or questions.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody have any
27 questions.

28
29 MR. KATCHATAG: I could comment.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. KATCHATAG: Every year when our
34 chinook salmon show up the river is high and muddy and
35 they can't count amount of kings that are going up our
36 river. And I'm wondering have they gone up to the
37 headwaters where some of the kings spawn. And this
38 past year they just monitored the North River, and in
39 the past years North River contained only one-fourth
40 the total population of kings in our area. And the
41 kings I noticed are a lot smaller than they used to be.
42 Why is that?

43
44 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
45 members. So it is true the Unalakleet River weir was
46 not in place this summer and that was due to our Covid
47 situation. And we present later in the program, when
48 we present the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
49 Program, I've asked Jenn Bell and Kevin Clark to speak

50

1 to that. So they'll tell you a little bit about why
2 the weir was not in the river this year. But before
3 that, 2019 we have estimates of chinook salmon moving
4 through that weir and that is where we count the
5 salmon, we don't travel up to the spawning grounds to
6 count them. They're counted as they move through the
7 weir. And so that's how we get those estimates. And
8 as far as the size of chinook, we're currently having a
9 discussion about that at OSM, and I think there are
10 multiple factors that are leading to that, including
11 some of our ocean conditions.
12

13 So I think that's all I have unless
14 anybody else has something to add.
15

16 MR. KATCHATAG: Did you even attempt to
17 find out what the climate change is -- how it's
18 affecting -- not climate change, but global warming,
19 how it's affecting our salmon, our river and our moose?
20

21 MS. HYER: There are huge issues with
22 changes in the Arctic and they're both affecting the
23 marine environment and they are affecting the fresh
24 water environment, both. But the answers aren't
25 available and there is research going on now
26 concerning this.
27

28 MR. KATCHATAG: You know this
29 permafrost thawing and glacier thawing has been going
30 on for how many years now and I've asked to get samples
31 from the areas that are affected the most to find out
32 what's coming out of the deep freezer that's been
33 frozen for thousands of years. What are we facing.
34 Evidently all of that is affecting our fish and our
35 moose and our beaver and our birds. You see birds
36 falling out of the sky. What kind of effort has been
37 made to find out what's happening with all that's
38 coming out of the permafrost.
39

40 MS. HYER: So Mr. Chairman, Council
41 members. Later on there is an item on the agenda
42 called the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and
43 that's where we're going to be developing the PINS for
44 our 2020 research project. And so that is -- adding
45 something about climate change to that list of priority
46 information needs might be something the Council wants
47 to undertake in that discussion.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Okay.
50

1 And you said that section was the Fisheries Monitoring
2 Program.

3
4 MS. HYER: Yes. And that's later on in
5 the agenda, and that is where we're going to talk about
6 the data gaps and the research interests of the RAC to
7 guide our next monitoring plan, which is the part of
8 OSM that actually funds research projects.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, any
11 more -- any other comments or questions for her. We
12 have a whole list of people to go through, so if
13 there's nothing else, I'm going to go to tribes.
14 Tribes -- are there any tribes here.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: ANCSA Corporations.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Whoever's
26 talking we're hearing you and anyway.

27
28 So agency comments, Fish and Game --
29 Alaska Fish and Game, do you have any comments on this
30 proposal, or whatever it is.

31
32 MR. CLARK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
33 Kevin Clark with Fish and Game. No, we don't have any
34 comments at this time.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Federal
39 Program. Anybody have any comment.

40
41 MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks. We
42 don't have any comment at this time, Anchorage Field
43 Office.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Tribes,
48 tribal agencies, anybody on the phone from tribes.

49
50

1 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. This is Orville
2 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
3 Management. There are no comments or questions during
4 the consultations.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay.
7 Advisory Group comments, other Regional Advisory
8 Councils. Did we have anybody chime in.
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Fish and Game
13 Advisory Committees. Charlie are you still here.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any other Advisory
18 Committees with Fish and Game.
19

20 (No comments)
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Subsistence
23 Resource Commissions.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Was there any
28 written public comments.
29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 This is Karen Deatherage with OSM. There were no
32 written public comments received for this proposal.
33

34 Thank you. Or wildlife [sic] closure
35 review, thanks.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. How about
38 public testimony, anybody there to speak out on this.
39

40 (No comments)
41

42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Regional
43 Council recommendation, motion to adopt.
44

45 So is there a motion to adopt this
46 closure review. I'm talking to the Board of Directors
47 now, we need a motion to adopt and then if we're going
48 to go against OSM or we'll let this thing die.
49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there a motion
4 to adopt.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Do I have the Board
9 on board here.
10
11 MR. KATCHATAG: Tom, this is Doug, I'll
12 make the motion.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. There's a
15 motion to adopt this closure review and go with the
16 status quo, to keep it status quo, is there a second.
17
18 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, this is Leland,
19 I'll second that.
20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. There's a
22 motion and a second. And discussion. I have a list of
23 discussion items. Is the recommendation consistent
24 with establishing fish and wildlife, management
25 principles, whatever that means, you guys have all this
26 in front of you.
27
28 Is there any discussion on this motion.
29 And I guess, Karen, you know, I kind of blew through
30 this, the motion is to be status quo and support where
31 we're at with this thing. Maybe you can read the
32 motion back to us so everybody's clear on what we're
33 adopting here.
34
35 MS. HYER: Absolutely, Mr. Council --
36 Mr. Chairman and Council members.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MS. HYER: This whole teleconference
41 thing kind of throws me for a loop sometimes. So the
42 motion would be to continue the closure on the
43 Unalakleet River weir, which is basically a succinct
44 way of saying what you just said.
45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So any other
47 discussion.
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
50

1 Karen Deatherage.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

4

5

MS. DEATHERAGE: I think first of all
6 congratulations on the process, you handled that
7 perfectly with respect to the different areas we have
8 to go through for these closure reviews. Secondly I
9 would like to have on the record a justification for
10 why the Council would or would not support this motion.
11 So something to consider before the vote is called.

12

13

Thank you.

14

15

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So anybody want to
16 speak to this, why we're justifying it.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You know my first
21 opinion without a weir last year, without counts, we're
22 just picking numbers out of the sky and flying by night
23 on numbers on this river and I -- you know, we have a
24 jump up to 6,600 fish in 2019 and I question that, I --
25 that's a huge jump so it would be good to get something
26 in history, I guess.

27

28

You know one thing I heard was we got
29 smaller fish and smaller fish tells me that there's
30 maybe a problem with the system that's spitting out
31 smaller fish. You know if you go to Salmon Lake and
32 look at the red run, fish sizes say different things in
33 the process, probably the same thing here.

34

35

But, anyway, anybody have a
36 justification they want to throw out.

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
41 Karen Deatherage. Thank you very much. That's a great
42 justification and certainly if anybody wishes to add to
43 it, but the justification you provided was good.

44

45

Thank you.

46

47

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So any other
48 discussion, comments, before we take a vote.

49

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So all in favor of
4 adopting this.....
5
6 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:closure review
9 say aye.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm going to say it
14 again. All in favor of adopting this say aye, we're
15 having a vote.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed.....
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: So those folks that
22 might want to unmute their phone if they're attempting
23 to vote on this, the Council members, you may want to
24 unmute your phone if it's muted.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
29 do it one more time. All in favor of adopting this
30 closure review say aye.
31
32 MR. OYOUMICK: Tom, this is Leland,
33 I'll give it a yea.
34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'd be
36 happy to do roll call for this vote if that might make
37 it easier.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I think that would
40 be awesome, Karen.
41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 This is roll call for the motion to retain the status
44 quo for the Unalakleet River at Chirosky River closure
45 of chinook salmon.
46
47 REPORTER: Okay, wait a second, Karen,
48 before you start. I know you're going to take a roll
49 call right now so people are going to have to unmute
50

1 their phones to answer.....

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right.

4

5 REPORTER:but there's a couple of
6 lines that are not muted. We're not getting a lot of
7 background, it's interfering with the recording, and
8 it's over you, so people please check your phone.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah. If you are not
11 a Council member at this time please mute your phone,
12 and then once you have voted as Council member on this
13 fisheries closure review, then please mute your phones
14 again.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 REPORTER: Thank you. Thank you, very
19 much.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right.

22

23 Lloyd Kiyutelluk.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are you on Lloyd.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll come back.

32

33 Tom Gray.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl, are you on the
42 phone. If you are muted, please unmute your phone so
43 that you can vote.

44

45 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. Yeah.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Super. Thank you,

48 Deahl.

49

50

1 Leland Oyoumick.
2
3 MR. OYOUMICK: Still yes.
4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
6
7 MR. SEETOT: Yea.
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Charles Saccheus.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald Kirk.
14
15 MR. KIRK: Yes.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Lloyd Kiyutelluk.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lloyd are you on the
26 phone.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right now we have five
31 yes, zero nays, it is a quorum so the motion passes.
32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Okay,
36 so let me get this out of my way. We have another
37 review and that's 22-06 [sic] and that one got thrown
38 out for some reason, is that right.
39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. And
41 the presenter for these proposals is Hannah Voorhees
42 from our office and she'll explain to you why this
43 proposal is no longer relevant to the Council.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Karen. This
48 is Hannah Voorhees, Office of Subsistence Management.
49 This proposal shouldn't -- or closure review should not
50

1 have been included on the agenda because it actually
2 doesn't apply to any communities in the Seward
3 Peninsula region. Although the Toklat River is within
4 the Yukon River drainage or Yukon Northern area where
5 residents of Stebbins normally have C&T for fish, this
6 closure specifically deals with an area of Toklat River
7 in Denali National Park and under Park Service
8 regulations, only resident zone communities are
9 eligible to practice subsistence in the Park, and that
10 does not include any communities from the Seward
11 Peninsula region. So I would recommend removing this
12 one from the agenda as it should not have been on in
13 the first place.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I drew
16 a line through it so it's been removed.

17
18 MS. VOORHEES: All right, thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. The next one
21 on the agenda is 21-07 something about the Yukon River,
22 I saw Nome Creek and I thought Nome, Alaska, we got to
23 take a look at this, and here it's a creek on the Yukon
24 River evidently and addressing grayling, is that
25 grayling fish, or Grayling the town.

26
27 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Hannah Voorhees again from OSM. And that does refer to
29 grayling the fish, and, you're correct, this refers to
30 a small system in the Eastern Interior and I can go
31 ahead and present.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

34
35 MS. VOORHEES: Because this is located
36 in Eastern Interior I'll probably give an abbreviated
37 presentation and then if you have further questions
38 feel free to ask.

39
40 This Fisheries Closure Review 21-07 for
41 Nome Creek begins on Page 35 of your book. This is a
42 tributary of Beaver Creek and it's accessible by road.
43 It's' closed currently to subsistence fishing for
44 grayling year-round.

45
46 So you may be wondering why this is on
47 the agenda as well and this is being presented to you
48 because residents of Stebbins have a C&T determination
49 for salmon in the Yukon River drainage. C&T

50

1 determinations are made fairly broadly for the Yukon
2 drainage, so Stebbins does get roped into that
3 inclusive net.
4

5 Okay, so when -- so normally, you know,
6 you would have the option -- you still do have the
7 option to maintain the closure, modify the closure or
8 eliminate the closure, but I wanted to remind the
9 Council that when you're considering a closure located
10 in another region, if you feel like it's not an area
11 that's important to you or regardless of the rationale,
12 you can decide to take no action and defer to the home
13 region, which in this case would be Eastern Interior.
14

15 Nome Creek is in the White Mountain
16 Special Recreation Management and Area administered by
17 BLM so about 58 miles north of Fairbanks. Under State
18 regulations the area is closed to subsistence fishing
19 and sportfishing is allowed year-round, but all
20 grayling must be released. So the only fishing on
21 grayling currently is catch and release under sport
22 regulation.
23

24 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
25 maintain the status quo of this closure and I'll get
26 into some justification here.
27

28 If this closure is maintained, Nome
29 Creek will continue to be closed to subsistence fishing
30 for grayling year-round. The only fishing for grayling
31 will continue to be catch and release under State sport
32 regulation. And this is because grayling are a species
33 that are susceptible to over exploitation, Nome Creek
34 is road accessible allowing for easy access and harvest
35 of fish. Allowing a subsistence harvest on these
36 stocks has the potential for local depletion or over
37 harvest of stocks.
38

39 This proposal has already been
40 considered by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC and the
41 Western Interior RAC, both deferred to the Eastern
42 Interior Council, which is the home region. And the
43 Eastern Interior decided to modify the proposal to
44 close to all users in addition to subsistence closure.
45

46 So thank you, that concludes my
47 presentation.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody
50

1 having questions on this proposal before we get input
2 from the rest of the folks.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, then.....

7
8 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. This is Ron Kirk.
9 I keep hearing Stebbins, how is Stebbins involved with
10 this closure?

11
12 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Kirk. Stebbins is,
13 along with many other communities, the Board has
14 determined that Stebbins has a customary and
15 traditional use determination for salmon in a very
16 broad area of Interior Alaska. So I don't know the
17 details of how that determination was made,
18 historically, but there was a pattern tying Stebbins to
19 at least some use within the Yukon River drainage. And
20 so now any proposal that comes up for consideration in
21 that area, even though it's a vast area, is brought for
22 consideration to this Board if the C&T stands, as it
23 does, on Federal lands, open to Federal Subsistence
24 Board outside of National Park areas.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, Ron, you're one
27 of the many blessed and privileged people, don't
28 contest it.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Don't contest it
33 because you can do something that I can't do as a
34 Native person. So any other comments.

35
36
37 (No comments)

38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're going
40 to move down this list of stuff, and fortunately I have
41 this paper in front of me that tells me who to go to
42 and so on.

43
44 So anybody -- any tribes or ANCSA
45 Corporations. Anybody want to comment on this.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Alaska Fish and

50

1 Game, anyone.

2

3

Pardon?

4

5

MR. KIRK: Hello, Mr. Chair. Hi, this
6 is Ron Kirk, I got cut off earlier.

7

8

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh okay.

9

10

MR. KIRK: I didn't hear the comment --
11 I didn't hear her comment about why Stebbins was
12 involved with the closure.

13

14

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'll give
15 you a short version, is your C&T extends out that far.
16 Your Native people can go that far out and catch fish.
17 Tom Gray's C&T doesn't extend that far. So you're one
18 of the lucky privileged people, and I'm assuming it's
19 because of the Yukon River, they've included Stebbins
20 C&T to be able to go that far. And in my eyes it's
21 something you guys don't want to contest. You've got
22 an advantage to go fish in that area, don't ruin it.

23

24

MR. KIRK: And which area is that?

25

26

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So the area we're
27 talking about is up by Fairbanks. And the reason I say
28 the C&T extends that far, it has to be because of the
29 Yukon fish going up that river somehow Stebbins got
30 labeled as part of that C&T, traditional and -- you
31 guys had used that resource in the past so you get --
32 you have that access to it. Where Tom Gray lives in
33 Nome, Alaska, we don't have access to it.

34

35

MR. KIRK: Okay, thanks for clarifying
36 it.

37

38

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Okay, so
39 where was I. Fish and Game, do you have any comments
40 on this closure.

41

42

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. This is Kevin
43 Clark with Fish and Game. We have no comment.

44

45

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any Federal
46 agencies.

47

48

MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks, BLM.

49

No comment.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Tribal
2 agencies.
3
4 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. This is Orville
5 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
6 Management. There were no questions or concerns on
7 this closure review.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right.
12 Advisory Groups. Regional Advisory Councils. Anybody
13 on the phone from other areas.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Fish and Game
18 Advisory Committees. Any Fish and Game Committees.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any Subsistence
23 Resource Commission.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 (Pause)
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are you there, Mr.
30 Chair.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anybody on the phone
35 right now?
36
37 REPORTER: Yes, I'm here.
38
39 MR. KIRK: Yep.
40
41 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.
42
43 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Yep.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, I think he might
46 have gotten cut off. I can continue this with the
47 Council's blessing.
48
49 REPORTER: Yep.
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: So summary of written
2 public comments. This is Karen Deatherage, there were
3 no written public comments received for this Federal
4 fisheries closure review.
5

6 On behalf of the Chair, I'd like to
7 invite any public testimony on this fishery closure
8 review.
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: The next step is the
13 Regional Council recommendation. On behalf of the
14 Chair.....
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello.
17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: There he is.
19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So somebody knows
21 how to get rid of the Chair, acting Chair, and I
22 disappeared.
23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. Mr. Chair. I
25 went down the list for you and we are now at No. 7,
26 Regional Council recommendation. So a perfect
27 opportunity for you to step in and invite a motion to
28 adopt this fishery closure review.
29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there a
33 motion -- there's a couple of things we can do here.
34 We can move to eliminate it, modify it, maintain it, or
35 defer to the people that made it. So is there a motion
36 to do something with this thing.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I'll entertain,
41 I'm going to throw an entertainment motion out there,
42 I'll entertain a motion that we defer to whoever is in
43 this region here.
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: So Council members
46 please unmute your phone if you wish to move to defer
47 the recommendation on FCR21-07 to the affected region.
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk. So
2 moved.
3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. There's a
5 motion to defer this to the area it's affecting, is
6 there a second.
7
8 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
9 Mission. Second.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We have a
12 motion and a second. Is there any discussion at all.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's been
19 called. Can we have a roll call vote.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
22 is Karen Deatherage.
23
24 Lloyd Kiyutelluk from Shishmaref.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are you on Mr.
29 Kiyutelluk.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.
40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.
42
43 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.
46
47 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr., can
4 you unmute and provide a vote for the Council for this
5 proposal.
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 MR. SEETOT: Yea.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
12
13 Charles Saccheus.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Ronald Kirk.
18
19 MR. KIRK: Yes.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
22 we have five in favor of deferring Proposal -- oops, I
23 have to bring it up, I have seven things up here.
24 Proposal FCR -- or actually Federal Closure -- or
25 Fisheries Closure Review 21-07 to defer to the affected
26 region, motion passes unanimously.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Okay,
31 it looks like we have one more deal, dealybob here,
32 closure review and that is FCR21-04 is somebody ready
33 to talk on that one.
34
35 MS. VOORHEES: I am, Mr. Chair. This
36 is Hannah Voorhees.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right, see how
39 good you are.
40
41 MS. VOORHEES: Sorry, could you please
42 repeat that -- oh.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I said see how good
47 you are.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. All right.
2 So Fisheries Closure Review 21-04. This follows a
3 similar pattern to the one we just reviewed where it
4 does fall in a different home region. This is for Jim
5 River and it begins on Page 42 of your book.
6

7 This closure review is being presented
8 to you again because residents of Stebbins have a
9 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
10 in the Yukon River drainage. Jim River, including
11 Prospect and Douglas Creek, two tributaries, is closed
12 to subsistence fishing for all species year-round. The
13 same closure exists under State regulations. However,
14 sportfishing is currently allowed under State
15 regulations so we have a situation in which subsistence
16 is not allowed while sportfishing is.
17

18 Jim River crosses and parallels the
19 Dalton Highway and coho, chum and chinook spawn in the
20 Jim River. The predominant resident species found in
21 the river include Arctic grayling, burbot, round
22 whitefish and slimy sculpin. And communities in the
23 vicinity of Jim River include Wiseman, Coldfoot,
24 Evansville and Bettles.
25

26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 modify the closure to allow the use of rod and reel
28 only for subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified
29 subsistence users.
30

31 And the justification is that currently
32 this drainage is closed to fishing by Federally-
33 qualified subsistence users but remains open to other
34 uses, which does not allow for a subsistence priority.
35 There's a small amount of harvest under restricted
36 State sportfishing so this system should be opened to
37 limited subsistence harvest under rod and reel in order
38 to protect healthy populations in the system.
39

40 And this proposal has already been
41 considered by Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and the Eastern
42 Interior RACs, which both deferred to the home region,
43 Western Interior. And Western Interior supported OSM's
44 modification with an additional -- they increased the
45 harvest and possession limit for grayling slightly.
46

47 And that is all the information I have
48 for you unless you have further questions, please let
49 me know if you have comments or questions.
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. So
4 anybody have any questions for her.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
9 go down this list and we'll have a chance to review
10 what she talked about when we make the motion. So
11 anyway tribes and ANCSA Corporations, anybody have any
12 concerns.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Fish and Game.
17 Does Fish and Game have any insight.
18
19 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. This is Kevin
20 Clark with Fish and Game, no, we have no concerns at
21 this time.
22
23 Thank you.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Federal
26 Program, anybody out there have any concerns.
27
28 MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks again,
29 no comment, BLM.
30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Tribes.
32 Tribal.
33
34 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Orville Lind,
35 Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
36 Management. There were no questions or concerns on
37 this review.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right. Any
42 other Regional Advisory Councils on line have any
43 concerns.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any Fish and Game
48 Advisory Committees on line.
49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Subsistence
4 Resource Commissions. Anybody with subsistence.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Summary of written
9 public comments. Any public comments.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 This is Karen Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence
13 Management. There were no public written comments
14 received for FCR21-07 [sic].

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I hope we
19 have somebody from the public that can talk now,
20 anybody from the public want to jump on this.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right. We're
25 down to it's time to make a motion and the OSM is
26 talking about making a motion to modify the closure
27 that would include subsistence fishing with a fishing
28 rod. Is that what I heard a little while ago?

29

30 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, that's correct, Mr.
31 Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So is there a
34 motion to adopt this process with -- including --
35 inclusion of subsistence with -- and so we can either
36 adopt it with this inclusion, or defer it to that other
37 region that had some additional stuff added to it. And
38 whoever -- what was -- when this other region agreed to
39 fishing with a fishing rod and including it as
40 subsistence there was some other add-ons to it, what
41 was those add-ons?

42

43 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
44 change was -- so it's just adopted as recommended by
45 OSM, so the State sportfishing harvest limits and
46 possessions would apply, and the Western Interior
47 Council decided to increase the harvest limit and
48 possession for grayling to 10 a day rather than 5 a day
49 which is how it's written under State regulations. So

50

1 essentially they inserted like kind of a priority for
2 subsistence over the State sportfishing regulation.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And do we know what
5 sportfishing regulations say, how much a day.

6
7 MS. VOORHEES: It's five a day.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

10
11 MS. VOORHEES: For the State
12 sportfishing regulations. There are some other
13 regulations that would apply just for your knowledge --
14 for your information for other species but the Western
15 Interior felt that the grayling was the most important
16 species to address.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Right. So
19 I'm looking for a motion from the Board, somebody to
20 move to give us direction on what you feel we should
21 do.

22
23 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk. I move
24 to adopt this motion and defer it to the original
25 makers of the letter.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And include their
28 -- support their wishes, I guess.

29
30 MR. KIRK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair, to
31 support the people that presented this to us.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. This is
36 Karen Deatherage. That motion would basically try to
37 entail two different actions on behalf of the Council,
38 therefore, I recommend either deferring to the region
39 -- affected region, or supporting the region's decision
40 to modify the closure to include subsistence fishing.
41 That might make it more clear.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So Ron do
46 you change your motion -- before we get a second, do
47 you change your motion to modify it to support the
48 people in the region and their direction they're going.

49
50

1 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I change my
2 motion to modify it to support the region that they're
3 going into.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Does that
6 make you happy, Karen?
7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm very happy, Mr.
9 Chair, thank you.
10

11 (Laughter)
12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there a
14 second.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm going to let
19 this thing die if there's no second.
20

21 MR. OYOUNICK: This is Leland, I'll
22 second.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
25 discussion.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 MR. KIRK: Question.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And can we get a
32 roll call.
33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.
35 This is Karen Deatherage.
36

37 Lloyd Kiyutelluk.
38

39 (No comments)
40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.
48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.
50

1 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.
4
5 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
8
9 MR. SEETOT: Yea.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.
12
13 And Ronald Kirk.
14
15 MR. KIRK: Yes.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
18 we have a five/zero vote. The motion passes
19 unanimously.
20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Boy, we're on a
22 roll huh. Okay. We're almost out of this area. The
23 next thing I have on here is Fisheries Monitoring
24 Program, OSM fisheries and anthropologist. So I assume
25 somebody's ready to talk about this, and who's our --
26 who is going to jump on this one.
27
28 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
29 members. This is Karen Hyer and I'm going to present to
30 you today, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
31 But before I present my presentation to you, I was
32 going to have both somebody from the State talk about
33 the Unalakleet River which is our ongoing project on
34 the Unalakleet, and then we have another project that
35 the Park Service will talk about that was delayed a
36 year because of Covid. So I think we can start, if
37 either Jenn or Kevin are on the line, we can start with
38 them giving a recap of the Unalakleet River weir. Jenn
39 or Kevin, are you there?
40
41 MR. CLARK: Yeah, I'm here Karen.
42
43 MS. HYER: Okay. Why don't you go
44 ahead and give an overview.
45
46 MR. CLARK: Okay. Mr. Chair. This is
47 Kevin Clark with the Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game. And as you know, this last year we did not
49 operate the weir in Unalakleet, we had several issues
50

1 starting with Covid and not being able to move our
2 crews around as freely as we normally do. That gave us
3 a shortage of people to put in the weir. That was
4 compounded with the high water that we had early in the
5 year.

6
7 Now, last year the cable had frayed and
8 parted and we needed to replace it this year and we
9 just never had the water levels or the personnel to be
10 able to do that until after the effective date or
11 monitoring for king salmon had already passed. So we
12 did not operate the weir this season. But we had -- we
13 did have an escapement of 1,068 fish, king salmon there
14 on the North River tower, so that's what the update is
15 for the Unalakleet.

16
17 We are, at this point, working on
18 updating the camp. We have got the cable reinstalled
19 on the rail so that we will be able to put in the weir
20 as soon as water levels allow this year. The changes
21 in the weir since 2019 -- in 2019 we widened the
22 spacings on some of the panels, which will allow pink
23 salmon to pass through uncounted. As this Council
24 knows pink salmon are very abundant in the Unalakleet
25 in some years and it does cause problems with
26 enumerating other more commercial viable species
27 through the weir, when you do have a lot of pinks.

28
29 So for 2020 what we did is we got
30 supplies for the weir to update the camp because the
31 tents, platforms, et cetera, that we have, they're all
32 10 years old and so it's time to start repairing those
33 and replacing those as we're having some difficulties
34 and failures with them. The other thing we did is we
35 are in the process of making even more panels. We made
36 35 and had those shipped over to put in this year but
37 we were not able to get up and install these at the
38 weir as I've already explained. And then later this
39 spring, we are going to be building even more of the
40 panels because the panels that we have there today are
41 all 10 years old and they're getting brittle and
42 they've really reached their effective life span. So we
43 were able to get the cable replaced.

44
45 Now, the plan is for next year, we're
46 going to try to get the weir -- the crew in early,
47 compared to most years. In 2019 we saw a big spike in
48 fish early, at least a lot earlier than we've seen in
49 other times, so we want to be able to get the weir in

50

1 as early as possible so that if there is that early
2 spike, again, it'll give us an indication if that was
3 something that normally happens or if that was an
4 aberration.

5
6 But, you know, the reasons for the
7 weir, you know, haven't changed any. It's a much
8 better platform for obtaining ASL information than
9 trying to beach seine for kings there at the North
10 tower. You get better enumeration of what's in deeper
11 water and faster water. And it also gives us an
12 indication of what's going up into what would be
13 Federal waters.

14
15 Do you have any questions.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I have concerns,
18 I guess. Deahl talked about smaller king salmon than
19 in the past and I'm hoping you guys are doing scale
20 samples to look at these fish and aging them and seeing
21 if there's issues, fish coming earlier and later and so
22 on and so forth. You know, I am concerned in the
23 northern part of Norton Sound, people were still
24 hammering silver salmon out in the ocean into
25 September. And, you know, I question whether those
26 fish being caught that late in the season are fish that
27 are going to be a year older next year going into the
28 rivers. And, you know, granted we have late runs, I've
29 been up in Agiapuk River up by Imuruk Basin, this time
30 of year, and seeing chrome dog salmon. Thousands of
31 them. So there's late runs in some rivers but I've
32 never seen that in our rivers here on the northern side
33 of the Peninsula other than the Agiapuk River.

34
35 So anyway getting back to Unalakleet,
36 you know, I've been involved in taking your deal and I
37 know Fish and Game has taken samples, scale samples and
38 aged fish and so on and so forth, you know, Deahl
39 brought up smaller fish and his concern is very valid.
40 Fish and Game needs to take a look at why are we
41 getting smaller fish, is there something going on that
42 we can deal with or is it something that's out of our
43 control.

44
45 MR. CLARK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
46 Kevin Clark again. As far as the fish size, yes, we are
47 sampling fish. We are taking scales. Part of the
48 impetus, changing the weir spacing so that we didn't
49 have the build up of pinks in the trap to make
50

1 capturing king salmon easier than it is currently,
2 because basically at this point pinks would just flood
3 the trap and it's very hard to get them. So, you know,
4 that's one of the things that we're doing. And as far
5 as whether or -- you know, as far as the mechanisms for
6 the decrease in size of king salmon, it seems to be
7 happening on a regional scale, it's not necessarily
8 something that is indicative of just the Unalakleet
9 River. So I believe that whatever is the cause, if
10 there is a cause and effect that we could attribute,
11 that it would be much more of a regional thing than it
12 would be a river specific phenomenon.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, and, you know,
17 that's good and dandy, but you have a captive audience
18 in king salmon at that weir and you can get some
19 answers. So, you know, I guess what I'm fishing for is
20 you go to Shaktoolik, you don't have that weir, you
21 don't have that access to those fish, let's capitalize
22 on some of the things that you have at your access and
23 make sure we're trying to get the information that we
24 need to get with the tools that we have.
25

26 MS. BELL: Mr. Chair, this is Jenn
27 Bell. And you are correct, as is Kevin, that we have
28 all that information, and I can't say that we have
29 looked at it for size. We have just not looked at it
30 in this manner so I don't see why we can't and we could
31 have that information to you for the next meeting or
32 however it is that we would present that information.
33 But we have it, you know, for whenever we collected
34 scales, we have it for Unalakleet and probably
35 commercial harvest and I'm guessing (Indiscernible),
36 right, I know that's not Federal, but we do have --
37 whenever we have collected ASL data we collect, age,
38 six and sex, so it's just I don't think we've looked at
39 it in that resolution so it's a good idea and happy to
40 do it.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you, guys,
43 that's awesome.
44

45 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair, this is Kevin
46 Clark again. I just wanted to add one thing to what
47 Jenn just said. One of the projects that we were
48 supposed to have running this year that we were not
49 able to do was taking muscle punches from the king
50

1 salmon so that they could be shipped to a lab and then
2 analyzed for heat stressing hormones so that if the
3 king salmon were experiencing heat stress, that that
4 would be an indication of potential changes in the
5 river. But since that didn't go this year, I haven't
6 heard back from the project operator whether they were
7 going to try to do it again this year if we ran, but
8 that was one of the things we were also doing -- we
9 were going to try at the weir this year if it would
10 have ran.

11

12

Thank you.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Good. Well,
there's lots of tools in that box to get answers and
I'm glad you guys are thinking of different things,
stuff that we don't even think about.

So okay any other questions for these
guys.

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, Tom, this is
Leland.

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk.

MR. OYOUMICK: I have one question. I
was wondering if those people on the High Seas are
getting big fish, small fish, or what size fish they're
getting.

MR. CLARK: Yeah, through the Chair,
this is Kevin Clark again. The High Sea interceptions
that's a, you know, that's catching multiple fish from
multiple areas, I don't have any data or seen any data
that would indicate that different age classes are
changing as far as the High Sea interception just
simply because they are such a mixed stock fishery
because you're catching everything from Russia, from
here, from Southeast Canada, hatchery fish in
California so it's a really mixed bag of fish and I
don't know if NOAA has actually done that kind of work
to where they would genetically sample every fish and
then measure it or if they would have a big enough
sample size of any given run to have any significant
statistical power.

Thank you.

1 MR. KIRK: Kevin, this is Ron Kirk,
2 through the Chair. I'm looking at this -- at my
3 pamphlet here and it says projects funded since 2020
4 and it shows that -- it's saying that, if I'm reading
5 this correct, it's saying that you guys have funded the
6 Pikmiktalik River through Kawerak Incorporated, do we
7 have to contact Kawerak to get a weir in Pikmiktalik
8 River which I've been trying to ask for for a number of
9 years now and I see it's finally funded.

10
11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
12 members. This is Karen Hyer. That project has been
13 funded in the past. We had several years of weir
14 counts on the Pikmiktalik and I can send you those
15 reports that show the work that was done on the river.
16 That project is not currently funded, but we have had a
17 project there in the past.

18
19 MR. KIRK: You're saying it's not
20 funded for 2020 but according to this it says project
21 funded since 2020.

22
23 MS. HYER: Yes, the FRMP started in
24 2000 and so we have 20 years of projects on that list
25 that have been funded so I'm trying to scroll down to
26 that right now to see the actual year that it was
27 funded, but it is not currently funded in your region.

28
29 MR. KIRK: Are you guys going to make
30 any effort to try and fund -- get some funding so that
31 we can have an actual count of the kings and chums --
32 or chums and cohos going up our Pikmiktalik River here.
33 Because we had a tower there once and it never came
34 back up again.

35
36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
37 members. That is true and I'm seeing a date of 2006
38 for that project. I know we had an ongoing project --
39 yes, we funded it for several cycles I see here, it
40 started in the 2002 and we funded it through 2006 and
41 it was a counting tower and it was funded through our
42 program and currently it is not funded through our
43 program. Currently the weir is funded and then the
44 BELA Fish project, which they'll be talking about in a
45 minute. And if you want to revisit that while we talk
46 about the priority information needs that would be a
47 great time to revisit that.

48
49 MR. KIRK: Yes, I'd like to see the
50

1 funding come back to Kawerak to put a weir in our
2 Pikmiktalik River so that we can know the abundance of
3 our fish in our river.
4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, this is Karen
6 Deatherage, Mr. Kirk, through the Chair.
7

8 MR. KIRK: Who?
9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.
11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron, after we hear
13 from the project managers for the two currently funded
14 projects, we're going to go into the Fisheries Resource
15 Monitoring Program, and at that time we're going to
16 talk about some of what we call priority information
17 needs from this Council. So what does the Council see
18 in the region that they believe should be considered
19 for projects. And what happens is you develop those
20 needs and then those needs go out and people put in
21 projects to meet those needs if they choose, and then
22 they may or may not be funded. So as my co-worker,
23 Karen Hyer, stated, once we get to that discussion it
24 would be a great idea for you to bring up this river
25 system and your needs so that it could be one of the
26 priority information needs that goes on the list on
27 behalf of the Seward Peninsula Council. Does that make
28 sense, Ron?
29

30 MR. KIRK: Yeah, it makes sense. Yeah,
31 if we're going to discuss this again further on during
32 this meeting, yeah, I will bring up my concerns
33 about.....
34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be.....
36

37 MR. KIRK:the Pikmiktalik River.
38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: That would be great.
40 And we knew that you were going to do that so as Karen
41 Hyer explained we do have some information on previous
42 research that was done for that river so we're ready to
43 hear your concerns when those new priority information
44 needs are brought up.
45

46 Thank you, Mr. Kirk, through the Chair.
47

48 MR. KIRK: Okay, thank you.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So we heard
2 from one side of this process, there was another side,
3 what was that side?
4

5 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
6 members. This is Karen Hyer. I think Letty Hughes is
7 on line and she is going to present the work that is
8 funded in the BELA, through the Park Service. Letty,
9 are you there?
10

11 MS. HUGHES: Hello, I'm here.
12

13 MS. HYER: Okay. I'm going to give the
14 floor to Letty.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Welcome
17 Letty.
18

19 MS. HUGHES: Hello. So I will discuss
20 the FRMP BELA fish project that was funded. It was
21 scheduled to start this year in early fall of 2020,
22 then as a result of Covid, not being able to go into
23 communities like Shishmaref, work with them and a local
24 hire, we decided to push it back to start in late
25 summer or early fall of 2021, so that's the plan.
26

27 The long-term goal of this project and
28 this was a PIN in the past, so that's how this project
29 came about, was the Seward Peninsula RAC had put this
30 in as a PIN, and it's to create a baseline inventory of
31 subsistence fish assemblages in salmon genetic stock in
32 some of the major rivers that flow through Bering
33 LandBridge.
34

35 So this project will work with
36 Serpentine, Nuluk, Arctic and Niukluk Rivers at the
37 moment, and this is a collaborative project between
38 Bering LandBridge National Park and the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game. So it ends up being three
40 years of field work and the one year of write up so a
41 collection of four years.
42

43 And the three main goals to this,
44 because Bering LandBridge, not a lot of work has been
45 done in the Park when it comes to fish, and especially
46 in terms of as it was mentioned earlier this morning,
47 about concerns for climate change, to really understand
48 what fish species are going into the water. And
49 especially now with warming temperatures and warming
50

1 soils, it's definitely important to understand Pacific
2 Salmon and what we see. So the first main goal is to
3 document fish species assemblages and with definitely
4 emphasis on salmon species. The next one is we will
5 collect ASL, age, sex and length on salmon species
6 identified which we will also sample for genetics and
7 by sampling the genetics we can evaluate the genetic
8 variation within the salmon species, and potential for
9 mixed stock analysis so, you know, are they Chuckchi,
10 are they Bering, you know, where are they coming from.
11 So we can use that in context with other parts of fish
12 work that has taken -- of genetic salmon work that has
13 taken place around the Seward Peninsula.

14
15 So that -- those are the goals that
16 will provide us, at least, you know, not only a
17 baseline, but inventory, it can go in the direct
18 recorded in the anadromous water catalog, which is what
19 Fish and Game manages and it gives an idea too of going
20 forward for future projects as well, especially any
21 concerns with warming climate and water, what is this
22 affecting for fish species such as Dolly Varden,
23 grayling and additionally sheefish that folks in more
24 like Buckland are seeing in their waters, so those are,
25 you know, all of this is just unknown for the Preserve
26 and can all be used for future projects.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So the three goals
29 again are what?

30
31 MS. HUGHES: Sure. So the first one is
32 to document fish species assemblages with emphasis on
33 Pacific Salmon.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

36
37 MS. HUGHES: The second is to collect
38 age, sex and length on salmon species.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

41
42 MS. HUGHES: And then from those
43 samples also collected we'll evaluate the genetic
44 variation within those salmon species.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. And
47 then the rivers you're doing this in is Serpentine,
48 Nuluk and you had a couple of others?

49
50

1 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, the third one is the
2 Arctic. And the fourth one, maybe Lloyd or someone
3 else can pronounce this for me, but it's the
4 Nugnugtalik, N-U-G-N-U-G.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm not sure
7 where that is but okay. Anybody else have any
8 questions for Letty. Were you done Letty, I'm sorry, I
9 jumped in there.
10

11 MS. HUGHES: Yeah, no, I'm open for
12 questions.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
15 questions for Letty.
16

17 (No comments)
18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Letty you're
20 getting off easy.
21

22 MS. HUGHES: I know.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ah.
25

26 (Laughter)
27

28 MS. HUGHES: And I should mention, too,
29 you know, this project does involve bringing in a local
30 hire from Shishmaref, you know, during the field season
31 to help out. So that is hopefully by later summer,
32 2021, we're able to do all this, and so that's actually
33 really good in terms of being able to work with someone
34 and bringing them on to work with Fish and Game and
35 Park Service on this project.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Good deal.
38 And you're -- you know I was up the Nuluk River in
39 November one time and caught a 32 inch trout, so you're
40 going into some paradise, in kind of unchartered
41 waters, I think, so I wish you guys luck. I initially
42 -- you know, we're talking about this baseline
43 inventory and blah, blah, blah and I have been very
44 vocal in the past about we need studies down here in
45 our area and I realize you're Park and blah, blah, but,
46 you know, again, we have fish going into the Federal
47 lands up into the Bendeleben Mountains and this kind of
48 study is something that we need on our areas down here,
49 also, not only just because it's a Park and, "Federal"
50

1 lands. You know I keep hearing the argument you're
2 mainly State lands you're not going to get funded and
3 et cetera and this has been a 20 year fight forever,
4 and I feel like I'm just spinning my wheels, but, you
5 know, it's a need and it's justified and so on and so
6 forth.

7
8 So I wish you luck with this project.
9 You know this Covid thing really messed up everybody's
10 agenda and I hope it goes forward next summer.

11
12 Anybody else have any comments to
13 Letty.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Karen Hyer,
18 where are we in this presentation.

19
20 MS. HYER: Okay, I'm back. You're back
21 with me again Mr. Chairman and Council members. So for
22 the record my name is Karen Hyer. I'm a fish biologist
23 with OSM and I'm working with Hannah Voorhees, who is
24 an anthropologist with OSM. And I'm going to review
25 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program with you and
26 then Hannah is going to join our conversation and we're
27 going to talk about developing the 2022 priority
28 information needs. And first off the material I'm
29 discussing starts in your book on Page 54 and there are
30 a couple of things. I'm going to go over the whole
31 process because it's confusing and it's long and it
32 only happens every other year. But I want to clarify a
33 couple things before I begin.

34
35 Letty talked about the PIN and we call
36 the priority information needs, the PINS, we shortened
37 it. So when you hear somebody talking about the PINS,
38 they're actually talking about the priority information
39 needs and we develop those every two years when we
40 begin the process and that's where we are right now.

41
42 The other thing that gets really
43 confusing is within OSM we have a program and we call
44 it the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and
45 that's the part of OSM that actually administers this
46 money. So it's a part of OSM that helps accept the
47 grants, helps review the grants, helps send out the
48 money. And within that Program, we have the Fisheries
49 Resource Monitoring Plan, and the Fisheries Resource
50

1 Monitoring Program administers all the money to the
2 Plan and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan is
3 actually the group of projects that we administer every
4 two years. So I'm going to try not to use acronyms as
5 much as I can but I just wanted to clarify that because
6 it gets super confusing when we start talking about it.
7

8 So the very first thing I'd like to do
9 is review the whole entire process so you're
10 familiarized with the process and then you know where
11 we are in the process.
12

13 So every two years, the Office of
14 Subsistence Management announces an opportunity for
15 researchers to apply for funding for fisheries research
16 and management projects that address data gaps. This
17 announcement that we put out is called the Notice of
18 Funding Opportunity. And at OSM we always say the NOFO
19 but it's our notice that we put out that says we have X
20 number of dollars, please put proposals into us for
21 research. And any researchers that are interested in
22 submitting a project looks at that NOFO, or the
23 announcement that we put out and they look for these
24 priorities that we have developed through the Regional
25 Advisory Councils. And so we'll develop this list in a
26 few minutes. So anybody wanting to do research on the
27 Seward Peninsula will look at that list and say, okay,
28 this is what is important to our Council and this is
29 how the money is going to be spent in this region. So
30 if I'm interested in doing research in this region, I
31 need to do something that's in line with this list.
32 And that is how that works. And then we take your
33 list, and we take the list from Northwest Arctic and
34 North Slope and we combine those because there are
35 three RACs in the northern region and the northern
36 region goes out in the announcement as a whole. So
37 you'll be developing the list for your section of the
38 northern region and then we'll work with two other
39 Regional Advisory Councils to develop the final list.
40

41 And when everything is put together, we
42 call this list the 2022 priority information needs.
43 And the date is very important because the research
44 will not start until 2022. So we're starting a process
45 now to get proposals and those proposals will start
46 their research in 2022. So it's a ways out.
47

48 And so we make an announcement, people
49 submit proposals to us, we're expecting the
50

1 announcement to be made in November, we're expecting
2 our deadline to be in March sometime and so that will
3 give the investigators that period of time to submit
4 proposals. So those proposals will be sent to our
5 office and they'll be organized by our office. And
6 then once they're organized by our office the very
7 first thing they do is they go to a Technical Review
8 Committee. And this committee looks at the proposals
9 based on five criteria. And they look at the five
10 criteria; strategic priority and then that often is
11 driven by what's on the PIN list, because you're
12 telling us what's strategically important in your
13 region. And then, of course, the proposal has to have
14 a -- it has to be technically and scientifically sound,
15 and the investigators have to be able to do the
16 research. They have to have the -- so that's the next
17 two. And then the third component -- or excuse me, the
18 fourth component of these proposals have to have a
19 capacity building component. They have to engage with
20 local people and communities. And then the very last
21 part that they evaluate on is the cost effectiveness.
22 So the TRC looks at those five criteria and then they
23 give a score, or a rank to each proposal, and that's
24 one piece of information.

25
26 And then in 2021 during your winter
27 Council meeting, we will bring that list of proposals
28 out to you and we will solicit your input about the
29 proposal. So you'll be able to tell us which ones you
30 think are important and which ones you think aren't
31 important and what resources, how they're going to
32 affect the resources. And then we take all those
33 comments and we put them together for the Federal
34 Subsistence Board and then the Federal Subsistence
35 Board makes the recommendation on funding. And then
36 the projects are funded based on how much money OSM has
37 to fund those projects.

38
39 And that is the cycle in a whole, and
40 it's a two year cycle.

41
42 And if you go to Page 55 and 56 of your
43 book you'll see all the projects, there are 54 projects
44 there and those are the projects that have resulted
45 from this process.

46
47 So I'm going to stop right here and I'm
48 going to ask if there are any questions about the
49 process before we begin developing our priority
50

1 information needs.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, can you hear
6 me?

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm sorry, I'm
9 sitting here talking.....

10

11 MS. HYER: That's okay, I'm concerned,
12 I just wanted to make sure everybody can hear me.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm sitting here
15 talking away and my phone is muted.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I do have a
20 question.

21

22 MS. HYER: Absolutely.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And even though I
25 have heard the answer to this too many times but I'm
26 going to say it again. I have fish that are going into
27 Federal land, they go up river through Native lands,
28 Native Corporation lands, they go through State lands,
29 they go through Federal held lands that the State is
30 going to end up with, they actually go into Federal
31 lands, and they spawn in Federal land. I have asked
32 time and time again, let's spend some money and
33 understand what's going on with our fishery because
34 here we have a fishery that -- let's take silver salmon
35 for example. Our silver salmon have never "exploded"
36 because -- and I point fingers at certain things, like
37 commercial fishing or, you know, it could be seals in
38 the ocean or beluga whales or whatever, but we still
39 have a resource that's ending up in Federal lands and
40 your people are saying because that resource travels
41 mainly through State lands it's not eligible. And the
42 State turns around and says, that's not our priority,
43 we're not worried about that. So everybody's turning a
44 cold shoulder to our needs and nothing's being done.

45

46 So anyway, Fish River, I'm going to
47 throw out there, I would like silver salmon studied on
48 not only Fish River, Niukluk River, Bear Creek,
49 Kuchablok River, it's a whole drainage and, you know,

50

1 as time goes on, if you go back in history 40 years ago
2 the -- or let's say 100 years ago the big thing was dog
3 salmon, everybody had to have dog salmon, chum salmon
4 and the reason was -- the reason was dog teams,
5 nobody's hardly got dog teams anymore. Our -- my wife
6 wants pink salmon so we put away pink salmon, but we --
7 this day and age, silver salmon is our big priority.
8 And over the years, over generations, you know, the
9 priority has changed in the region. I mean you go to
10 Unalakleet king salmon is a huge, huge issue. Silver
11 salmon is a huge issue. Nobody wants to spend time to
12 look at silvers and king salmon in our region. I mean
13 Fish and Game went so far as to eliminate the
14 escapement goal for king salmon on Fish River so we
15 didn't have an obligation to do anything. Very
16 frustrating.

17
18 So, anyway, I know I'm stepping out of
19 bounds and I'm talking about an area you guys want to
20 spend money on but I'm throwing it out there again,
21 that we need to accommodate people in our region.
22 Those fish are coming from Federal waters and State
23 waters, they don't know who's land they're spawning on
24 or where they're going. So,

25
26 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

29
30 MS. HYER: I don't mean to talk over
31 you and it's a little bit hard here. But I do have a
32 comment, but I wanted to make sure you were done.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm done. Again,
35 I've said this same spiel for 20 years. So I can
36 already hear the answer coming.

37
38 MS. HYER: Okay, Mr. Chairman. There's
39 two things I'd like to happen here. The first I want
40 to -- because if there's no comments on the process,
41 I'd like to get into the priority information needs.
42 And first thing I'd like to do is just read you what we
43 can't do just so I have that on the record. And then
44 next I have three kind of quasi-bullets that I think
45 might be important from some of the documentation and I
46 also have heard some things today that I think will be
47 important that we should wrap into the discussion. And
48 then I guess I have three things, and finally I'm going
49 to need you to help me with those rivers because there
50

1 was a whole list of rivers and I wasn't writing fast
2 enough.
3

4 So if it's okay with you, what I'd like
5 to do, is I'd like to just read out what we can't fund
6 so everybody's on the same page. And then I'd like to
7 ask Hannah Voorhees to join me and then we can start
8 with the list I have for coho and we can just work back
9 up, I have a list for chum, too, and the Unalakleet and
10 chinook salmon are on the list, and I've heard about
11 the Pikmiktalik, and I've heard about some climate
12 change. So I think I'll just start at the bottom of my
13 notes and work up.
14

15 If that's okay with you.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, we have to
18 start somewhere.
19

20 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. So Mr.
21 Chairman and Council members. I just want to remind
22 everybody that there are specific areas which the
23 Federal Subsistence Board has said they will not fund.
24 And these areas include projects focused on habitat
25 protection, mitigation, restoration and enhancement,
26 hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement and
27 supplementation, and contaminant assessment evaluation
28 and monitoring. The Federal Subsistence Board has
29 decided that these kinds of projects are most
30 appropriately funded by the local land management,
31 organizations or regulatory organizations.
32

33 So that is the group of projects we
34 cannot fund. I have not heard anybody even mention
35 those in this conversation, but I just wanted to get
36 that out there for the record.
37

38 So I'd like to go to coho salmon first,
39 and, Hannah, if you're on line I'd like you to join in.
40

41 So we had a PIN in 2020 which we
42 brought forward to this RAC list because we didn't
43 receive any projects on coho salmon. And on this list
44 were the Paragon, the Boston, and the Wagonwheel
45 Rivers. So, Mr. Chairman, and Council members, let's
46 start there with our discussion. Are we still
47 interested in chinook salmon on those rivers. I heard
48 you give me a whole list of rivers and I'd like to take
49 those down. And I can go look at a map and make sure
50

1 that they end up in non-navigable waters of BLM lands
2 and then there would be a Federal nexus, so.....
3

4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So -- so let me
5 jump in here. The Paragon, Boston and Wagonwheel both
6 end up -- all three of them end up in the Bendeleben
7 Mountains, they're tributaries of Fish River, and Fish
8 River goes up, it empties out through Golovin Bay. The
9 -- you know I'm not sure what kind of numbers we have
10 on each one of them. Paragon doesn't have a whole lot
11 of king salmon, I mean there's some kings going there.
12 But silver salmon, there's silvers that definitely go
13 in there. Boston there's more silvers go into Boston.
14 Wagonwheel is the end of the river, that's the last
15 tributary on the Fish River, I mean that's the end of
16 Fish River. And I've seen silvers going up into that
17 river.
18

19 So just so you're up to snuff, I guess,
20 when you go by Golovin Bay, Golovin, in Golovin Bay
21 from the salt water to fresh water, brackish water, you
22 get to the river system there's let's say down by
23 Golovin is McKinley, a huge run of silvers go in there.
24 There's Kuchablok, when you get into going into Fish
25 River, a tributary Kuchablok River, there's a run of
26 silvers in there. There's Kaltalvik River, run of
27 silvers go in there. And then the river goes up past
28 White Mountain, past on up the river and there's a
29 tributary, Niukluk, a major run of -- probably a third
30 of the fish that come into Fish River are going up
31 Niukluk. Then as you go up Fish River you get to
32 Paragon, you get to Ichapuk, Boston, Wagonwheel, and
33 fish go into that. Now, where some of these fish are
34 ended up spawning inside of the Bendeleben Mountains,
35 they've put satellite tags on fish and tracked them and
36 they end up in Federal lands, and that's been my squawk
37 is there's justification to do something. Let's -- you
38 know, that inventory that's going on the north side of
39 the Seward Peninsula, that was a suggestion back, you
40 know, 10 years ago, do that down in my part of the
41 world and it just never happened. So, you know,
42 whether it's scientists don't want to take it up as a
43 project, or whatever it is, I haven't got a clue, but,
44 you know, the bottom line is we have subsistence users,
45 I don't care if you're the State or the Feds or whoever
46 you are, we're still subsistence users and you would
47 think through a process we would work together in this
48 game to take care of our users.
49
50

1 So, anyway, I recognize your Paragon,
2 Boston and Wagonwheel.
3

4 MS. HYER: Great. And so this is for
5 coho and then the PIN would read, coho salmon abundance
6 estimates for the Paragon, Boston and the Wagonwheel
7 Rivers, and my specific question to you, Mr. Chairman,
8 is that list complete. Because I've heard a lot of
9 rivers named, or would the Council.....
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So if you want me
12 to give you names of rivers within that -- that drain
13 out of the Fish River I'd be happy to give you names.
14 You know there's -- I have tried to get Fish and Game
15 to do a study on Bear Creek, it's all within Native
16 lands on a place called Bear Creek and it's a small,
17 probably 300 run bunch of fish, you know, three or 400
18 and it's all on private lands, we can walk to it, we
19 can -- I mean a perfect situation to study these fish,
20 Fish and Game was not interested and nobody's been
21 interested. You know, and you're going to tell me,
22 well, it's not Federal lands so we can't do anything,
23 well, it's still the subsistence user that needs to
24 benefit any of these studies and we've got to remember
25 where we're coming from and how we're working with our
26 clientele so to speak and there's got to be a way of
27 dealing with it.
28

29 Again, you know, I'd be happy to take
30 the time to give you names of rivers now or we can do
31 it later on, whatever you want to do.
32

33 MS. HYER: I definitely can work with
34 you later on so -- and this money is to assist Federal
35 -- on Federal lands and you did mention several rivers
36 that you said were connected to BLM lands, and so I
37 guess -- and I apologize, I'm just not familiar enough
38 with the area, but if the PIN had something like the
39 Paragon, Boston and Fish River, and Wagonwheel River
40 drainages, does that cover the area. Because a
41 drainage is more than just the river, it's the
42 tributary.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So if you said the
45 Fish River drainage, it would cover all these other
46 rivers. But I'm going to tell you the Niukluk River,
47 which a third of the silver salmon go up, the Niukluk
48 River, my Native Corporation, I'm the Chairman of
49 Native Corporation, we own part of that river and then
50

1 it goes into State lands, and all those fish are in
2 State lands, even though they're -- it's a tributary of
3 the Fish River that ends up in Federal lands.
4

5 Hello.
6

7 MS. HYER: Yes. Hi, I hear you, I'm
8 just thinking for a minute here.
9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I would suggest,
11 let's do this so we don't spin our wheels. I would
12 suggest that you and I talk on the phone when we get a
13 chance and you can hear what I have to say. You know I
14 grew up in this area, I am 65 years old and subsistence
15 is my life. So, you know, I have concerns that I think
16 every one of these Board members that sit at this
17 table, we all have the same concerns and we want
18 progress for our region, and, you know, it just hurts
19 me when I hear somebody get on from OSM saying, well,
20 we can go down to Unalakleet, we can go to Pikmiktalik,
21 but your region we can't because whatever the excuse
22 is. And, you know, we're after the same thing,
23 subsistence, subsistence and -- and anyway, let -- why
24 don't we -- so we're not taking every -- there's 20
25 some people here, let's get together on the phone later
26 on I think and go from there.
27

28 MS. HYER: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
29 sounds good. I do just want to make the point that
30 even if we list things as priority information needs,
31 we still need investigators to take them up. We have
32 no control over who submits what proposals. But if
33 it's not on the list it will not spur interest. So it
34 is important to have the priority information needs.
35

36 So that's coho.
37

38 So let me tell you.....
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So before we get
41 off this, let me ask this. Was this Paragon, Boston,
42 Wagonwheel on a list?
43

44 MS. HYER: Yes, it was on the 2020
45 priority information needs list. And so that's why
46 we're revisiting it because there was no projects
47 submitted it for it.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right.
50

1 MS. HYER: So we just wanted to make
2 sure it was still important and it sounds important to
3 me from our past discussions.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Right.
6 Well, again, it's important to me and, you know, this
7 area it's important to the users of this area.
8

9 MS. HYER: Okay.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, let's move on
12 then.
13

14 MS. HYER: So now chum. So this is
15 also on the 2020 list. And so we had the Agiapuk River
16 chum salmon abundance estimate.
17

18 (Phone interruption)
19

20 MS. HYER: I'm going to -- excuse me, I
21 have too many phones going here.
22

23 (Pause)
24

25 MS. HYER: Sorry about that. So I
26 wanted to share with you so we're sure we're talking
27 about the same river, it's A-G-I-A-P-U-K and I'm
28 pronouncing that Agiapuk.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Agiapuk River is up
31 in, out of Teller, it's a whole different river system
32 and that's Elmer's area. And I'm sure there's all kinds
33 of Federal land, I'm not positive, but I'm sure it's
34 Federal land. I have been there looking at the run that
35 you're talking about. This time of year you can go up
36 there and there'll be chrome silver chum salmon. It's
37 a late run of chum salmon that go into that river that
38 even -- I don't want to point fingers at anybody but
39 I've heard reputable organizations have disputed, no,
40 there's no late run of fish in there, that's bologna.
41 I've seen it. I've been there. And, you know, Elmer
42 will support that project. I support it.
43

44 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. So the
45 priority information needs in 2020 read, Agiapuk River
46 chum salmon abundance estimate for both summer and fall
47 runs. So it looks like it takes care of the fall run
48 that you were interested in. So we'll leave that on
49 the draft list too, if that sounds like it's important.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: That's super.
2 Elmer are you on, are you listening.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: I'm open here. I'm all
5 open.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I
8 guess we're talking about your area and, again, I
9 support it, I support that project, but the Agiapuk and
10 American River, that chum run that goes up there, you
11 know, we ask that it be studied a little bit and she's
12 wanting to know if we want to keep it on this priority
13 list.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
16 Mission. The Agiapuk run is pretty much both summer
17 and fall runs of chum salmon. I never did see chum
18 salmon go up the Agiapuk, I think they just go to
19 American River, I know that they go west from the
20 confluence of American Agiapuk and Igloo, so they're
21 continuing west from the confluence of those three
22 rivers.

23
24 American River is pretty much a route
25 for other fish that -- fresh waters -- as far as I
26 know.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And he brings up a
29 good point. Those -- the chums that I saw in October
30 are on the American River. And not -- I didn't see
31 them in the -- I was moose hunting at the time and I
32 did not see them in the Agiapuk, but you got to keep in
33 mind the Agiapuk is a tributary of the American River.
34 And -- or American River is a tributary of the Agiapuk,
35 I'm not sure. But a little ways above the mouth of the
36 Agiapuk, you know, within five miles, is, I came across
37 all these salmon, holy cow, and they're bright silver
38 in October. So, you know, that run needs to be studied
39 and talked about.

40
41 MS. HYER: All right.

42
43 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this
44 is Hannah Voorhees.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

47
48 MS. VOORHEES: I was just wondering,
49 Elmer, could you please repeat the three rivers that
50

1 you mentioned, the confluence of those three rivers
2 that you had noted earlier in relation to chum runs.
3

4 MR. SEETOT: Okay. The Agiapuk, the
5 water, it comes from -- like -- like Tom was saying,
6 from the confluence the Agiapuk flows west, that's
7 because I wasn't able to see any salmon on the north
8 side or the Agiapuk River. Agiapuk River goes west,
9 American River loops around and then there's the Igloo
10 Creek River from the east. So those three pretty much
11 meet at the same place but the Agiapuk River kind of
12 continues westward from the connections.
13

14 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you.
15

16 MS. HYER: So this is Karen Hyer, was
17 it Igloo River, is that what I heard?
18

19 MR. SEETOT: Yes. I-G-L-O-O, Igloo.
20

21 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. That will
22 help us kind of refine that back in the office. Okay,
23 so that's what I had for chum. So then we're up to
24 chinook salmon next, if we're ready to move on.
25

26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You got it.
27

28 MS. HYER: Okay. So we have the
29 Unalakleet River chinook salmon, that is a current
30 project, and it is set to send in 2021. And so it
31 would be up for renewal and funding if that's a
32 priority.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So you guys from
35 Unalakleet, you have any comment.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
40 push for it to be a priority because earlier in this
41 meeting we talked about smaller salmon, we need to
42 understand what's going on, you know, Deahl talked
43 about the kings being smaller. This resource is a big,
44 big -- Unalakleet has a long history of dealing with
45 smoked salmon and -- and using that resource for their
46 personal use. So it is major important to make sure,
47 you know, it's not put out to pasture, so to speak.
48

49 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. Great.
50

1 All right, then moving on to the.....
2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So before -- before
4 you get away from that, I need to plead with you to --
5 and let me explain what I'm thinking. The Boston River
6 add to salmon put in it years ago.
7

8 MS. HYER: Okay.
9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And there was a
11 return of kings that established over years. Well,
12 that bled off into the Niukluk River and kings started
13 going up in the Niukluk River and here we are, I don't
14 know how many, maybe 50 years later and there was an
15 escapement goal of 100 fish on the Boston.
16

17 MS. HYER: Okay.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And the Boston --
20 and the fish, again, they -- I'm sure a certain
21 percentage of them end up in Federal lands spawning way
22 up inside the mountains. The State of Alaska came in
23 and got rid of that 100 escapement goal so they now
24 have no obligation to this run of king salmon. King
25 salmon to Golovin, White Mountain, Council, all those
26 people, that's a prized fish, they are hot after it as
27 soon as the river -- as soon as the fish start hitting
28 the river everybody's after that king salmon. And
29 here, again, we have no escapement goal. But as far as
30 the resource, we've got three communities that are very
31 aggressive in chasing that resource.
32

33 So I don't know if we can get that put
34 back in the limelight again, you know, and I've brought
35 it up at this table, at this counter. I was very
36 frustrated in Fish and Game getting rid of that
37 escapement goal. You know, I was in a meeting where
38 they were reviewing escapement goals and I protected it
39 in the meeting and then the year I didn't make that
40 meeting with Fish and Game, boom, it was gone. And,
41 you know, it's still a resource that ends up in Federal
42 lands and is a resource that's sought after by
43 subsistence users.
44

45 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
46 Council members. I have a question about that for
47 you. So our first PIN was for coho salmon and it listed
48 the Paragon, the Boston, and the Wagonwheel and we were
49 going to add the Fish River drainage. Could that PIN
50

1 be chinook salmon and coho salmon or are we talking
2 about a completely new PIN that would be chinook salmon
3 on the Boston River.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I don't have any
6 problem combining it. The only concern that I would
7 have is if investigators came in and looked at it and
8 said I'd be happy to go study the cohos but I'm not
9 interested in the silvers and that not be touched
10 because of that. Then I would say we need to review
11 this down the road and if separating will get some
12 investigator to chase that, we could do that. And I
13 think just interest from people or investigators will
14 tell us the story of what we have to do down the road.
15 I don't have a problem adding that to it.
16

17 MS. HYER: Okay. All right, super.
18 And then we will just revisit it as we go on and see
19 what happens. All right. So, okay, so if we're done
20 there I'll move to Pikmiktalik.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Perfect.
23

24 MS. HYER: Okay. So let's talk about
25 the Pikmiktalik because that discussion -- we had that
26 discussion and Karen Deatherage has said it'd come up
27 before so I pulled out the reports that had been
28 published and one of the reasons that the Pikmiktalik
29 was discontinued was because they had done harvest
30 monitoring and there was not a lot of effort on the
31 river. And I'll let Hannah speak to that from the
32 anthropological point of view. But we can put a PIN on
33 this for a tower -- for chinook on the Pikmiktalik, but
34 you might want to start with a harvest monitoring first
35 to make sure that the use is there for the river and
36 this is just discussion, the RAC can let me know what
37 they feel is important, but I was going to let Hannah
38 weigh in a little bit here, and then I'm eager to hear
39 from the RAC.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good.
42

43 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Karen and Mr.
44 Chair and members of the Council. So in all these
45 cases, I think that projects that, you know, would have
46 to do with Federal management are -- those that are the
47 best candidates to be funded on the -- you know, the
48 TRC will look at applications and I do think that we
49 can establish PINS, but if projects are submitted and
50

1 it -- you know, there's very little Federal nexus they
2 may have less of a chance at being funded and that's
3 fine as long as you're just aware of that.
4

5 So documenting use, it is important, I
6 think, in terms of supporting the relevance of any
7 future projects and that could be a really great first
8 step. So, yeah, so possibly initiating harvest
9 monitoring on Pikmiktalik would be a good first step.
10 And I just -- yeah, I know that there's been a lot of
11 frustration with, you know, funds and attention not
12 being directed to certain areas that might have a
13 little bit of a checkerboard pattern of lands
14 management -- ownership and management, State versus
15 Federal but I just wanted to emphasis that, yeah, the
16 management relevance is a key issue here. Will this
17 research be able to inform management and specifically
18 Federal management in the future.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So Ron do you have
23 any comments, this is your part of the world and we're
24 here to help you out.
25

26 MR. KIRK: Through the Chair. Yeah,
27 this is Ron from Stebbins. I've been bringing up
28 Pikmiktalik River for a number of years to try to get a
29 monitoring system set up there. They had one before.
30 I'd like to have it reinstated to have a monitoring
31 system set up in Pikmiktalik River because that's where
32 we do a lot of our subsistence use. We have some
33 people that camp down there through the summer to
34 gather subsistence. So my concern is the chinook and
35 the silvers and the chums going up the river, I'd like
36 to have them counted. I'd like to have a weir down
37 there in Pikmiktalik River. According to your
38 statement here it should have been funded to 2020 but
39 the last time they did a count down there was, I
40 believe they said 2016, I'm not sure.
41

42 But if you guys can reestablish a fund
43 through Kawerak, Inc., that would be really good to
44 know what type of fish we have going up our Pikmiktalik
45 River.
46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any comment
50

1 or response.
2

3 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this
4 is Hannah Voorhees again. Ron, would you be open to
5 writing a PIN for the Píkmíktalik that, at least for
6 the first cycle, would document use of this system to
7 show that it's important and needs to be studied
8 further?
9

10 MR. KIRK: What was that again?
11

12 MS. VOORHEES: Hi, Ron. This is Hannah
13 Voorhees. I was just wondering if you'd be open to a
14 PIN that would, you know, at least initially for
15 restarting work on the Píkmíktalik, would focus on use,
16 documenting harvest and the importance of the system to
17 support future work. It might just improve the chances
18 of research being focused on Píkmíktalik in the future.
19

20 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm interested. What
21 are you talking about when you talk about a PIN?
22

23 MS. VOORHEES: By a PIN I mean a
24 priority information need. So it's just the wording,
25 so we have, you know, basically a PIN is an important
26 research topic that we would like to receive proposals
27 for. So I'm just talking about maybe using -- you
28 know, developing language that would invite some
29 harvest monitoring initially and then invite proposals
30 for that and then maybe in two years we could change
31 the language to do more enumeration as you've
32 suggested.
33

34 MR. KIRK: Okay. Yeah, I'll bring this
35 up to our local tribal council when they have a meeting
36 up there and I'll let them know that they need to draft
37 up a letter showing the importance of Píkmíktalik
38 River.
39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, this is Karen
41 Deatherage, through the Chair. Is there a deadline on
42 the priority information needs?
43

44 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
45 members. It's an action item so it has to be approved
46 today.
47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, that's what I
49 thought. So this is Karen again. Maybe we could help
50

1 Ron come up with what, in general, he's looking for for
2 the river, and then what I would recommend is if the
3 Council accepts that as one of its priority information
4 needs, Ron, you can have the tribal council work with
5 agencies or Kawerak or any other interested parties who
6 might want to put forth a proposal to actually conduct
7 that kind of research and -- but we need to get what
8 this Council's needs are on the record today and get
9 those needs approved, and, again, they're just needs,
10 they're not projects, but once you get these needs down
11 the hope is that it will inspire projects and invite
12 projects to do the kind of research you're looking for.
13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15

16 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
17 members. I just want to make a point for clarity. The
18 Pikmiktalik. One of the things they found out when
19 they did harvest monitoring on the Pikmiktalik was
20 there weren't a lot of people using it back then, or
21 enough to justify the project. If you did a harvest
22 monitoring study that would let you know how many
23 people are using it. If that's not of interest to Ron,
24 if he wants the PIN to read, chinook, chum and coho
25 salmon escapement project on the Pikmiktalik, we can do
26 that also. I just need to know what the Council needs,
27 what is important.
28

29 MR. KIRK: Yes, it is important. If
30 you can combine both of those, chinook and the chum
31 salmon escapement within Pikmiktalik River that would
32 be very helpful to our river because we're not sure of
33 what's going up into our rivers down there. We have
34 three rivers in our area.
35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)
38

39 MR. KIRK: If we had a tower in
40 Pikmiktalik, I'd like to have it put back up.
41

42 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman and
43 Council members. I would suggest then that the
44 chinook, chum and coho salmon for the Pikmiktalik
45 River.
46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Can you say that
2 again.

3 MS. HYER: I think somebody needs to
4 mute their phone I'm hearing a lot of background.
5

6 REPORTER: Right. So I'm only getting
7 like every third word, if everybody could mute their
8 phone unless they're the one speaking. So just check
9 your phones.
10

11 Thank you.
12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: The other issue, if
14 it's not a mute problem it's somebody's line.
15

16 REPORTER: All right, sounds good, go
17 ahead.
18

19 MS. HYER: All right. Mr. Chairman and
20 Council members. I would draft the PIN to say chinook,
21 chum and coho abundance estimates for the Pikmiktalik
22 River. Does that sound like it hits it?
23

24 MR. KIRK: That sounds like it hits it,
25 Mr. Chair. That is what I'm looking for, is the
26 abundance of chinook and coho going up the Pikmiktalik
27 River.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So with what you
30 just said, would that get the counting tower in place,
31 the PIN that you just talked about?
32

33 MS. HYER: Yes. The PIN I talked
34 about, then, if somebody wanted to submit a proposal
35 for a counting tower, the counting tower is essentially
36 an abundance estimate and that would lead to a project
37 like that. The reason we make these more general is,
38 instead of saying, a counting tower on the Pikmiktalik,
39 is because technology constantly changes and some
40 places need a tower, some places need a weir, some
41 places can use sonar, some places do mark/recapture so
42 we just simply say an abundance estimate and we let the
43 investigators tell us how they're going to get it.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: That sounds good.
46 You know I'm concerned that it sounds -- I've heard Ron
47 talk about this for quite a few years and it sounds
48 like this is one of the main arteries for fish for this
49 area, and, you know, in my eyes I think we need to pay
50

1 attention to it and keep track of what's going on down
2 there and maybe some day Fish and Game or some other
3 funding agency will take it on and make sure it's
4 funded. But until then, you know, it's still a life
5 line for people to get their subsistence needs filled,
6 and that's the critical part of this thing, is some
7 agencies really don't care about our subsistence needs.
8 And it's very frustrating to come to a meeting like
9 this and hear other agencies that kind of blow us off
10 when we talk about our needs.
11

12 So, anyway, I'm glad you're willing to
13 put this PIN together and make it part of our -- you
14 know, eventually we're going to make a motion and adopt
15 our priority information needs here.
16

17 MS. HYER: Yes. And what I'll do is --
18 I just have one more item to talk about that I heard
19 mentioned earlier and then I will read through the
20 whole list that I have and at that point, if the list
21 is complete, you can make a motion if you want to, add,
22 subtract or change it, we can do that before the
23 motion.
24

25 But the very last thing I was going to
26 bring up that I heard talked about in context of
27 climate change and so I heard climate change talked
28 about in the context of the salmon and on the
29 Unalakleet and then I also heard the Park Service talk
30 about Dolly Varden, grayling and sheefish and their
31 concern about changes in those populations in the
32 Seward Peninsula area. And I'm just wondering do you
33 want a general PIN -- some areas put general PINs in
34 that talk about changes in fish populations as they
35 relate to climate change and we can put specifically
36 chinook salmon, or specifically chinook, Dolly,
37 grayling, sheefish, it's whatever the Council wants.
38 But those are just some ideas.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody on the
41 Board have any thoughts.
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If nobody's going
46 to speak up we're going to lose an opportunity and let
47 me throw out my thoughts.
48

49 You know over the years, I think about
50

1 40 years ago, 50 years ago when I was catching fish in
2 the Nome area, the Dolly Vardens, holy cow, you could
3 stack them up -- it was like going crabbing, there was
4 lots of fish and back in the day there was lots of
5 crab, today, you know, we go out and we try and seine
6 Dolly Vardens to have for quowke in the wintertime, to
7 have frozen fish with seal oil, it's part of our Native
8 diet. I, Tom Gray, haven't seen trout for how many
9 years because Dolly Vardens haven't come like they did
10 20 years ago. In my area down here, it's a changing
11 world, we don't have Dollies like we had in the past.
12 The grayling, you know, different areas, the grayling
13 are hard to come by and some rivers, you know, like the
14 Nome River, for example, Fish and Game came to me and
15 said will you support transplanting grayling, I said
16 sure, go do a water study and see if there's problems
17 with the river. And nobody -- Fish and Game, I don't
18 know if they dropped the idea or what, but, you know,
19 you got to do your homework if you're going to do a
20 project like that.

21
22 So anyway, coming back to fish and this
23 idea, I support the idea that we need ongoing, you
24 know, ongoing interest in what's -- in digging --
25 finding out what's changing in our system.

26
27 One thing I am concerned about, I heard
28 sheefish in that area so it would be Kotzebue, and
29 believe me Kotzebue's got lots of Federal land and they
30 can justify it, and when it comes to sheefish I would
31 like to see them justify it themselves and request it
32 themselves. But, you know, they're going to get put on
33 a pedestal where we're not so much on a pedestal.

34
35 So, anyway, any time we can get
36 somebody to study our fishery or whatever we're dealing
37 with I encourage it.

38
39 Any other Board members have any
40 thoughts, or am I still connected with people.

41
42 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
43 Mission.

44
45 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Mr. Chair. I think to
46 include all three other species would be good and then
47 just study. Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shishmaref.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody else have
50

1 any comment.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Tom, this is Elmer Seetot,
4 Brevig Mission.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: Do I still got you, I've
9 been having problems with the phone.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, you got me,
12 go ahead.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Okay. I agree with you
15 earlier, Tom, you mentioned something about the fish
16 being born on Federal land under Bering LandBridge
17 National Preserve, you've got land north of Wales all
18 the way to the middle part of the Seward Peninsula. On
19 the south side you have White Mountain, Golovin, with
20 the Fish River along with some Federal lands on the
21 east -- on the west side, you have the protected Bay at
22 Port Clarence, you have the protected Bay of Grantley
23 Harbor, and then the Toksok Channel along with Imuruk
24 Basin, you do have the Kuzitrin River that does go into
25 the Bering LandBridge. On the north side, the
26 presenter mentioned those three rivers ending with
27 Arctic, those go into the Bering LandBridge. And I
28 heard what has said over the years that anything that
29 is outside of Federal jurisdiction that they won't
30 really study it.

31

32 The fish that are born in the Federal
33 Preserve, they have to go outside into waters outside
34 -- outside their streams and then anything can -- a lot
35 of things can happen to the small fish becoming into
36 adulthood at least anywhere from three to five years.
37 They had a big hula-hoop on False Pass River -- I mean
38 the salmon being taken from down there and we do have a
39 lot of Federal lands. Who does U.S. Fish and Wildlife
40 coordinate with. If we're going to study waters
41 outside the Bering LandBridge and then out into the
42 Federal waters, who do we -- who do we contact to study
43 the -- where the fish grow up, outside of -- I know
44 they have a lot of predators, including man, that takes
45 fish, many comments I heard was that the fish were
46 growing smaller.

47

48 This year our break up was fast and
49 slow, but then our fish didn't really come during the

50

1 regular timeframe, so they came in kind of scattered.
2 Someone mentioned something about late fishermen, late
3 fish coming into the fall season. Over the years that
4 I used to seine for chum salmon in the Agiapuk River, I
5 used to wonder why Teller residents used to stay up
6 there, they were waiting for the salmon after everybody
7 went out of the river system and that used to be in
8 late September -- late September at that time 20 years
9 ago was pretty much about the freezing time, about this
10 time of the year, or about that time of the year, now
11 days it's -- everything has been changing so rapidly,
12 Port Clarence, Grantley Harbor, Imuruk Basin are all
13 shallow spots for, you know, maybe a good nursery for
14 all kinds of fish and yet pretty much no studies have
15 been done that I know of or any agencies that are
16 collaborating together to put the information out to
17 the public.

18
19 That's what's really missing, is that
20 we have meetings like this year, that information is
21 recorded, yet it's not disbursed to your Federal
22 agencies and State and local agencies that would
23 benefit from what we're talking about.

24
25 And as far as I know, just like every
26 time we talk about issues it's just only for the
27 Federal lands or the Federal -- for the Regional
28 Advisory Council membership, I don't think that should
29 be in that way.

30
31 But as of right now everything is late
32 in coming to our area. I didn't even see no herring
33 this late -- this fall yet. I assume that they went up
34 towards Imuruk Basin and the Dolly Vardens, there
35 wasn't very much during the fall season, even the
36 whitefish. Something's happening out in the Bering
37 Sea, out in the ocean that is beyond our control, maybe
38 ships have ripped open their toxic chemicals, you know,
39 that led to the decline of fish in our area or just
40 shallow waters, shallow waters of the Bering Sea.

41
42 So that's something that I had to put
43 out in support of Tom's comment that fish born in the
44 Federal lands, they're not really studied or looked at
45 because they're outside the purview of the U.S. Fish
46 and Wildlife Service.

47
48 Pretty much my comments on this, Tom.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you, Elmer.
4 And, okay, so where are we at with you Karen.

5

6 MS. HYER: All right. Mr. Chairman and
7 Council members. I just want to read you what I have
8 and get your input.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. HYER: So I have changes in fish
14 populations as related to grayling, Dolly Varden and I
15 have a big X and I'm wondering about to put salmon in
16 there or do we have enough salmon and I'm wondering now
17 if you want me to read all the PINS to you; is that
18 where we are?

19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Can we hold
21 on for a second. I think, Elmer, can you mute your
22 phone. Elmer, can you mute your phone.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 Yeah, you made it a peaceful thing by
27 muting your phone.

28

29 Okay, Karen, go ahead.

30

31 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, would you like
32 me to read the list as it stands now to you and then
33 you can let me know if you think it's complete or you
34 want to add to it or take away from it and then when we
35 have a list that you're happy with I will need a
36 motion.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So everybody
39 needs to pay attention to what she's listing as needs
40 because this is our priority needs and if something's
41 missing we can add to it or if something's there that
42 shouldn't be there we can take it away.

43

44 So go ahead and list off what you got.

45

46 MS. HYER: Okay. So I have chinook and
47 coho salmon abundance estimates for the Paragon, the
48 Boston, the Fish River and the Wagonwheel River
49 drainages and I will wordsmith that later, but those

50

1 are the areas that we're interested in abundance
2 estimates in.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

5
6 MS. HYER: I have abundance in --
7 excuse me -- I have chum salmon estimates in the
8 Agiapuk River. And then.....
9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So let's -- let's
11 change that to the American River because those -- even
12 though it got listed as the Agiapuk River, those fish
13 are actually in the American River, maybe
14 American/Agiapuk. Because the ones that we were trying
15 to target was the late run of fish this time of year or
16 early October, there's a late run of fish that even the
17 powers to be didn't want to acknowledge it was there.
18

19 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I can
20 do that. And I also had the Igloo Creek in here too.
21 So I will capture that for you.
22

23 I do have a question. Right now the
24 PIN includes both summer chum and fall chum, would you
25 like to only include fall chum.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You know I'm going
28 to leave that up to Elmer, you know, it's his fishery
29 although I know a little bit about it I don't want to
30 get in trouble by trying to change what they want to do
31 up there.
32

33 Elmer, did you have any thoughts on
34 this, should we leave it summer and winter, or fall --
35 summer and fall, or just change it to fall.
36

37 MR. SEETOT: Summer and fall, but
38 someone was mentioning something about the late runs in
39 the season, I know that there are late runs that's why
40 I mentioned, people of Teller used to wait at Agiapuk
41 River for late runs of silvers so that was their main
42 target but I know that the ones that we seine, I think
43 are from the summer stock and that's pretty much end of
44 July to -- no, middle of August to end of August is
45 when we used to go seining from chum in the Agiapuk
46 River.
47

48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So Karen for your
49 purposes it'd be summer and fall.
50

1 MS. HYER: Okay, great. Thank you very
2 much. And then the third one I have are chinook salmon
3 on the Unalakleet -- abundance estimate of chinook
4 salmon on the Unalakleet River.

5
6 And then I have abundance estimate of
7 chinook, chum and coho on the Pikmiktalik River.

8
9 And then I have changes in fish
10 populations as related to climate change for grayling
11 and Dolly Varden.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, and I thought
14 I heard somebody say all three, you know, I was -- I
15 brought out sheefish is something that we really don't
16 see but I don't -- you know my thoughts are go chase
17 your own funding source, you're going to have an easier
18 time getting it, but, you know, if Lloyd wants to
19 include sheefish I don't have a problem including it.

20
21 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair,
22 Tom, this is Lloyd. We start seeing sheefish here in
23 our area that are probably migrating from the Kotzebue
24 side.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, so why don't we
27 include it then.

28
29 MS. HYER: All right, I can do that.
30 So then it would read changes in Dolly Varden, grayling
31 and sheefish populations as related to climate change.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Was there
34 any more?

35
36 MS. HYER: Nope, that's all I have.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Do you guys,
39 Board, do you have any additional things you want on
40 this priority list.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If there's no
45 additional things that need to go on the priority list
46 we need a motion to adopt that list.

47
48 (Pause)

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there a motion
2 to adopt this list.
3
4 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig
5 Mission I so move.....
6
7 MR. KIYUTELLUK: This is Lloyd, I make
8 a motion Tom.
9
10 MR. SEETOT:outlining the
11 projects.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I heard two
14 motions, Elmer did you make a motion?
15
16 MR. SEETOT: I -- yes to provide the
17 projects listed -- reported before the motion.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah. Okay. And
20 Lloyd, that.....
21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: So Elmer Seetot made
23 the motion, and who seconded?
24
25 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair,
26 this is Lloyd.....
27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
29 Karen Deatherage, could I.....
30
31 MR. KIYUTELLUK:I second the
32 motion.
33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE:find out who
35 seconded the motion.
36
37 REPORTER: Karen, Lloyd seconded the
38 motion.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Who seconded
41 the motion?
42
43 REPORTER: Lloyd did.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Can we have
46 a -- any other discussion. Anybody else want to beat
47 up on this issue some more.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Can I get a
2 roll call vote.
3
4 (Pause)
5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Karen Deatherage,
7 are you there?
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 This is Karen Deatherage. For a motion from the
11 Council to accept the priority information needs as
12 read by Karen Hyer on the record.
13
14 Lloyd Kiyutelluk.
15
16 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Yes.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lloyd, can you
19 pronounce your last name for me so I don't keep
20 embarrassing myself.
21
22 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Kiyutelluk.
23 Kiyutelluk.
24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kiyutelluk. Okay,
26 thank you very much.
27
28 Louis Green, Jr.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hey, you got it
35 right, Tom Gray.
36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's Gray, G-R-A-Y.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.
40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you, Tom.
46
47 Deahl Katchatag.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl, if your phone
2 is muted, could you unmute and vote on this, thank you.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: We'll come back to
7 him.
8
9 Leland Oyoumick.
10
11 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer, if your phone
18 is muted.....
19
20 MR. SEETOT: Yes.
21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE:please unmute.
23
24 MR. SEETOT: Yes.
25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right, great,
27 thank you, Elmer.
28
29 Ronald Kirk.
30
31 MR. KIRK: Yes.
32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.
34 I'll go back to Deahl Katchatag, Deahl, are you on the
35 line.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 That's a five to zero vote, the motion passes.
41
42 Thank you.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, both
45 of you Karens, this was a long process but we got
46 through it, eh.
47
48 MS. HYER: Yes, thank you very much,
49 Mr. Chairman and Council members for your input. It
50

1 was extremely helpful and that's all I have.
2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I am going
4 to take a 10 minute break because we're going to go
5 into agency reports and hopefully we blow through that
6 real quick and I can go check my beluga net.
7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Karen Deatherage. We also have to draft the annual
10 report. But generally what the Council decides is to
11 do that towards the end of the meeting after hearing
12 agency reports. But it is a new business item for this
13 meeting.
14

15 Thank you.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Okay, well,
18 let's take a few minutes and get a cup of coffee and
19 we'll come back at 2:00 o'clock.
20

21 (Off record)
22

23 (On record)
24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, let me
26 call us back to order and I -- we have identify issues
27 for annual report but maybe we'll go through the agency
28 reports first and then come back to that one.
29

30 So I am going to open it up to tribal
31 governments.
32

33 (No comments)
34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Nobody from tribal
36 governments, IRA, anybody want to talk about IRA
37 issues.
38

39 (No comments)
40

41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Native
42 organizations. Anybody from a corporation or elders
43 committee or anything.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, now we're
48 down to the Park, anybody from the Park want to talk
49 about anything.
50

1 MS. HUGHES: This is Letty with Bering
2 LandBridge.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hooray, we got
5 somebody willing to talk.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MS. HUGHES: For the record this Letty
10 Hughes, wildlife biologist with Bering LandBridge
11 National Preserve here in Nome.

12
13 So my report is fairly short. I
14 already talked about the fisheries project that will
15 take place in 2021. We did work and collaborate with
16 Fish and Game on moose surveys in 22D and E, and I'm
17 going to leave that for Bill to talk about when it
18 comes time for Fish and Game agency reports, and so --
19 but I did want to mention that we did participate in
20 that and so he'll talk further.

21
22 And we were scheduled to have the
23 Seward Peninsula brown bear survey, that was scheduled
24 for late May of 2020. And as with sounding like a
25 broken record, with Covid policies that came down, with
26 the pandemic coming into towns and also with Park
27 Service internal policies we did not do the brown bear
28 survey. It has been rescheduled for spring of 2021.
29 So that is the plan so we just moved it back a year.

30
31 And also on the docket is to work with
32 Fish and Game on the Seward Peninsula muskox abundance
33 survey, so that's also on the docket for this spring.
34 Actually starting in late winter.

35
36 And so those are the two projects that
37 are taking place right now from the Park Service side
38 of things.

39
40 Additionally, you know, muskox, we have
41 also -- we issued six Federal muskox permits, three up
42 in 22E, two in 22D Kuzitrin, and -- sorry, that would
43 make 8, and three up in 23 southwest Deering and
44 Buckland region. So, you know, what I like to do is go
45 out and go to communities to work one on one, have that
46 face time, and as a result of this pandemic and
47 internal policies and communities really wanting to,
48 you know, just have lockdowns, you know, I was not able
49 to do that. So I had to think outside of the box of

50

1 how to reach out to subsistence hunters so they could
2 put their name in the hat for a Federal subsistence
3 permit and I took names of folks who had applied last
4 year when I went out to the communities, to Shishmaref,
5 Wales, Deering, Buckland, and from previous folks who
6 had been awarded Park Service muskox permits, so I made
7 a lot of phone contacts by that way, reaching out to
8 IRA, tribal liaisons, if someone didn't have a working
9 phone number, I would reach out to the IRAs, you know,
10 to help me look for them so they could put their names
11 so there was a lot of leg work on our end to make this
12 work. And in the event that the pandemic prevents me
13 from going out to communities this summer in June and
14 early July, I'll probably use that same tactic because
15 it seemed to work pretty well. I was able to get folks
16 from Deering, Buckland, Shishmaref and Wales to all
17 apply. So right now that's probably what I'll do if
18 I'm not able to get out to the communities.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is that your
21 report?

22
23 MS. HUGHES: That's what I have for
24 now, yes.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
27 any questions or comments.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good,
32 thank you much. And we will go on down the list to
33 BLM. Is Tom still on line.

34
35 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, I'm.....

36
37 MS. BRAEM: Excuse me, Tom.

38
39 MR. SPARKS:still on the phone,
40 thank you, Acting Chair Gray.

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, this is
43 Karen Deatherage. I think the Tom she meant was Tom
44 Gray -- somebody is trying to interject, thank you.

45
46 MS. BRAEM: Excuse me, and I hate to
47 interrupt you Tom, either Tom, for that matter. This
48 is Nikki Braem with National Park Service.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, I'm sorry.
2
3 MS. BRAEM: And we had a presentation
4 as well.
5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Did I blow over
7 you.
8
9 MS. BRAEM: You kind of did but that's
10 okay.
11
12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, I am sorry.
13
14 MS. BRAEM: I don't really like talking
15 at meetings anyway.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, Nikki, you
18 have the floor.
19
20 MS. BRAEM: Okay. And let me just
21 confirm with our OSM Staff, you know, looking through
22 the packet, it doesn't look like there's a PDF with the
23 presentation slides so I'm just going to go ahead and
24 talk them through this, does that make the most sense?
25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I mean if we don't
27 have the right stuff, however you can do it.
28
29 MS. BRAEM: You have most of what you
30 need. This is going to start on Page 85 of the Council
31 book, that's the beginning of the documents relating to
32 what I'm going to talk about. So those of you who got
33 the meeting books already you can turn to Page 85.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I have
36 a digital thing on my phone and I'm not a very digital
37 person so I printed out some stuff and I don't see.....
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's called the
40 standard operating procedures for issuance of
41 subsistence eligibility permits and individual C&T.....
42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I got it.
44
45 MS. BRAEM: All right.
46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I have not
50

1 received a PowerPoint for that, these are the only
2 documents that I received.

3

4

5

6

7 MS. BRAEM: Okay. Well, good. So for
8 the record my name is Nikki Braem. I work here in Nome
9 at the Bering LandBridge National Preserve. And to
10 begin with, and I want to stress, this question of
11 subsistence eligibility permits and individual
12 customary and traditional use determinations, this
13 relates to National Park Monuments, and -- and NPS
14 Monuments and NPS Parks, it does not apply -- what
15 we're going to talk about here, to Preserves. And
16 Bering LandBridge is a Preserve, so the -- the land
17 that we talk about in our meetings, the Federal land,
18 National Park Service lands, is not subject to the
19 change -- to what we're going to talk about -- but it
20 was asked that the RACs be able to provide comment on
21 this.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So let's go from the beginning, unless
there are questions.

What I'm going to be talking about with
you today is -- is requested change in procedures for
individual customary and traditional use
determinations. This topic is complicated so our Staff
recently developed some ways to compare existing
process for these determinations as compared to what
we're proposing. So by way of introduction, again, it
is important to recognize that eligibility to engage in
subsistence activities in National Parks and National
Monuments in Alaska is different from that of National
Preserves like BELA and other types of Federal land.
So to be eligible in a Park or Monument, you have to
not only be a Federally-qualified subsistence user but
you also have to have your primary permanent home
located within a resident zone community, or, and this
is what we're getting to, have obtained a 13440
subsistence eligibility permit. Additionally, the
subsistence user must also have a customary and
traditional use determinations for the area and species
that they intend to hunt. Again, this is for National
Parks and Monuments.

So requests for individual customary
and traditional use determinations are rare. Less than
a dozen have been made to date. These determinations

1 only apply to National Park and Monuments.

2

3

4 During the last Federal wildlife
5 regulations call for proposals, one of these requests
6 was made by an individual who was seeking to hunt in
7 Denali following a long existing pattern of use.
8 Unfortunately this proposal was invalidated based on
9 erroneous information regarding the process. So the
10 situation then brought to light a need to provide a
11 clearer more streamlined process for responding to
12 these requests. And so the National Park Service has
13 developed a -- such a process for consideration by the
14 Federal Subsistence Board, and this is what I'm
15 speaking to you about.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

1 Again, requests for individual
2 customary and traditional use determinations have been
3 rare in the history of the Program, less than a dozen
4 requests have been made thus far and we have no reason
5 to believe that this will change. Given this rarity
6 and applicability to only NPS Parks and Monuments, NPS
7 feels the Program and its stakeholders may be better
8 served if the Agency's Regional Director is given
9 delegated authority to make individual customary and
10 traditional use determinations. So if the Board does
11 delegate this to the NPS Director, Regional Director,
12 it would alleviate the burden on the Office of
13 Subsistence Management and the Board, it would provide
14 a more substantive role for Subsistence Resource
15 Commissions, and it would allow these requests to be
16 acted upon outside the normal regulatory cycle, and
17 provide better mechanisms for documenting and archiving
18 these decisions.

19
20 So if the Board delegates this
21 authority, NPS intends to follow the procedures
22 outlined in your meeting material, in order that the
23 responsibility of all involved are clearly defined,
24 also to provide consistency and continuity across Park
25 Units, to streamline both the 13440 permit process and
26 the individual C&T process. These procedures are
27 consistent with Title VIII of ANILCA and with existing
28 regulation.

29
30 So I'm not going to walk you through
31 every step outlined in the SOP, it's a fairly lengthy
32 document. I will point out, however, that the eight
33 criteria that are used for evaluating individual C&T,
34 customary and traditional use determinations is the
35 same as those for community and area C&Ts. NPS would
36 continue to analyze these criteria in a manner
37 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board's policy.

38
39 So this delegation of authority on a
40 matter such as this is considered an administrative
41 action of the part of the Federal Subsistence Board.
42 Before approving this process, the Board has asked the
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to review the
44 proposed procedures and offer feedback, especially
45 given that the responsibility for making
46 recommendations on the individual C&T requests will
47 shift from the Regional Advisory Councils to the
48 Subsistence Resource Commissions. We believe that the
49 Commissions are perhaps best equipped to evaluate
50

1 patterns of subsistence use in their associated Parks
2 and Monuments, and each includes representation from
3 the associated Regional Advisory Councils.
4

5 So as a final note, to reiterate,
6 individual C&Ts are nothing new, they're just largely
7 unknown because they are rare and we are suggesting a
8 change in existing process, not the creation of a new
9 process.
10

11 So for you guys -- for the members
12 today, this is an action item.
13

14 We would appreciate feedback on the
15 processes and specifically request that your body vote
16 on whether to endorse this change.
17

18 I would be happy to try to answer any
19 questions you have. I have some regional staff on line
20 to help me out if you have a question that stumps me,
21 and hopefully they'll just chime in as well. We can
22 also report on the actions that other RACs and SRCs
23 have taken on this question to date.
24

25 And with that I'll stop for now pending
26 questions.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
29 any thoughts, questions.
30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
32 Deatherage with OSM. Through the Chair. The Council
33 did receive a copy in the mail after the meeting book
34 was sent of a chart that explains the differences
35 between what was and what is being proposed by the Park
36 Service with respect to these individual C&T permits.
37 So that might be helpful to you. I'm not also not
38 aware that this is an action item so I apologize,
39 Nikki, I'm just not sure whether the Council is
40 required to vote on this at this meeting, I wasn't
41 aware of that. So thank you for.....
42

43 MS. BRAEM: Okay, hold on.....
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE:any
46 clarification.
47

48 MS. BRAEM: I am really going from a
49 list of things that I needed to get through. So I
50

1 certainly would defer to what OSM considers the
2 process.
3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Nikki. I
5 just wasn't sure and it's kind of a complex issue so
6 I'm not sure if the Council would be in a position to
7 make those kinds of recommendations at this time.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So here's my
10 thought, number 1, I'm still -- you know I understand
11 that I have C&T and I can go to different areas and
12 hunt and we talked about C&T for some areas, like Elim,
13 or Unalakleet couldn't go to Shishmaref and hunt
14 because it wasn't part of their area, and, yet, Nome
15 could go hunt in that -- you know, some years I
16 remember us talking about that. Now, it looks to me
17 like this here is if Tom Gray wanted to apply to go to
18 the Denali Park, I can submit this and try and justify
19 going to some Federal land somewhere and either get
20 approved or disapproved. Is that what this is all
21 about? I'm at a little -- I'm not understanding what
22 this is.
23

24 MS. BRAEM: Fair enough. And this is
25 Nikki, for the notetaker. It'd have to be for existing
26 uses. So if -- if -- we'll just use your example since
27 you used yourself and I know you well enough to do
28 this. So, Tom, you do not have an existing pattern of
29 use for Denali, right.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right.
32

33 MS. BRAEM: I mean it's not something
34 you -- it's not a pattern of use on the part of you.
35 So you -- that's not what this is intended to address,
36 like everybody can just go all over anywhere now, it's
37 meant, in certain cases where people who do have an
38 established pattern of use for a Park or Monument,
39 again, this is not a place like Bering LandBridge
40 National Preserve, one -- and if one had an existing
41 pattern of use and lived in a resident zone community,
42 because remember you have to live in a resident zone
43 community to be eligible, but what if you moved out of
44 that resident zone community and you had a very long,
45 long, your whole life you had been hunting in this one
46 Park and you moved to a different rural community, you
47 know, this is -- that would be a way for you to
48 continue your existing pattern of use.
49
50

1 And so this application process, if you
2 look at, you know, the paperwork there, they're asking
3 fairly probing questions. So, you know, it's not like
4 they're going, oh, okay, yeah, you know, I mean they're
5 going to really try to understand if there truly is a
6 valid pattern of use.

7
8 And I might stop here and see if Josh
9 Ream has anything else to add in this regard.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So.....

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
14 Deatherage. I do want to clarify something. I was just
15 told that it is, indeed, an action item and so I would
16 encourage the Council to look at the chart that we
17 mailed, because it really makes the issue a little more
18 easy to understand about the proposed changes.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So one thing
23 that I'm trying to read between the lines here,
24 somebody moves out of an area and -- and we'll take
25 Denali Park for example, somebody has used that area
26 for years and now they moved down to Juneau, and they
27 want to go back there and hunt muskrats.....

28
29 MS. BRAEM: Nope. No.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:this -- this
32 application is going to decide whether or not they can
33 carry on their C&T even though they've moved out of
34 that region.

35
36 MS. BRAEM: It's a little more nuance
37 than that. Again, to be a Federally-qualified
38 subsistence user, you have to live in a subsistence
39 area, the -- the major urban areas of Alaska like
40 Anchorage, Juneau, and I might want the subsistence
41 Board folks to -- or the OSM folks to correct me if I'm
42 wrong about Juneau, but there are several non-
43 subsistence areas identified in the state and people
44 who live there are not Federally-qualified. They live
45 in non-subsistence areas. So it wouldn't open up the
46 door to an influx, and, again I'm happy to have OSM
47 interrupt me right now, of persons living in urban
48 areas to be able to go and hunt in places like Denali
49 where -- under the Federal regs, that is. I mean we're

50

1 talking about Federal regulations, eligibility to
2 participate in Federal hunts on Park -- in Park land
3 and Monument land.
4

5 Did I answer your question.
6

7 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat
8 Petrivelli. And I just wanted to make a minor
9 correction if I could.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
12

13 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. The Federal
14 Board doesn't have non-subsistence areas, they just
15 make rural and non-rural determinations. The State
16 makes the non-subsistence areas. But say for the
17 Denali area, if someone lived in Cantwell which is a
18 resident zone community of Denali, and they lived there
19 forever but then they moved to Nenana, in the Federal
20 Program, Nenana's a rural area. But Nenana, I don't
21 think is a resident zone community of Denali National
22 Park.
23

24 MS. BRAEM: Thank you, Pat.
25

26 MS. PETRIVELLI: So that would be the
27 issue.
28

29 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
30 Ream with the National Park Service at the Regional
31 Office.
32

33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
34

35 MR. REAM: Thank you. I'm the
36 Subsistence Program Manager statewide for the National
37 Park Service, and I just wanted to weigh in a little
38 bit. I think Nikki covered everything really well. A
39 couple of key points just maybe to reiterate or keep in
40 mind.
41

42 Is that in order to hunt or trap in a
43 National Park or Monument, you do have to be a
44 Federally-qualified user, so you can't live in any of
45 those non-rural areas. You have to either have, you
46 know, either live in a resident zone community, which
47 for Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern is the whole
48 NANA region, or if you've moved from there but you're
49 still a Federally-qualified resident, user, subsistence
50

1 user, you can apply for a permit but you have to have
2 shown an existing pattern of use of the Park for
3 hunting or trapping purposes. Either you acquired that
4 pattern before ANILCA was signed, or you acquired that
5 pattern of use by having lived in one of the resident
6 zone communities. So if somebody from the NANA region
7 moved to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, they could apply
8 for a permit to continue to go back to Kobuk Valley to
9 hunt and trap annually but whatever community they're
10 in in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta may not have a
11 customary and traditional use determination, and it may
12 not make sense for an entire community or that region
13 to have C&T in the Northwest Arctic, and so the
14 individual can apply for C&T instead of having to do it
15 as part of a community or an area. So it's simply
16 allows them to continue an existing pattern of use in a
17 Park or a Monument.

18
19 I just wanted to make sure that was
20 clear.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Before I
25 keep hammering, anybody else have any questions or
26 comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And I'm talking to
31 the Board of Directors, do you guys have any questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I had
36 -- so this proposal is basically trying to streamline
37 it so these determinations can happen faster because
38 it's not going to through a Board that has a certain
39 timeframe but it's going through a Director that can
40 address it almost immediately, is that what's going on
41 here?

42
43 Nikki, are you still with me?

44
45 MS. BRAEM: Yes, I was rushing to
46 unmute. Yeah, this is largely administrative. These
47 have been done but they -- because they're part of the
48 regulatory cycle you have to -- there has to be an
49 actual scheduled meeting of the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board in order for this to be acted on, and this is
2 largely about streamlining process rather than changing
3 what is done.
4

5 MR. REAM: And then, Mr. Chair, this is
6 Josh Ream. And I would just add one additional point
7 to that, another important change that is being
8 recommended is that the Subsistence Resource Commission
9 would be offering their recommendation on the
10 determination rather than the Regional Advisory
11 Council.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So there would be
16 somebody puts an application in, some agency, some
17 Board offers a recommendation to the Director, the
18 Director decides, okay, this is where we're going with
19 it, is that what I'm hearing?
20

21 MS. BRAEM: Yeah, and -- and -- for
22 example, thinking about one of the nearer Monuments,
23 not a Preserve remember, it's -- we're -- for example
24 Cape Krusenstern National Monument, up north by
25 Kotzebue, they have an SRC which, you know, more
26 acronyms, a Subsistence Resource Commission tasked to
27 the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, so if there was
28 an application from someone seeking to do subsistence
29 there, one of these permits for there, they would be --
30 it would go to that SRC that's associated with that
31 Monument.
32

33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Let me ask
34 this question. I know this was an issue in recent
35 years. Up in Kotzebue the Federal -- the big boys shut
36 down caribou hunting, and, quote, you had to be
37 traditional use and used that resource in that area to
38 be able to hunt caribou. And the whole, you know, the
39 world outside of Kotzebue kind of came unglued because
40 now they couldn't hunt on Federal lands. And, you
41 know, some of us didn't really care but what happened
42 was kids that grew up in that area and moved out of
43 that area, whether they moved to Anchorage or other
44 areas that have custom and traditional use, all of a
45 sudden they couldn't go home and go hunting. Is the
46 door going to get flooded by changing this around and
47 applications get flooding, is this going to impact
48 those people?
49
50

1 MS. BRAEM: No.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

4

5 MS. BRAEM: The short answer is no but
6 we could go into more depth. But keep in mind this
7 only can be -- this can only -- these kind of
8 applications are only for National Park Service lands
9 that are Monuments or Parks, and so hunting, for
10 example, Noatak National Preserve, Bering LandBridge
11 National Preserve, different story. But I don't want
12 to go too far into the weeds talking about those
13 things, does it answer your question.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, I don't want
16 to go into the weeds either but I don't want to bless a
17 program that's going to overwhelm and, you know, if Tom
18 Gray was raised in Kotzebue or I had C&T for certain
19 areas up there and I moved to another area and I say,
20 oh, I can just fill out a permit and now I can go back
21 home and go hunting, you know, and maybe I'm way out in
22 left field thinking this, I don't know. But I just
23 don't want the system abused. There's been so much --
24 you look at the hunting, I'm a hunting guide, and you
25 look at the hunting regulations and all the politics
26 involved in that, you know, Big Game guides have abused
27 and beat up on the system every time you turn around,
28 and I don't want to see that happen to our Federal
29 Program.

30

31 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
32 Ream. And just a quick response, if I may.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. REAM: I just wanted to point out
37 that individual customary and traditional use
38 determinations exist, and they've existed throughout
39 the history of the Federal Program. They're rarely
40 used. We're not trying to implement a new individual
41 customary and traditional use process, we're simply
42 changing -- hoping to change the one that is already in
43 existence.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay. So
48 nothing's -- basically nothing's going to change, it's
49 just going to streamline the process -- instead of two

50

1 years it might take six months, or three months or
2 something.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, do you guys,
9 Board of Directors, you guys have any comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm looking
14 for a motion to either support or not support this
15 idea. Is there a motion.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm going to bring
20 this out again, this is for you Board of Directors, and
21 I will let it die if there is no motion, I'm not going
22 to dwell on it. But I'm looking for a motion in
23 support, or not supporting, one or the other, this --
24 what they're proposing here.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Did I lose
29 everybody, can people hear me?

30
31 REPORTER: Yes, you're still on.

32
33 MR. KIYUTELLUK: We could hear you,
34 Tom, it's just that throwing it out to us and hearing
35 it on the phone, I think we need to see it on paper and
36 review it, to get a better understanding.

37
38 REPORTER: Who was that -- Lloyd, was
39 that you?

40
41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And I agree that
42 this is something that really should -- we should talk
43 about face to face and blah, blah, blah. You know I'm
44 not a big fan of this teleconference stuff. I told
45 Karen initially that it's bad enough to do this Zoom
46 stuff, but anyway you're right I think that it would be
47 better to understand this process, and not taking away
48 from Nikki or other folks, you know, this process is --
49 what we're trying to adopt, we'd like to have the best
50

1 -- I don't want to say -- maybe presentation or
2 something so we understand it better, so I'm going to
3 throw it out one more time and then I'm going to drop
4 it.

5
6 If there's no motion to adopt it or not
7 adopt it, I'm going to move on.

8
9 So by not making a motion, it'll
10 reflect that we're not -- we want more information or
11 something.

12
13 So again I'm looking for a motion to
14 adopt or not adopt, one or the other.

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
17 Karen Deatherage. You can also motion to take no
18 action.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. You heard
21 her, so.....

22
23 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
24 Ream.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 just wanted to point out that several of the other
30 Regional Advisory Councils and Resource Commissions,
31 they voted for the Board to defer this until a later
32 date, maybe their summer work session in 2021, to give
33 more time to study and understand it.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So you guys have
38 more options here. I'll give you a couple minutes to
39 decide what you want to do.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, this is Ron Kirk.
42 I think we need to study this more and get more
43 information on this issue before we make a motion to
44 either approve it or not approve it.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. You -- would
49 a motion be appropriate to defer it to a later meeting.

50

1 MR. KIYUTELLUK: This is Lloyd,
2 Shishmaref. I make that motion to defer and have
3 further discussion before we make any decision on this.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there a
6 second.
7
8 MR. KIRK: This is Ron Kirk, I second
9 that motion, that way we'll have more information on
10 this.
11
12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. And is there
13 any discussion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. KIRK: Question.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Can I get a
20 roll call vote, Karen.
21
22 (Pause)
23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello, Karen.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Did we lose Karen.
29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oops, sorry, just
31 trying to find that unmute button. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chair, this is Karen Deatherage. On the motion to
33 defer the decision on the C&T proposal from the
34 National Park Service for individual C&T.
35
36 Lloyd.
37
38 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Yes.
39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.
45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes. And I want to
47 make sure we understand that we're deferring it to a
48 later date.
49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: So noted, thank you,
2 Mr. Gray.
3
4 Deahl Katchatag.
5
6 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, I'd like to get
7 more information on it.
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr.
10 Katchatag.
11
12 Leland Oyoumick.
13
14 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.
15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.
17
18 MR. SEETOT: Yea.
19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that you Elmer.
21
22 MR. SEETOT: Yes it is.
23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you Elmer.
25
26 Ron Kirk.
27
28 MR. KIRK: Yes.
29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's a six to zero
31 vote to defer action on the C&T overview to a later
32 date, motion passes unanimously.
33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I'd like to
37 throw this out that you guys be prepared to bring this
38 to the next meeting or a meeting that we can all get
39 together at and be prepared to put it back on the table
40 and talk about it. And, you know, if we end up in a
41 teleconference again, I think some how we need to get
42 to our Board of Directors to educate us a little better
43 further out so we understand this thing. You know this
44 is the first time I've actually looked at this.
45
46 So anyway Nikki, sorry we put it off
47 and -- but you guys did a great job telling us about it
48 and there we go.
49
50

1 MS. BRAEM: Sounds good, thanks, Tom.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anything else from
4 the Park.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody else. I'm
9 sorry I blew by you a while ago, Nikki, but I didn't do
10 it intentionally.

11

12 Okay, BLM, Tom are you still with us.

13

14 MR. SPARKS: I sure am. Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my remarks rather brief.
16 I know you've got plans down the Coast on a nice day
17 like today here in Nome.

18

19 Just some new personnel things, BLM
20 hired a new Alaska statewide subsistence coordinator
21 down at our Alaska State Office, Chris McKee. He used
22 to be with OSM, some of you may know him, so we're very
23 pleased to have him on board.

24

25 We've got a lot of things available on
26 line. You know during this pandemic we've put a lot of
27 things on our website. One is there's a lot of
28 distance learning opportunities at the Campbell Creek
29 Science Center and our website, if you go www.blm.gov
30 you can reach almost everything. I usually tell people
31 just Google BLM but you sure get a lot of stuff these
32 days, so if you can spell Bureau you can put Bureau of
33 Land Management you can get quite a bit as well.

34

35 One of the things that may be of
36 interest. The Dingle Act that was passed year in 2019,
37 had a provision for an opportunity for Alaska Native
38 Veterans to apply for parcels where they have not
39 received an allotment previously. And we are in the
40 last stages of promulgating regulations. We did put
41 out some initial draft regulations, and we sent out
42 about 2,000 letters to potentially qualified Veterans.
43 And this is quite a bit different than the last
44 Veterans Act that was passed and what Congress was
45 trying to do was to make up for the fact that some of
46 our Veterans -- Native Veterans were overseas when the
47 Native Allotment Act was -- the opportunity to apply
48 was basically ended at the time of the Native Claims
49 Settlement Act passage, so this is a way to make amends

50

1 for those individuals that didn't hear of the
2 opportunities to apply for an allotment.
3

4 There is some specific things that's --
5 it's not where like the last time you had to supply
6 quite a bit of information to BLM, BLM's getting
7 information from BIA and from the Veterans
8 Administration directly. The lands that are available
9 are also very limited at this point. There's only a
10 big down in the Bristol Bay area. You don't have to
11 have prior existing use and that's a big change to the
12 last Allotment Act. So if any of you, you know, think
13 you may have qualified or got one of those letters and
14 need some help with available lands and so forth, I'd
15 really encourage you to go to the BLM website and feel
16 free to contact me in Nome for assistance with that.
17

18 We're still working on the last big
19 land use management plan called the Bering Sea Western
20 Interior Resource Management Plan, it's basically
21 Unalakleet south, although there are some lands further
22 north on the eastern side of the Nulato Hills. At this
23 point we're eventually going to release a final
24 environmental impact statement and proposed resource
25 management plan. We don't have a for sure date on that
26 yet, it's been tied up in reviews but once that
27 document is released it will start a 30 day public
28 protest period. And, again, you can find that
29 information on our website.
30

31 We've had a number of ongoing stream
32 gage efforts with an aquatic resource bunch outside of
33 the Interior, Big River, we also have done some things
34 in the Unalakleet River in the past and are hoping to
35 continue that effort. We have also collected data
36 along the Galena area and Unalakleet and we're
37 hopefully going to do that again next year.
38

39 This 2020 season it really just
40 basically shut us down with the pandemic.
41

42 Unalakleet was closed for most of the
43 season so we respected their wishes to try to keep the
44 spread of the virus down.
45

46 We also are going to try to look into
47 the char at the Kigeruk Mountains, there's an Arctic
48 char population that's pretty unique there and we did
49 some studies out of our Fairbanks office quite a number
50

1 of years ago and we're hoping to pick that up.

2
3 And we handed out about 50 Federal
4 moose permits down Unalakleet. We had a lot of help
5 from the locals there, again, with the pandemic, it was
6 kind of difficult. We're hoping to coordinate with Fish
7 and Game on that fall moose classification in Unit 22A,
8 I think basically we're offering funding in that
9 effort.

10
11 And we did hand out some muskox tags
12 here in Nome. I don't know if Brian Ublacker is on here
13 but he can give specifics if there's questions of that.
14 But I was pretty pleased, we had about the same number
15 of applicants that we've had the last number of years
16 even though we had the pandemic going on.

17
18 We have done some grazing work, too,
19 with the reindeer. We've got some monitoring that
20 we're continuing to do. We've been doing some transfer
21 of some of the permits to next generation, if you will.
22 And one grazing area we closed the case file just
23 basically to inaction.

24
25 We have still the -- what we call the
26 commercial guiding, I know, Mr. Gray, like you hold a
27 special recreation permit with BLM. Most of our
28 permittees were not very active this year but they
29 still had the right to engage in their business if they
30 were able to. About 80 percent capacity is what we're
31 seeing as far as people actually on the ground.
32 Reports aren't due until the end of the year, end of
33 this calendar year. We don't have any other guides that
34 have come forward for new permits at this time.

35
36 We still have some remnants of some
37 Federal mining interest out here on the Peninsula, but
38 very few, and we've been monitoring those. Most of the
39 monitoring that we do is outside of the Seward
40 Peninsula area, just for the amount of Federal claims
41 involved.

42
43 So quite a bit of information in a
44 short time period, but, again, I know the Chair has
45 some plans for this afternoon, but I'd be happy to
46 answer any questions that any of the Board members may
47 have.

48
49 Thank you, very much.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good, Tom.
2 Anybody have any questions for Tom.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there
7 anybody else with BLM that wanted to speak.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I guess Brian must
12 have went home or something. So okay if nobody else
13 with BLM wants to speak, thanks, Tom.
14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Somebody -- as
19 beautiful as that voice is could somebody please mute
20 their phone.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We had to
27 have some entertainment.
28
29 MR. KIRK: That was a comment.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: What's that.
34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: I like it. I like it
36 Ron.
37
38 MR. KIRK: That was a comment to BLM.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. If nobody
43 else from BLM wants to take up the soapbox I'm going to
44 move to Fish and Game and see if anybody's left out
45 there.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello, anybody out
50

1 there.
2

3 MR. CLARK: Hello, this is Kevin with
4 Fish and Game. I don't have any other reports to give
5 you. I've already gone over the Unalakleet weir and
6 what we were planning on doing there.
7

8 Is there any other questions you have,
9 any specific questions.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any of you
12 guys on the Board have any questions for Fish and Game,
13 the fisheries side, the crabbing side.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I think we beat up
18 the crabbing and some of the fishing. I do know that
19 our region had a tough time with silver salmon this
20 year and it was not a good run for silvers. You know,
21 not only chums and kings, but it seemed like all the
22 salmon got kind of hurt and beat up this year.
23

24 So anybody have any questions or
25 comments for Kevin.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, well, thank
30 you, Kevin. And I will -- is there anybody else from
31 Fish and Game on line.
32

33 MS. MIKOW: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Beth
34 Mikow, I'm with the Subsistence Division out of
35 Fairbanks. And I don't have a huge update. I just
36 wanted to let you all know that we have the yearly
37 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Monitoring Program harvest
38 survey and I just wanted to give you an update which is
39 probably unsurprising that during the time of Covid we
40 had to cancel the field season this last year. We were
41 going to work on the Seward Peninsula in Shishmaref and
42 had gotten approval to do that project but that was
43 right before Covid came down so of course we cancelled.
44

45 And I just wanted to let you know the
46 data that I would normally present, we haven't had a
47 chance to review that with communities, either. So
48 we're looking forward to being able to conduct field
49 work again and we're going to be working with
50

1 communities this spring to decide if it's, you know,
2 obviously currently it doesn't look like it will be a
3 good idea to go out so we're working on some remote
4 survey work and trying to work with local research
5 assistance, remotely, we're not sure exactly how the
6 field season will shape up.

7
8 But, yeah, just wanted to give you a
9 quick update on that.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Anybody
12 have any comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
17 Fish and Game folks on the phone.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Going, going, thank
22 you Fish and Game for talking.

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll see if -- Mr.
25 Chair, I'll see if I can get somebody from Fish and
26 Game to speak to the surveys that were done in 22D and
27 E from what I understand, the moose surveys.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Because I think it's
32 really important information for the Council to hear,
33 particularly given the proposals that you all
34 successfully proposed and got passed by the Board this
35 last cycle.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're going
40 to go on to OSM then and you can call Bill or somebody
41 and see if they are willing to come on line.

42
43 Okay. OSM. Who is going to talk to
44 us.

45
46 MR. LIND: That would be, Mr. Chair.
47 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
48 Subsistence Management.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. And are you
2 giving the OSM report.

3
4 MR. LIND: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. I'm
5 going to give the report and also a short brief
6 overview of the tribal engagement sessions.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. You got the
9 floor.

10
11 MR. LIND: Well, first of all, thank
12 you, Mr. Chair Council members.

13
14 The first thing I want to do is
15 actually give a huge thank you for your time that you
16 guys put into these Council meetings. It's been a
17 struggle and challenge for these RAC meetings to happen
18 this way and, you know, we're dealing with the Covid
19 environment. However, I think you guys did an
20 excellent job today by the way. We got through most of
21 the tough stuff.

22
23 And, you know, for informational, we're
24 going to do all these 10 Regional Advisory Council
25 meetings via teleconference. And, you know, it was --
26 it's our highest priority, the health and safety of
27 everyone, so a decision was made with the consideration
28 and concern for the health and safety of you Council
29 members, your families, and the public, and of course,
30 Staff, who are all part of the Council meetings. The
31 Regional Advisory Councils are the foundation of
32 Alaska's Federal Subsistence Management Program. And
33 we do recognize that the Native way is of course, face
34 to face Council meetings and we love to do that in
35 rural communities across Alaska and we prefer engaging
36 the public because it's the most effective that way.
37 And of course, the Federal Subsistence Management
38 Program is fully committed to resuming in person
39 Council meetings across our state of Alaska as soon as
40 it's possible to do so safely.

41
42 And just to give you an update on the
43 Staff changes, too, you know, since our last Council
44 meetings, our Staffing changes have occurred at OSM.

45
46 Tom Doolittle, the former acting
47 Assistant Regional Director and Deputy Assistant
48 Regional Director will retire this fall. But the
49 Program will be well served by our new ARD, Sue

50

1 Detwiler. She's also been in Alaska for a long time.

2

3 Greg Risdahl has moved over to the U.S.
4 Forest Service and will be the Forest Service
5 representative on the InterAgency Staff Committee.

6

7 Chris McKee, of course, you heard that
8 OSM's wildlife division lead took a position with the
9 Bureau of Land Management and will serve as their
10 InterAgency Staff Committee member for their office.

11

12 We are pretty grateful to have
13 experienced people on the ISC which is, again, the
14 InterAgency Staff Committee that will remain on the
15 Program as advisors to the Board members.

16

17 Suzanne Worker, one of the OSM's
18 wildlife biologist took another position with the U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Program
20 in Portland, Oregon.

21

22 Lisa Maas, one of our wildlife
23 biologists is currently acting as the OSM policy
24 coordinator.

25

26 Frank Harris, an OSM fishery biologist
27 transferred to the Kenai Fisheries Office of the U.S.
28 Fish and Wildlife Service and will be working on
29 Kuskokwim River fisheries projects.

30

31 Scott Ayers, another OSM fishery
32 biologist took a promotion position with the U.S. Fish
33 and Wildlife Service to work in the Wildlife and
34 Sportfish Restoration Program in Anchorage.

35

36 Our office has hired two new fisheries
37 biologists, Jared Stone, and Cory Graham.

38

39 OSM recently also hired Sherri Gould-
40 Fehrs to our clerk position and hired Dr. Brent Vickers
41 as the new supervisory anthropologist.

42

43 So lots of changes and I know some of
44 these folks, I think we're in really good hands. I'm
45 looking forward to working with them and especially
46 looking forward to getting back to the office to work
47 together.

48

49 Policy changes.

50

1 During the August work session, the
2 Federal Subsistence Board approved changes to the
3 closure policy and non-rural determination policy which
4 Councils were previously briefed on. The Board also
5 approved revisions to the special action section of the
6 tribal consultation implementation guidelines. Copies
7 of theses documents are available upon request as well
8 as on the OSM website. The changes are very small, it
9 gives us clarification on special actions on who would
10 be in charge of initiating consultation and most of the
11 time it's the person that's head of -- the land
12 managers or delegation of the in-season managers.
13

14 We also would like to remind folks
15 that, you know, over the few years -- past two years
16 we've been reminding Council members about the change
17 in requirements for IDs at airports. Originally the
18 due date was October 1, 2020, but that's changed now
19 and it's postponed until October 1st, 2021, so folks
20 have some chance to get their RealIDs. There's some
21 time to do it. And if we get over this, and we will,
22 just uncertain when, so when we get to travel,
23 hopefully all you Council members will have a RealID to
24 hop on an airplane.
25

26 The last thing I have is the lawsuit
27 from the State of Alaska. As you probably heard that
28 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal
29 Subsistence Board for issues including an Emergency
30 Special Action, WSA19-14, which addressed food security
31 concerns during the Covid19 pandemic for the village of
32 Kake via a community hunt allowed the harvest up two
33 antlered bull moose and five male Sitka blacktailed
34 deer. Also included in the lawsuit was a Temporary
35 Special Action WSA20-03, which closed Federal public
36 lands in Units 13A and B to non-Federally-qualified
37 moose and caribou hunters.
38

39 Based on legal guidance, our Program
40 Staff do not comment on any active litigation directed
41 against the Departments, Bureau or the Board.
42

43 With that said I'll just give a brief
44 overview of our tribal engagement session.
45

46 I am working, again, teleworking from
47 home and been in contact with a couple principals, one
48 in Bristol Bay and one in YK, trying to get some
49 students involved in the future meetings, we just
50

1 didn't have enough time to get these students involved
2 in this round, but hopefully the next round we'll have
3 some students calling in and working with their local
4 Regional Advisory Councils and getting involved and
5 maybe even coming up with some subsistence issues. So
6 working on that.

7
8 And with that, Mr. Chair, Council
9 members, again, it's really good to hear you on the
10 phone. I thank you very much for your time and I'll be
11 happy to answer any questions if you have any.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello, am I --
14 okay. I just signed back in so can anybody hear me?

15
16 MR. LIND: Yes, I can.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: We can hear you fine,
19 Tom.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I got dropped so
22 Orville are you -- did you finish up or are you still
23 talking.

24
25 MR. LIND: Yes, sir, I did finish up
26 and I'll be happy to go over anything you want me to.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, you
29 know, it's what the Board wants and anybody have any
30 questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, it sounds
35 like you did an awesome job if nobody's got questions.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Again, be safe out there, God bless you guys.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thank you.
43 Anybody else from OSM want to get on board.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Karen, did you get
48 anybody from Fish and Game to talk to us?

49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 No, I haven't been able to do that but Letty Hughes has
3 graciously offered from the Park Service to at least
4 give a quick overview of the survey that occurred, but
5 she would like to leave the details of that up to Fish
6 and Game since they're the ones who analyze all the
7 data. So if you'd like to hear from Letty Hughes with
8 the National Park Service then we could ask her if
9 she's available for that.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And, yeah, whatever
12 we need to do to get the information we need. Letty,
13 are you on line still?
14

15 MS. HUGHES: I'm on line.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anything
18 you're willing to throw out to us at this time.
19

20 MS. HUGHES: Yes. So through the Chair
21 and to the Council, so I will just make it brief since,
22 you know, the survey was completed. And like Karen
23 stated, I really do prefer to leave the bulk of this
24 for Unit 22 wildlife Staff to talk about. However,
25 they were able to complete, Park Service and Fish and
26 Game were able to complete a moose survey in 22D and E.
27

28 As you know weather was also very
29 tricky in this sense, so that was problematic. But for
30 most of it we were able to complete, definitely 22D and
31 most of 22E within a five day time span. The last time
32 that survey was done was 2014, just due to weather and
33 everything else, it kept getting delayed. And so it is
34 overall between 2014 and 2020, 22 the abundance for
35 moose up in 22D and 22E has remained relatively stable.
36 So that's a good thing. So, you know, recruitment,
37 percent of short yearlings, you know, has remained
38 relatively stable as well.
39

40 So that's it just in terms of just a
41 quick, you know, of the results without going into, you
42 know, further details where that's where the State can
43 talk about.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, at
46 least we have a moose population that is, you know, 22D
47 had me kind of concerned that we were going to fight a
48 battle that is going to be a tough one to beat, and if
49 it's stable now that's a good sign.
50

1 So, okay, well, we're getting close to
2 wrapping up this meeting, Karen, and I'm not so sure
3 that we're going to be able to get Bill or somebody in
4 here.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right. We'll keep
7 trying but in the meantime we have a couple of issues
8 that, Mr. Chair, if the Council would like to address.
9 The first one is to select your -- to confirm your
10 winter 2021 meeting dates and to select your fall 2021
11 meeting dates and location, keeping in mind that
12 depending on where we are with the Covid situation,
13 that we may, regrettably have teleconferences, but
14 let's hope that we can meet in person. I miss Nome,
15 and all of you. So, yes, you can go ahead and confirm
16 the dates if they still work for everybody for the
17 winter 2021 meeting, which is currently scheduled for
18 March 11th and March 12th in Nome. And then there are
19 no dates selected at this point for the fall meeting in
20 2021.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So anybody
25 have problems with March 11th and 12th.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: That's a date that
30 we picked out the last meeting. So, okay, I'm going to
31 fly with that. Now, in the fall we have August 15th
32 through November 6th open, and there's only one group
33 that has put their name on the fall list so you guys
34 are wide open on.....

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,
37 I hate to interrupt, but that's unfortunately not the
38 case. This book was printed before the cycle began
39 this session and so there are a number of Councils that
40 have already arranged for dates, but I've got all of
41 those so if folks want to throw out some dates I can
42 let you know whether or not those times are available.
43 I know the week of October 11th and the week of October
44 18th are possibly full. But other -- and maybe the
45 week of October 4th. So the week of October 26th looks
46 good if that would work for everybody.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So in my world I
49 don't get free up until October, I'm between fish

50

1 guiding and hunting guiding all through September, I
2 won't be around. And even, you know, October 26th at
3 this point is open to me, that week, but again, you
4 know, if -- it's not critical that I have to be there,
5 I mean I'd like to be in the meeting but anybody else
6 have conflict issues with times.

7
8 MR. KIYUTELLUK: I would go with that
9 October 26th with you, Tom, so that -- because we're
10 pretty much hunting towards the first part of October.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, I think
13 everybody's trying to put stuff away still.

14
15 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Yeah, so October 26th.

16
17 REPORTER: So who was that, I'm sorry,
18 Tina, I missed, who was just talking besides you Tom,
19 was it Lloyd.

20
21 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Oh, sorry, I keep
22 forgetting to say Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shishmaref.

23
24 REPORTER: That's what I thought, okay,
25 thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
28 have comment.

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: So right now we're
31 looking at October 26th and 27th for the Council
32 meeting in the fall of 2021.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes. Do you need a
35 motion?

36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, I don't need a
38 motion, I would like to just make sure that you guys
39 confirm location, would you still like to have that
40 meeting in Nome.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I heard Hawaii
43 hardly has any Covid.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm thinking Hawaii,
46 I'm good with that.

47
48 MR. REAM: Can we do Kona instead of
49 Honolulu, please.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: We'll make note of
4 that, thank you, Mr. Ream.
5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah. Anybody have
7 thoughts of where we're going to have the meeting.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, okay, Nome, how
12 about Nome.
13
14 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
15 Mission. Nome is our hub for pretty much the Seward
16 Peninsula region, so other places, whenever we in
17 certain communities, the community thinks that the
18 elected representatives, you know, will take up the
19 issues even though we do invite those members of the
20 community from a particular city or town that we hold
21 our meetings in, so Nome seems like a good place
22 because it is pretty much hub of the Seward Peninsula
23 as far as I'm concerned.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
26 have comment.
27
28 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk. I'm in favor of
29 having our meetings in Nome because it's more
30 convenient and we don't have to delay on whether to go
31 home or not waiting for a flight.
32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I think
34 we got direction, Karen.
35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 So the Council on the record has confirmed March 11th
38 and 12th, 2021 in Nome and has selected October 27th
39 and 28th in Nome for the fall 2021 meeting -- I'm sorry
40 26th and 27th.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I was thinking,
43 golly, she takes a whole day to travel here.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, okay, well, we
46 got it, October 26th through the 27th in Nome.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Or Kona, yeah.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: How are you doing
4 working on getting Bill to talk to us.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: I haven't been able to
7 send my email, I'm still working on it, I've been
8 trying to catch all these notes. What I might suggest,
9 if you recall, there's still two other items on the
10 agenda if you wanted to finish them up today and finish
11 the meeting today, that's up to you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I do want to finish
14 items up today and finish the meeting today. I have
15 this crab issue and where we're going to go, I have
16 that as an issue. And what was the other one?

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 The other issue was the draft of your annual report to
20 the Board.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, I got an
23 arrow pointing at that. So why don't we talk about
24 this annual report and Karen can get ahold of Bill.

25

26 MR. DUNKER: Hey, Tom, this is Bill
27 Dunker with Fish and Game.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Holy-moly we got
30 you on the phone.

31

32 MR. DUNKER: You betcha, yeah, I
33 apologize to everybody. I was looking at the agenda for
34 the day, I figured we would be doing agency reports
35 tomorrow but it looks like you guys made good time. So
36 I will round Sara up and we can certainly chat with you
37 here whenever you guys want to do agency reports.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, if you're
40 ready, we're ready.

41

42 MR. DUNKER: All right. I just sent
43 Sara a text so she'll be joining us here with some more
44 updates and things like that. But I got an impression
45 from Kevin that you guys had some questions about the
46 moose survey this past spring. Is that where you'd
47 like me to start?

48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah. And how

50

1 fortunate we are to kill all the wolves on the Seward
2 Peninsula and we're working on the bear population and
3 bringing the moose back in line and caribou and filling
4 our freezers, you know, we're subsistence users here.

5
6 MR. DUNKER: You betcha, absolutely.
7 Well, we've got some stuff prepared for an update here
8 and I'll get started with the moose survey. And it
9 sounds like, I think, Letty had mentioned it earlier
10 that we were successful in completing an abundance
11 survey in Unit 22E and 22D. For folks that maybe
12 aren't as familiar with that area as some of your other
13 areas on the Seward Peninsula, we do traditionally
14 survey those two areas collectively in an effort to
15 account for any movement that might occur between those
16 two subunits there. So it's something we've been doing
17 since about 2006. Because of that it does end up being
18 a very, very large survey effort that we undertake as
19 part of kind of regular schedule of retaking through
20 the three different survey areas within Unit 22. And
21 so I guess the biggest change for this last year was a
22 change in the methodology that we used. And it sounds
23 scarier than it is, I think, because at the end of the
24 day, you know, we were still flying the standard GSPE
25 boxes with pilot observer teams from fixed wing
26 aircraft. We've been evaluating some different options
27 for completing moose surveys in these sort of low
28 density populations that we find, both on the Seward
29 Peninsula and, of course, in the Kotzebue Sound area.
30 Since about 2017 we had our biometrician kind of
31 scratching his head wondering if there was a different
32 tool for the sampling design of the survey as well as
33 how it would be analyzed, that would allow us to
34 increase the efficiency, potentially reduce effort and
35 in the long run better enable us, and the Federal
36 cooperators that we work with regularly to complete
37 surveys on a regular basis.

38
39 So the name of the technique that we
40 employed this past spring is called adaptive cluster
41 sampling. And basically at the end of the day, unlike
42 a GSPE survey where we identify all of the survey units
43 that we intend to sample ahead of time, the adaptive
44 cluster sampling survey starts with a smaller initial
45 random sample, for instance, this past spring in 22D,
46 we started with an initial random sample of 115 survey
47 units, and then from that we continue to build upon the
48 overall sample by allowing the distribution of moose to
49 dictate where we fly next. So for instance, you know,
50

1 if we go into one of these survey areas and we start to
2 find moose and we have what's called a critical value
3 established for the survey, it determines whether or
4 not we then fly the neighboring units in a continuation
5 of that search effort. If we don't find any moose in
6 that area we don't continue to, you know, search the
7 neighboring areas, we move on to the next randomly
8 sample box. And so at the end of the day where we have
9 focused our efforts and where we have surveyed is
10 dictated in part based on the distribution of the moose
11 and where we're finding moose.
12

13 We came upon this technique and ran a
14 number of simulations to compare using old GSPE survey
15 data between the two different techniques and the
16 reason that we, you know, opted to incorporate this as
17 an option, as a tool for us to utilize was at the end
18 of all of those simulations this particular technique
19 was identified as a comparable means of estimating
20 moose abundance in our area, like the GSPE tool, is an
21 unbiased estimator of abundance.
22

23 Just like when we started to employ the
24 GSPE tool, you know, there was a learning curve
25 associated with that and we were continuously
26 developing the technique and its application here in
27 Western Alaska since we started using the technique
28 initially. And I fully expect the same to take place
29 with the ACS survey moving forward as a technique that
30 we can use for estimating abundance. But at least for
31 the first go around, some of the big takeaways from it
32 were that, you know, kind of in the worst case scenario
33 with moose distribution widely scattered, we
34 effectively need to put forth about an equal amount of
35 effort to what we would have done using the GSPE
36 technique to complete moose abundance surveys with the
37 ACS technique. If we are able to take advantage of
38 instances where we have years of heavy snowfall or
39 moose are congregated in greater numbers on the
40 landscape, they're more clustered, it's our
41 understanding or our belief that the ACS technique
42 would really shine and be an opportunity for us to, you
43 know, again, reduce the time needed to complete these
44 surveys, the amount of sampling that we need to do in
45 order to also estimate abundance within the different
46 survey areas across the Seward Peninsula.
47

48 I think that a lot of this would be
49 something that would be worthwhile going through in
50

1 greater detail, perhaps our next meeting, hopefully
2 we'll be in person at that point or in the near future,
3 and have an opportunity to show you some of the maps
4 and talk in greater detail about the techniques and I'd
5 be happy to do that if that's something that folks on
6 the RAC are interested in seeing.

7
8 And then I guess at the end of the day
9 everybody wants to know what the results were, right.

10
11 Effectively we found similar densities
12 of moose compared to what we did in 2014. I've got
13 some estimates here. So the overall estimate for Unit
14 22D was 1,254 moose; 22E was 662, and we had an overall
15 estimate for both areas combined of just shy of 2,000
16 moose. So all three of those estimates both the
17 overall estimate and estimates for each individual
18 unit.....

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Dunker,
21 this is Karen Deatherage, through the Chair. Could you
22 repeat those numbers, number 1, and could you clarify
23 that the survey in Unit 22D was for the full unit or
24 was there a separate survey done for Unit 22D
25 remainder.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. DUNKER: So the survey was designed
30 to estimate abundance within the entirety of 22D, but
31 we were able to, you know, obtain -- extrapolated
32 estimates based on the density for the different hunt
33 areas. The big takeaway from across the board was that
34 since 2014 we haven't documented any further declines
35 in the abundance, you know, and that was our suspicion
36 going into it based on the results of past spring
37 recruitment survey/minimum count survey that we
38 completed in 2018 when we observed, you know, nearly
39 85, 90 percent of the previous estimate in a very brief
40 survey effort looking at spring recruitment.

41
42 To recap the numbers overall, again,
43 for Unit 22D the estimate from the ACS survey was 1,254
44 moose. We did achieve our management objective with
45 the precision estimate on that one, it was plus or
46 minus 16 percent. For 22E the estimate was 662.
47 Unfortunately due to poor weather that hampered the
48 latter half of our survey effort, we didn't get an
49 opportunity to complete the intensive surveys in all of
50

1 the search units that were initially selected or
2 selected through random sampling and in the aftermath
3 of that we then started to come into, you know, dealing
4 with Covid19 and travel restrictions and things like
5 that which, so the combination of the two cut the
6 survey short in 22E, so we have an understanding of
7 what the abundance estimate is likely in the area but
8 we were unable to meet that management objective so our
9 precision is plus or minus 30 percent, which is
10 certainly not what we're shooting for, had we been able
11 to complete the survey in its entirety, we expected
12 that precision would have been reduced. But, again,
13 looking at the overall estimate for both 22D and 22E
14 combined we had an overall estimate of 1,998 moose, and
15 that estimate did meet the management objective, which,
16 again, sort of helps us in our understanding of what
17 the population of moose has likely been doing in the,
18 you know, six years since we were last able to complete
19 a survey in the area. And all of the measures, survey
20 results, you know, to date, seem to corroborate the
21 likelihood that that population of moose in both 22E
22 and 22D, independently and collectively have remained
23 relatively constant since the last survey in 2014.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So the 662, is that
26 what you actually saw or is that a formula that maybe
27 you saw half of that and through a program formula you
28 came up with 662 or how did we come to that number?
29

30 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, so the 662 is an
31 estimate, you know, just like previously when we were
32 using the GSPE tool there was calculations that were
33 completed based on the observed numbers of moose. And
34 so 662 is an estimate. I'm trying to -- I can't quite
35 recall what the minimum count, or the actual number of
36 animals observed was, but the 662 is an estimate.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So the other
39 question I have is because you couldn't finish up that
40 survey, is that area put on a priority to be
41 resurveyed, and the reason I ask this, Bill, is I know
42 there's a commercial hunt that goes on in that area,
43 and if the ANS of that area gets to a point where we
44 don't have enough animals in there that hunt shouldn't
45 be happening. You know if the numbers of animals are
46 there and it justifies that hunt, great, but I do know
47 that in the past subsistence users in Shishmaref had
48 problems with that particular hunt. And, you know, Tom
49 Gray has even thrown out the idea that I might go in
50

1 there and go guiding just to take the gravy money away
2 from these guides and drive them out of there, if they
3 can't make a living, you know, Tom Gray taking four
4 hunts and these other guides can't make it on the six
5 hunts they have or eight hunts they have maybe it'll
6 push them out of there and, you know, help the locals,
7 so to speak.
8

9 So, again, is there, you know, you guys
10 came up with this number, are you planning on
11 justifying it and not waiting for another four, five or
12 eight years to redo this thing. You know, I'm thinking
13 I'm sitting in Shishmaref thinking what's good for me
14 as a Shishmaref person.
15

16 MR. DUNKER: So, you know, this is one
17 piece of the puzzle that informs our understanding of
18 what the population is doing in that neck of the woods,
19 in 22E specifically. Based on what we were able to
20 complete, we know that we missed a good portion of a
21 large cluster of moose that is typically observed in
22 the Nuluk drainage. We were plagued throughout the
23 course of the survey with poor conditions, primarily in
24 that Nuluk drainage, it persistent low level clouds,
25 winds and we just weren't able to work in there. So I
26 would assume, and it's my understanding at least that,
27 you know, this estimate is likely an under estimate of
28 the population, I don't believe that it's an over
29 estimate of the population because we know for a fact
30 that, you know, we would have found more moose in that
31 large cluster in the Nuluk had we had the opportunity
32 to complete the survey work in that area.
33

34 The other part of the -- piece of the
35 puzzle that we have to look at is the bull/cow ratio.
36 We completed a composition survey throughout 22D and
37 22E this past fall in the lead up -- yeah, in the fall
38 before we completed this abundance survey. And I think
39 we started doing comp surveys in 22E for the first time
40 -- it might have been 200 -- I don't know, mid-teens,
41 mid-2000-teens was the first time we did a comp survey
42 in 22E and so last fall's effort would have been the
43 third instance in which we did it. The results of that
44 survey indicated that we are still meeting the
45 management objectives for the bull/cow ratio in that
46 area. I believe the estimate was somewhere right around
47 30 bulls per 100 cows, or just slightly over that. And
48 that would really be one of the key pieces of
49 information that we would rely on to determine whether
50

1 or not the harvest from that area was unsustainable, in
2 that, we're, you know, driving the bull/cow ratio down
3 and need to reduce harvest in an effort to restore that
4 to that management objective of at least 30 bulls per
5 100 cows.

6
7 So all of that stuff collectively is
8 what I'm basing my, you know, conclusion that things
9 have remained relatively stable in that area and, you
10 know, the overall level of harvest, at least at this
11 time, is sustainable moving forward. We'll certainly
12 continue to keep an eye on things and the next
13 opportunity to complete that overall survey would be in
14 about three years time, we'll be back in there for
15 another round of composition surveys and another
16 abundance survey. Certainly, if, in that timeframe,
17 you know, other information indicates that there is a
18 real concern or an issue that needs to be addressed,
19 you know, we'll work with Park Service and BLM to
20 identify all the other -- where 22E falls in terms of
21 overall S&I (ph) priorities. But, again, at this
22 point, you know, bull/cow ratio objectives are meeting
23 our objectives and we have every indication from our
24 population survey information that that area has
25 remained relatively stable since we were in there last
26 in 2014.

27
28 But we'll certainly keep an eye on it.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good.
31 Anybody -- did you have anything else you wanted to
32 talk on.

33
34 MR. DUNKER: I'm still -- yeah, here
35 she is now, yeah, let me just tough base with Sara real
36 quick.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 MR. DUNKER: I suppose, Tom, if you
41 guys are interested I would like to talk briefly about
42 our survey plans for this coming year and then Sara has
43 some updated harvest information that she was going to
44 share with you folks about the bear harvest from this
45 last year, muskox harvest and things like that. So I
46 know you guys are trying to wrap things up so I'm --
47 whatever you guys want to do.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You got the floor.

50

1 MR. DUNKER: Okay. So I guess for
2 starters you might have heard from Bruce already about
3 our plans for this fall. But, you know, the Federal
4 Subsistence Board has certainly, you know, indicated to
5 us that getting some more survey information from that
6 22A hunt area is a priority for them, you know, it was
7 coincidentally enough next on our list of things to do
8 and it's certainly a priority for us. So we're
9 currently in the process of coordinating with pilots to
10 go down and to complete fall composition surveys in as
11 much of 22A as we can swing.
12

13 The central portion would be our Number
14 1 priority in terms of areas to focus on as it would be
15 a continuation of a long-term data set for composition
16 in the area. And then if conditions allow and time and
17 money and everything else allows, we'll then focus in
18 the northern portion on completing composition surveys
19 in those areas. That would then be followed up with an
20 abundance survey this coming spring. Again, we'll be
21 working cooperatively with BLM and some folks from the
22 Fish and Wildlife Service.
23

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)
26

27 MR. DUNKER: An abundance survey in the
28 central portion there, and then as time and resources
29 allow, complete some trend count surveys in either the
30 southern and the northern portion, again, if we have
31 the opportunity to do it we would certainly like to
32 take the opportunity to learn some more about the
33 density of moose in either of those two areas as it
34 pertains to the Federal lands closures in that area.
35

36 So that's our plan.
37

38 And then we'll be completing that 22A
39 survey along with plans to conduct a range-wide Seward
40 Peninsula muskox abundance survey and composition
41 survey.
42

43 So those are the big projects that we
44 have coming up on the horizon as it pertains to the
45 survey and inventory programs for both moose and muskox
46 on the Seward Peninsula.
47

48 So I guess a quick recap of the RM840
49 registration moose hunt that took place this year.
50

1 This was the first year that we had some of the changes
2 that were adopted by the Board of Game this past fall
3 to be implemented in how that hunt's administered. The
4 biggest change was the limited availability of the
5 permits for that hunt. Those permits were only
6 available from July 25th through August 25th at
7 licensed vendors within the unit so some restrictions
8 were placed on the availability of those permits at the
9 request of some local folks who submitted a proposal in
10 an effort to achieve that.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 MR. DUNKER: In addition.....

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, there, I'm sorry
18 to interrupt you there, Bill, could somebody mute their
19 phone that has a lot of typing or clicking going on.
20 Appreciate it, this is important information we're
21 enjoying hearing it. Thank you, Bill.

22
23 MR. DUNKER: You bet. So the other big
24 change as many of you are probably aware was that the
25 RM840 hunt this year included the 22D remainder hunt
26 area, which was managed with a harvest quota in much
27 the same way that the other hunt areas within that
28 RM840 hunt have been for many years.

29
30 The overall harvest from the hunt in
31 its entirety, we took a grand total of 103 bulls from
32 the RM840 hunt area. We issued emergency order
33 closures for all four hunt areas within that area, 22D
34 remainder, 22D in the Kuzitrin drainage, 22C and 22B
35 west of the Darby Mountains. Those emergency order
36 closures were in an effort to prevent over harvest.
37 The breakdown by hunt area in terms of overall harvest,
38 we had 26 bulls harvested from 22B remainder; or 22B
39 west of the Darbys, same difference. So harvest from
40 22C was 29 bulls. The 22D Kuzitrin and southwest hunt
41 area had a total harvest of 32 bulls. And that 22D
42 remainder hunt area had an overall harvest of 16 bulls
43 of a quota of 17 for that area.

44
45 One thing to keep in mind would be that
46 we plan to administer the winter hunt in 22B west of
47 the Darby Mountains as we have annually for a number of
48 years now. And at this point those permits will be
49 made available at licensed vendors in White Mountain
50

1 and Golovin in early December with a harvest quota of
2 eight bulls and the hunt will take place January 1st
3 through January 31st.
4

5 We did see an increase in the overall
6 number of permits that we issued for the hunt. Total
7 permits issued this year was 519, which is above
8 average for RM840, but is likely to be a consequence of
9 the inclusion of that 22B -- or excuse me, 22D
10 remainder hunt area. You know, we kind of brought
11 hunters that traditionally hunt in that area into the
12 fold, so to speak, for RM840 so I would attribute a
13 portion of that to the inclusion of that hunt area.
14

15 Going forward, we'll certainly be
16 talking about how effective -- or what kind of an
17 effect the restriction on the availability of permits
18 has had on participation by hunters who -- Alaska
19 resident hunters who live outside of the hunt area.
20 This year had all of the issues related to Covid19 and
21 things like that, so it's a little bit early, we're
22 still rounding up hunt reports for RM840 and so it's a
23 little early to really dive into that stuff in detail
24 but as we get a couple more seasons under our belt
25 we'll have more information about what sort of an
26 effect that restriction has had on participation in the
27 hunt by different user groups.
28

29 Like I mentioned, we're still on the
30 hunt for about 100 permitholders that have yet to turn
31 in their harvest reports from that hunt there so if
32 you're one of them, please, shameless plug here, please
33 go ahead and turn that report in as soon as possible.
34 We'll be following up with hunters and contacting
35 individuals that have yet to turn in their report as
36 need be for the next several weeks here as we wrap that
37 hunt up.
38

39 I think I'm going to -- unless there's
40 any more questions about moose, I'll hand off to Sara
41 Germain, the assistant area biologist here in the Nome
42 office with an update on our brown bear harvest for
43 RY19 and some updates on muskox.
44

45 Does that work for you, Tom?
46

47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, you bet, yep,
48 I'm all ears now.
49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. DUNKER: Okay.

4

5 MS. GERMAIN: Hi, everybody. Yep, like
6 Bill said, I'm Sara. I'll just quickly start out with
7 summarizing last years regulatory 19, the brown bear
8 harvest summary and, yeah, then I'll talk about muskox.

9

10 But first, I guess, despite travel
11 restrictions and the State closure of the non-resident
12 bear hunting during the spring of regulatory year 20,
13 that was when all brown bear hunting was closed for
14 non-residents until June 1st. We still had pretty much
15 -- our overall bear harvest is near the long-term
16 average, so the long-term average being 99 bears
17 annually since 1998. The total brown bear harvest for
18 last year was 98 bears, with most of the harvest
19 occurring in 22A where 38 percent of the total Unit 22
20 harvest occurred and then in 22C where a third of the
21 overall harvest occurred. Persistent snow conditions
22 in 22C allowed individuals to harvest bears well into
23 the first several days of May and consequently we saw
24 another high spring harvest year for brown bears in 22C
25 where 26 bears were harvested in the area during the
26 spring months. And the five year average for spring
27 brown bear harvest in 22C is 17 bears.

28

29 So then moving on to muskox.

30

31 The regulatory 19 muskox harvest quota
32 was set at 33 bulls and that ends up being a 1.8
33 preharvest rate and a total of 21 bull muskox were
34 harvested via State permits, five bulls were harvested
35 on Federal permits and two were harvested as DLP or
36 Department removals and that ended up being a total
37 harvest of 28 bull muskox. So realized harvest rate
38 was 1.5 percent, and that's pretty consistent with the
39 five year average muskox harvest in Unit 22 of 27 bulls
40 annually.

41

42 So that's all I got if you guys have
43 any questions.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I sure
46 appreciate you guys stepping up and giving us the
47 updates. Any of you Board members have any questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So one thing that
2 kind of caught my ear was the surveys down in 22A and
3 Ron Kirk, there's going to be some surveys and flying,
4 you know, they opened up, I want to say guiding on
5 Federal lands or something down there, and, you know,
6 this -- doing a survey in that part of the world on
7 moose is going to impact you guys one way or the other
8 so.
9

10 Anybody have any questions or comments
11 for these two.
12

13 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
14 Mission.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead, Elmer.
17

18 MR. SEETOT: This is to Bill. You
19 mentioned something about plus surveying samp -- I mean
20 sampling survey, have you talked with local users about
21 location of animals during a particular season to have
22 you pinpoint where the animals are and, two, is that
23 predators are always on the move looking for animals to
24 eat and that might result in some of these animals
25 relocating to a different location other than where
26 they were counted. And I was just wondering, do you
27 talk with local users, you know, about particular
28 animal, you know, what they're seeing -- not the exact
29 same or to pinpoint where they would be, you know,
30 during -- during this time, like in October, I -- I
31 wouldn't be looking for animals -- I wouldn't be
32 looking for moose along the river system because from
33 what I know of what elders tell me is that the moose
34 will stay away from local rivers because of the freeze-
35 up, and any loud noise that results from the cracking
36 of ice that they will stay away far, far from the river
37 as possible until the river freezes solid. That's one
38 of the things that I heard over the years and so I'm
39 just kind of wondering if you did -- or do talk to
40 local users, you know, about a particular animal in a
41 certain season.
42

43 Thank you.
44

45 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, thanks Elmer. So I
46 guess -- well, I've had several conversations with
47 yourself and it's been really great as we've been
48 implementing the new permit hunt in that 22D remainder
49 hunt area, both during the course of, you know, the
50

1 fall and summer leading up to this years hunt, but also
2 in the development of the proposal and the regulatory
3 proposal with the Board of Game, you know, we've been
4 able to travel to Brevig Mission on at least a handful
5 of other occasions, specifically to talk with hunters
6 about moose. Those meetings have generally been, you
7 know, well attended and I know I've really appreciated
8 everybody's willingness to share, you know, their
9 observation, knowledge and understanding of their local
10 moose populations in the area. So we've certainly been
11 talking with local folks there in Brevig and it has
12 been very fruitful and informative.
13

14 And then, you know, in addition to that
15 one of the benefits of the registration permit hunt is
16 we expect to have better reporting compliance among
17 those folks that are successful in harvesting moose
18 from the 22D remainder hunt area which includes, you
19 know, hunters there in Brevig Mission. So, you know,
20 we gleaned a lot of information from those personal
21 discussions with hunters in the community. I will
22 continue to get, you know, quality information from
23 those hunt reports that are being turned into the
24 Department. And, you know, it helps us to identify
25 trends in the distribution of moose in terms of where
26 they're harvested and then those discussions certainly
27 have been useful for figuring out, you know, where
28 different groups of hunters find moose at different
29 times of the year, you know, that adds to our
30 understanding of the overall population.
31

32 So short answer, I guess, is yes and I
33 have to thank, you know, yourself, and the other
34 hunters in the community there for sharing that
35 knowledge so appreciate it.
36

37 MR. SEETOT: Thank you for the
38 response.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good.
41 Anybody else have any comments or questions.
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So before I let you
46 guys go I do have one comment and I'm not sure if it
47 was in the spring, I think it was. But there was a
48 time of year in 22B up in Fish River Flats when there
49 was a report of 17 or 18 moose killed and down,
50

1 somebody had gone up in the Flats and looked around and
2 it was before bear hunting or after -- it couldn't have
3 been bear kill and had to be, I would guess wolf kill.
4 Do you guys document these kind of episodes or, you
5 know, I would think it would have to be part of your
6 big picture as far as managing animals. And I don't
7 know if you guys even heard about, you know, all these
8 moose being showing up at a certain time of the year --
9 so, anyway, Bill, I'm kind of directing that to you.

10
11 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, thanks, Tom. So I
12 remember you had contacted me here at the office to let
13 me know that that had taken place and between myself
14 and the local wildlife Trooper we reached out to some
15 of the folks that either, you know, had heard about it
16 secondhand or observed them directly. We weren't able
17 to, you know, make any concrete conclusions based on
18 any of the information that we received. And when the
19 Trooper went trying to look for those carcasses we
20 weren't able to locate them from the air so we
21 unfortunately don't have much to share in the form of,
22 you know, some sort of final conclusions or outcomes on
23 exactly what took place. But, you know, certainly I
24 encourage anybody that observes things that are
25 concerning or out of the ordinary with any one of the
26 Staff here at the Nome office, you know, the hunters
27 that are traveling around the country, at all different
28 times of the year, those on the ground observations are
29 important for, you know, identifying trends and things
30 like that so we certainly take notice, unfortunately we
31 weren't able to, again, make any real strong
32 conclusions about what those mortalities were, what the
33 root cause of those mortalities was in this particular
34 instance.

35
36 But keep them coming and we'll
37 investigate them as we can.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. And, you
40 know, the reason I throw this out is basically if half
41 of what is allocated as harvestable surplus for Fish
42 River drainage, you know the -- and I don't doubt the
43 people that reported it, I mean it came from Golovin
44 people out hunting, and I don't doubt their word. But
45 through managing animals I would be very concerned that
46 you have that many animals being hammered at certain
47 time of the year when you're trying to manage a certain
48 number of animals. So anyway I'm not going to dwell on
49 it but I do know it was kind of alarming to us hunters
50

1 and, you know, the local people that, holy cow, look at
2 what's going on. And I don't know what we can do about
3 it but, you know, there needs to be something done and
4 it looked into and not just blown off as, oh, well,
5 that's part of the problem and we're going to live with
6 it.

7
8 So, anyway, I'm going to -- I'll drop
9 that.

10
11 Does anybody else have any comments or
12 concerns or anything for these two. They came out and
13 enlightened us so if not I sure thank you guys for
14 taking the time to keep us informed and good luck with
15 your surveys in the future.

16
17 MR. DUNKER: Very good, thank you, Tom.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I've got
20 a couple things left on our meeting. Identifying
21 issues for 2020 annual report and the crab, where do we
22 want to go with dealing with this crab issue in the
23 future.

24
25 And maybe we can bring up your annual
26 report thing first, issues for the annual report.
27 Karen, have you come up with anything through this
28 meeting that should be thrown out as issues for the
29 annual report.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Members of the Council. I haven't that weren't already
33 included in the last annual report which can be found
34 -- I'm trying to find it -- hold on just a minute and
35 I'll find what page it is on the meeting book materials
36 and what this is is just not your annual report from
37 last year, but it also has in it some of the responses
38 from the Board on the concerns that you shared. And,
39 so, again, it's not just the report itself, but it's
40 also the responses.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's on Page 57 of
45 your book. And the three issues that the Board --
46 actually that's what the report is about, but the
47 report that you actually submitted is on Page 59. And
48 you talked about climate induced impacts to subsistence
49 resources, which has also been discussed today. You
50

1 talked about.....
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello, did I lose
4 everybody?
5
6 REPORTER: Not everybody.
7
8 MR. KIYUTELLUK: No, I think she got
9 cut off.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh.
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Did I get cut off?
14
15 REPORTER: No, you're still there.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, okay.
18
19 REPORTER: We couldn't hear you.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, sorry guys. So
22 you had three issues on the last report.
23
24 Climate induced impacts to subsistence
25 resources, which were multi -- several impacts you
26 talked about.
27
28 Food contaminants, which you talked
29 about that were largely from the ocean.
30
31 And then you also brought up the Norton
32 Sound red king crab fishery. And while you didn't ask
33 for the Board's recommendations, you informed the Board
34 that you were, in fact, writing a letter to the North
35 Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding your
36 concerns.
37
38 So those were the issues that you had
39 in the last annual report.
40
41 And then some responses from the Board
42 to those concerns.
43
44 So I'm not sure if you have any new
45 concerns that you wish to add to the report at this
46 time, but this is your opportunity to do that. This
47 will be a draft of the report. You are encouraged to
48 put concerns at this meeting but you still have the
49 opportunity at the winter 2020 [sic] meeting to put
50

1 concerns in the report if something comes up.
2

3 So thank you for your time and let me
4 know if you have anything that you would like to be
5 considered.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
10 any concerns they want to put on the table.
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I'm going
15 to step out and I'm going to suggest we keep the king
16 crab issue on the table. And you know what is
17 concerning about it to me is -- is managing a resource
18 that we're getting -- we're getting one agency saying,
19 yep, this is the way it is, and we have other input
20 that says, no, that's different, and I'm thinking about
21 adult recruitment. You know, I'm thinking that in the
22 letter that we send out addressing the crab issue we
23 need to include things like we're speculating that
24 we're going to have crab at a legal size so let's go on
25 with the commercial crab fishery. Our speculation, our
26 best guess is we're going to have something that's of
27 legal size and let's go forward. You know, Tom Gray, I
28 owned reindeer, I managed animals before, I don't
29 speculate on my fawns that are going to be born, and go
30 sell them two years in advance. And to me -- and we
31 can get into this part of it, but, again, I just want
32 to keep the crab issue on the table.
33

34 Anybody else have any concerns or other
35 ideas they want to keep on the table.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hello.
40

41 (Laughter)
42

43 MR. KATCHATAG: What about the fish.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If you want fish on
46 the table I think we're talking.....
47

48 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, it should be
49 because of the low numbers of silver salmon and low
50

1 numbers of chum. And we don't know what -- how many
2 kings we have in the Unalakleet River.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So fish we
5 want to talk about fish, our low numbers and the
6 problem that we had with coming up with numbers because
7 of not counting.

8
9 Anything else we want on the table.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
12 Karen.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 I have low number of silver and chum this past season.
18 I'm wondering what is the recommendation for the
19 Council, what is it seeking from the Board with respect
20 to a response to that, or does it just want to share
21 that there's concern with those returns this year, are
22 there any specific things that this Council would like
23 the Board to address with this challenge?

24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So right off the
26 top of my head, you know, I think we should be talking
27 about let's take a conservative approach on this
28 fishery and use of that fishery and, you know, when I
29 say a conservative approach, I would say that be
30 careful about how we exploit or do commercial fishing
31 and, you know, for example, it amazes me, totally
32 amazes me that the fishermen in the region don't
33 recognize the fact that Unalakleet and Shaktoolik, and
34 I want to pick on Shaktoolik, they don't recognize that
35 Shaktoolik has such a good king run. And they don't
36 just come swarming down and set nets and go after that
37 fishery and exploit it. You know, again, I think the
38 message that comes out from the big Board is let's be
39 careful of our fishery and take a conservative
40 approach. I mean that's first and foremost.

41
42 Okay.

43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, I have that, Mr.
45 Chair. Thank you very much for that clarification.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So anybody else
48 have any comments on that, you know, I think our
49 fishery is something that everyone, every subsistence

50

1 user in the region, it touches every one of us. So,
2 you know, it's' something that we need to nourish and
3 protect. And Nome went through a whole process of
4 trying to bring back a fishery and they were in a Tier
5 II or some process where they had to hand pick who got
6 to go fishing and we definitely don't want to go back
7 there.

8
9 So other ideas. Anybody have any other
10 ideas or any other justification for the two ideas that
11 are thrown out.

12 MR. KATCHATAG: The thing I'm concerned
13 about is why are silvers and chum declines so much.
14 You know last year we had hundreds and thousands of
15 them, this year nothing compared to last year, the last
16 10 years at least.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Right.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can certainly add
21 that.....

22
23 MR. KATCHATAG: Could it be because of
24 global warming, where they're coming across to spawn
25 and there's some kind of -- something's coming out of
26 the permafrost affecting our fish. I know Elim posted
27 a whole bunch of young baby fish washed up on their
28 shores in the river. And that might be the problem
29 here, too.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, we can
32 somehow word that into the annual report.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: I will do that, Mr.
35 Chair. Thank you very much.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
38 have any other thoughts of things that need to go into
39 the annual report.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Do we need a
44 motion or anything before we walk away from this Karen.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. No, this
47 will be fine, this is a draft annual report. At your
48 winter 2021 meeting, that's when you'll need a motion
49 to approve the final report.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, perfect.

4 Okay, so we've got it started and we'll finalize that
5 in our next meeting.

6

7 So I have one more thing, this crab
8 fishery, and where we're going to go with it. I'm
9 going to leave it up to you guys. I thought we should
10 go into executive session and I understand we're on a
11 teleconference and blah, blah, blah, I don't mind
12 speaking out and giving direction the way I feel and I
13 don't really care who hears it but if some of you Board
14 members are concerned, we can ask that anybody that's
15 on line dismiss themselves and we finish up the
16 meeting.

17

18 Is there anybody concerned about being
19 able to speak out?

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
22 Karen Deatherage. Pat Petrivelli with the BIA is one
23 of our ISC members and quite knowledgeable on procedure
24 and process, and she would like to share a few things
25 about executive sessions for the Council meetings.

26

27 Pat, are you on board?

28

29 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes, I am. Thank you,
30 Karen, and thank you, Mr. Chair. While you were
31 talking I looked up the FACA allowances of executive
32 sessions and in the regs it says Advisory Committee
33 meetings may be closed or partially closed to the
34 public based upon provisions of the Government and the
35 Sunshine Act of 1976. Examples of meetings that may be
36 closed under FACA are:

37

38 Those including discussions of
39 classified information;

40

41 Reviews of proprietary data submitted
42 in support of Federal grant applications; and

43

44 Deliberations involving considerations
45 of personnel privacy.

46

47 And I don't think any of those issues
48 are what you're going to be discussing.

49

50

1 And I also felt maybe as Chair you
2 could just say, that the rest of us cannot speak and
3 just the Council members could speak and then the
4 meeting would essentially be closed to the Council
5 members. And then the information that you discuss
6 would become part of the administrative record, which
7 is what would be needed to support your position as you
8 go forward. Because the Council is here to provide a
9 forum for rural residents to express their concerns and
10 to identify areas where their subsistence uses are
11 being threatened. So we rely upon rural residents to
12 give us information because we know, as you're aware,
13 that data isn't always collected in a systematic and
14 useful fashion and the Regional Advisory Councils were
15 set up of knowledgeable subsistence users, could tell
16 the Board about their subsistence uses, so I think it's
17 very important that what you say is part of the record.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So thank you, Pat,
20 for looking into that. And, again, I -- you know, my
21 concern and my thoughts about going into an executive
22 session was so people could openly speak and not feel
23 intimidated by agencies or whoever and, you know, I'm
24 going to speak my mind no matter where I'm at, I really
25 don't -- it doesn't bother me and so be it. But with
26 what has been said, it sounds like we don't have the
27 option of going into executive session.

28
29 So I'm going to go ahead and open this
30 up.....

31
32 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Tom, this is
33 Leland.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

36
37 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Tom, I don't think
38 we should hide something like this, I think we got to
39 talk about it in front of everybody. Please don't do
40 that, we don't need to do that, please.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, and, again,
43 if you'd listen me out, legally we can't do it, Leland,
44 according to what Pat said we can't do it. So I don't
45 mind. I initially had thought about going into
46 executive session just so we could openly talk about
47 issues. Now, we can't take action in executive session
48 no matter what, so we would have to come out anyway,
49 irregardless, and any action be put on the table after
50

1 we're out.
2

3 So we can't go into executive session.
4

5 I'm going to go ahead and just open
6 this floor up, where do we want to go on this crab
7 issue from here forward. And I'm looking for ideas
8 from the Board of Directors. I'm going to ask that
9 anybody listening in not be part of the discussion,
10 and, Karen, you can keep us in track but the direction
11 I'm hoping to get is from the Board of Directors so we
12 can go forward with it.
13

14 Does anybody have any comments or ideas
15 of where we should go from here?
16

17 MR. OYOUNICK: Hey, Tom, this is
18 Leland. The only reason I'm not saying anything is I
19 don't know much about crabbing, I'm not a commercial
20 crabber. I could listen though.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Yep. So let
25 me kind of -- let me jump in here and talk a little bit
26 about my understanding of what we have going on.
27

28 This year there was powers to be that
29 shut down crabbing in Norton Sound because they felt
30 that the recruitment, or our biomass got so small it
31 couldn't even manage or take care of reproduction
32 themselves. I mean the females weren't getting
33 pregnant and the males were too small, and continuing
34 to not grow because they're trying to breed. And so
35 they don't -- they don't get rid of their shells and
36 they're not growing. So this whole biomass was in
37 chaos. In the meantime, in 2019, the crabbing fleet
38 went out and they tried to catch 150,000 pounds, they
39 could only catch 80,000 pounds. So there's no biomass
40 for them to go after and chase. The commercial winter
41 crab fishery, you know, I don't have numbers in my
42 head, but the commercial fishery did not transpire the
43 way it was supposed to. They couldn't shut down that
44 fishery, the -- the powers to be that tried to shut it
45 down couldn't shut down the winter fishery so the
46 winter fishery went on but there was only a handful of
47 crabbers that tried to do something.
48

49 I, myself, tried to subsistence and I
50

1 put three pots out or something. It was a disaster.
2 The resource wasn't there. And I tried setting pots in
3 the summertime and the resource, I didn't catch crab.
4

5 So the question now is the closure
6 sunsets, the crabbing commercial closure sunsets in
7 December, which means now they can go commercial
8 crabbing in February or whatever they -- they can have
9 a winter crabbery and they can have a summer crab and
10 they're back on line up and running. What I read
11 between the lines is the quota's going to be a little
12 over 200,000 pounds. It's actually more than the
13 150,000 pounds a year ago. So it's going to be 225 or
14 200-some thousand pounds and yet what I heard was the
15 crab -- the mature crabs, there was a quarter less
16 mature crabs. And they're speculating that in the
17 summer of 2021 there's going to be more mature crabs
18 but right now there isn't. And they're operating off
19 of speculation and that concerns me.
20

21 You know it would be one thing if they
22 looked at the numbers and said, yep, we have X number
23 of adult crab that we can sell, but they don't, they're
24 speculating, yet, we're going to have X amount of 4 and
25 3/4 crab, we think next summer, and by the way the
26 buyers only want 5 inch crab so now the numbers change
27 real fast and I think it's dangerous for us to open up
28 crabbing commercially until we have a good resource.
29

30 And I said this earlier, we have a
31 problem, this last year with the females not having
32 full clutches so they don't have enough eggs and enough
33 males to do a regular process, a recycling process.
34 Now, we heard from Jim that this year that the egg
35 clutches are full and we're going to have a better
36 reproduction. Well, those egg clutches are going to
37 come in 2021 in the springtime they breed.
38

39 And, so, anyway, in seven years, seven
40 or eight years when these crab finally reach maturity
41 and in that 5 inch crab shell, that salable shell, it's
42 going to take seven or eight years to reach that, we're
43 going to have another dimple in the process and we'll
44 be talking again doing the same thing.
45

46 So, you know, the big question is, and
47 what this Board needs to look at is what are our
48 subsistence users needs, and do we feel that the
49 resource, the crab resource is in a position to give it
50

1 to us and I honestly don't think we're in that
2 position. You know if I had my way I would make a
3 motion that we will review the crab statistics in
4 2021/2022 -- the winter of 2021/22 to recommend whether
5 or not to have a crab fishery in '22. You know I think
6 if they open up commercial crabbing, it's like not
7 letting that population heal and they're going to knock
8 it back down again. So I don't know if I've explained
9 what I think is going on well enough.

10
11 But, anyway, maybe somebody else on the
12 Board would like to take a shot at it.

13
14 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair.
15 Tom, Lloyd, Shishmaref. So from what I'm understanding
16 is from your experience, you know, trying to crab,
17 you're pushing to close subsistence and commercial
18 crabbing until the numbers are back up?

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Not subsistence. I
21 -- and you know I feel that our subsistence didn't put
22 us to the place that we're at. I feel that commercial
23 crabbing put us in the place we're at. And
24 subsistence, people will try and crab -- I tried to
25 crab last year and I bet I didn't get 60 crabs when I
26 usually get 200. You know it's -- I bet I didn't get
27 30 crabs. And it was a disaster. But I feel
28 subsistence should not be affected by this, it's the
29 commercial fishery that put us where we're at now. And
30 we need to deter that for a year or two.

31
32 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair.
33 This is Lloyd again, Shishmaref. So you want to close
34 commercial both winter and summer through a motion?

35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I do. That's what
37 I'm fishing for and, you know, some of the
38 justification is we heard lots of talk today from both
39 Fish and Game and Charlie Lean about where we are in
40 this trawl survey and their vision of what's going on,
41 but the heartache that I have is they want to fish next
42 year on speculation from the trawl this year, and I
43 don't believe in that.

44
45 MR. KIYUTELLUK: So this is Lloyd
46 again, you want me to make a motion now or wait for
47 more comments.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm good with you
50

1 making a motion that we propose to try and stop
2 commercial fishing and look at it in the winter of
3 '21/22 to see where we can go, or look at it in the
4 fall of '21 to see if we're ready to go forward.
5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
7 Karen.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Karen.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I just want to clarify for the Council that the Federal
13 Subsistence Board does not manage this fishery so if
14 you're going to make a motion like you've discussed, it
15 would be good to put in there who you want to send that
16 information to, whether it's the North Pacific
17 Fisheries Management Council, the Board of Fish, ADF&G,
18 or all of them.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So this is why we
21 have you sitting there to make sure we get it to the
22 right place.
23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Right. And you can do
25 it to all of those audiences, as well as carbon copy --
26 or just copy the Federal Subsistence Board to make them
27 aware of what your concerns are. But I definitely
28 would recommend putting in who you wish your audience
29 to be for these concerns.
30
31 Thank you.
32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. And the last
34 letter that went out went to the Federal Subsistence
35 Board?
36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: It went to the North
38 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.....
39
40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right, okay.
41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE:and a copy to the
43 Board.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay.
46
47 MR. SEETOT: Tom.
48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
50

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
2 Many times when these natural resources disappear we
3 kind of over -- what you call habitat, or the
4 environment, we -- U.S. has been in World Wars, we
5 don't know what the Russians have been dumping into the
6 water that probably leach our way and majority of the
7 time, oh, over harvest, sometimes we blame ourselves
8 for these, but what -- what -- I really haven't heard
9 over the years that I have been on the Federal Subs --
10 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council is habitat
11 and the environment on which these resources reside or
12 stay. For example, if my house was burning, would I be
13 just sitting here and getting burned to death, no, I
14 would move. These animals, these resources are pretty
15 much the same way, they go where the food is, they
16 depart when the water is too hot, they don't want to
17 die off, other circumstances come into play. Nome has
18 seen lots of gold mining in their area, what kind of
19 chemicals, what toxic chemicals are at the bottom of
20 the sea floor. That's one thing that is always
21 overlooked. And no State or Federal agency is willing
22 to take charge or be part of the talking of that
23 concerns that concerns the natural habitat where these
24 animals live, period.

25
26 Thank you, Tom.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
29 want to make a comment.

30
31 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, Tom.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

34
35 MR. KATCHATAG: This is Doug. You know
36 the ocean floor in the Bering Straits, especially here
37 in the Norton Sound is pretty much contaminated -- is
38 well contaminated. And when Obama was President he
39 sent up six scientists to Nome to find out why our sea
40 mammals were dying and they stated that our ocean
41 floor, the Bering Straits all the way south as far as
42 Mexico all the way to the North Slope, the ocean floor
43 is contaminated. And that's what we're dealing with,
44 with the fish right now. And they have nothing to eat
45 so what's the best solution is to move north. I'll bet
46 you if you pass Cape Krusenstern you'll find crab up
47 there. And also they over harvested, well over
48 harvested king crab when they first started. Then they
49 started making the numbers lower and lower and now what
50

1 we got, nothing. It's the same way with our fish. Our
2 salmon. They're going up river to what, permafrost
3 thawing, what's coming out of that permafrost thawing,
4 we don't know. And I've been trying to get people, the
5 scientists to get samples from the hills that are
6 falling in, and the river banks are falling in and the
7 water, what's in the water, do we know that, they won't
8 tell us. What's going out to the ocean from the river.
9 How that permafrost is thawing up could be killing our
10 fish, could be killing our bottom fish.

11
12 I know one moose that was caught this
13 past fall had a lot of bubbles inside its rig cage,
14 what's that caused by. I've never seen that before in
15 my life.

16
17 So we're dealing with a lot more than
18 just one source of bacteria or some darn thing that's
19 killing our fish, our land animals, our beaver and our
20 ocean. You got a lot of -- you got over a thousand
21 ships going by out there in the Bering Straits every
22 day and what are they dumping out there, you got
23 Japanese that have radiation fall out and across from
24 Siberia, you got a lot of radiation fall out, too, and
25 where is it going, it's coming up here. If you study
26 global warming, when did it start, it started in 1957
27 when the Russians, during the Cold War, they were
28 trying to see who could get into space first and the
29 Russians did, they sent Sputnik up. And there was an
30 old scientist, a really old scientist have stated,
31 Earth will experience warming every year, the
32 permafrost thaws and the glaciers thaw, so we're
33 dealing with a lot of stuff that we don't know nothing
34 about.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, thank
39 you. Is anybody else want to say anything about this
40 crab fishery.

41
42 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,
43 Stebbins.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead, Ron.

46
47 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm concerned about
48 our people in the region, subsistence-wise, crabbing.
49 We need to put a damper on these commercial fishing for
50

1 crabbing not only are we dealing with chemicals that
2 the boats are dumping in our ocean and the people
3 through the sewer system, we have to take into
4 consideration that every time we have a major
5 earthquake, the Earth shifts and once the Earth shifts
6 we have mercury coming out from the bottom of the ocean
7 and the land and our land mammals and our ocean bottom
8 feeders are eating the plants and the lichen from the
9 ocean which are contaminated with mercury and here
10 we're trying to live off of those for our subsistence
11 way of life. So -- and if we start -- if we keep up
12 this commercial fishing for crab opening with the red
13 king crab dwindling we're not going to be able to have
14 any king crab for our children's children's future use
15 because right now as it is we, on the Board, the
16 majority of -- a few of us are getting to the stage
17 where we're becoming elders and we're fighting for our
18 future, children's children's future and the State and
19 the Federal government need to understand that. It's
20 not only happening in Alaska, it's happening all over.
21 For instance, that wildfire in California killed off a
22 lot of cattle, they're going to be looking for new ways
23 to feed themselves out there, too. They're running
24 into the same problems we're having out here concerning
25 our ocean and our subsistence way of life with our
26 marine mammals and our fish getting infected from who
27 knows what.

28
29 So I'm not in favor of opening our area
30 for commercial fishing, I'm in favor of closing it and
31 leave it open for subsistence use.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good.
36 And, I, again, you know, I think all of us at the
37 Board, at the table, it would surprise me if anybody
38 wants to close subsistence crabbing. I don't think we
39 need to go there. I do think we need studies. You
40 know, Fish and Game or whoever's running this resource,
41 whoever's managing it should be doing some special
42 studies, is there contamination, look at it and is the
43 fish getting something different, you know, we're
44 living in a changing world and changing times and some
45 day it's going to pop up that we should have paid
46 attention, you know.

47
48 So is there any more on the commercial
49 -- on the crab issue. I'd like to get through this
50

1 one, if we're going to make a motion to send a letter
2 to some agency saying slow down on opening up
3 commercial crabbing and let's build this commercial
4 crab fishery on solid numbers, not numbers that we're
5 speculating on, you know, I think that's what I'm
6 looking for.

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10
11 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, one more comment.
12 If we're sending out letters to all these agencies
13 concerning closing of commercial crab fishing, red king
14 crab in Norton Sound, we need to include NSEDC on the
15 letters, make them aware of what we're trying to do.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So just for
20 everybody's information, I called NSEDC and asked them
21 if they wanted to comment on what's going on and I was
22 told that their process, they're going through an
23 evaluation process, they're looking at trawl surveys
24 and the market and on and on and on, their process in
25 the past has been they buy 5 inch crab, they don't buy
26 4 and 3/4 crab, the majority of what's going to be
27 available next summer is 4 and 3/4 crab, it's not going
28 to be 5 inch crab. So it would really surprise me if
29 NSEDC goes out on a limb and says, yep, we're going to
30 buy crab, I don't think that's happening, I don't think
31 it's going to happen and I would venture to say that
32 they would side with us in this process.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
35 Karen Deatherage. I can certainly recommend that you
36 include them as a copy on the letter to alert them to
37 the fact that you are sending this to the agencies that
38 can make the decisions.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Yep. And I
41 think that's fair. But, again, I think they're on our
42 side and in the last year when this thing came to a
43 head it was NSEDC was the first one to say we're not
44 supportive of the crab fishery. They shut down buying
45 crab. They were one of the very first ones. So, you
46 know, I think they recognize that it's going to be a
47 couple years before this fishery is viable again.

48
49 So anybody have any more comments.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And I guess.....

4

5 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Tom, this is
6 Leland.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

9

10 MR. OYOUMICK: I was just wondering if
11 those crabs are similar to something like the rabbits,
12 you know, when the rabbits move around they -- they're
13 not here when they move around, I'm kind of wondering
14 if the crabs are the same way. I mean I just thought of
15 it, just a question.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And, you know, we
20 listened to Charlie Lean, we listened to Jim, Jim talks
21 about past crab fisheries, I have a chart that Fish and
22 Game put out how back in the '70s they were crabbing --
23 they were catching three million crab almost one year,
24 and three million pounds, and so that resource has been
25 in the Norton Sound for a long, long time, and they
26 have seen dips where there hasn't been crab in certain
27 years. I mean you can look at that chart and you can
28 see when there was no crab. But there's also years
29 after two or three years, it rebounded and they're
30 selling crab again and then six, seven years later
31 there's a problem again. And it's been 10, 12 years
32 since they had a problem but now they have a problem.

33

34 So I think what we're -- my personal
35 opinion, what we're seeing is the over harvest in the
36 fishery. If they had -- if it was a moving issue, the
37 crabbers out -- the big boats come up and crab behind
38 St. Lawrence Island, I've seen it on Discovery Channel,
39 where big crabbers are doing winter crabbing up behind
40 St. Lawrence Island, south of it, the blue crabs,
41 there's guys that go try and catch blue crab. If it
42 was a movement issue, these -- our crab would be
43 showing up over towards -- out from Teller and -- and
44 between King Island and Sledge Island and that's not
45 happening. So -- and you don't hear from these trawl
46 surveys, these guys -- the trawl surveys cover a huge,
47 huge area, and you don't see that movement in those
48 trawl surveys.

49

50

1 So, anyway, I'm thinking, you know, we
2 need to send a letter like we did this last time and
3 send it to the same people just basically saying we're
4 concerned for our shareholders -- or our subsistence
5 users and let's hold off at least a year and hopefully
6 we can get our numbers thriving again. Right now it
7 can't support a subsistence fishery and a commercial
8 fishery.

9
10 So anybody else have thoughts or ideas.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So now I'm going to
15 look for a motion, if somebody wants to make a motion
16 to draw up a letter and send it to the appropriate
17 place. And remind me again, Karen, where we sent it
18 last time.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 It was the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And then CC a bunch
24 of other people.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Do we have
29 -- is sending a letter something we want to do or
30 what's the plan here?

31
32 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair.
33 Tom, I make the motion that we send a letter for
34 closure of commercial fishing until we get the right
35 numbers and sent out to the right people.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there a
38 second.

39
40 MR. KIRK: I'll second that motion, Mr.
41 Chair. Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good.
44 We're on our way now. So now I want to have
45 discussion. I realize we've discussed the dickens out
46 of this, but is there anything new that we need to
47 discuss.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
50

1 Karen Deatherage.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

4

5

MS. DEATHERAGE: Just for the Council's
6 reference, a copy of the letter that was sent by the
7 Council to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
8 Council is in the meeting book beginning on Page 14.
9 And as just an FYI, that letter was also copied to the
10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Northern Norton
11 Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Kawerak, Inc.,
12 Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. So it
13 went to a number of people and we can do the same with
14 this letter.

15

16

Thank you.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

27

28

29

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Karen, I'm kind of
looking to you.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

If there are additional items that I
missed or some other concepts that I missed, I
certainly would like to hear those to make sure I've
included everything the Council wishes in this letter.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Tom, this is
4 Leland.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

7

8 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm kind of wondering
9 what the population estimate in the Norton Sound of red
10 king crab as projected by the trawl survey, or if there
11 was a trawl survey.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So what I got out
14 of the meeting was there's three million pounds and
15 maybe I'm wrong, because they came up with 200-some
16 pounds of crab for the commercial crab and I took a
17 calculator and calculated it out, three million pounds
18 divided by -- usually they allocate 15 percent but --
19 which came to something and then the reality is they're
20 going to go seven percent, which comes to 225 pounds --
21 or 225,000 pounds, which is what I heard during the
22 discussion today. And, you know, again, this is very
23 concerning to me because they have come on record
24 saying that the salable crab are 25 percent lower this
25 coming season and -- and yet they're going to have more
26 poundage available to sell.

27

28 I'm very concerned.

29

30 So, okay, we -- does anybody else have
31 any input or comments on where we're going with this
32 letter, or this motion at all. I mean we haven't
33 passed it yet, so anybody have any thoughts or
34 comments.

35

36 MR. KIRK: Question.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's been
39 called. So I'm going to let Karen read the motion off
40 to us and then I'm going to ask her to do a roll call.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, boy. I was
43 looking back at the notes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 The motion is to send a letter to the
46 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council coping the
47 Department of Fish and Game, the Northern Norton Sound
48 Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Kawerak, the Norton
49 Sound Economic Development Corporation with the concern

50

1 -- well, with the request that the commercial fishery
2 for red king crab in Norton Sound be closed for the
3 20/21 [sic] season, and I will include in that letter
4 the justification based on the trawl survey, the
5 current lack of mature males, and the challenge the
6 Council has with basing this fishery on speculation
7 that these males will grow to legal size next summer.
8 We can also put in the letter that there are some
9 environmental factors -- possible environmental factors
10 impacting the crab population but that would be all the
11 more reason why this fishery should be closed, and that
12 subsistence would be a priority and should take
13 precedence over commercial fishery.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good.

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: In a nutshell, that's
18 it, but I'll make it much more eloquent, hopefully, in
19 a letter.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So we're
24 ready for a vote, if you could do a roll call, I would
25 appreciate it.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Karen, hello.

30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, okay, we're ready
32 to go. I had myself on mute.

33
34 Lloyd from Shishmaref.

35
36 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Yes.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

47
48 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.
2
3 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.
4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.
6
7 MR. SEETOT: Yea.
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Ronald Kirk.
10
11 MR. KIRK: Yes.
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's six
14 in favor, zero opposed. The motion passes unanimously.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Awesome. I thank
17 all of you guys for being patient and having input and,
18 you know, I think this is an important issue for our
19 people and our region. So thank you for taking time
20 and being patient.
21
22 And now let me see, am I reading my
23 agenda correctly, we're at closing comments, is that
24 where we're at?
25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Yes, all of the agenda items have been covered and I
28 want to personally thank everybody on the phone for
29 their patience and actually for an excellent
30 teleconference given the conditions that a lot of you
31 had to deal with. So closing comments and adjournment
32 are all that remain.
33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
37 start from the top of my list and go down.
38
39 Lloyd, do you have any closing
40 comments.
41
42 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Through the Chair.
43 Lloyd Kiyutelluk, Shishmaref. I'd like to thank
44 everybody for this teleconference. It was kind of
45 trying getting cut off and recalling, but got through a
46 lot of issues that are important for our region and our
47 people and I am happy with the outcome. And hopefully
48 see you guys in March and everybody stay safe.
49
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Mr.
4 Katchatag, are you still with us?
5
6 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, thanks for
7 everything. And hopefully get to the bottom of why
8 everything's dying off and get our Fish and Game and
9 scientists off their butt and get to work.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you for keep
14 bringing it up. I'm glad you're persistent.
15
16 Leland, do you have any comments.
17
18 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I hope my phone
19 bill don't get real big -- but anyway, this was a
20 pretty good meeting. Thank you everyone for
21 contributing and being here and doing all this.
22 Hopefully this red king crab thing will get settled and
23 taken care of, but, you know, you never know.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep, thank you.
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'd like
30 to weigh in on that. As far as if anybody has
31 additional phone costs as a result of this, you
32 shouldn't, it is a toll free number, but if anybody has
33 incurred additional costs, please let me know and we'll
34 take care of that for you.
35
36 MR. OYOUMICK: I was just kidding.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Well, just send
41 chocolate then.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thanks, Leland.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, Elmer, do you
50

1 have any last thoughts.

2

3

MR. SEETOT: Elmer. Technology is
4 being used to document the use patterns, distribution
5 of natural resources such as fish and game and it's
6 being used to conduct schedule agency meetings, what is
7 what is happening today was predicted by people before
8 us.
9

10

Meeting was informative with this type
11 of meeting, but short stints with GCI phone lines were
12 not in full service and like Lloyd and like the
13 majority of the Seward Peninsula, people
14 teleconferencing, that was a problem with us, it's nice
15 to hear from, unseen, but known people, presenting
16 their concerns and issues. I think the State and
17 Federal agencies need to work together on particular
18 region or use of area because when -- like this RAC
19 issues and ideas for same region or for same natural
20 resources, possibly the State agencies have something
21 different, but I don't -- I really haven't seen
22 anything like that other than certain aspects of
23 meetings. Time honored tradition, Tom, you got it
24 right on the money, same time, whether in person or by
25 phone, you stick to the agenda, thank you very much.
26

27

I hope all of you have a good season
28 and take care during this Covid pandemic.
29

30

Thank you.

31

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep, very good,
32 thank you. Ron, Mr. Captain Kirk, you have something.
33
34

35

MR. KIRK: Thank you for -- I'd like to
36 thank the Staff for putting this together and making it
37 possible for us to have this teleconference meeting.
38 It was a challenging meeting being cut off every now
39 and then, having to redial and get back in, but, again,
40 it was a good meeting. I'm glad you stay on top of the
41 topics there, Mr. Chair, by following the agenda and
42 making it move smoothly.
43

44

I hope we can resolve this issue with
45 the red king crab.
46

47

And just one thing, Leland got Karen
48 Deatherage really good with the phone bill so I hope I
49 don't get stuck with a phone bill.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. KIRK: Bye.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm going to send you
8 coal. I'm sending you coal, Ron.
9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, Christmas is
11 coming so.....
12
13 MR. KIRK: Yeah.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, it's
18 been a good meeting. You know we had our hurdles. I
19 told Karen, teleconference, blow me, it ain't going to
20 work, and it has worked but.....
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:you know,
25 we've had our hurdles and hopefully this isn't the new
26 normal process of doing business because I like to sit
27 and watch people and look them in the eye and come on,
28 let's argue. But anyway, this turned out good and I
29 hope everybody stays safe and away from that Covid
30 stuff. Yeah, my sister ended up with it, her and her
31 husband and it's not a good thing. So, anyway, be safe
32 and wear a mask.
33
34 So I think we're done.
35
36 Is there a motion to adjourn.
37
38 MR. OYOUNICK: I move to adjourn and I
39 say hi to Lloyd, Brevig, Stebbins, hello folks.
40
41 REPORTER: Thanks Leland.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.
44
45 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Thank you, Leland.
46 Thank you.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right.
49
50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. DEATHERAGE: Seconded by.

MR. KIRK: Second, Ron Kirk.

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All in favor say
aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

