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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Aurora Hotel

Nome, Alaska
October 4, 2022
9:06 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Green, Chairman
Tom Gray
Deahl Katchatag
Ronald Kirk
Robert Moses
Leland Oyoumick
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Nissa Pilcher

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

2

3 (Nome, Alaska - 10/4/2022)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good morning,
8 everybody. This is Louie. Let's call this meeting to
9 order here at 9:06. Everybody's shuffling through
10 their materials here. We'll get into the agenda here.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: Do you want to do the
13 invocation before we start?

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Invocation. I was
16 just going to ask Mr. Elmer. Everybody's pointing at
17 you for invocation, please.

18

19 (Invocation)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I flipped out --
22 flipped over the invocation in the call to order. I'd
23 already called the meeting to order at 9:06. So we had
24 an invocation. So we'd like to have roll call. That
25 would be under Elmer or Nissa. Nissa, would you do
26 that, do the honors here?

27

28 MS. PILCHER: I sure can. So let's go
29 in the room first. From Nome, Louie Green.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Here.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: Also from Nome, Tom Gray.

34

35 MR. GRAY: Yes, ma'am.

36

37 MS. PILCHER: Unalakleet, Deahl
38 Katchatag.

39

40 MR. KATCHATAG: Here.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: Also from Unalakleet,
43 Leland Oyoumick.

44

45 MR. OYOUMICK: Present.

46

47 MS. PILCHER: From Brevig Mission,
48 Elmer Seetot.

49

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1 MR. SEETOT: Here.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: And then from Stebbins,
4 Ronald Kirk.

5

6 MR. KIRK: Here.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: And then on the phone do
9 we happen to have Mary Freytag from Unalakleet? Mary,
10 are you one?

11

12 (No response)

13

14 MS. PILCHER: Also on the phone do we
15 happen to have Robert Moses from Golovin?

16

17 (No response)

18

19 MS. PILCHER: Once again, Mary or
20 Robert, it's *6 to mute or unmute. All right. Well,
21 we'll work on getting those guys online.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, everybody.
24 I'm Robbin Lavine. I'm the Subsistence Policy
25 Coordinator at OSM and I'm hearing that folks who are
26 listening in via teleconference are having a hard time
27 hearing us. So I will request that we get our mouths
28 closer to the mic so people who are calling in can
29 hear.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: Just one second. My
34 apologies. I knew he was going to be absent today so I
35 didn't call his name, but Martin Aukongak from Golovin
36 is excused today. But we do have six in the room.
37 That meets quorum, so we can proceed.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nissa. So
40 I made a suggestion last night talking to -- I've been
41 dealing with this for, what, a dozen years now.
42 There's a lot of people that are involved in here and
43 sometimes we don't see each other for a long time, so
44 names to faces kind of come to be a blur. I thought,
45 you know, why not have a picture with a face on it when
46 it comes to staff in these notebooks.

47

48 The same thing with the Council members
49 so everybody puts a face to a name. And I always

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1 wondered how we could keep that rolling. I think that
2 would be a good way to do it. So it would be in the
3 notebook. I think that all the Councils could, you
4 know, get something good out of that. So maybe in the
5 future that's what's going to happen. I just wanted
6 that on the record while I had the chance to remember
7 to say something about it.

8
9 So I'd like to welcome everybody here.
10 We have some stuff to do on this agenda. The
11 introductions here. I guess we could go around the
12 room here and everybody introduce themselves just
13 because we don't have pictures to names. So we'll
14 start with the young man over here in the corner in the
15 yellow.

16
17 MR. KATCHATAG: Deahl Katchatag from
18 Unalakleet.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
21 Mission.

22
23 MR. GRAY: I think you all know me. I
24 talk too much. Tom Gray from Nome.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy, you talk too
27 much. My name is Louie Green. I talk too much too.
28 That's my cousin.

29
30 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland Oyoumick from
31 Unalakleet.

32
33 MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk from Stebbins.

34
35 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher
36 with OSM, Council Coordinator.

37
38 MS. DEBENHAM: Hi, I'm Rosalie
39 Debenham. I'm a Fish and Wildlife biologist for the
40 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region. Nice to see
41 you all.

42
43 MS. HUGHES: Good morning. I'm Letty
44 Hughes, wildlife biologist for National Park Service
45 for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve based in Nome.

46
47 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. I'm Nikki
48 Braem. I'm with Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
49 here in Nome.

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1 MS. LAVINE: Robbin Lavine, Subsistence
2 Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
3 out of Anchorage. Hello, everybody.

4
5 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
6 Chris McKee, Statewide Subsistence Coordinator for the
7 Bureau of Land Management out of the state office in
8 Anchorage.

9
10 MS. PERRY: I wasn't a ventriloquist.
11 (Laughter) My name is Deanna Perry. I'm also a
12 Coordinator. Pleasure to be here. Good morning to you
13 all.

14
15 MR. STONE: Good morning. Jarred
16 Stone, Fisheries Biologist. It's been probably four
17 years since I got to meet with you, so I'm looking
18 forward to this meeting.

19
20 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. Hannah
21 Voorhees, anthropologist with Office of Subsistence
22 Management. It's great to see you all.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: All right. Well, that
25 concludes everyone in the room other than our court
26 reporter. So if you'll just give me a moment, we're
27 going to introduce those that are on the phone. So I'm
28 going to go in order of how they appear in the agenda.
29 So we'll start with affiliations and then move to
30 members of the public.

31
32 Are there any folks on who are
33 representing tribal governments that would like to
34 introduce themselves?

35
36 (No response)

37
38 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about any
39 Native organizations.

40
41 MR. LEON: Good morning everyone. My
42 name is Justin Leon and I'm a tribal liaison with the
43 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. I currently
44 live in Anchorage, Alaska, but up until two months ago
45 I lived in Nome for the majority of the last 10 years.
46 I'm happy to be on the call today.

47
48 Thank you for having me.

49
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1 MS. PILCHER: All right. So if there's
2 anybody on the phone from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

3
4 (No response)

5
6 MS. PILCHER: All right. So let's move
7 on now to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Can we
8 have introductions from those who are not OSM
9 affiliated. We'll get to those next.

10
11 MR. BLIHOVDE: Good morning. This is
12 Boyd Blihovde. I'm the Refuge Manager of Yukon Delta
13 National Wildlife Refuge. I'm based in Bethel. I hope
14 you can hear me okay.

15
16 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This Jill
17 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator and
18 the InterAgency Staff Committee member for the U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm based in the Regional
20 Office out of Anchorage. Good morning.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: All right. So if that's
23 everybody with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service non-OSM.
24 If anyone is on from the Office of Subsistence
25 Management, if you could go ahead and introduce
26 yourself now.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is
29 Katya Wessels and I'm Council Coordination Division
30 Supervisor. Mr. Chair, I really like your suggestion
31 of putting photos of OSM Staff and their names in the
32 Council meeting materials so in case we're not in the
33 room with you you know who we are when we talk on the
34 phone.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. My name
39 is Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with the Office
40 of Subsistence Management.

41
42 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
43 Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison with OSM in
44 Anchorage.

45
46 MS. PILCHER: All right. Is there
47 anyone on the phone from the National Park Service that
48 would like to introduce themselves now.

49
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1 MS. PATTON: Good morning. This is
2 Eva.....

3
4 MS. KOELSCH: Hi. This is Jeanette
5 Koelsch, Superintendent of Bering Land Bridge National
6 Preserve and I'm sorry not to be there this morning. I
7 am home sick, so I will be listening and participating
8 over the phone today. Quyana.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Jeanette.
11 Hope you feel better.

12
13 MR. ATKINSON: Good morning. Ken
14 Atkinson, National Park Service, Bering Land Bridge.

15
16 MS. PILCHER: All right. So.....

17
18 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
19 This is Eva Patton, Subsistence Program Manager with
20 the National Park Service Regional Office in Anchorage.
21 Wonderful you're all able to be there together.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: All right. We can move
24 on to BLM if that is everyone from the National Park
25 Service. So anyone from the Bureau of Land Management
26 is on.

27
28 MR. GUSSIE: Good morning. This is
29 Walker Gussie with the Anchorage office.

30
31 MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks, BLM,
32 Nome. Went down to the Mini 8:30 and nobody but city
33 workers down there, so I'll be down after a bit.

34
35 Thank you much.

36
37 MS. PILCHER: Sorry about that, Tom.

38
39 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is
40 Bruce Seppi, Subsistence Biologist for Anchorage Field
41 Office BLM.

42
43 MS. PILCHER: Tom, you know where the
44 meeting is now, right?

45
46 MR. SPARKS: Is it still at the Mini?

47
48 MS. PILCHER: No. We moved to the
49 Aurora. The Mini wasn't quite ready for us yet. There
50

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1 should be signs up there as well. Are there still
2 signs.

3

4 MR. SPARKS: At the Mini? I didn't see
5 any this morning at 8:30.

6

7 MS. PILCHER: Okay. They might have
8 blown away.

9

10 MR. SPARKS: I'll be over in a little
11 while. Appreciate it.

12

13 MS. PILCHER: Yep. Thanks. Apologies
14 for that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Check the front desk
17 on his way in so it's downstairs.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, the meeting is
20 downstairs for those that are in Nome. Apparently the
21 Aurora Inn used to have a conference room on the second
22 floor, but they have moved it to the first floor. It
23 is on the first floor. Just check in with the front
24 desk and they can point you in the direction.

25

26 So moving on. Has everyone from BLM
27 gone?

28

29 (No response)

30

31 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Moving on to the
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

33

34 MS. GERMAIN: Good morning. My name is
35 Sara Germain. I'm the Area Biologist for Game
36 Management Unit 22 here in Nome.

37

38 MS. CARSON: Hi. My name is Alicia
39 Carson. I'm the Assistant Area Biologist for ADF&G
40 here in Nome.

41

42 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
43 Burch from the Palmer office of the Department of Fish
44 and Game.

45

46 MS. COLD: Hi. Good morning, everyone.
47 This is Helen Cold, Subsistence Resource Specialist
48 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division
49 of Subsistence in the Fairbanks Office.

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1 MS. URQUIA: Good morning, everyone.
2 This is Morgan Urquia also with the Division of
3 Subsistence here in the Fairbanks Office.
4

5 MS. PILCHER: Could you say your name
6 one more time. Sorry.
7

8 MS. URQUIA: Morgan Urquia.
9

10 MS. PILCHER: Okay, Morgan. Thank you.
11

12 MS. URQUIA: Thank you.
13

14 MS. PILCHER: All right. So that moves
15 us through agency introductions. Is there -- by some
16 chance was Robert or Mary able to call in?
17

18 (No response)
19

20 MS. PILCHER: Any members of the
21 public.
22

23 (No response)
24

25 MS. PILCHER: And then is there anybody
26 that didn't introduce themselves?
27

28 (No response)
29

30 MS. PILCHER: All right.
31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That would be it,
33 Nissa. Thanks to all who called in and thanks to all
34 who showed up here physically. So that brings us down
35 after the introductions to item number 5, review and
36 adopt the agenda. Nissa, we were talking about this --
37 I think it was Justin. Where were we thinking of
38 moving him to?
39

40 MS. PILCHER: It's up to the Council,
41 but if you wanted to move him from agency reports to
42 under the PIN discussion, you're more than welcome to,
43 but that is up to the Council. Which would be
44 item.....
45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I thought I wrote it
47 down.
48

49 MS. PILCHER: It's in my chicken
50

0010

1 scratch. It would be item 11(b) if I remember
2 correctly.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Under new business?

5

6 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We can either leave
9 him in agency reports or we can do that and move him
10 under new business under item -- what was the letter
11 you used, B?

12

13 MS. PILCHER: Yes, 11(b) as in bravo.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: With the Fisheries
16 Resource Monitoring Program section?

17

18 MS. PILCHER: That is correct, yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody got any
21 disagreements with that at the table?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I've got the new
26 version apparently. We're passing out the new one.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: So we're just passing out
29 a new copy of the most recent agenda, which is also the
30 one that's located online. And then also, Chairman,
31 just to let you know Letty Hughes also had an update
32 that was very similar to Justin Leon's, an update on
33 the BELA project. If you guys were discussing moving
34 the agenda -- or moving Mr. Leon's report up, you could
35 discuss moving Letty's up as well.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you think that's a
38 good one, Letty?

39

40 MS. HUGHES: If that's what you guys
41 would like.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody here? Tommy.

44

45 MR. GRAY: Move it. Let's.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. Okay.

48

49 MR. GRAY: We're spinning time here.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we're moving
2 all that. Let's see, Justin and Letty will be moved
3 under new business under Item B. All right. I need a
4 motion to adopt the agenda.

5
6 MR. GRAY: So moved.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy moves. Is there
9 a second.

10
11 MR. SEETOT: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor say
14 aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes.
19 Adopted the agenda with changes under new business
20 adding Justin and Letty under the 2024 Fisheries
21 Resource Monitoring Program. Moving on from item 5 to
22 item 6, review and approve the previous meeting
23 minutes. Anybody got any changes, concerns. I'd ask
24 you to look it over really quick because Tommy is ready
25 to go.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did everybody get
30 enough time? If there's no comments, concerns or
31 suggestions of changes, I need a motion to accept the
32 previous meeting minutes.

33
34 MR. KIRK: So moved.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
41 approving the previous minutes say aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes.
46 Minutes are approved. So that takes us to item number
47 7, report, Council member reports. We could start with
48 Deahl.

49
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1 Do we have anybody on the phone there?
2 Mary? I just want to check in with them before we
3 start.

4
5 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, I sure can. Mary,
6 did you -- Mary or Robert, were either of you able to
7 call in yet this morning?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Just as a reminder
12 it's *6 to mute and unmute your phones for everyone out
13 there. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Just checking
16 in on the Council members that potentially will be on
17 the phone here sometime soon this morning.

18
19 Deahl, would you start with your
20 Council member report.

21
22 MR. KATCHATAG: Well, the fishing was
23 okay. There was quite a few fishing closures for the
24 commercial fishermen and subsistence fishing and yet
25 the Fish and Game allowed sportfishing for the lodges.

26
27 The seal hunting was good. Earlier in
28 the season the pinks went up by the millions before
29 they were able to commercial fish. I think they're the
30 ones that are taking all the option out of the water
31 for the rest of the salmon.

32
33 Moose hunting this fall is pretty good.
34 Everybody is happy.

35
36 We're seeing a lot of -- the climate
37 changes are really affecting our rivers and our hills
38 and our ocean. We're seeing a lot of river banks
39 falling in, a lot of hillsides falling in. This last
40 flood there was a lot of wood that went by. Didn't
41 affect Unalakleet at all. The birds, I guess, were
42 minimal.

43
44 That's about all I have.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Deahl.

47
48 Elmer.

49
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0013

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig. Our
2 spring subsistence hunt for marine mammals went by
3 pretty fast. Like end of April into -- or end of May.
4 Really didn't go into June, so the ice melted pretty
5 fast.

6
7 Salmon fishing was pretty dismal. I
8 kind of gave up on the sockeye salmon. After two
9 weeks, so I decided to start processing chums that were
10 available. Most of the pink salmon weren't there like
11 in the past years. I think a big die-off occurred in
12 the past summers.

13
14 Last couple days before the frost came
15 up to Brevig October 1st there was still blackberry
16 picking. Salmonberry picking they had to really go out
17 in the country and look for the berries.

18
19 The last storm the high banks were
20 breached in the north shore of Port Clarence. A lot of
21 beach erosion east and west. East of Brevig Mission
22 and I assume that other places where we used to
23 subsistence fish, gather and harvest wildlife resources
24 were also eroded.

25
26 He mentioned about moose hunting. At
27 the opening of moose season in Grantley Harbor, I was
28 at Grantley Harbor fish camp and lo and behold not more
29 than 150 away were two young juvenile moose. One with
30 antlers, I would think that three or four year old.
31 The other one without antlers. While I was working on
32 my fish I looked towards the beach and there was two
33 ears sticking out walking along the beach no more than
34 150 feet away. At that time I was working on my chum
35 salmon, smoking fish, and that time you think just
36 because you see an animal you have to have it. You
37 don't need to harvest it.

38
39 I seen that young moose without antler
40 a month before. He crossed the creek and then went
41 back. I think he was chased by a bear. The other --
42 and then about a month and a half later those two moose
43 came along. Sometimes as hunters you just look and
44 say, wow, you know. I think they need a mentor.

45
46 They're just like -- just like -- in
47 meetings like this, you know, we learn a lot. He might
48 see something that I have not seen. I might have
49 something, information that might be useful for. So
50

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1 there's times when you just reflect on your hunting
2 experience.

3
4 You know, you just watch Mother Nature
5 go by. You know, just enjoy the scenery. You don't
6 need to, you know, try to harvest. But that's pretty
7 much what our old -- our grandparents, our parents
8 taught us. You know, just get whatever you need and
9 enjoy life.

10
11 First part of the spring season hunters
12 were saying that they were seeing seagulls --
13 shorebirds, seabirds, very few waterfowl, dropping or
14 being sick out on the tundra. As the months go by they
15 really saw the die-offs of the seabirds. Not so much
16 this year.

17
18 But I think a lot of the sunshine up
19 and around Emerald Basin it's producing a lot of algae
20 in and around our warm waters and it's pretty much
21 prevalent nowadays. So I think that's some of the
22 reason that some of our fish didn't return. The water
23 was too warm. They talked about Area M for so many
24 years down south, I think with all the arguments,
25 discussions, you know.

26
27 We have TEK. Never argue about
28 resources. Make sure it's there for you. Make sure
29 you harvest it good so that it will be there for you.
30 These are some of the things that have been passed on
31 from our parents, our grandparents and now we're trying
32 to pass them on to our children. So being a hunter you
33 don't need to -- every time you see an animal you don't
34 need to pull the trigger. You just, you know, enjoy
35 nature as it is.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

40
41 Tom.

42
43 MR. GRAY: So it's been a really
44 interesting year, I guess. You know, we had our share
45 of snow. Lots of snow, lots of wind. Blow, blow,
46 blow. It seemed like this global warming has brought
47 us a different kind of wind now. We're having to learn
48 to live with it.

49
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1 Our spring hunt was awesome. You know,
2 the oogruk hunting and beluga hunting springtime.
3 Everything depends on wind. We had some good times,
4 calm wind times, so that helped. We had real high
5 water when the river went out. We had lots of trout in
6 my river. You know, I cut 100 dollies and hung them,
7 dried them and put them in seal oil. Not every year we
8 can do that.

9
10 Our silver salmon and red run was piss
11 poor. Piss poor. You know, it's a shame that the
12 prized fish that we've gone to over the years is the
13 fish that we struggle trying to catch nowadays. The
14 runs have been horrible.

15
16 Now we always put up pink salmon for
17 dry fish. Last year we didn't get any. It rained,
18 rained. There's lots of fish last year, but it rained
19 so much nobody on my river system put any pinks away.
20 Last year we put 100 trout away and I was one of the
21 few people that actually had dry fish last year and it
22 was trout. This year everybody had fish, dry fish. So
23 that was a real blessing.

24
25 Moose hunting. You know, you blink and
26 the hunt is over with. They dedicated two weeks this
27 hunt and I think some of these areas it was over the
28 first day or the second day. The actual need or the
29 people hunting are -- there's so much. It's an
30 aggressive hunt and if you're not on your game, you're
31 not going to get a moose.

32
33 And then because of the storm Fish and
34 Game opened up moose hunting again and that turned into
35 a circus. My nephew just shot a moose yesterday and
36 that was the sixth moose. Anyway, I'm glad Golovin got
37 their meat. I heard through the grapevine don't bring
38 any more meat down, we're good. So at least Golovin
39 got what they needed and that was the intent of that
40 hunt.

41
42 Duck hunting. You know, we always get
43 into the birds, the ducks in the spring and the fall
44 good. One of the problems I see in the future -- I
45 looked at a video of a wolf running and howling this
46 fall that a hunter took and then all of a sudden there
47 was one wolf howled and there had to have been 20 or 30
48 after that wolf.

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1 We're going to be faced with a bad wolf
2 problem. You know, in the past -- it's been a problem
3 in the past and it seems like nobody wants to take
4 ownership. The attitude is we've done all we can and
5 we can't do any more. Well, we can always do better no
6 matter what we're doing. So there's a wolf problem
7 coming. There's going to be a lot of dead moose this
8 year because of that.

9

10 Berries. You know, guys talked about
11 berries in our area. We had salmonberries that we
12 normally don't have, but we didn't have blueberries.
13 It was horrible. I don't know if it's the weather. We
14 had some early cold spells. Who knows.

15

16 We heard about algae in the river.
17 I've seen lots of algae in my river. Lots. I mean the
18 bottom is green. This year not so much. Last year the
19 river was so high. It rained and rained and rained a
20 year ago. I don't know if the algae could form. It
21 wasn't warm enough. One thing that is going on in my
22 river, I have a contract to take people water sampling
23 and they're looking at the chemistry in the water and
24 looking for that algae component or whatever it is.

25

26 So, anyway, we had a good season and
27 the weather -- it's like this big storm that affected
28 the coastline. Weather has played a hamper in our
29 lives and we've just got to deal with it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

32

33 Leland.

34

35 MR. OYOUMICK: Good morning. Leland
36 Oyoumick from Unalakleet. Our fishing season wasn't
37 the greatest, but we got some fish. At least we got to
38 taste them. They're still really good. Really
39 awesome. They're the best fish. Anyway, the ones I
40 caught were -- I ate them all. I caught seven. Every
41 time I get a fish on my rod there's a net that shows
42 up, so I can't compete with nets. That's the only way
43 I get my fish is with the rod and reel. I know we
44 can't subsist that way, but I do.

45

46 If they don't want me to, they'll do
47 something, but I don't think they will because I was
48 born and raised there. I think we have sovereign
49 rights to do that. We can gather if we need to. I try

50

0017

1 to exercise that right and nobody has contested me in
2 that way. A lot of us can't afford nets and such, you
3 know.

4

5 If you're a commercial fisherman, you
6 can buy those nets, boats, motors, whatever gear you
7 need and write them off, but us people that are
8 subsistence users we can't do that. I don't think we
9 can. You know, I mean the provision is not there for
10 us to write them off.

11

12

13 It's so sad that it all comes down to
14 money because that's what is depleting our fishery is
15 the commercial fishing out in the high seas and that's
16 home. We're stuck in the middle and we're not born
17 politicians. We have to try and figure out how to get
18 them and hope there's some left for the rest of all of
19 us.

19

20

21 Other than that, like you said, I
22 didn't get to go oogruk hunting in the ocean this
23 spring, but I heard it was okay. There was people who
24 came back with what they went after.

24

25

26 People gathered some eggs, but not a
27 whole lot. The weather gets kind of iffy. One day
28 it's nice, the next day it's stormy, you know, and it's
29 nice again. The next minute it's raining, drizzling.
30 You can't really tell what the weather is going to do
31 because it's not the same like it used to be. The old
32 folks used to say in the winter when the east wind
33 blows, sleep some more. It's windy out. You can't do
34 nothing. Sleep some more. Well, it's getting to be
35 that way now. You know, we're getting to be windy all
36 the time.

36

37

38 Our moose season was good. We had a
39 quota of 61. I think I kept asking and asking people
40 at home. I guess nobody kept track, but I think they
41 got like 40. That's what I heard from the last person
42 I asked. Everybody seemed to say like about 40. So 21
43 more to be caught or so. They're all good moose.
44 There's a couple of big ones, but most of them were
45 young bulls. To us people that's a lot better eating
46 than the big ones. They're really tastier and tender.

46

47

48 I don't know much about bear hunting.
49 I think they got some bears, but I don't know. Most of
50 that is from the guided hunts, i.e. Tom. There's some

50

0018

1 others from home and then there's a group out of St.
2 Michael. That's fine and well when they go after the
3 bears. The bears are so cruel to the moose and the
4 calves. That's their food. You know, they prey on the
5 little animals. For that reason I really don't like
6 bears because we like to eat moose.

7

8 I never hear of anybody in our village
9 that eats bear. Black bear, but I never hear of
10 anybody eating brown bear. Hardly anybody goes after
11 that. I don't think anybody does for food. Just for
12 like -- they'll kill a bear if they're stealing their
13 fish or bothering the town or bothering the berry
14 pickers, but if they mind their own business, we leave
15 them alone if they don't come close to us.

16

17 I don't know much about the wolves like
18 Tom was talking about, but I know they can really
19 devastate a species if there's too many.

20

21 I don't have much else to say, but in
22 regard to -- there's some people I talk to at home that
23 are concerned about our fish weir. They were wondering
24 if there's another way or a different method to
25 research the kings, chinooks, that they're trying to
26 research other than building a fish weir. I quit
27 talking to people after I talked to two. Both of them
28 said the same thing. They're totally different people,
29 but they said the same thing.

30

31 It's affecting the fishery in our
32 river. The fish weir is. They see it firsthand. So
33 I'm just telling you what they told me. I told them to
34 call in and say what they said to me because it would
35 mean more, but I don't think they will. So I'll have
36 to repeat what they say.

37

38 Anyway, that's pretty much my report.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.

43

44 Ron.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Good morning. Ronald Kirk,
47 Stebbins. Our spring hunting for oogruk was good.
48 Didn't have too much ice to go after walrus. The fish
49 was good. Fishing was good down there. Bird hunting

50

0019

1 for the springtime was good.

2

3 As far as moose, there's an abundance
4 of moose. I think, like Tom said, there's a wolf
5 population coming around and we do have wolves in our
6 area and we've been seeing an abundance of moose in our
7 village. Not too far from the village. Right in the
8 village moose walking by.

9

10 As far as that flood, it did some
11 damage to some homes. We're relocating about eight
12 homes up the hill. People that had their homes damaged
13 are getting new homes and they're being relocated up
14 the hill.

15

16 As far as fishing goes, this fall for
17 whitefish it was real good. We were catching a lot of
18 whitefish down there we call gee fish.

19

20 The bears, well there's bears around.
21 They've been going after them. I was out on my
22 four-wheeler and I came back and they asked me, hey,
23 Ron, did you go after them bears. I said what for,
24 it's not bothering me. Then I saw two young boys take
25 off. I said, okay, I'll show you where they are. They
26 went back there and they got him. Pretty big bear.

27

28 So I got chased by a bear, believe it
29 or not, on my four-wheeler. I was on my way home 3:00
30 o'clock in the morning on the road between Stebbins and
31 St. Michael. I was doing like only 45 miles an hour
32 and I was just taking my good old time looking around
33 and in the corner of my eye I saw something come
34 charging out of the bushes and I just squeezed my
35 throttle. I said, oh, no, you're not and dusted the
36 heck out of it and I didn't look back. I just kept
37 going all the way home.

38

39 Next day I told my wife let's go up
40 there. For what? Go see what the heck chased me and
41 we went up there and went back and there was a great
42 big ol' bear track on the road. I said this guy chased
43 me. He came out. So we had bear problems, but they're
44 taking care of that.

45

46 There's been sightings of wolves in our
47 area, in our village. Not too far from our village. I
48 think that's the reason why the moose are coming down
49 to the village. Reindeer came close by and they took

50

0020

1 off again because of the moose -- I mean the wolves.

2

3 Other than that we're still trying to
4 recover from the storm. It took a toll on the village
5 and a lot of the people lost some items, their homes.

6

7 That's pretty much my report.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 Good morning.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Have
14 we got either one of our Council members on the phone?

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Mary? For the record,
17 Nissa Pilcher, OSM coordinator. Is Mary or Robert --
18 were you able to call in to give your report?

19

20 (No response)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
23 it. This is Louie from Nome. I wasn't able to get out
24 and do a spring hunt this year. Fishing was -- I
25 traveled back and forth between Palmer and Nome because
26 of my son over there. Fishing was pretty diminished
27 around here and the red run was horrible, I was
28 fortunate enough to have a friend down in Kenai that
29 took me and some of my family members out dipnetting,
30 so we got a few there. That was our salmon catch for
31 the year. I've always been disappointed that there's
32 commercial fishing even allowed in our area here, this
33 Nome area. The Department of Fish and Game sees it
34 otherwise.

35

36 When it came to the moose season, my
37 hunting team they did well. We were able to harvest a
38 couple moose in a three day hunt. Like Mr. Gray
39 alluded to that, it's like a blink of an eye and it's
40 over. I talked about it in my report last year about
41 how it's so aggressive of a hunting season that people
42 that -- if you don't have the money to be out there,
43 you aren't going to get anything. You're out there
44 spending a lot of money and if you're unfortunate not
45 to take a moose, then you're going to do without for
46 the year.

47

48 I heard that the spring harvest is
49 really good here. Saw lots of Facebook pictures and

50

0021

1 comments about how well people were doing. The beluga
2 whale are back in the area again, so guys like Tommy
3 and I are just chomping at the bit to get out there to
4 see about getting our share of those. I haven't heard
5 any local hunters yet.

6
7 Circling back to the moose hunt, I just
8 wonder if there's ever going to be a time where people
9 are going to look at it the way the people of
10 Unalakleet looked at it and had a moratorium in the
11 area. I think it was, what, five years. That's a
12 tough thing to do. Especially now, when you look at
13 the grocery shelves and then you go to the meat section
14 and see the prices of meat, it's pretty detrimental to
15 people that have to do without. Then having a poor
16 salmon season locally that wasn't any better. It makes
17 things worse.

18
19 Hopefully this fall season it turns out
20 that people are able to get some sources of protein
21 with the sea mammal hunts and the bird hunts. My
22 hunting gang did well this spring and we still have a
23 fall hunt to take part in yet. The weather has been
24 pretty wet around here besides the storm that hit the
25 coast, the flooding. We're still getting a lot of rain
26 here going on into the late fall.

27
28 I've heard folks getting some whitefish
29 in the Kuzitrin. I haven't heard a lot of chatter
30 about that yet, but just a little. The bears, I see on
31 Facebook where spring and fall hunts of bears are going
32 on. I don't know if that's brought us up above the
33 average of bears. All of '22 have been around 100 a
34 year. I don't know if we're getting past that or
35 maintaining the same number. I see people are getting
36 out there and taking care of the bears because they
37 know that they compete for moose with our needs.

38
39 Pink salmon is in everybody's bit of
40 conversation about salmon. Too many pinks.

41
42 The conversation of trawlers is heating
43 up. It's a big deal. There's a group that I comment
44 on. It's called Stopping Bycatch, trawler bycatch, and
45 there's over 20,000 people involved in that one. It's
46 a big topic on the agenda. North Pacific Fisheries
47 Management Council is in the driver's seat there under
48 NOAA and NMFS.

49
50

0022

1 We weren't able to get that on the
2 agenda this time, but we'll be bringing some discussion
3 to the table in the winter meeting. I just wanted to
4 make sure that was in my comments.

5
6 I think that's about all I have. I
7 guess the berries were good here. I heard there was a
8 lot of salmonberries in places here that people got. I
9 seen that on Facebook.

10
11 Other than that, that's my report.

12
13 Tommy.

14
15 MR. GRAY: I want to plant a seed more
16 than anything. I'm sure there's going to be a time on
17 our agenda I can bring it back up. I'm hoping to be
18 working with a fellow next year and part of the
19 discussion that we had was this something anadromous
20 rivers or anadromy rivers, cataloging rivers. Does
21 that make sense to you guys?

22
23 They're going to figure out what goes
24 where and so on and so forth. The seed I want to plant
25 is I know we talked about you guys or OSM or somebody
26 cataloging some of the rivers and that was a starting
27 point to shut up Tom Gray. I haven't heard anything
28 since then. But what I did find out is there is a
29 process to get DNA from our fish to put a kibosh on
30 Area M.

31
32 You know, we're a subsistence group
33 that this is our life. I want to see OSM follow up on
34 that and let us know how and what can be done to do
35 this. I guess in my mind it's pretty simple. We go to
36 Unalakleet, we go to Federal lands on the Seward
37 Peninsula and get this DNA run and go buy some fish
38 from Area M and see if our strain of fish are down
39 there. I'm sure it's way more complicated than that,
40 but I will get the conversation started anyway.

41
42 So, with that -- the other thing for
43 Rosalie. She used to be our arm in BIA for the
44 reindeer program and I have been told that I'm going to
45 get 250 reindeer from the Stebbins/St. Michael area
46 next winter. Anyway, I'm in the process of getting
47 permits and so on and so forth. It would be good if
48 BIA could let us know how they can play into this
49 thing.

50

0023

1 I've talked to Kawerak. Kawerak has
2 been a dead end and it's very frustrating. This is
3 something that's food security, we're bringing animals
4 back to the Seward Peninsula. It's going to be a
5 positive thing if it actually happens. So, anyway.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.
8 Just for some information on this DNA you're talking
9 about. They've done genetic studies. There's been a
10 couple of them in the '90s and in the 2000s. there's
11 always been -- it's always not enough.

12
13 The one thing that I can put on the
14 table here is hatchery fish. Sikusuilaq Hatchery on
15 the Noatak -- I know we're deviating off of our thing
16 here, but I just want to put this on the table here so
17 people understand that. The Sikusuilaq Hatchery that
18 ran for 14 years by ADF&G produced chum salmon up there
19 in Kotzebue area and they've had the luxury of having
20 awesome chum runs up there.

21
22 The chum that they were making up there
23 they went off and pioneered new rivers streams, river
24 systems, to spawn in and multiplied really greatly.
25 Those people are always thankful for that idea. They
26 had that hatchery for 14 years. Some of those fish
27 still return to that creek and the last release was
28 done in '94. It's really interesting to know that a
29 fish that was picked out of a wild fish started a
30 hatchery. The DNA for some reason in those fish tells
31 them they have to go back to that same spot where their
32 great, great, great, great, great grandparents came
33 from.

34
35 A friend of mine happens to live there.
36 It was his dad's Native allotment that they put this
37 hatchery on. So that's something that people need to
38 start really looking at. We have the opportunity here
39 in the Nome area to do that and that's something that
40 we should do. It's a tool in the box to present
41 evidence that there's an Area M statewide fishery
42 intercept and there's also a pollock fishery in the
43 Bering Sea intercept. I know we've gone sideways
44 there, but I just wanted to put that out.

45
46 That brings us -- since we're all done
47 with reports and we have not heard from Robert or Mary.
48 Martin you said was excused, of course. I think that
49 brings us on into service awards, number 8. Robbin,
50

0024

1 you have something to do.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Let me quickly introduce
4 Robbin. So we did want to take a moment to recognize
5 those for their time spent volunteering on this
6 Council. It is time spent representing your
7 communities and your region, but it is time spent away
8 from your family for both preparing for these meetings
9 as well as attending them.

10

11 I would also like to mention I was only
12 able to research a couple years past. So if those that
13 don't get one have been on the Council for a while,
14 please let me know so I can rectify it at our next
15 meeting, but I will now turn it over to Robbin.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, everybody.
18 For the record, this is Robbin Lavine, Subsistence
19 Policy Coordinator, here at OSM. I am here in Nome, so
20 I just want to make a note of that. I am looking at
21 all of your faces and this is the first Council meeting
22 I have been able to attend since early spring 2020 and
23 it feels really good.

24

25 I'm really delighted that it's here in
26 Nome. I've always loved to come visit Nome. It's been
27 quite some time. I'm grateful to be here. I'm
28 grateful that you guys are here. I'm grateful that
29 you're bringing your knowledge and your time and you
30 have shared so much with us. I feel I've benefitted
31 just personally. So thank you.

32

33 For my organization we want to
34 recognize everything that you've done, all the time
35 that you've spent with us when you could have been in
36 your communities with your family. So today I have a
37 number of service awards. I'm going to start with you,
38 Mr. Green.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What did I do?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Well, let's see. What did
45 you do. Chairman Louie Green of Nome. You've served
46 on the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory
47 Council since 2010. That is what you've done. We
48 would like to recognize you today for over 10 years of
49 service to this Council and to your region.

50

0025

1 Louie is a subsistence hunter and
2 fisherman and has also fished commercially. He holds
3 extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife
4 resources, subsistence practices, customs and
5 traditions as well as sport, commercial and other
6 non-subsistence uses.

7

8 Chairman Green is no stranger to public
9 service as he also serves on the Bering Sea Native
10 Corporation's Board of Directors and the Sitnasuak
11 Native Corporation board and previously served on
12 ADF&G's Norton Sound Advisory Committee. Chairman
13 Green, thank you so much for your service.

14

15 (Applause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Appreciate
18 it.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Next on my list is Member
21 Ronald Kirk of Stebbins.

22

23 MR. KIRK: Thank you. What did I do?

24

25 MS. LAVINE: What did you do? Well,
26 let's find out. So you have served on the Seward
27 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council since
28 2015 and we would like to recognize you today for over
29 five years of service to this Council and your region.
30 We would have done this earlier, both of you, were it
31 not for our interruptions in in-person meeting.

32

33 Mr. Kirk is an important voice on this
34 Council as he has always lived in this region and
35 practices a subsistence lifestyle that was passed down
36 from his family to him. Mr. Kirk still subsistence
37 hunts, fishes and gathers berries and plants in his
38 region and takes pride in using his knowledge about
39 local resources and passing that information on to the
40 next generation and, of course, sharing it with us.

41

42 Mr. Kirk has served on the Kawerak
43 Marine Mammal Board, the Eskimo Walrus Commission and
44 has been the tribal council president in Stebbins. Mr.
45 Kirk, thank you so much for your service.

46

47 (Applause)

48

49 MR. KIRK: Thank you.

50

0026

1 MS. LAVINE: My goodness. We have
2 quite a lineup of usual suspects -- of our usual
3 suspects.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Like I was saying,
6 I've been here long enough to be sitting around here
7 with a bunch of old guys.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. LAVINE: Next on our list is Member
12 Deahl Katchatag. So Deahl Katchatag of Unalakleet has
13 served on the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional
14 Advisory Council since 2017 and we would like to
15 recognize him today for over five years of service to
16 this Council and to his region.

17
18 Mr. Katchatag is an important voice on
19 this Council as he too has always lived in the region
20 and practices a subsistence lifestyle that was passed
21 down from his family from generation to generation and
22 where he continues to pass down this knowledge to
23 others. Mr. Katchatag continues to hunt moose and
24 marine mammals as well as fish in the Unalakleet River.
25 You've also served on the Norton Bay Watershed Council,
26 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the Eskimo Walrus
27 Commission and you're on the council for the Native
28 Village of Unalakleet.

29
30 For all of your service to the Federal
31 Subsistence Management Program, your community, your
32 region, we'd like to present this award to you. Thank
33 you so much for your service.

34
35 (Applause)

36
37 MR. KATCHATAG: Thank you very much.

38
39 MS. LAVINE: Leland. He's run away.
40 Tried to get away. Member Leland Oyoumick of
41 Unalakleet. He's served on the Seward Peninsula
42 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council since 2016 and we
43 would like to recognize him today for over five years
44 of service on this Council and to this region.

45
46 Mr. Oyoumick is also an important voice
47 on this Council as he's always lived the traditional
48 subsistence way of life. He still fishes and collects
49 berries with his family around Unalakleet, has
50

0027

1 extensive knowledge of regional resources and cultural
2 customs and practices.

3

4 For all your service on this Council --
5 and I've learned so much from you and from all of you
6 -- we thank you for your service.

7

8 (Applause)

9

10 MR. OYOUNICK: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're over
13 with those service awards by Robbin Lavine. That
14 brings us to item number 10, public and tribal comment
15 on non-agenda items. Seeing as how there's no one in
16 the room, do we have somebody online, Nissa?

17

18 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is
19 Nissa Pilcher with OSM. I'd like to give a quick
20 update on how people can comment both in the room and
21 not in the room, so bear with me just one second.
22 During the fall 2022 Council meeting cycle the public
23 can provide written or oral comments to the Council in
24 person, telephonically or by email.

25

26 So you can submit written comments up
27 until the start of the presentation of each proposal or
28 closure review. On your written comment you must
29 clearly indicate your name, affiliation if applicable,
30 and if commenting on a proposal or closure review,
31 please include the number of that item. You can do
32 this by emailing your comment to subsistence@fws.gov or
33 bring a hard copy of your written comment to the
34 Council meeting and present it to the Council
35 coordination for distribution.

36

37 If you cannot bring your comment
38 yourself, you may ask someone else to deliver it to the
39 Council meeting on your behalf. You can also provide
40 oral comments to the Council either in person or
41 telephonically. The Chair will announce opportunities
42 to provide oral comment and after the presentation of
43 each analysis of the proposal or closure review.

44

45 If you are in person, you must fill out
46 a public comment form that's provided on the public
47 table. In this case, it's directly as you walk into
48 the room. Turn it in to a Council Coordinator or other
49 OS team member. The Chair will call your name when it

50

0028

1 is your turn to speak.

2

3

4 Telephonically, after the summary of
5 written public comment and in-person oral comments, the
6 Chair will ask if there's anyone on the phone that
7 would like to provide comments. For those on the phone
8 who would like to speak start by saying Mr. Chair and
9 wait to be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
10 Just as a side note, comments on non-agenda items are
11 accepted at the start of each day of all Council
12 meetings. The Chair will announce this opportunity
13 daily.

13

14

15 If there's any member of the public on
16 the phone that would like to speak to any non-agenda
17 items, this would be your opportunity.

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no comments on
the phone and seeing nobody in the room from public, I
think that would move us into old business. I'd like
to call a 10-minute break here to give everybody a
chance to get up and move around here a bit. I know we
started late, but we've been going at it for about an
hour now. There's some old guys, you know, here.

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(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ten minutes. We'll be
back at 10:28.

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(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll call this
meeting back to order. It is now 10:38. That brings
us to old business. Sub letter a. Nissa.

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MS. PILCHER: That's me. All right.
So, Mr. Chair, members of the Council, for the record
my name is Nissa Pilcher, Subsistence Council
Coordinator with OSM. I'm going to present you with a
brief summary of the .805(c) report to the Council.
The materials for this agenda item can be found
starting on Page 12 of your meeting material book.
This is not an action item on your agenda.

0029

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nissa, we've got to
2 line up Mr. Gray here. You've got the wrong sheet
3 here.

4
5 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it's a problem with
6 the agendas.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Nissa, thank
9 you. Go ahead. He's got the correct one now.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: Gotcha. All right. Once
12 again starting on Page 12 is the 805(c) report. That
13 would be in the book that looks like this.

14
15 So the Board adopted actions were in
16 line with your Council's recommendation on one regional
17 proposal concerning the boundary between two hunt areas
18 in GMU 22A, three statewide proposals and three
19 proposals from other close regions the Council chose to
20 weigh in on as well as seven wildlife closure reviews,
21 which included six reviews on moose in GMU 22 and one
22 on caribou in Unit 23.

23
24 The Board's action differed from the
25 Council's recommendation for two proposals and a
26 closure review. I will briefly give some information
27 on these, but for a full explanation please review that
28 805(c) report in your book.

29
30 So WP22-47 requested that calf harvest
31 be permitted for caribou in Unit 22. Your Council
32 supported this proposal, but the Board action was to
33 reject it. To briefly summarize their justification,
34 this herd is currently at a population level where it
35 is considered under preservative management and the
36 Western Arctic Caribou Management Plan recommends a
37 prohibition on calf harvest when this is the case. The
38 Board had previously reviewed and voiced approval of
39 this Plan.

40
41 WP22-49 requested that the Federal
42 public lands closure for moose in the portion of Unit
43 22 north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik
44 River drainages be rescinded Sep. 1 20, to coincide
45 with the State s nonresident moose season, which your
46 Council opposed.

47
48 The Board action was to support this
49 proposal. To briefly summarize their justification,
50

0030

1 the closure was originally put in place due to
2 conservation concerns. Since continuing the closure is
3 no longer supported by low moose population evidence
4 noted in the 805 report, recent biological metrics
5 indicate opening the closure to non-Federally qualified
6 users would not violate recognized principles of fish
7 and wildlife conservation.

8

9 And the last one. WCR22-09b reviewed
10 the closure to moose hunting except by residents of
11 Unalakleet in the central portion of Unit 22A. Your
12 Council voted to maintain status quo.

13

14 The Board action was to modify the
15 closure to open to all Federally qualified subsistence
16 users. As the survey and harvest data indicate that
17 there is a surplus of bulls available for harvest, the
18 Board felt that opening the area to all Federally
19 qualified subsistence users is a conservative and
20 incremental approach consistent with past Board actions
21 in other areas of Unit 22.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
24 my report.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nissa.
27 That leads us into sub item b, Board fiscal year 2021
28 Annual Report replies. You have a summary of that.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: I do. Once again, Mr.
31 Chair, members of the Council, for the record my name
32 is Nissa Pilcher, Subsistence Council Coordinator with
33 OSM. I am going to present you with a brief summary of
34 the Federal Subsistence Board FY21 Annual Report reply
35 to the Council. The material for this agenda item can
36 be found on Page 18 of your meeting materials book.
37 This is also not an action item.

38

39 The Board appreciates your effort to
40 communicate for your Annual Report to the Board issues
41 outside of the regulatory process that affect
42 subsistence users in your region. In FY21 there were
43 two topics of concern on the Council's Annual Report.

44

45 Topic 1 was regarding the presence of
46 resident caribou herd in the northern Seward Peninsula.
47 The Board acknowledges that the Council members would
48 like to understand the range and genetic structure of
49 caribou that reside on the northern Seward Peninsula.

50

0031

1 Historically, discussions have taken place among agency
2 staff at public meetings, as Alaska Department of Fish
3 and Game Western Arctic Caribou biologist Alex Hansen
4 stated at the October 2021 fall Council meeting.

5

6 The Bering Land Bridge National
7 Preserve or BELA recognizes there are caribou
8 year-round on the northern Seward Peninsula, but the
9 population status and extent of their range is unknown
10 and there is no assessment project in the works. BELA
11 staff will initiate Tribal consultations, conduct a
12 literature review, and engage with staff from the
13 University of Alaska Fairbanks Reindeer Research
14 Program to learn what genetic work has been
15 accomplished with reindeer on the northern Seward
16 Peninsula. These efforts are attainable within the
17 near future and information will be brought forward to
18 the Council.

19

20 Topic 2 was regarding the Bering
21 Sea-Western Interior Planning Area Environmental Impact
22 Statement. The Board is grateful for your review and
23 vigilance on this issue. As advisors to the Secretary
24 of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture or
25 Secretaries, it is appropriate that Regional Advisory
26 Councils communicate important subsistence related
27 issues to the Secretaries.

28

29 The Board encourages the Council to
30 have a detailed discussion of this issue on record and
31 to formulate your request to the Board in a letter.
32 Per your Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
33 Correspondence Policy, which is also in your packet at
34 the very end, you should submit your correspondence to
35 the Board through the Assistant Regional Director of
36 the Office of Subsistence Management. The Board would
37 be able to discuss your request to elevate your
38 concerns the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.
39 Thank you for bringing these potential impacts on your
40 subsistence ways of life to the Board's attention.

41

42 The Board also wants to thank you and
43 your Council for your continued involvement and
44 diligence in matters regarding the Federal Subsistence
45 Management Program and express their appreciation for
46 your efforts representing the subsistence users of the
47 Seward Peninsula Region through your work.

48

49 That concludes that summary, Mr. Chair.

50

0032

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nissa.
2 That brings us to sub item c, Special Actions. Elmer.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, a comment on
5 the report on resident caribou herds in the northern
6 Seward Peninsula. I would think this was a temporary
7 herd. I noticed in Facebook or other social media that
8 there were two concentrations of small herds north of
9 the lava beds most likely between Serpentine and those
10 rivers.

11
12 People were talking about a lot of
13 movement of the wolves. I have seen or I have
14 witnessed past experience of wolves just taking or
15 slaughtering reindeer. Slashing the throat and just
16 drinking the blood. So many years ago we ran into
17 maybe 10 to 15 of the reindeer that were like that. I
18 really haven't seen any caribou that were decimated by
19 wolves, but I would think that they're widespread also.
20 I seen evidence of wolves taking -- or going along the
21 river systems and at that time I reported over 20-plus
22 moose kills were in the wolf migration route.

23
24 The caribou that are in the Serpentine
25 area I would think they are remnants of reindeer herds
26 of Deering, the Kuzitrin. Deering used to be, I think
27 -- not Hadley. Karmun. And Hadley to Buckland.
28 Kuzitrin was Roger Menadelook. Olanna, Brevig Mission.
29 Weyiouanna and Goodhope from Shishmaref, and then
30 Ongtowsruk from Wales. Those would be the herds of
31 the reindeer herders that would probably kind of follow
32 the caribou up to their winter range, but maybe just
33 stop short. I have traveled north of the lava beds.
34 It's a pretty long place and pretty wide.

35
36 We know that reindeer/caribou return to
37 their calving grounds, but I think when they are moved
38 by predators, mostly wolves and also bears, that they
39 go to a different place. My assumption on the
40 caribou/reindeer staying around Serpentine was that
41 there was food available for them because these animals
42 have migrated down to Seward Peninsula over a number of
43 winters to winter out there. So it's a pretty big
44 country. The lava beds provide a lot of lichen food
45 for the caribou/reindeer. I'm assuming that the herd
46 that is around the Serpentine River it will move within
47 a few years.

48
49 Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Any
2 other comments from Council?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No. All right. So
7 that brings us to special actions. Nissa. I'm sorry.
8 Hannah.

9
10 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
11 Members of the Council. For the record, Hannah
12 Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM. I'm going to give
13 you a couple updates on Wildlife Special Actions.
14 First we'll have an update on Wildlife Special Action
15 WSA21-01. This is not an action item. It's just for
16 your information.

17
18 WSA21-01 requested that the Federal
19 Subsistence Board close Federal public lands in Units
20 23 and 26A to caribou and moose hunting by
21 non-Federally qualified users from August 1st to
22 September 30th. The Board voted to approve this
23 request with some modifications. The request was
24 addressed separately for moose and caribou.

25
26 As a result, some Federal public lands
27 in Unit 23 and a small portion of Unit 26A are closed
28 to caribou hunting by non-Federally qualified users
29 from August 1st to September 30th for two regulatory
30 years. In addition, all Federal public lands in Unit
31 23 are closed to moose hunting by non-Federally
32 qualified users from August 1st to September 30th for
33 two regulatory years.

34
35 For caribou, the closure area is Noatak
36 National Preserve, including the Nigu River portion of
37 the preserve in Unit 26A and BLM-managed lands between
38 the Noatak and Kobuk River in Unit 23. This area is
39 closed to hunting by non-Federally qualified users from
40 August 1st to September 30th during the 2022-2023 and
41 the 2023-2024 regulatory years.

42
43 The Board found this modification to be
44 a reasonable compromise that provides for the
45 continuation of subsistence uses and conservation of
46 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd while precluding
47 unnecessary restrictions on non-Federally qualified
48 users. The partial closure targets the areas of
49 highest user conflicts and minimizes potential
50

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1 disruptions to caribou migration.

2

3

4 The Board approved these requests with
5 modification for the two-regulatory-year timeline to
6 assess the effectiveness of the closures in conserving
7 the caribou population and providing for the
8 continuation of subsistence uses as well as to reduce
9 the administrative burden of processing Special Action
10 Requests as conditions are not expected to change in
11 2023.

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Thank you. This concludes my update
and please let me know if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.
Are there any questions or comments, Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Thank
you, Hannah, for your report.

MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
If you'd like me to continue, I can give the next
update as well.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's item B?

MS. VOORHEES: Correct.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy's got a
question.

MR. GRAY: Where are we in the book? I
couldn't find where you just came from. You were
talking about something and I'm scrambling trying to
find it and I couldn't find it. So as we go into this
new one, where are we?

MS. VOORHEES: All right. So this is
an update on Wildlife Special Action 22-01. I don't
have the agenda in front of me, but maybe Nissa does.

MS. PILCHER: They're not included in
the workbook because it was just going to be a brief --
for the record, this is Nissa Pilcher with OSM. So
there isn't anything written for you to refer to. It's
mostly just a verbal update. But I do have in my
notes, because I saw you scrambling, to rectify that

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1 for the next meeting or going forward.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, please do that
4 because it helps when we can follow, but we also can
5 make notes. We like to chicken scratch our own stuff.
6 Thank you.

7

8 Go ahead, Hannah.

9

10 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Again, this is an informational update only. It's not
12 an action item. Wildlife Special Action 22-01
13 submitted by the National Park Service and the Bureau
14 of Land Management early this year requested that the
15 Federal Subsistence Board change the Federal muskox
16 permitting system in Units 22 and 23 from a
17 registration to a drawing permit for the 2022-2024
18 regulatory years.

19

20 This was a housekeeping request as
21 these permits have been distributed via a draw since
22 about 1998. The proponents also requested to
23 standardize the language in the delegation of authority
24 letters and to change the in-season manager from the
25 Western Arctic National Parkland superintendent to the
26 Anchorage Field Office manager for BLM for the Federal
27 muskox hunts in the southwestern portion of Unit 23.

28

29 Federal in-season managers consider a
30 draw permit hunt to be the best management strategy for
31 conserving natural and healthy populations of muskox
32 while still allowing for subsistence use by Federally
33 qualified subsistence users.

34

35 If you'll remember at your winter 2022
36 meeting, this Council acted on WSA22-01. You
37 considered it to be a housekeeping request and noted
38 that a draw permit is likely the most equitable way to
39 distribute the permits.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
42 Council. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray.

45

46 MR. GRAY: So I heard you say the Park
47 was giving the authority to BLM to manage that draw.
48 Is that what ended up happening?

49

50

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1 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, to my
2 understanding. Letty may have something else to add.

3
4 MR. GRAY: And the reason I'm chasing
5 this is there was a time that the Park wanted to give
6 the State the authority to manage those permits and we
7 had a big fight in this meeting here some years ago. I
8 opposed the State managing Federal permits. I just
9 want to be clear. If BLM is managing the Park permits,
10 why are we emailing stuff to Letty to do this draw?
11 So, anyway.

12
13 MS. HUGHES: For the record this is
14 Letty Hughes, wildlife biologist with Bering Land
15 Bridge. So to Member Tom Gray. So for the delegation
16 of authority that's for BLM, that is for Unit 23
17 southwest of the Seward Peninsula. So for Deering and
18 Buckland. The reason for that was just because in
19 terms of land, who has the most land, and that's BLM up
20 there. For Bering Land Bridge, like the 22D Kuzitrin,
21 22E area where Bering Land Bridge does encompass, that
22 is still being delegation of authority through National
23 Park Service.

24
25 MR. GRAY: So I think it would be good
26 to -- and, you know, we're talking about muskox. I
27 assume we're talking about muskox. I think it would be
28 good for one of you agencies to come up with just a
29 one-page letter that talks about BLM's managing
30 authority, the Parks' authority and where it is, the
31 State's authority and where it is. That way we're a
32 little bit clearer on what type of permits, you know.
33 Letty's permits are a little bit different probably
34 than the State's permits, this Tier II process. And
35 list how these permits are being done.

36
37 You know, I've been in this game, this
38 process, since it started. It's changed over the
39 years, but, you know, the public really doesn't
40 understand. If I'm confused, the public surely is
41 confused on the process. So it would be good for
42 somebody to come up with just a one-page thing and get
43 it out to the public. This is what we have and where
44 we're at.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
47 Thanks, Letty. So we're back to you, Hannah.

48
49 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

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1 That's all I have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. Any
4 other questions, comments or concerns from the Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Hannah.

9 Jarred Stone.

10

11 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair and members of
12 the Council. It's been a long time. I think three
13 years maybe or four years since I last seen you. I was
14 kind of a young intern with OSM back then and now I'm
15 here today as a full-fledged fisheries biologist.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yay. Now you're a
18 bearded old guy.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. STONE: So I'm here today to
23 present to you a brief update on four fisheries
24 temporary special action requests. That is Fisheries
25 Special Action 22-01/02/03/04. These were submitted to
26 the Federal Subsistence Board this last spring. This
27 is not an action item for you today.

28

29 All four of these special action
30 requests are identical in nature and each requested
31 that the Federal Subsistence Board close Federal public
32 waters of the Yukon River Drainage to the harvest of
33 chinook and summer and fall chum salmon except for by
34 Federally qualified subsistence users.

35

36 Then they asked to further reduce the
37 pool of eligible harvesters based on the Alaska
38 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 804,
39 subsistence use prioritization analysis.

40

41 The Federal Subsistence Board met back
42 on May 4th, 2022 and adopted Temporary Special Action
43 FSA22-01 for conservation purposes. Specifically the
44 Board closed federal public waters of the Yukon River
45 drainage to the harvest of chinook, summer and fall
46 chum, also as well coho salmon, except by Federally
47 qualified subsistence users.

48

49 Effective starting June 1st, 2022

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1 through September 30th, 2022 with some harvest
2 opportunities to be determined by the Federal fisheries
3 manager should fisheries run strengths be sufficient to
4 allow a Federal subsistence fishery. The Board took no
5 action on Temporary Special Action request
6 FSA22-02/03/04 based on the adoption of FSA22-01.

7

8 In short, the returns this summer were
9 so poor that no directed opportunities to harvest
10 chinook, summer or fall chum were provided. Holly
11 Carroll is the Federal fisheries manager for the Yukon
12 River and she implemented the Board's action.

13

14 That concludes the update on the
15 Fisheries Temporary Special Action Request
16 FSA22-01/02/03/04. I'll stand by if you have any
17 questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tom.

20

21 MR. GRAY: It never ends. I always
22 have a question. So I'm a little curious. You know,
23 this is addressing Federal lands, but we're talking
24 about a resource that goes through all kinds of
25 territories. Are you guys working together with State
26 waters and talking the same language. You know, fish
27 coming in the Yukon was it closed commercial fishing on
28 State lands and on and on? You know, if we're going to
29 manage a resource, everybody's got to be a player and
30 we're all team players in this thing. It's not going
31 to work if Johnny does one thing and Sam does another
32 thing and so on and so forth.

33

34 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
35 answer Council Member Gray's question, yes. The
36 Federal In-season Manager is actually mandated to have
37 that level of coordination with the State and to to try
38 and have coordinated effort when it comes to closures.
39 To my knowledge, if Holly Carroll is online, I would
40 let her chime in and cover those aspects, but to my
41 knowledge, yes, that does happen.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Jarred.
44 Did you say Holly is online? Not sure. One following
45 question to Tommy, adds on to Tommy's, is there any
46 conversation happening between the Department of
47 Commerce, who is overseeing NOAA, NMFS and then North
48 Pacific Fisheries Management Council with the trawler
49 industry?

50

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1 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair, Mr. Chair. That's a great question. To my
3 knowledge the Department of Interior and Department of
4 Commerce to my knowledge haven't had that level of
5 coordination. For the first time your Council and
6 three other Councils had supplied a letter directed at
7 Secretaries of Interior and Secretaries of Commerce.

8
9 I do have some of the forecast
10 available from the Three River index for next season.
11 That came out about three weeks ago and it kind of
12 gives you a snapshot as to what the bycatch caps are
13 going to be set at for next year if you're interested.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We are.

16
17 MR. STONE: Okay. On September 22nd of
18 2022 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted
19 its annual Three River Index letter to NOAA Fisheries
20 with the preliminary 2022 total chinook salmon run
21 estimates as well as harvest levels and spawn
22 escapements to the Unalakleet, Yukon and Kuskokwim
23 Rivers. The combined chinook salmon run sizes from
24 these three rivers determine the chinook salmon bycatch
25 cap set by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
26 for the following year's Bering Sea commercial pollock
27 fishery.

28
29 According to ADF&G, the 2022 three
30 system index of inriver adult chinook salmon run sizes
31 from the Unalakleet, Upper Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers
32 is 158,646 and it is below the threshold level of
33 250,000. This means the chinook salmon bycatch cap in
34 2023 for next year the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands
35 pollock fishery will be 45,000 chinook salmon.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was that 200,000
38 number again on the chum -- or chinook?

39
40 MR. STONE: Yeah, that is a threshold
41 that looks at all three rivers, the Unalakleet, the
42 Upper Yukon River and the Kuskokwim and when that
43 threshold -- when the estimate is not expected to be
44 met, then they go with the more conservative cap of
45 45,000 chinook for a bycatch cap.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louie again. You said
48 that the chinook -- there was 158,646, which is below
49 the 200 -- what was the 200 number? I didn't capture
50

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1 that to write it down.

2

3 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 estimate for this 2022 season was 158,646 and the
5 threshold level -- this is a level that was determined
6 I believe by both Fish and Game and the North Pacific
7 Fishery Management Council that 250,000 chinook salmon
8 threshold is what they used to determine at what level
9 the bycatch could occur. So if it was above the
10 250,000 threshold, there would be a different bycatch
11 cap, but because it's below that 250,000 threshold the
12 bycatch cap is set at 45,000 for chinook.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And then
15 that aggregate number, the chinook cap or the 158,646,
16 that happens to be what ADF&G put together for the
17 three river systems.

18

19 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yes,
20 you are correct.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Tommy.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Yeah, I was wondering about
25 these three rivers. I mean it seems like a really,
26 really low number. Even 250,000 for the Yukon. The
27 Yukon alone, gosh, these fish are going all the way
28 into Canada for crying out loud and there's a lot of
29 people between the ocean and Canada. To combine three
30 rivers and say the threshold is 250,000 it's
31 unbelievable. So anyway.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron.

34

35 MR. KIRK: You mentioned bycatch.
36 Every year we deal with bycatch out in the high seas
37 with pollock fisheries. They have a quota of how many
38 bycatch they can catch. You're saying like 45,000.
39 Now how do we know that's accurate? How do we know
40 they're not going over 45,000?

41

42 If they are going over 45,000, we, as a
43 Federal Subsistence Board, should make a recommendation
44 to the Fish and Game to shut down that pollock
45 fisheries because they're interfering with our
46 subsistence way of life between the coast and Canada.

47

48 Our ancestors lived on this product for
49 years. They passed it on generations through

50

0041

1 generations to us and we're trying to pass it on to our
2 children's children future, but how are we going to do
3 that if the pollock fisheries is going over their quota
4 of bycatch of 45,000 and they're not being stopped.

5

6 I would think that we, as a Federal
7 Subsistence Board, not only for the Seward Peninsula
8 but the other Federal Subsistence Board should
9 recommend to put a stop to pollock fishing so that our
10 salmon stock can rise again.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

15

16 Deahl.

17

18 MR. KATCHATAG: You're talking about
19 bycatch. You got a 200 mile limit. Is that where you
20 stop to look and see the bycatch of kings? You know,
21 there's other fisheries beyond the 200 mile limit that
22 gets the big king salmon that we used to know once
23 before. They're catching the big ones beyond the 200
24 mile limit. Is anything being done about that?

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Jarred.

27

28 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
29 Chair, Council Member Katchatag. You bring up a good
30 point. I believe you're referring to the
31 Magnuson-Stevens Act that has a 200-mile boundary.
32 What happens out in the high seas I can't speak to.
33 I'm not an expert on what level of observers they have
34 there. I do know that in the Bering Sea they are
35 required to have 100 percent census on chinook. So the
36 counts that they come up with should be pretty accurate
37 for the bycatch of the chinook. I do not believe
38 that's the case with the fisheries below the Aleutians
39 and on the Gulf.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Go ahead,
42 Leland.

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: So once they start
45 fishing beyond the 200 mile limit all rules are gone?

46

47 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. You
48 know, I don't know if I can speak to that. I'm not
49 sure if they go beyond that 200 mile range if they're

50

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1 fishing the high seas if there are no rules. My
2 understanding is that even beyond that 200 mile range
3 the fishermen still have observers on board or they're
4 still using the camera systems to count the bycatch.
5 In all honesty I just can't answer that question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Jarred.
8 We've got Deahl and then Ron.

9
10 MR. KATCHATAG: Okay. In one meeting I
11 talked about having processing ships alongside the
12 trawlers so that instead of throwing the king salmon
13 overboard they put them in the processing ship and
14 bring them up the Kuskokwim, the Yukon and throughout
15 the Norton Sound to distribute king salmon to the
16 people, but that hasn't been done yet and that's how
17 many years ago I brought that up.

18
19 So you're looking at -- you, the Fish
20 and Game, hit our people with tickets for doing that.
21 We pay. We pay for throwing fish away and yet you
22 allow the high seas to go ahead and throw the king
23 salmon that we used to have, especially the huge ones.

24
25 Now why can't it be solved where you
26 could just -- if you're going to allow high seas
27 fisheries, then have a processing ship alongside the
28 trawlers to take the kings and distribute them. Not
29 only just one ship because you've got thousands of
30 people to feed. This has been our resource for
31 generations. Now we don't have it. Okay?

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: For the record, Mr.
34 Katchatag. Okay. So I think we've gone through the
35 present.....

36
37 MR. GRAY: Ron.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Ron. Sorry.
40 We've gone through the presentation, but we'll allow
41 Ron to go and then we'll move forward. Thank you.

42
43 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Deahl
44 covered what I was going to say, but what I want to say
45 is there any way we can put someone on the pollock boat
46 to help with the count of bycatch that they're throwing
47 over? But I like -- Deahl covered what I was going to
48 say about they should -- I brought this up a couple
49 years ago too to have them process that salmon that
50

0043

1 they're throwing overboard and distribute it to the
2 Kuskokwim area. This is our way of life. We've been
3 using it for years. It's so sad that our people in the
4 state can't utilize this anymore because of the
5 regulations.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Just
10 one comment here to kind of shed a little light on the
11 North Pacific Fishery Management Council in this whole
12 scheme of things. They're the ones that oversee this
13 pollock industry and all these trawlers. They're the
14 ones that create the allocations. NMFS and NOAA are
15 part of this.

16
17 The vice president of NSEC is the
18 chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management
19 Council. Simon Kinneen for the record. So let's move
20 on.

21
22 Did you have something?

23
24 MR. KIRK: I had something, but I
25 forgot.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: When you remember,
28 bring it back. We'll bring it to the table. My little
29 comment here kind of distracted people.

30
31 Go ahead.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. This is Robbin
34 Lavine again. Per this discussion or relevant to this
35 discussion I thought I would share that in the winter
36 meeting, the winter cycle, you and three other Regional
37 Advisory Councils wrote a letter to the North Pacific
38 Fishery Management Council on bycatch. You submitted
39 also a letter to the Board. The Board reviewed your
40 letter and your request to the Board to take action and
41 elevate your concerns to the Secretaries of the
42 Interior.

43
44 The Board response to your request,
45 that letter to the Secretaries of the Interior and
46 Agriculture, that went out on Friday. So I don't know
47 if you were notified yet. Your Councils are cc'd.
48 Nope. But, if you like, I have a copy. It's about a
49 page and a half. I can summarize it or I can read it
50

0044

1 to you because it is relevant to your discussion and it
2 informs you on Board action on this issue to date.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin. Is
5 there a letter to the Secretary of Commerce in this?

6

7 MS. LAVINE: There is a request from
8 the Board that the Secretaries of the Interior and
9 Agriculture liaise themselves. So we're asking the
10 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to liaise with
11 our colleague.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

14

15 MR. GRAY: What does that mean, liaise?

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: It's a fancy word for
20 asking them to knock on the door of the Secretary of
21 Commerce and discuss these issues with them. So work
22 with them closely face to face.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just so everybody
25 understands, the North Pacific Fishery Management
26 Council is under the Department of Commerce. It's not
27 under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It's under
28 the economic engine. That's what this stuff is all
29 about with the MSA.

30

31 So they took 200 miles away from the
32 foreign fleets because they were out there doing damage
33 and overfishing the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska
34 and then they put our own boats out there to do the
35 same thing. So that's it in a nutshell. We don't have
36 through this Council and through the Federal
37 Subsistence Board any authority over the Department of
38 Commerce. We're involved with the Department of
39 Interior and Department of Agriculture also in our side
40 of the fence.

41

42 So that means that the Federal
43 Subsistence Board can only go that far. So when Tommy
44 asked about liaise, asking them to liaise means, like
45 she said, to knock on the door of the Department of
46 Commerce. That's where the issues are at. It's not
47 with the Fish and Wildlife Service. It's with a whole
48 other level.

49

50

0045

1 I guess Leland wants to make a comment
2 here.

3
4 MR. OYOUNICK: When these North Pacific
5 Fisheries have their meetings in the villages, do they
6 let you know? Because they never let us know that
7 they're coming to Unalakleet and to Nome to have their
8 meetings. I didn't know about it until it was done and
9 over. We'd like to know when they're around for
10 meetings. We've got questions that we'd like to know.
11 I'd like for them to let you know that we're going to
12 -- they're going to be in our area for meetings. We'd
13 like to put in our more than two cents now. We'd like
14 to say something to them too. I know we'd like to
15 comment.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.

20
21 Robbin.

22
23 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
24 Chair. I just want to let you know that the Board has
25 requested the Secretaries to liaise with the Department
26 of Commerce to explore engagement and relationship
27 building between our agencies with the goal of
28 addressing salmon, migratory life cycles and bycatch in
29 a holistic way. So through our three different
30 agencies.

31
32 In addition, the Board will invite the
33 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and members
34 and staff to its next meeting, this January in 2023, to
35 discuss this issue. So some of the recommendations and
36 the points that you're making now we can summarize in
37 our talking points to support discussion on the record
38 early 2023. Including your recommendation that we be
39 notified when meetings are held in your region.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.
44 That's the extent you wanted to share with us in that
45 letter? Okay. That we went out and wrote the letter
46 with three other Councils. They were all on the Yukon
47 or was there one with the Kuskokwim. I can't remember.
48 Can you let these guys know for sure.

49
50

0046

1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Through the Chair. So the four Regional Advisory
3 Councils included the Eastern Interior, Western
4 Interior, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and your Council.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Robbin. Is
9 there a Council member with a comment or quick
10 question? Tommy.

11
12 MR. GRAY: So this meeting in early
13 2023, you know, we're -- I don't want to call us laymen
14 people, but we're subsistence people that have a need
15 to be fulfilled and obligated. How do we get
16 representation in that meeting? Because, believe me,
17 if you're talking Secretary of whatever, you're
18 climbing the ladder so high. It will amaze me if our
19 needs are even addressed in that meeting.

20
21 So how do we get -- you know, the
22 Federal Subsistence Committee, I can understand the big
23 boys getting into that meeting, but, you know, it's I
24 think important that the bottom line gets there. I'm
25 sorry, it never gets there.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

28
29 Robbin.

30
31 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
32 Chair. So there's a number of different meetings we're
33 kind of referencing in this discussion as far as the
34 Federal Subsistence Management Program's response to
35 your concerns. So all the four Councils came together.
36 You wrote a number of different letters and, of course,
37 one letter to the Board asking the Board to do
38 something, you know, to move your concerns up the
39 ladder. So there are -- so we're referencing meetings
40 between the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture
41 and Commerce. So that's one thing we're asking.

42
43 You've asked specifically -- you've had
44 some specific asks for the North Pacific Fishery
45 Management Council. A number of them are listed here
46 including adding two subsistence or tribal
47 representative seats on the North Pacific Fishery
48 Management Council and requiring that these
49 representatives have no direct economic ties to Alaskan
50

0047

1 Commercial Development Code of Fisheries.

2

3

4 So those are some requests that are
5 going to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
6 through your letter. Those exact same requests are
7 going to the Secretaries.

7

8

9 What's happening this January is the
10 Federal Subsistence Board -- so this is very local.
11 You know, this is Alaskan only. But the Federal
12 Subsistence Board we're holding our regulatory meeting
13 on fisheries issues the end of January and into the
14 beginning of February. On that level, on our Alaskan
15 level, that's where we're asking the Fishery Management
16 Council to attend.

16

17

18 It's one of many agenda items. It's
19 not a meeting just to address these concerns, but it is
20 a way we are -- it's another prong in our effort to
21 address this on multiple levels. So this would be a
22 local level. This would be our Alaskan Federal
23 Subsistence Board members and representatives from the
24 North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be at,
25 hopefully, the same meeting in the same room looking at
26 each other across the table. So you'll be briefed.

26

27

28 So we can put this -- we can ask Nissa
29 to put, you know, this issue on the winter agenda item
30 and we'll have perhaps a member of our InterAgency
31 Staff Committee who may be attending debrief and let
32 you know what happened. What the results were of that
33 meeting. It's probably going to be one of many efforts
34 that we're taking on this issue.

34

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.
39 Just so I don't forget where I am. Right now there's
40 -- isn't North Pacific Fishery Management Council
41 meeting right now? There's a meeting going on at the
42 same time we're holding this one and it's kind of
43 blocking us from even having anything to do with it.

43

44

45 I didn't catch it on time. I was
46 hoping we were going to move this meeting until later
47 in the month and I forgot about that point to make and
48 bring it across to the rest of the Council. Too many
49 things going on. So I missed that. Anyway, I think
50 that's what's happening right now. It's really strange

50

0048

1 how Secretary of Interior has something to do with us
2 and this other meeting, I think. There's something
3 going on.

4
5 Anyway, Leland, go ahead.

6
7 MR. OYOUNICK: Being that fish is fish
8 why can't they just have one agency directing all this
9 instead of like having department of whoever and the
10 Department of Interior? Fish is fish. It don't matter
11 if you catch them foreign or domestic, way out there or
12 here, bycatch or non-bycatch. They're still fish. Why
13 can't they just be under one leadership.

14
15 I mean too much politics is not good
16 when it comes to something like this. You know, a
17 definitive road that we can go down. But to have to be
18 able to have two different entities governing the same
19 thing that lives in the water is beyond me. You know,
20 I mean fish is fish.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland. So
23 it's interesting because in 1993 I was on the advisory
24 council for Fish and Game here and going to --
25 representing Sitnasuak at Board of Fish meetings. Not
26 only myself, but there was two or three other folks
27 from around the state, western part of the state, that
28 talked about the Federal waters fisheries and the State
29 managed waters fisheries.

30
31 We all said the same thing you're
32 saying, Leland. You can't manage -- if you don't
33 manager together, you can't manage both fisheries
34 separate. They're intertwined. We're still at that
35 same table and we're still having the same argument
36 over it.

37
38 But I will say again the chairman of
39 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council comes from
40 Nome. His name is Simon Kinneen. He's also a vice
41 president on the Norton Sound Economic Development
42 Corporation.

43
44 So let's move on. We're going to have
45 this discussion again, folks. This isn't going away.
46 It's a hot subject. A big topic here in the state.
47 It's not going away. It's just heating up, but we're
48 going to be a part of it. So thank you guys. Thanks
49 to the Staff.

50

0049

1 We need to move on to our next agenda
2 item. I got lost where we're at here in my notes.
3 Under new business. Hannah, sub item A, fisheries
4 proposals and closure reviews. Thank you.
5

6 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Members of the Council. Again for the record Hannah
8 Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM. The analysis of
9 Proposal FP23-02 begins on page 22 of your Council
10 materials. The reason that this proposal is coming
11 before you is because Stebbins has a customary and
12 traditional use determination for salmon in the Yukon
13 River Drainage.
14

15 Proposal FP23-02 was submitted by
16 Chevak Native Village and requests the Federal
17 Subsistence Board recognize customary and traditional
18 uses of chinook, summer chum, coho, sockeye, and pink
19 salmon by residents of Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon
20 Bay in the Yukon River Drainage.
21

22 Currently these three communities have
23 a customary and traditional use determination for fall
24 chum salmon only. Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay
25 have demonstrated their customary and traditional uses
26 of all salmon based on the eight factors that exemplify
27 customary and traditional uses.
28

29 They have demonstrated a long-term,
30 consistent pattern of use, recurring for many years,
31 using methods of processing and preserving use by past
32 generations, using skills and values handed down from
33 generation to generation, sharing their harvest with
34 others and relying upon a wide variety of wild foods
35 which provide substantial cultural, economic, social,
36 and nutritional value.
37

38 The ancestors of people living in the
39 area of these communities have relied on a seasonal
40 round of wild resource harvesting in which salmon was
41 prominent for at least several thousand years. People
42 describe the subsistence way of life, including taking
43 only what is needed and not wasting and the importance
44 of teaching children these values.
45

46 Salmon were and continue to be
47 distributed through kin and community networks in these
48 communities. People rely on a wide variety of wild
49 resources that comprise a substantial portion of their
50

0050

1 diet. People have demonstrated their use of salmon in
2 numerous publication that are described in the
3 analysis.

4
5 Therefore, the OSM preliminary
6 conclusion is to support FP23-02. Thank you and I'm
7 happy to take any questions, although I believe the
8 primary analyst, Pippa Kenner, is also on the phone
9 line.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.
12 Any Council comments, questions or concerns.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just had a question
17 on this -- it says Yukon northern area. I just see a
18 notice it was just Stebbins. I thought St. Michael was
19 included in there.

20
21 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, are you
22 referring to the customary and traditional use
23 determination?

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

26
27 MS. VOORHEES: To my knowledge it's
28 actually not at this point. That could -- a proposal
29 could be submitted to alter that. Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Hannah.
32 Anybody on the Council.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the phone.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
41 Hannah. That was not an action item. That was an item
42 of information. Just to be clear. Thanks. What are
43 we doing with that, Nissa? I want to make sure.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: I believe the asterisk
46 should be down because I do believe that Hannah just
47 gave information on FP23-02, which would be an action
48 -- it's a proposal. It's a regulatory proposal. It's
49 not necessarily in your guys's region per se, but if
50

0051

1 you guys wanted to weigh in on it, you are more than
2 welcome. At least that's my understanding.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Anybody on the
5 Council want to weigh in on this? I realize that
6 Stebbins is the only one on there. The only thing that
7 we could do is -- not with this one, but plugging in
8 Stebbins -- I mean St. Michael in there for the C&T.

9

10 Go ahead, Tommy.

11

12 MR. GRAY: So this proposal is talking
13 about customary and traditional use determination and
14 it's adding Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and Chevak and
15 changing it from fall salmon to all salmon and that's
16 it?

17

18 MS. VOORHEES: The major change is
19 those communities were singled out for only having a
20 customary and traditional use determination for fall
21 chum and not for the others. All other communities
22 listed there currently have a qualification for all
23 species of salmon. So this would just be -- let me
24 double check that.

25

26 Pippa, are you online as well?

27

28 MS. KENNER: Yes, this is Pippa Kenner
29 with OSM. I'm on the line.

30

31 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. I'll let you
32 address this question since you're the analyst.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Okay. I'd love to.
35 Again, this is Pippa Kenner and I'm sorry I couldn't be
36 there today. So when we have a proposal to change
37 regulations, we give all the Councils that may be
38 affected by that regulation a chance to act on it. In
39 terms of this proposal, in the northern -- in your
40 region the only community that might be affected by
41 this proposal is Stebbins.

42

43 Stebbins has customary and traditional
44 use determination for salmon in the Yukon River. Now
45 we want to add three more communities to that customary
46 and traditional use determination. Chevak, Scammon Bay
47 and Hooper Bay.

48

49 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Pippa.

50

0052

1 Through the Chair, I would also add that the reason
2 these communities were left off appears to have been
3 actually an administrative oversight over time with the
4 transition from State to Federal regulations and
5 changes in the terminology.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got anything on
8 this, Ron?

9
10 MR. KIRK: I'm lost on this.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I stumbled on
13 this one. Sorry, but it is a presentation of a
14 proposal that we either act on or we don't act on.
15 Whatever we choose to do. Ron, do you have something
16 to add?

17
18 MR. KIRK: Yeah. You included Stebbins
19 on this. Isn't St. Michael part of this? Because the
20 salmon go through St. Michael, then through Stebbins.

21
22 I also noticed you have from Point
23 Romanoff extending south and west. According to Fish
24 and Game, the Lower Yukon stops subsistence fishing all
25 the way to Pikmiktalik River. I'm wondering why
26 they're including Point Romanoff when you can't
27 subsistence fish all the way in the Yukon-Kuskokwim
28 area from the mouth of the Yukon River to Pikmiktalik
29 River. That's how far the commercial fishery boundary
30 is in the Yukon area. It goes all the way to
31 Pikmiktalik, which is 20 miles from my village.

32
33 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.....

34
35 MS. KENNER: I can take this, Hannah.

36
37 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Pippa. Go
38 ahead.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Oh, unless you have it.

41
42 MS. VOORHEES: Well, I could address
43 the first part of the question and then let you address
44 the second part.

45
46 MS. KENNER: Why don't we do that since
47 you're there. Go ahead.

48
49 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. So Chair,
50

0053

1 Member Ron Kirk, I just wanted to address your first
2 question about St. Michael in terms of the C&T
3 determination. I'm unaware of the process through
4 which Stebbins was added and St. Michael was not. We'd
5 have to dig through the regulatory history to recover
6 that information. However, our process does allow for
7 reconsideration of that.

8
9 In this case these three communities
10 were -- their use was reviewed and analyzed and we
11 didn't go beyond that because it was -- we'd only
12 consider every single community if we were given a
13 proposal to narrow down the customary and traditional
14 use determination. So in this case it wasn't -- St.
15 Michael didn't come up as a community to be considered.
16 The proposal was specific to these three communities.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Hannah. The
21 Federal Subsistence Board has never received a proposal
22 from St. Michael to be included. Of course that would
23 mean included to a customary and traditional use
24 determination to harvest salmon in the Yukon River
25 Drainage. Of course St. Michael has a customary and
26 traditional use determination that enables them to
27 harvest salmon up in their area. Just not the Yukon
28 River Drainage.

29
30 The reason why Stebbins was included is
31 any of the people who live in Stebbins have migrated up
32 from the Kuskokwim area and they still go to the mouth
33 of the Yukon River to commercial fish and sometimes to
34 subsistence fish. So they were added in many years
35 ago, 20, 30 years ago, and that's why.

36
37 The other question, as I want to remind
38 everybody, but on Page 26 it talks about what Federal
39 public waters are. What waters do these regulations
40 apply to. It says Federal public waters in the Yukon
41 area include all navigable and non-navigable
42 freshwaters located within and adjacent to Federal
43 conservation units. So in this case it's the Yukon
44 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and these regulations
45 apply only in freshwaters, not out in marine waters
46 where the commercial fishery is.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pippa.
49 Ron, go ahead.

50

0054

1 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. You're talking
2 about navigable waters. Navigable waters the fish come
3 through St. Michael. There's the big canal and the
4 little canal are joined and they go right through and
5 that's why it's called St. Michael Island. The fish go
6 right through those rivers, the big canal and little
7 canal, and head into the Yukon.

8
9 They also head up into what we call (in
10 Native). It's a clear lake. It's further up above the
11 little canal. It goes past what we call the
12 steamboats, old steamboats area. That's clear water
13 there and the fish go into there also. I don't know
14 why St. Michael is not included. I would invite them
15 to be included into this because this concerns them
16 too.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

21
22 MR. KIRK: One more thing. I'm sorry.
23 The Yukon people we don't go to the mouth of the Yukon
24 to subsistence fish. We subsistence fish right at our
25 bay and they come to us. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

28
29 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. I
30 just wanted to thank Ron for that feedback.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Thanks.
33 It's been a while since I've done this. So we're
34 supposed to go through this process here on this card
35 where we report on Board consultation. Who's going
36 to.....

37
38 MS. KENNER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Do you
39 want to go through the process on the card. So I think
40 the next step would be questions from the public and
41 then questions from maybe tribes.

42
43 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher for
44 the record. The process can be found on Page 21 in
45 your books.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'd ask any tribes
48 online to -- for any consultations. Are there any
49 ANCSA corporations online, any representatives for
50

0055

1 consultation?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Do we
have any comments from agencies. ADF&G.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Federal agency
comments.

12

13

MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, can you hear me?

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I can hear you. Who
is this?

17

18

19

MR. LIND: This is Orville Lind, Native
Liaison for OSM.

20

21

CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go.

22

23

24

MR. LIND: Hi, everybody. During the
consultations we had no questions or comments. Thank
you, Mr. Chair.

25

26

27

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Orville. I
was missing you. So we go through agency comments
under Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Is there
anybody online with ADF&G?

31

32

33

MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair. This is Mark
Burch.

34

35

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mark.

36

37

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46

MR. BURCH: I don't have a lot of
prepared comments. I'd just say that we don't normally
take a position on customary and traditional use
determinations, but we do encourage review of the
available information, especially those -- more of the
information that's collected by our interviewers out in
the rural areas. Anyway, making use of that
information in making your informed recommendations and
eventually decisions on the part of the Federal
Subsistence Board.

47

48

49

50

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0056

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Burch.
2 I'll move on to Federal agency comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Tribal
7 agency comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none there.
12 Moving on to item 4, advisory group comments. Are
13 there other Regional Councils online?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Are
18 there any Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Are
23 there any Subsistence Resource Commission comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Item 5.
28 Summary of written public comments. Orville, do you --
29 or Hannah, go ahead.

30
31 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 There were no written public comments.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So we're
35 at the Regional Council recommendation. We need to
36 know if we need to make a motion to adopt this proposal
37 or to -- what was the other? No action? Go ahead,
38 Nissa.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: Yes, jumping in. So
41 options would be discuss and support, discuss and
42 oppose, discuss and amend or discuss and take no
43 action. At least that's my understanding of this
44 process.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,
47 Councilman Ron Kirk asked about St. Michael and I heard
48 that they had not asked for C&T. So it wouldn't be
49 proper for us to amend this proposal to include them,
50

0057

1 would it?

2

3

Anybody have an answer for me in there?

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MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. This is Hannah Voorhees. The Council can proceed as they would like. Usually when it comes to considering a community for C&T we depend on a full analysis.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I thought there was more of a background to that before it was ever -- yeah, it's only, what, an eight mile road or something, but that's -- they're not included in here for a reason. Like Hannah just stated they have to go through an analysis process to be included.

MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. May I ask a question?

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

MS. VOORHEES: From the Council's point of view are there significant cultural differences or differences in the way those two communities connect with the Yukon River communities? Is there a different history of connections between St. Michael and Stebbins further south?

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll ask Councilman Kirk his opinion.

MR. KIRK: To my knowledge there's no difference because when you -- when I go back and studied the history of the villages they're connected together because half of Stebbins and half of St. Michael are both combined from both villages. They're related. So there's no difference culturally, traditionally or subsistence way of life. We both do it the same way. We've been doing it for years, generations, the same way without changing any of it.

As far as the salmon go, I stated they go down -- they go into the small canal and the big canal and they go down to the Yukon also along the coast, so they're connected.

MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. Thank you, Ron, for those comments. I think for the current proposal I would recommend considering the

0058

1 question before the Council. I'm happy to facilitate
2 the process of submitting a proposal in the future as
3 needed for St. Michael. I think it might be outside
4 the scope of this proposal in particular.

5

6 Pippa, do you have anything to add?

7

8 MS. KENNER: No, I don't, Hannah.

9 Thank you very much.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Ron, do
12 you have a comment?

13

14 MR. KIRK: Yeah, it might be outside of
15 this proposal for St. Michael, but I'd still like to
16 speak on their behalf sometimes when it comes to issues
17 like subsistence way of life because we all live it and
18 we're right there on the island and we all do the same.
19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland, go ahead.

22

23 MR. OYOUNICK: Yep, I think that way
24 too.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that.
27 So if we say support, we could have a vote to support
28 this because Stebbins is included and it not only helps
29 Stebbins but it helps St. Michael at the same time even
30 though they're not written in.

31

32 Tommy, go ahead.

33

34 MR. GRAY: So I think we need to
35 clarify this. Right now Stebbins has customary and
36 traditional rights for salmon other than fall chum
37 salmon. Is that correct?

38

39 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
40 is Hannah. Yes, that's correct. They also have a
41 determination for all other salmon as well in the Yukon
42 River Drainage.

43

44 MR. GRAY: So what this proposal is
45 basically doing is adding Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay and
46 Chevak and that's all it's doing.

47

48 MS. VOORHEES: That's correct. So
49 those three communities were limited to fall chum

50

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1 salmon in their C&T and this would just be expanding
2 that determination so that those three communities have
3 a determination for all salmon species in the Yukon
4 River Drainage.

5

6 MR. GRAY: (Away from microphone)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, we could move
9 forward like Councilman Gray said. It doesn't matter
10 one way or the other. We could vote to support it or
11 we could just vote -- or we could just take no action.
12 Then what Hannah said she'd be glad to take some
13 initiative into moving towards C&T for St. Michaels.

14

15 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 My recommendation would be that this Council submit a
17 proposal to add St. Michael to the customary and
18 traditional use determination for fall salmon in the
19 Yukon River Drainage when the call for proposals opens
20 up. Actually that won't be until the early part of
21 2024 at this stage.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we could put
24 that on the calendar somewhere along the way there. So
25 Stebbins already has -- they're written in here already
26 for this. They're already -- I'm trying to make sure I
27 read this right.

28

29 Go ahead, Nissa. Oh, I thought you
30 were going to say something. Go ahead.

31

32 MS. VOORHEES: That's correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So there's nothing we
35 really need to do here. We can move on without taking
36 any action. Deahl, you got something?

37

38 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, if you add them
39 to three villages down there, would their subsistence
40 follow their subsistence by getting closed? Would they
41 be able to continue fishing for chum and kings,
42 Stebbins and St. Michael, or would they follow suit
43 with the lower villages and be closed to subsistence?

44

45 MS. VOORHEES: Pippa, would you like to
46 address that question.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Yes. I believe I
49 understand the question. The question is if Chevak,

50

0060

1 Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay, if this proposal was
2 adopted, will most communities still be able to fish in
3 the Yukon River and the answer is yes. They will be
4 able to fish in the Yukon River Drainage unless it's
5 closed by the Federal manager.

6
7 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
8 is Hannah. Currently they are fishing under State
9 regulations. Currently, if there's a closure to
10 non-Federally qualified users, they are unable to fish.
11 This would make a change so that if there is a closure
12 only to non-Federally qualified users, these three
13 communities would still be able to fish under those
14 circumstances.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So this is a good
17 thing. It moves the Federal -- I want to say
18 jurisdiction. It gives jurisdiction to Federally
19 qualified.....

20
21 MS. KENNER: That's correct. This is
22 Pippa.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. All
25 right.

26
27 MS. KENNER: There are no down sides to
28 supporting this proposal.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We could vote on it to
31 support it. Tommy Gray, go ahead.

32
33 MR. GRAY: Okay. I make a motion to
34 support.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

37
38 MR. KIRK: I second. Ronald Kirk.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
41 the motion -- I lost my train of thought.

42
43 MR. GRAY: In support of the motion say
44 aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
49 sign.

50

0061

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
4 passes. Voting to support. Next. We did number 9.
5 So now we move forward to the next item on the agenda.
6 Where are we at, Nissa?

7

8 MS. PILCHER: So that was the only
9 fisheries proposal that was in your area. So that was
10 the crossover proposal. There wasn't any regionally.
11 That was the crossover proposal. So we addressed on
12 the agenda 11-a(1). So now we'd move over to the next
13 agenda topic, which would be the 2024 Fisheries
14 Resource Monitoring Program.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We're at
17 lunchtime. Are we taking a lunch break? What do you
18 say, Tommy? I think let's take a lunch break. What is
19 it we normally do, an hour?

20

21 MR. KIRK: Yeah.

22

23 (Discussing restaurants)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So about 1:00
26 o'clock we'll bring the meeting back to order. Thank
27 you folks online.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 MS. PILCHER: It is 1:18 and we are
34 getting ready to get going. If you want to grab a cup
35 of coffee, you should do that right now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So this meeting
38 is coming back to order. We're under new business. We
39 have 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program with
40 Hannah and Jarred and then after that we'll have Justin
41 and Letty.

42

43 MS. PILCHER: So I think I might have
44 informed you wrong. It looks like we're going to
45 switch those, so Justin and Letty will be first.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Those first two?
48 Justin and Letty first. Thank you, Letty.

49

50

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1 MS. HUGHES: For the record I'm Letty
2 Hughes, wildlife biologist for Bering Land Bridge
3 National Preserve based here in Nome. I'm going to
4 give an update along with some team members on the
5 Bering Land Bridge fish inventory and Salmon Genetics
6 Project. On the line with me I have Tyler Dann,
7 geneticist with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
8 Nate Cathcart with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 and Anadromous Waters and Brendan Scanlon, the
10 Sportfish Area Biologist for this area, and I think --
11 making sure. I think those are the three individuals
12 online.

13

14 This team that we have for the Bering
15 Land Bridge Fish Inventory and Salmon Genetics Project
16 they're really the guys on the ground, guys and gals on
17 the ground doing this work that we have a cooperative
18 agreement with.

19

20 So for the record and to remind folks,
21 this was a priority and information needs that was on,
22 you know, for the Seward Peninsula record for quite
23 some time. Then when there was a call for proposals
24 about in 2018, there was an opportunity to actually
25 make those priority information needs happen.

26

27 So Park Service and Fish and Game
28 teamed up to put in for this project and it's funded.
29 It's a four-year project and we just finished up season
30 two of the fieldwork. The four rivers in mind and the
31 tributaries associated with them that we are focusing
32 on is the Serpentine River, the Arctic River, the Nuluk
33 and the Nugnug (Nugnugaluktuk). I'll just call it for
34 short because I can never pronounce the entire name.

35

36 There's three objectives with this
37 project. Objective one is to document fish species
38 with emphasis on specific salmon. Objective two,
39 evaluate genetic variation within salmon species and
40 potential for mixed stock analyses. Objective three,
41 collect age/sex/length (as many of you heard maybe ASL)
42 on salmon species identified and sampled for genetics.

43

44 Right now I'm going to turn it over to
45 Nate Cathcart. He's the one that's been really pulling
46 this project together the last couple years. So Nate.

47

48 MR. CATHCART: Thanks a lot, Letty.
49 Hello from Anchorage. So this project had its first
50

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1 field season last year in 2021 and for that first
2 objective doing fish surveys we focused on more
3 backpack electrofishing in smaller streams. We did
4 over 60 sites last year and then we transitioned into
5 larger waters to survey this year in August where we
6 used raft electrofishing.

7
8 I think in total they -- the crew did
9 three streams, but they did like mild breaches with
10 that style, so we were trying to get some bigger water
11 this year compared to small water last year. In total
12 I think among those three rivers this year they only
13 missed out on the Arctic River. So next year we'll try
14 to fill in the blanks on the raft electrofishing side
15 of things on the Nuluk River.

16
17 This year I think in total then among
18 those sites we did ten sites. So there's 72 total fish
19 survey sites. We collected 15 fish species including
20 all five species of salmon. I guess I should add too
21 that we've been doing aerial surveys as well and that
22 is not factoring into the number of sites right there,
23 but there are a lot of miles of aerial surveys that
24 have documented the upper extent of basically all
25 species of salmon in some of these rivers in the Bering
26 Land Bridge National Preserve.

27
28 So we're focusing on pink and chum and
29 sockeye in our August sampling dates and then last year
30 we did some October aerial surveys for the coho salmon
31 run and we were able to document a lot of them in our
32 target tributaries that Letty was talking about.

33
34 So next year it's pretty much just to
35 fill in the blanks here. We're going to look at the
36 maps and see kind of where we have some holes, I guess,
37 in our coverage right now within the Park and within
38 the streams that drain the National Park and try to do
39 probably a mix of sampling styles of a mix of headwater
40 sampling with the backpack electrofisher in smaller
41 streams as well as bring the raft electrofisher to
42 finish off the Nuluk River.

43
44 And then if we have time we'd also like
45 to explore a couple or a few of the lake systems within
46 the Park system to see what kind of fish are in there
47 because we know from either word of mouth or what we
48 observed in 2021 that -- and this year -- that there
49 are fish in the lakes. We just haven't been able to
50

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1 give the right amount of effort yet and time. So
2 hopefully with that we'll be better.

3

4 I'd say our one hangup this year might
5 have been the fact that Covid happened and we had a
6 little issue with our travel, but the crew has done
7 exceptionally well. We're firing on all cylinders. I
8 still think even though we had some mishaps and I think
9 our one remaining little sub-objective that we need to
10 incorporate into our inventory and our survey style is
11 working with Shishmaref still.

12

13 But that's about it. Then I guess we
14 can transition to Tyler and genetics update.

15

16 MR. DANN: Okay, great. Can you guys
17 hear me okay?

18

19 MR. CATHCART: Yep.

20

21 MR. DANN: I guess before I begin any
22 questions for Nate?

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: None here. Thank you.

25

26 MR. DANN: Okay. Good afternoon,
27 everybody. My name is Tyler Dann. I'm a fishery
28 geneticist with the Department of Fish and Game here in
29 Anchorage and I'm pleased to be here speaking with you
30 today. I'm really pleased to be working on this
31 project because I'm originally from Nome and it's been
32 great these last two years to go back home. My parents
33 are Bill Dann and Jenny Alowa. We moved down here in
34 '84, but still got a lot of family there. So it's
35 great to get back up on the Seward Peninsula and work
36 on this cool project.

37

38 Letty and Nate gave a very good
39 overview of the overall project. I'll just talk about
40 the component that our shop is going to work with. My
41 lab is called the gene conservation lab and we do a
42 couple major things with DNA in all fish, but in
43 particular salmon. Kind of the upshot is we used
44 genetic markers as sort of a natural tag to do a couple
45 of things.

46

47 The first is to just characterize each
48 population relative to others of the same species in
49 terms of how they're related with the genetic diversity

50

0065

1 among populations and that can sort of help us define
2 management units and just better understand the natural
3 history of the populations that we're managing.

4

5 Another way we use that diversity is
6 sort of as a natural tool to say if we have a catch
7 sample of say chum salmon in the bycatch of the pollock
8 fishery, are there enough differences based on DNA for
9 us to be able to identify contributions of say Norton
10 Sound chum salmon to this catch sample with fish from
11 all over the Pacific.

12

13 The diversity among populations with
14 these markers are sort of the raw lever that allows us
15 to apply that tool and that's called mixed stock
16 analysis. It's sort of a three-part process where in
17 the first part you need to go out and see what these
18 populations look like and that's really what this
19 project is doing for us.

20

21 We're going out and we're sampling fish
22 on the spawning grounds where we know that's where they
23 came from and we preserve that tissue, take them back
24 to our lab and then look at a certain set of genetic
25 markers that we've already looked at for that species
26 all across the landscape.

27

28 For chum we've got a really
29 comprehensive coastwide baseline that we'll be adding
30 these collections to. We're building one for pink
31 salmon. This project hasn't sampled a lot of coho yet,
32 but similar work. We're working on building a genetic
33 baseline for coho salmon in western Alaska.

34

35 There's been similar efforts that you
36 may be aware of that were funded by AKSSF that Nome
37 staff and genetic staff had to improve our baseline for
38 chinook salmon in the region. Those were in 2014-15
39 and that was pretty successful. So, yeah, that first
40 step is just going out and understanding what the
41 baseline looks like and what groups of populations you
42 can identify in a catch sample.

43

44 And then the second step in mixed stock
45 analysis is going out and grabbing that catch sample
46 you're interested in and bringing it back to the lab
47 and looking at those same genetic markers. And then
48 the third step is just a bunch of math comparing those
49 two and that's called mixed stock analysis.

50

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1 This project is going to give us a good
2 understanding of the diversity of salmon populations
3 within the central and northern Seward Peninsula and
4 then also improve our genetic baseline for the mixed
5 stock analysis tool. Once we get that data we can dig
6 into it to see at what fine of scale can we identify a
7 fish from this region.

8
9 With that I'm happy to answer any
10 questions that you may have.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray and then
13 Leland.

14
15 MR. GRAY: So this project sounds real
16 interesting and I'm somewhat curious. Do you guys have
17 parklands in Fish River, McCarthy Marsh, Fish River
18 Flats up in the Bendeleben Mountains on the side that
19 drains into Norton Sound? The rivers -- I recognize
20 three of the rivers you guys are doing work on and the
21 last one, Nugnug or something. I don't know what that
22 one was. But very curious if this project has a
23 potential of going into the Bendeleben Mountains in
24 Parklands if you have land there.

25
26 MR. DANN: Yeah, so I think it's within
27 the Park boundaries. We definitely have a case to
28 explore those things. I'm not necessarily familiar
29 with that Fish Creek area. I'm trying to look it up on
30 the map. But the Nugnugaluktuk is a river that drains
31 into Kotzebue Sound on the tip of -- the northern tip
32 of the Seward Peninsula.

33
34 MR. GRAY: Okay. I got a big no from a
35 guy that knows who owns what land. So I'm chasing the
36 wrong guy.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else,
39 questions. Leland, yeah. Sorry.

40
41 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, my concern is
42 every once in a while in years prior the commercial
43 fishermen would notice that every now and then there's
44 a really red king or really red chum or coho. Not so
45 much pinks. I always wonder. Sometimes they go up our
46 river. They're already red. They're caught in the
47 ocean red. I wonder if there's a chance that they go
48 up the wrong river and then they realize that they're
49 up the wrong river and then go back out and try to find
50

0067

1 the right river. Is there such a thing?

2

3 MR. DANN: I know from, yeah, other
4 places that there are instances of salmon and like
5 migratory trout species that will nose into their
6 non-natal or their non-spawning tributaries. They'll
7 poke around a little bit and then they'll swim back out
8 into the ocean or into a large lake and then end up
9 eventually getting to their destination. So they don't
10 necessarily stray in terms of spawning in a new place,
11 but they do kind of explore a river that's not their
12 own and end up spawning elsewhere.

13

14 MR. OYOUNICK: Could that attribute to
15 our low numbers, that some of our fish are following
16 like the other side of the ocean there on Russia side?
17 I'm sure they get silvers and I'm sure they get coho.
18 I just wondered if sometimes some of our fish follow
19 their fish because their fish is more than our fish or
20 whatever works. I'm just curious, that's all.

21

22 MR. DANN: Yeah, that's a really
23 interesting question. I mean I don't have the answer
24 to that, but there might be a study out there that has
25 explored it or it still could be a mystery where, yeah,
26 some of these smaller stocks could be influenced in a
27 mixed school or something or they might get waylaid,
28 but I actually do not know if that happens. So that's
29 a really good question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tyler. I
32 seem to remember a grayling that was tagged in the Nome
33 River that ended up over on the other side in Siberia
34 somewhere many, many years ago. I didn't know they
35 migrated every now and then. Have you heard of that,
36 Tyler?

37

38 MR. DANN: You know, I think I have
39 heard of that one. I know there's a fish biologist a
40 friend and I used to work with named Fred DeCicco who
41 still does a bunch of stuff around Nome tagged a bunch
42 of them, particularly dollies and I think also
43 grayling, but I know they found tagged fish moving
44 quite a bit. At a very small rate that's completely
45 normal.

46

47 There's some fish that are always
48 straying and exchanging genes around, but typically
49 that's more so with the pinks that have a less specific

50

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1 habitat that they're after. You know, you see a lot
2 less of that with say reds and chinook. Yeah, they do
3 move around a bit.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tyler.

6

7 MR. DANN: I guess.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead.

10

11 MR. DANN:related to the previous
12 gentleman's concern that maybe, you know, Russian fish
13 are pulling Seward Peninsula fish over to get greater
14 abundance. I just came off a call with our Yukon staff
15 and unfortunately I think this whole region is seeing a
16 period of decreased returns of salmon throughout the
17 region. I think it's just sort of a regional thing
18 that we're unfortunately experiencing right now.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tyler, this is Louie.
21 Are you seeing the same thing or do we have any
22 information from the Russian side that shows the same
23 signs?

24

25 MR. DANN: Hey, Louie, you know, I
26 don't have any information about their stock
27 assessment. I do know that their stock assessment
28 isn't near to the level that Alaska's is, so I don't
29 know -- you know, there are places like the North
30 Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Council that does share
31 data, but they just don't have as robust of a
32 management system and stock assessment program as we
33 do.

34

35 We do through our work the relative
36 abundance of -- especially for chum of Japanese and
37 Russian chum in some of the fisheries where we're
38 looking at a coastwide baseline. For example we're
39 starting to look at chum salmon harvested in the South
40 Peninsula down in Area M and those are two of the
41 reporting groups that we do see relative abundance
42 compared to our Alaska chum salmon. Now how that
43 translates to their escapement, I'm not sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tyler. Any
46 other council. Ron, go ahead.

47

48 MR. KIRK: Hey, Tyler. Ron Kirk,
49 Stebbins. I'm just wondering and curious. Do we have
50

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1 any idea of how many of our salmon go up the Yukon and
2 into Canada as far as they go and how much of them get
3 there? Because in the past my late uncle had taught me
4 that the fish swim under the ice and I'm pretty sure
5 they migrate upriver early before the ice breaks up.
6 So I'm wondering if there's any count in Canada as to
7 how much fish swim up the Yukon.

8
9 MR. DANN: Yeah, that's a great
10 question and it's timely because I was just meeting
11 with all our Yukon staff and we do have estimate of how
12 many chinook are swimming up into the Yukon and we have
13 a few different measures of it beginning all the way at
14 the mouth where there's a Lower Yukon Test Fishery that
15 gives a really rough look at more so the timing of fish
16 entering the river, but also a really rough sense of
17 abundance.

18
19 Then there's a much better way of
20 assessing abundance at Pilot Station where there's
21 sonar on both banks. Those sonar counts are
22 partitioned out by species with the test fishery that
23 trace the variable mesh gillnet through the river and
24 figures out how many of those salmon counted are chum
25 versus chinook. Then we take fin clips of all the
26 chinook and send those in here to our lab and that
27 tells us how many of those chinook are bound for Canada
28 versus Alaska.

29
30 But an even better counter is right at
31 the border, the village of Eagle. We have another
32 sonar site there and all those fish are Canadian
33 because they're just about to cross the border.

34
35 One thing we noticed in the last
36 especially five years is a discrepancy between the
37 number that we estimate down at Pilot Station based on
38 the genetics, which tells us to expect say 60,000 to
39 pass the border, but then only say 40,000 will get
40 counted in Eagle. We've looked at what could be all
41 the different sources of that discrepancy and one is
42 that one or the other sonar is wrong, and we don't
43 think that's it, or it could be that the genetics is
44 wrong and we don't think that's it. Another is that it
45 could be mortality in river in between.

46
47 There was a study that was initiated
48 this year looking at a disease call ichthyophonus and I
49 just got preliminary results and that does look to be
50

0070

1 certainly having an impact in between the lower river
2 and Canada. So that's something that folks are really
3 looking into. In general, I want to say the long-term
4 average of all the chinook entering into the Yukon it's
5 something like 41 percent are bound for Canada.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tyler.

8
9 Ron.

10
11 MR. KIRK: Tyler, is there any way that
12 the sonar can be activated like in April and early May
13 while the ice is still there to see if there's any
14 salmon heading upriver towards Canada?

15
16 MR. DANN: I don't think so. There's a
17 gentleman called Carl Pfisterer in Fairbanks with the
18 Commercial Fisheries Division that runs our entire
19 sonar program and he'd really be the expect to ask. I
20 just know from attending these meetings that they
21 always struggle at ice out with high water and logs and
22 debris to get projects in the water. I don't think
23 they could get in in May.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Good
26 questions. What do we got next?

27
28 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair. We
29 have at least one more season to fill in the gaps,
30 collect some more data. The genetics then will be --
31 they'll run them for analysis in year four, so we'll
32 keep reporting back, giving you more information. The
33 inventory portion too that will all go into the
34 anadromous water catalog and get updated. What this
35 means also for the Preserve, the northern Seward
36 Peninsula communities and this RAC is that the huge gap
37 within the Parkland we're going to know fish species
38 that are coming in, the five specific salmon species,
39 and we can also build on that.

40
41 So when you're thinking about future
42 priority and information needs, like what Jarred is
43 going to talk about here soon, you know, think about
44 what it is you would like to occur in the future in the
45 northern Seward Peninsula with the waters. You know,
46 there was a PIN a couple years ago when it comes to
47 like whitefish, dolly varden, sheefish, also grayling,
48 in terms of like climate change, that is something you
49 could also put back on, but we'd also like to just hear
50

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1 what else you would like to happen up in those northern
2 waters.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

5

6 Tom.

7

8 MR. GRAY: This project, again it
9 sounds real intriguing, but I sit here thinking about
10 how can I make this work for my people and subsistence
11 and I come back to Area M and how can we use this as a
12 tool to address salmon issues in Area M. I would
13 suggest that you guys ask yourself that.

14

15 The project that we have how can -- if
16 the Native people were subsistence groups like this
17 want to use that information, what are the needs that
18 these groups need and how can you guys -- how can that
19 need play into your project. It sounds like you got
20 one year, probably two years left of this project.

21

22 Anyway, I'm just thinking out loud.
23 How can we use this after the project is done. One of
24 the big battles that Norton Sound and the Native
25 community up in this region has had is intercept
26 fishery. DNA studies and looking at clipped fins, this
27 is way over my head, but maybe it will work for our
28 people to address some of the issues in that salmon
29 intercept fishery.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
32 Gray. Letty, who's next.

33

34 MR. OYOUMICK: Right here.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Leland
37 is next.

38

39 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, in regard to
40 chinook in our river, is there a different way to
41 gather data other than using a weir? Because several
42 people I talked to at home are blaming the weir for low
43 numbers in our river. I kind of see their point, but I
44 just was curious as to is there another way that you
45 can do the same job but a different way other than a
46 weir or is a weir the only way to do that?

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
2 Member Leland. I'm going to actually let Jarred Stone
3 answer that for you, you know, in terms of Federal
4 waters and being a fisheries biologist.

5
6 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
7 Chair. To answer Mr. Oyounick's question about other
8 alternative ways to quantify chinook salmon in the
9 Unalakleet. There are numerous ways. Sonar is one.
10 Fishwheels using mark-recapture. At the end of the day
11 the Fish and Game and agencies have to look at what's
12 the most cost effective and what is going to yield the
13 most precise values. The Unalakleet, because it's such
14 an important river, it's used in that three river index
15 that we talked about earlier. They want precise
16 numbers.

17
18 So to answer your question, it might be
19 worth evaluating other alternative means if there's
20 means that will yield similar results, similar values,
21 similar costs to a weir. I know that weir is
22 substantial in size, I think. I've been out there
23 before. It's, what, 200 feet long or 300 feet long?
24 It's a big weir.

25
26 I know there's been some work done in
27 the past too with the spacing of the pipes used for the
28 weir and just in the attempts to allow more pinks
29 through. I hope that answers your question. Maybe
30 that's a conversation that we have in future years to
31 look at alternative ways to count chinook in that
32 river.

33
34 MR. OYOUNICK: It seems like the only
35 way to build up numbers of fish is just to leave them
36 alone on the high seas and in our river and let them do
37 their thing, you know. If you don't bother them,
38 they're going to do well. That's what I'm -- you know,
39 that's what their concern is at home.

40
41 When you disturb them it has an effect
42 on them. It's like catching and releasing when you
43 sportfish. I don't like to catch and release. The
44 only time I do that is when they get off by themselves
45 or they break my line. I like it when they break my
46 line because they're beautiful big fish.

47
48 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair. This is
49 Brendan Scanlon with SportFish Division.
50

0073

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mr. Scanlon.

2

3

4 MR. SCANLON: Hey, Louie. I just
5 wanted to pipe in a little bit about a couple things.
6 I'll start with that weir. Fish and Game did six years
7 of radiotelemetry on king salmon in Unalakleet River
8 and we found that, first of all, about 40 percent on
9 average went up the North River to spawn and that's
10 where we have the counting tower. The other 60 percent
11 went up the mainstem well past the weir site. So the
12 weir site is about nine miles from town and the nearest
13 spawning location for king salmon is about 26 miles
14 upriver from that.

14

15

16 We have about 140 weirs in the state
17 all over counting different species of salmon. They're
18 pretty tried and tested. The concern with the sonar
19 would be that there's so many more king salmon and chum
20 salmon than there are kings. To even attempt to use a
21 sonar when there's 3 million pinks and 6,000 kings is
22 you have to do a whole lot of test netting.

22

23

24 For example beach seining just to see
25 what you're counting. It's a lot more intrusive than
26 actually letting fish swim through a weir. We don't
27 notice any stress or incidental mortality near the weir
28 of king salmon generally. Dead fish do float down
29 after they spawn, but weirs have been pretty successful
30 throughout the state.

30

31

32 We are going to start a sonar project
33 this coming fall for coho salmon. we think most of the
34 kings, chums and pinks will be dead. If we use the
35 sonar when the water is high and the weir starts to
36 fail, we can get a pretty clean count of cohos. We'll
37 have to do some test seining as well just to see how
38 many dollies are in the mix, but that's something we're
39 going to try this fall for coho.

39

40

41 I also wanted to address the question
42 about the Yukon kings and the timing of the counting
43 projects. Looking at the historical daily passage of
44 sonar, they usually get the sonar in to Pilot Station
45 the last week of May. It's about a week to 10 days
46 before they start counting fish, so they're probably
47 not missing very much. They're coming in under the ice
48 during breakup. It probably doesn't happen very often.

48

49

50 Also part of the concern with the

50

0074

1 strain question. We did some radio-tagging of coho.
2 We tagged over 700 coho on Unalakleet over five years
3 and about 10 percent swam upriver and then dropped out
4 and went to the Shaktoolik River. It does happen. I
5 don't know why, but with cohos it seems to be more
6 common than with other species.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MR. OYOUNICK: One more question from
11 Leland. I was wondering about that sonar, when you use
12 that sonar. It seemed like it would be a detriment to
13 those fish because naturally belugas that's how they
14 get their fish. That's what they use, their sonar, to
15 get their fish and they live in the wild out there and
16 their natural sonar. I don't know if they're on the
17 same frequency as the manmade sonar, but I think it's a
18 detriment, the sonar are a detriment to the fish. I
19 think they turn around, but that's my opinion and
20 that's my thought. I just wondered what you think.

21

22 MR. SCANLON: Through the Chair. I
23 never thought of the beluga component, but we also have
24 a bunch of sonar projects around the state. We're
25 using a new one called Harrows (ph). It's like a bat.
26 It shoots a sound wave out at the fish and it pings
27 upon the fish and it bounces back. With the newest
28 sonar you don't see any changes in swimming behavior.
29 You can actually get a decent idea of the size of the
30 fish you're looking at.

31

32 For example when we count sheefish on
33 the Kobuk swimming down to Hotham Inlet, sheefish are
34 great big fish, but if there's grayling and humpback
35 whitefish in there, we can tease those out of the
36 count. But just looking at the sonar files I've seen,
37 there's no evidence that it seems to change swimming
38 behavior. But the whale question, I'm sorry, I don't
39 have any idea about that.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brendan.
44 Any other questions. Tom.

45

46 MR. GRAY: So this is for Brendan. You
47 need a pen and paper. I have had a number in my phone
48 since first part of July and it's a green tag. The
49 number is 4868. Green tag, 4868, on a big, big

50

0075

1 grayling. So I lost your phone number and yada yada.
2 Anyway, let me know what you find out about this.

3

4 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, Tom. I can do
5 that probably by the end of the meeting. Was this on
6 the fish?

7

8 MR. GRAY: It was caught like a half a
9 mile above Council on those cliffs on the Niukluk.

10

11 MR. SCANLON: Got it. Okay. I'll work
12 on this right now and when I get the info, I'll let you
13 know.

14

15 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We got any more
18 questions for Brendan?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No questions. Thank
23 you, Brendan. We've got Justin and -- no, we already
24 did that. We need to hear from Jarred?

25

26 MS. PILCHER: No. Justin Leon would be
27 up next.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, yeah. We
30 flipped it over.

31

32 MS. PILCHER: Except we might need to
33 stand down for just a sec. He actually has a
34 presentation. You guys have it, hard copy, but we were
35 going to try to set up a projector real quick.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Time down 10
38 minutes.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: Ten minutes. I'll hold
41 you to it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ten minutes. Hold us
44 to it.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

0076

1 MS. PILCHER: Hello, this is Nissa
2 Pilcher. Are you ready to go, Justin?

3
4 MR. LEON: You beat me to it, Nissa. I
5 was just going to say I'm ready when you guys are.

6
7 MS. PILCHER: It looks like they are
8 ready. Everybody is getting situated so they can see
9 your presentation.

10
11 MR. LEON: Okay, great. Thank you.
12 All right. Mr. Chair, Council members, thank you for
13 having me today. For the record my name is Justin
14 Leon. I'm the Alaska Tribal Liaison for the Native
15 American Fish and Wildlife Society.

16
17 Before I jump into the presentation
18 just a brief little bit about who I work for in case
19 you guys have never heard of the Native American Fish
20 and Wildlife Society, NAFWS. We're a non-profit tribal
21 organization that's really focused on just supporting
22 tribes.

23
24 So a little bit of background about
25 myself real quick for those of you who aren't familiar
26 with me. Up until two months ago I spent the majority
27 of the last 10 years living in Nome with my family. I
28 worked actually for the Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game, ADF&G, as a fish biologist in both research and
30 management capacity. So for those of you who are
31 familiar, I worked under Jim Menard and Jennifer Bell.
32 Now, being in Anchorage in my new role, I'm still
33 trying to help and support tribes all over the state,
34 but this includes Seward Peninsula area. I'm just
35 happy to have the opportunity to present on this today.

36
37 What I'm going to be talking about
38 specifically is evaluating sockeye salmon production in
39 the Pilgrim River drainage and looking at it
40 potentially as a new priority information need. I
41 think you guys are looking at the first title slide
42 there. We'll just go right to the next slide.

43
44 So I've got some background here just
45 on what kind of what the Pilgrim River drainage is made
46 up of in terms of like some of the main bodies of water
47 and throughout the course of the day I know Council
48 members and others have brought, I think, just about
49 all of these up. So the ones that were mentioned were
50

0077

1 like Grand Central River. I think Grantley Harbor
2 might have been brought up. Then everything else I
3 think has been brought up.

4
5 Really the point of this slide is to
6 just show that Pilgrim River is a lot more than just
7 Pilgrim River. It affects multiple communities as far
8 as people that rely on the river and the drainage for
9 its resources. Specifically what I'm here talking
10 about today in terms of fish as well.

11
12 So you've got Nome. People will travel
13 for the sockeye salmon fishery that I'm going to talk a
14 little bit more about, but then also sockeye salmon are
15 harvested out of the villages of Teller, Brevig
16 Mission. I know people who will travel up the Fish
17 River as well and then come participate in the fishery.
18 So it's the one reliable source or I should say the one
19 consistent source where people have been able to in the
20 past rely on sockeye salmon.

21
22 Next slide.

23
24 Now as I mention sockeye salmon, this
25 is an important subsistence fishery especially. The
26 river and the drainage don't support all five species
27 of Pacific salmon. With that being said, I use the
28 word support lightly. I mean there are records and
29 counts of all five species, but again it's
30 predominantly known for and what's harvested out of its
31 system is sockeye salmon.

32
33 Now with this in the past ADF&G has
34 been tasked by the Board of Fisheries, which is the
35 State Board that is in charge of setting regulations
36 for fisheries across the state. They were tasked at
37 looking into additional data to possibly incorporate
38 into models for forecasting or basically looking at the
39 available data for the Pilgrim River Drainage and
40 saying, hey, can we use some of this additional data
41 that we've got now that we didn't have before to help
42 better manage the fishery.

43
44 This comes at a good time really. Just
45 in the last four years their declines have happened
46 across the state and this includes the Pilgrim River
47 drainage. So each of the last four years the total
48 runs have declined and then last year, this would have
49 been 2021, was the first closure in a number of years.
50

0078

1 Then this last year, as a lot of you talked about, was
2 even worse and the fishery was closed almost the entire
3 season. I've got here most returns since 2009.

4

5 Next slide.

6

7 So there's a need to look into and
8 research the data that we have for this fishery, both
9 mandated and just to see what's going on to help people
10 that rely on the fishery for subsistence. They need
11 the resources. They need the fish. But in terms of a
12 Priority Information Need there needs to be a Federal
13 connection.

14

15 So for those of you who may not be
16 familiar with how this fishery is prosecuted, how
17 people get fish out of the subsistence fishery, there
18 are two main ways. There are other ways, but there are
19 two main ways. For those people that have access to a
20 boat you can launch at the Pilgrim River Bridge and you
21 can boat down and people use beach seines to gather up
22 a bunch of sockeye salmon.

23

24 For those people who don't have access
25 to a boat, a large number of people fish above the
26 bridge and many of them use the Federal -- the BLM
27 campground at Salmon Lake and they both fish off of
28 there or walk just a little bit downstream and set
29 their net that way between basically Salmon Lake and
30 the bridge. The same bridge I referenced where people
31 launch their boats.

32

33 So with that I've got an average here
34 from 2017 to 2021 and in those five years roughly a
35 third of the permits fished were from those people that
36 were fishing between the bridge and Salmon Lake and the
37 vast majority of those people are walking out and
38 setting gillnets. Not all of them, but I'd say a
39 majority.

40

41 Next slide.

42

43 So with this, getting back to the
44 Priority Information Need. So the criteria listed here
45 I really think it meets a lot -- all these criteria for
46 a Priority Information Need. It's an important
47 subsistence fishery and we're meeting as part of the
48 Subsistence RAC and with the Office of Subsistence
49 Management. The fishery is in decline as I mentioned

50

0079

1 for the last handful of years at least.

2

3 And then it benefits multiple parties.

4 You've got the users, the subsistence users I
5 mentioned, the data collectors, which I'll get into
6 more in a moment, and then both Federal and State
7 agencies. Those being like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
8 Service, Office of Subsistence Management, the BLM land
9 that a lot of people are using to access and fish off
10 of for the fishery. And then, of course, you've got
11 the main player in terms of management and State waters
12 and State land, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

13

14 The difference with this Priority
15 Information Need is that a lot of this data that we
16 could start looking at and reviewing and evaluating or
17 re-evaluating is available now. We just need to have
18 the capacity to review it.

19

20 Next slide.

21

22 I know I mentioned the people
23 collecting the data. So specifically with the Pilgrim
24 River drainage a lot of this data started being
25 collected by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
26 then at some point towards the latter 2000's it was
27 handed over to NSEDC, which I know it was referenced as
28 well earlier in the day. That's Norton Sound Economic
29 Development Corporation. They have been collecting I
30 think since at least 2008, 2009, somewhere in there, to
31 present and the available data in terms of sockeye
32 salmon we've got smolt and adult data, but then also on
33 the system itself like we've got limnology data on
34 Salmon Lake and fertilization data on Salmon Lake.

35

36 Next slide.

37

38 So in terms of specifics on smolt data
39 available for sockeye salmon we've got counts going
40 back to the mid-'90s and then we've also got age,
41 weight, length data back to the mid-'90s and you can
42 see a picture here on the right. This is of smolt that
43 have been collected by NSEDC.

44

45 Next slide.

46

47 I know that people have already
48 referenced weirs, so like Unalakleet River Weir this is
49 another floating weir and this switched hands as well

50

0080

1 from Fish and Game to NSEDC. We've got counts going
2 back to 1997, but then also we've got surveys on adult
3 data going back to the 1960s.

4

5 Then harvest I know has been mentioned
6 in terms of subsistence, commercial sport fisheries,
7 but we've got harvest data going back to the early '60s
8 with both subsistence and commercial. There hasn't
9 been a commercial fishery in quite a few years, but
10 like I've mentioned the subsistence fishery is still
11 ongoing.

12

13 And then in terms of other adult data
14 we've got age/sex/length data collected from a number
15 of fish that are trapped as they're making their way
16 upstream and sampled and then released back on their
17 way.

18

19 Next slide.

20

21 In terms of limnology data, again
22 focusing on Salmon Lake, we've got things like
23 temperature, light and pH that have been collected
24 since 2007. Then we've got nutrients such as calcium,
25 magnesium, nitrogen, phosphorus. That's all been
26 collected since 1994. Again, all these are continuing
27 to be collected now through NSEDC.

28

29 Next slide.

30

31 And then fertilization data we've got
32 just amounts going back from 1997. It's generally been
33 a combination of nitrogen and phosphorus that's been
34 put into the lake.

35

36 Next slide.

37

38 With that we've got -- there's a number
39 of different ways that if this was added as a Priority
40 Information Need that we could look at conducting some
41 kind of a project, I think the last work that was done
42 was in some work published in 2012. This was by a
43 gentleman that we call Hamachan. He is a biometrician
44 for Commercial Fisheries in the region or was. I think
45 he has more of a statewide role now, but at the time
46 basically he does a lot of the modeling and statistics
47 for a lot of the work that Fish and Game at least
48 assists with in the area.

49

50

0081

1 His advice in talking to him was even
2 if we just -- we looked at the analyses and we
3 basically updated them, you know, we could have a
4 better idea of what's been going on in the more recent
5 future and impacts of things like climate change and
6 what that may have done to things that may have
7 potentially not been as impactful before.

8
9 I mean people have looked -- I've got
10 other things written here. Lake cores, taking some
11 sediment down deep in the lake and seeing how
12 productive it's been in the past. EDNA, which is
13 something that hasn't been fine-tuned to the level that
14 other discussions have asked about as far as like
15 potentially other ways for counting salmon in the
16 river. There's a number of different ways that this
17 could be looked at.

18
19 I think that the big takeaway before I
20 answer any questions are that the first step is
21 building the capacity, having the ability for someone
22 to look at this. I know, like I said, multiple parties
23 are interested. I know that the topic of Salmon Lake,
24 Pilgrim River drainage, sockeye salmon has been brought
25 up a couple times throughout the course of this
26 meeting.

27
28 We have the data to go ahead and start
29 re-evaluating and it's a potential relatively quick
30 turnaround compared to maybe other projects where the
31 project still needs to be planned and executed. This
32 would, of course, take some planning and executing.
33 I'm not going to say you'll just have all your answers
34 tomorrow, but the data is already available to start
35 using and seeing if we can get some answers.

36
37 With that I'd be happy to take any
38 questions.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nice looking fish.

43
44 MR. LEON: I wish I had some. I had to
45 leave Nome before the fishing season and there wasn't
46 fishing anyway. I'm hurting between that and being in
47 Anchorage and no hunting either. So it's been a rough
48 year.

49
50

0082

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. This is Louie.
2 I've got a question or a couple of them. So how much
3 tonnage of fertilizer is used yearly in there? I know
4 it was like in the -- I want to say 40 tons a year
5 before in the beginning when they first did this
6 fertilization project before they shut it down the
7 first time. I know it's not that -- or I don't know if
8 it's gotten to that point now, but I know it was
9 started with a light amount. What is it?

10
11 MR. LEON: That's a good question. So
12 the current data I have sitting in front of me, Louie,
13 like you're saying, it started at 40 tons a year and
14 then there was -- let's see. It looks like about at
15 least a 15-year window where it was around 10-ish, 15,
16 a couple outlier years where it went up to about 30.
17 Then the last -- oh, 2016 to the last data I have,
18 which would be 2019, it looks like it was about 35 tons
19 a year. So it went back up again.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that.
22 Are you aware of core samples taken that NSEDC paid for
23 back in the day? I would say back in the -- I want to
24 say Eugene Asicksik was the present CEO at that time,
25 so I'm not sure what the dates were. Are you aware of
26 those lake core samples?

27
28 MR. LEON: No. I really appreciate it.
29 Yeah, I've reached out for data at NSEDC, from staff,
30 and it may -- it's probably my fault. I didn't
31 specifically ask for lake core samples. That's
32 something that the Fish and Game biometrician
33 suggested. But now that I know that they're available
34 I really appreciate it. I was not aware. I'll reach
35 out.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was told that at one
38 point in time that they did the sampling and the
39 company got paid, but never produced the data. But
40 Eugene Asicksik was the president/CEO at the time told
41 me that they did get the data and it was somewhere
42 around 200,000 a year plus. Over about a 300-year
43 span.

44
45 MR. LEON: That is really good to know.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: If memory serves me
48 correctly. I've heard that this lake can only handle
49 50,000, which I never agreed to because that's too much
50

0083

1 of an estuary down below the Pilgrim. And then you
2 have the Grand Central River above. I was raised on
3 the Pilgrim and the Kuzitrin so I know the estuaries
4 quite extensively down there.

5

6 MR. LEON: I bet.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyway, just some
9 information for you to follow up on. Those lake core
10 samples were taken and you could validate that with a
11 phone call to Eugene Asicksik who lives in Shaktoolik.
12 You might want to talk to him. But NSEDC paid for that
13 project.

14

15 MR. LEON: It's been a while since I
16 talked to him, but I have in the past. I appreciate
17 it. I'll reach out. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So the
20 tonnage fertilizer is up to 35. We are not seeing --
21 why are we not seeing the results of that? You guys
22 have the information on the grams, the sizes of those
23 smolts leaving the lake in the first time around, don't
24 you?

25

26 MR. LEON: There is data collected
27 from, yes, smolts leaving the lake in the spring.
28 You're correct. And they do take weights.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I was
31 talking with one of the guys that worked out there.
32 His last name Thompson. He said that I want to say
33 there was four grams and then they went to nine and
34 even 12 grams were showing up leaving when they did the
35 fertilization project the first go round at 40 tons,
36 then they tapered it off.

37

38 After they shut it down for a while,
39 then we lost our run. Then they tapered it and they
40 brought it back in and introduced it at 8 to 10 tons or
41 something and slowly picked the run back up, but it
42 took another eight years for that to -- I'm pretty sure
43 it was eight years both times to see a significant
44 return.

45

46 So those are some data points that need
47 to be honed in on. The old lake core samples. I used
48 to ask people why they didn't do it and apparently
49 NSEDC did pay for such a thing. So that info is out

50

0084

1 there.

2

3

 Thank you.

4

5

6

 MR. LEON: No problem. Thank you. I
really appreciate it. Like I said, I'm definitely
going to follow up on that. Thank you.

7

8

9

 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
Mission. I live in Brevig Mission right along the
migration route of the sockeye salmon and other than
Area M health of the marine water ecosystem has not
really been examined I think from both State and
Federal agencies as far as I know. All I hear from the
biologist is the number of resources that are out
there. I really don't hear mention ecosystem.

20

21

22

23

24

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26

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31

32

 Example. We had to have our meeting
here because originally we were set down for a mini
convention and then something else was wrong, so we had
the meeting here. Something like that, you know, in
that regard. We look at -- biologists look at the
resources, but they also need to look at the ecosystem
because that's where these natural resources live. If
one side is polluted, they're taking off. What about
the warm waters that are now prevalent in Bering Sea?
Bering Sea is marine waters, but it's so shallow that
sunshine will produce, you know, HAE, harmful algae
effects.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

 Last Nome Nugget the survey crews were
saying that there was more than enough algae blooms
Diomedea, Shishmaref and up north. So that's something
I have seen over the years is that algae bloom in the
rivers that I'd never seen 20 years ago. Algae bloom
in the communities where the standing water is. So
that's something that we really haven't looked at.

41

42

43

44

45

46

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50

 A lot of sewer discharge systems from
Alaska State I think is polluting our marine waters.
Also along the Pilgrim River drainage. Lots of beaver.
And then there's also lots of pike. So whatever is
going out there they're good food for whatever the --
for the pike. So it's not only pike that are being
fed. It's other fishes that are within the Kuzitrin
River system, the Pilgrim River system. I have
mentioned beaver dams in the Pilgrim River. I'm not

0085

1 too sure how many dams they put out, but I'm very sure
2 that there are no dams blocking the Pilgrim River from
3 the Kuzitrin.

4
5 Other than that, NSEDC has poured a ton
6 of fertilizer into the Salmon Lake. I was kind of
7 skeptical at first. Do the nutrients produce
8 chlorophyll or something that produce the algae? All
9 these years since I was a little tot we used to go up
10 to Mary's Igloo to Imuruk Basin to go pick
11 salmonberries late June, July. Constantly there was
12 algae on the top in Imuruk Basin.

13
14 Over the past five years I've seen I
15 think two instances where the algae came directly to
16 Grantley Harbor and into Port Clarence Bay. So our
17 waters are heating up. Our salmon are -- our fish are
18 disappearing. We talk about the fish, but we don't
19 talk about the ecosystem in which they live.

20
21 From one elder that I used to know
22 quite a bit he said once everything is going, all the
23 predators of the fish, the fish will be gone first.
24 Because pretty much you look at the Beluga, you look at
25 the seagulls, you look at cormorants, you look at
26 everything and also the humans, they're going after the
27 fish supply. So that's something I think State and
28 Federal agencies haven't really looked. They should
29 have at least an environmental position within the
30 agency because without the land, without the waters,
31 without the air there's nothing for us to regulate.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. LEON: No, I really appreciate it,
36 Elmer. You bring up some very good points. I'm happy
37 to attempt at answering some of them. I think the
38 ecosystem-based approach you're right on it. I think
39 it's hard speaking specifically to how State
40 regulations and the departments currently have to run.
41 They run on something called escapement goal basically
42 management, which speaks to Brendan and other people
43 talking about escapement goals and weirs or weirs to
44 count fish I should say.

45
46 But a new school of thought has
47 definitely been formed where people, yeah, look at the
48 whole picture like you're saying. I think, you know,
49 I'm not sure how everything will end up changing or
50

0086

1 working together, but, yeah, I think the ecosystem idea
2 you're spot on and makes a lot of sense.

3

4 I think there has been a lot of
5 research done in freshwater in general. It's a lot
6 harder, I acknowledge, to figure out what's going on in
7 the ocean. I don't disagree with you that there is a
8 lot to be looked at and potentially hopefully find some
9 things that could be done with the ocean. It's just
10 such a big area.

11

12 I think ideally if we could find
13 something in freshwater like you're saying with changes
14 even in recent years, like climate change and how it
15 affects our systems potentially even compared to others
16 with those, you know, where we are in the world and how
17 we're getting so dramatically impacted by climate
18 change, but then also specifically speaking to Seward
19 Peninsula and the shallowness, smallness of the streams
20 and lakes compared to other areas. Yeah, just
21 potential -- like you say, even just the warming
22 climate having an effect on things. I think you bring
23 up a lot of good points.

24

25 I've had people even talk to me, like
26 you're saying, well, what about predation and like
27 mentioned pike and things like that. It's just, yeah,
28 a lot of good points. I think just research in general
29 definitely helps and I think keeping an open mind, like
30 you were mentioning, in terms of maybe thinking about
31 just ecosystem based versus the traditional line of
32 thought would definitely help.

33

34 Especially we're talking about things
35 like climate change, which again this work plays into
36 and then my role just in my current position. Yeah,
37 definitely has a big effect on things. In a lot of
38 ways, like you say, fish could be, yeah, one of the
39 first things to disappear because it's something
40 everybody is using. Us, you know, animals, yeah. So
41 thank you for that. Appreciate it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tom.

44

45 MR. GRAY: So this is Tom Gray. You
46 can look at me as one of the casualties. I'm a
47 subsistence user that has capitalized on this red run
48 forever. You know, I look at that red run and it comes
49 to mind twice for sure we've shut this run down because

50

0087

1 there's no fish. You know, I come to my own river and
2 silver salmon should have been shut down this year.
3 Never got shut down. Silvers in the past have been
4 shut down.

5
6 But where I'm going with this is, you
7 know, Salmon Lake you've got a little bit more control
8 over that little fingerling fish and helping it along
9 or overhelping it maybe and making too many of them or
10 something. In the last 20 years or 30 years we've had
11 a couple times when Tom Gray had to go out and spend
12 \$500 for buying reds to fill his freezer instead of
13 getting them out of the river. You look at Nome and how
14 many people in Nome are in the same boat so to speak.
15 I mean it -- there's a lot of people that depend on
16 this resource.

17
18 What I'm after is, you know, we fail
19 once, shame on us or shame on somebody. We need to
20 learn a lesson and learn how to make this fishery come
21 together. You know, I struggle with sitting back and
22 let nature take it's course. Look at the crab fishery
23 and where that went. Twice in the last 40 years that
24 crashed.

25
26 So do we have enough data? Do we have
27 enough understanding of this Salmon Lake fishery that
28 maybe we can pull it together and manage it so we have
29 10,000 fish come in or 50,000 or whatever the need.
30 You know, the goal could be do we have enough
31 information to keep us from crashing.

32
33 MR. LEON: You know, you make a great
34 point again just like everybody else who's spoken about
35 this. I appreciate it, Tom. I think the answer to that
36 question is -- I'm not sure. I can't say definitively
37 one way or another. What I can tell you is I
38 completely understand where you're coming from in terms
39 of resources and just, yeah, how hard it's been not
40 only with just -- gosh, the struggle with the fishery,
41 but compacted with the pandemic. Yeah, it's just all a
42 lot and then just the fuel prices, you know, went up.
43 Everybody is just trying to live.

44
45 So, yeah, this is just another thing
46 that if we can help create some consistency, that would
47 be great. Now I can tell you that in terms of the data
48 that we have and like just candid conversations I've
49 had between both Fish and Game, NSEDC. And then if you
50

0088

1 add in like other parties I've talked to, like if you
2 want to call them user groups or just the people that
3 rely on the resource.

4
5 I think we're at a point data-wise
6 where it's worth it to look again and I know that's not
7 the answer you, me or anybody else wants, but in terms
8 of the changes right now and I mean, gosh I hope
9 everybody is doing well and recovering as best as can
10 be after things like the storm that just happened.
11 It's terrible. You know, thoughts and prayers go out
12 to everyone.

13
14 But like, yeah, things are just
15 changing like crazy. For instance things like the
16 fertilizer or the fishing crash here. You know, I
17 think there's multiple things that could change from
18 year to year that could say you're 10,000 example for
19 instance. Like that -- could move that number to say,
20 hey, we need to fine tune this a little bit to get to
21 that 10,000.

22
23 Now what I can say is that with the
24 potential looking at this like I've talked to people
25 who, for instance, on the Fishery Management Council.
26 I've talked to people who did the last workup of the
27 data here in terms of the data that I'm discussing
28 today. I've talked to people who are in charge
29 somewhat of like management of things. I can see that
30 all the interested parties that I've talked to say it's
31 worth it to look into it.

32
33 Now I can't promise you that we'll have
34 something, but I can tell you that everybody is at
35 least on the same page and I'm sure a lot of you
36 probably realize that. That can be the hardest thing
37 is just getting everyone to say, yeah, you know what,
38 it seems like it's about time to look at this and see
39 because things are only getting crazier and if we can
40 go for it now and we've got the ability to do it in
41 terms of the manpower behind it, now let's go for it.
42 So I can tell you everybody seems on the same page as
43 far as that's concerned.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. This is
46 Louie. Just a little history. The Salmon Lake red run
47 and the Glacial Lake red runs, when Tommy and I were
48 young kids that Pilgrim River red run was perfect. It
49 was good. We had plenty of fish. Right, Tom? And we
50

0089

1 fished on them. We grew up with our grandparents, our
2 parents.
3

4 I did a lake study, a glacial lake, in
5 1974 and the run was way down. There was hardly any
6 fish there. I didn't do any counting. Just observed.
7 Bringing Fish and Game some physical evidence that
8 sockeye was running there because they never even done
9 a study themselves there. They suspected because the
10 fish ran up the Sinuk River that they were going to the
11 lake.
12

13 In the '60s and early '70s you had the
14 Japanese fleet right off the coast of Nome throwing out
15 30-mile nets. We called it sunrise to sunset net set,
16 you know, and they were out there targeting our fish.
17 Our government knew about it. Then they got into the
18 idea that we have to have a 200-mile limit.
19

20 Well, we lost our runs. The red runs
21 went away. You know who was targeting them. What
22 would you chase after, pinks or reds out there in the
23 open ocean if you've got a 30-mile net? Well, they had
24 it to a science and they wiped our runs out. I'm
25 pretty sure it was. That's just my personal opinion.
26

27 Then you got Ted Stevens showing up at
28 boy's state when I was there in Fairbanks in 1975
29 telling us we were moving in on this MSA. We're going
30 to have the 200-mile limit. We're doing this,
31 rah-rah-rah. Yeah, well great.
32

33 So fast forward. You've got a guy in
34 late '90s saying I want to fertilize those two lakes
35 because they're nutrient poor. Why? Because they
36 hadn't had any runs in so many years and these are cold
37 water lakes. Hard to bring back anything. How do you
38 do it? You do it like they did in Kodiak. You go
39 there and you fertilize the lakes and you keep
40 fertilizing the lakes. It's a steady process. You
41 don't back off. You don't stop. You keep doing it.
42

43 NSEDG stopped it and then they started
44 again. It took eight years the first time. I think
45 eight years the second time to get the runs back up. I
46 want to know why -- that's why I asked you the question
47 what do you know about the fertilization level. Maybe
48 it's not enough yet.
49
50

0090

1 Those fish are needed by the people
2 from Brevig and Teller and Nome and whomever. I grew
3 up on the rivers just like Tommy did over there. In
4 our day we saw fish when there was no interference and
5 I saw those runs come -- I saw that red run pulled back
6 up in the 2000's and then all of a sudden crash. I
7 questioned them at NSEDC's meeting and I said, Charlie,
8 did you stop the fertilization and starve the fish and
9 he said yes. Okay, so why? I never got an answer, of
10 course. Well, they brought it back again.

11
12 It's not something that you don't --
13 you don't just shut down. We need the fish. The fish
14 taste just as good as they do any other time in
15 history. Let's just fertilize these lakes and bring
16 these runs back. I'm not worried about climate change
17 because that's been changing since the beginning of
18 time. Salmon have been in existence in the Pacific Rim
19 -- the Pacific salmon has been in existence for 5 to 6
20 million years and they've gone through a lot of climate
21 change. So the salmon endured it. How come they can't
22 endure it since 1959.

23
24 Okay. So I'm just giving you some
25 information that, you know, there's a lot more to this
26 picture than is drawn. But we really need these runs
27 back up. Artificial work. Man messed it up. Man
28 needs to fix it. I know how Hamachan's work. I've
29 heard of him. But we really need to take a really good
30 look at this and not -- we have the technology to do
31 this. We could bring our rivers back to health.

32
33 NSEDC is doing some kind of hatchery
34 project for kings out of the Unalakleet River. I don't
35 know what is going on there. I have no information.
36 We've asked for that information here from the State in
37 the past. Menard's never produced it, so we don't know
38 what's going on with that.

39
40 Do you have any information on that
41 experiment that's going on?

42
43 MR. LEON: You know, I appreciate --
44 and we brought up a lot of good points. I don't know
45 if anybody from the State is on the line. I've heard
46 some things in the past, but, you know, I don't want to
47 misspeak about something that I'm not a part of
48 anymore. I'm happy to reach out to people for you. Is
49 there anybody from Fish and Game on the line that will
50

0091

1 want to speak that that?

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair. This is
4 Brendan Scanlon with SportFish.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Brendan.

7

8 MR. SCANLON: Hey, Louie. I guess we
9 can talk about Unalakleet first. So for the past 10
10 years or so NSEDC has been taking eggs and milt from
11 kings off the mainstem when we counted a certain number
12 of fish as the weir. So they don't do it every year.
13 It's usually a dozen fish or less. They'll take eggs
14 and fertilize them and put them up the South River.

15

16 Charlie Lean, where there used to be a
17 run of kings into the South River -- I don't know if
18 anybody has been down there -- but it's just kind of a
19 ditch. There's not much for any salmon to go in there.
20 Of the 700 or so king salmon -- or 500 or so king
21 salmon we radio-tagged over five years, zero went in
22 the South River. We know that because we have a
23 tracking station there. We would fly up and down
24 looking for tags.

25

26 Not only that but less than 5 percent
27 of the 700 coho salmon that we tagged went up the South
28 River. It's not a real fishy river. It's kind of
29 muddy. There's some beaver dams. It kind of peters
30 out, but there are some silvers up there. That project
31 doesn't seem to be working. They haven't caught any
32 juveniles down there. I think maybe one, but it was
33 probably a fish from the mainstem that went up there.

34

35 So they still do it, but at a very low
36 level. They haven't had any success so far. I haven't
37 talked to anybody in Unalakleet that says there was a
38 king run in the South River, but Charlie Lean swears
39 there was.

40

41 Anyway, if I could circle back to
42 Salmon Lake real quick. I'm looking at information
43 that Ashley Dunker sent me a couple years ago on the
44 fertilizer between 1997 and 2018. 471 tons of
45 fertilizer was put in the lake anywhere from 0 to 40
46 times a year. Also Salmon Lake, the sockeye population
47 there, it's considered an edge population. So it's
48 about the northern latitude of limit for sockeye
49 salmon.

50

0092

1 So you would expect populations on edge
2 habitats to experience minor fluctuations.....
3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, Brendan.
5 Somebody else has their mic open. Please close it off
6 so we can hear Brendan better. Mute, please.
7

8 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Louie. So as
9 I was saying the edge population is really nothing
10 further in terms of size of sockeye populations further
11 north than Salmon Lake. There's just a handful in the
12 Noatak and the Kobuk. Just 10's and 20's here and
13 there. These kind of edge populations are more
14 susceptible to peaks and valleys when it comes to
15 changes in temperature, snowfall, things like that. So
16 it's already got that going against it. It's not like
17 Bristol Bay, which is like smack in the middle of good
18 sockeye freshwater habitat.
19

20 Also I can't think of many sockeye
21 populations where the smolt actually go through a
22 gauntlet of northern pike like the fish do in the
23 Pilgrim. There's pike in the Pilgrim now. I've seen
24 some and one of the guys has caught some. I guess it
25 was just a matter of time before that happened. I
26 don't have any direct evidence of what effect the pike
27 has on the sockeye. It's probably the reason there's
28 not a ton of coho in there.
29

30 I think that would be something
31 interesting to look at and to do some kind of tissue
32 analysis or some analysis of pike during the smolt
33 out-migration to see if they are a big factor or
34 they're not. There may just be so many smolt that they
35 -- it's called predator swamp. They just go by so
36 quickly they can't do much damage, but they certainly
37 probably eat some.
38

39 So those are just a couple observations
40 I had about Salmon Lake. Thanks.
41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brendan.
43 Just information. Pike have been in there forever.
44 People have been fishing them forever, so it's nothing
45 new. They also were fishing sockeye salmon forever.
46 When you don't have a very large run, I can imagine
47 what them pike could do. I also wonder what the seals
48 and what the beluga are doing. We already know they're
49 there. Predation.
50

0093

1 What do we do to up the numbers in the
2 lake? Fertilization was the answer that worked. I
3 think that's something that really needs to be homed in
4 on. Anyway, I'm just an old guy, so I don't know. Go
5 ahead.

6
7 MR. LEON: Well, I appreciate it,
8 Louie. Yeah, with Brendan added there too, I mean it
9 could definitely be something to look at, I think. In
10 terms of my presentation and just getting the
11 conversation going, I really appreciate the feedback
12 from everyone.

13
14 I mean looking at the effectiveness of
15 the fertilization. It's been done before through
16 Hamachan and seeing what we could tease out looking at
17 that again. See if anything has changed or not with
18 the changing environmental conditions. You know, I
19 know you were saying -- and you've got good points
20 about climate change. My gosh, things have been -- you
21 know, trying to adapt -- become resilient to climate
22 change for their existence of the species. Like what's
23 different now.

24
25 Like, I mean, that's -- definitely I
26 understand and appreciate that perspective too. It's
27 just there's a number of different ways you could go
28 with this and I think at the end of the day I think it
29 sounds like, you know, what you're talking about, what
30 Tom's talked about, what Elmer's talked about is like
31 this is a really important resource for folks.

32
33 You know, at the end of the day and
34 bringing it back to something tangible and something
35 that's not just science for science sake, but science
36 with a purpose to help people. That's really what I'm
37 about and what my work is about through the Native
38 American Fish and Wildlife Society. So, you know,
39 really that's what -- yeah, I'd just like to leave it
40 at that.

41
42 It sounds like, you know, there's been
43 some good conversation that's been generated from this.
44 The need is there and I hope that discussions go well
45 and are hopefully in favor for having this be something
46 that can be looked at a little further. To my
47 knowledge I don't know if Pilgrim River has on the list
48 before, but I could definitely be mistaken on that.

49
50

0094

1 Does anybody else have any other
2 questions? Again, I appreciate all the information
3 that everyone has brought forward today. It's super
4 helpful for me personally just going forward.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't see anybody
7 else. Any questions?

8
9 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon with
10 SportFish.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, SportFish.

13
14 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry. I didn't mean
15 to interrupt. Thanks. I just wanted to maybe put an
16 idea in somebody's head. We kind of have a unique
17 situation up there where we have another sockeye lake
18 close by that we don't fertilize. If we had some stock
19 assessment information there and we looked at Glacial
20 and Salmon Lake at the same time and if they were going
21 up and down at roughly the same rate every year, that
22 would let you know that maybe the fertilization is not
23 what's causing the up and down.

24
25 If all the conditions are the same and
26 there's no fertilizer in Glacial Lake and there's 40
27 tons in Salmon Lake, if the peaks and valleys go up and
28 down, it's not a fertilization issue that's driving the
29 population there or at least it's not as big as we
30 think. You would expect Salmon Lake to have much
31 higher returns more often than Glacial Lake if
32 fertilization was consistent and it worked.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, it's interesting
37 you talk about Glacial Lake and runs going up and down
38 at the same time. There was talk about maybe the
39 Salmon Lake run is straying off into the Glacial Lake.
40 Nobody pinpointed that one as far as I know. But when
41 the runs were doing good at Salmon Lake sometimes the
42 runs were doing good at Glacial Lake. Nobody can say
43 that salmon don't stray. Hatchery fish don't stray,
44 but natural runs stray.

45
46 Okay. I think we're going to move on.
47 We have some other folks here.

48
49 MR. LEON: Thank you again.

50

0095

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you very much
2 for your good ear. Thanks, Brendan and all those that
3 put in extra conversation on the topic. It's a pretty
4 big deal to us.

5
6 MR. LEON: You bet, Louie.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

9
10 MR. SCANLON: If I could just respond
11 to Tom. I got information on that tagged fish. It was
12 tagged June 24th, 2013. It was about 16 inches and it
13 was about a mile above Ophir Creek, so it's probably a
14 pretty big fish and pretty well fished by now. Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That's
17 pretty cool.

18
19 MR. GRAY: If you could text that to
20 me, I will text it to my client that caught it.

21
22 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, sure can, Tom.
23 I've got your number. I will do.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. We've got
26 Jarred Stone and Hannah Voorhees.

27
28 MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon, Mr.
29 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Hannah
30 Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM and Jarred Stone,
31 fisheries biologist with OSM is here with me also.
32 We're here to discuss the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
33 Program and assist with finalization of your Priority
34 Information Needs for the coming cycle.

35
36 So we'd like to start with an update of
37 the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The
38 most recent round of project selection and funding was
39 finalized this spring. These projects responded to
40 Priority Information Needs identified by the Regional
41 Advisory Councils.

42
43 This Council, along with the Northwest
44 Arctic and North Slope Councils make up what we call
45 the Northern Region for the Fisheries Resource
46 Monitoring Program. The following four projects were
47 funded in the Northern Region.

48
49 First there was the Kotzebue Sound
50

0096

1 sheefish describing coastal movement, temperature,
2 preference and potential range expansion. Second,
3 Unalakleet River chinook salmon escapement assessment,
4 which is a continuation project. Third, Selawik River
5 inconnu spawning population age structure evaluation
6 and spawner recruitment response to a 2004 permafrost
7 thaw slump and finally traditional ecological knowledge
8 of salmon in the river drainages of Kotzebue Sound.

9
10 So again these are the foremost
11 recently funded projects for the Northern Region and I
12 believe that all projects submitted for the Northern
13 Region were funded. So most of these projects are now
14 in various stages of starting up their fieldwork and
15 I'm sure you'll hear reports on their progress at your
16 coming meetings.

17
18 Now I'm going to step back and give you
19 an overview of the entire Fisheries Resource Monitoring
20 Program cycle just as a reminder and then I'll talk
21 about where we are now and what we'll be asking from
22 the Council today.

23
24 The Office of Subsistence Management
25 implements the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
26 funding research and monitoring projects that provide
27 information for Federal subsistence fisheries
28 management. Research focuses on harvest monitoring,
29 traditional ecological knowledge and stock, status and
30 trends. This funding occurs on two-year cycles.

31
32 The cycle starts when we hear from you,
33 the Council, about what you see as important fisheries
34 research topics. Next, Office of Subsistence
35 Management staff meet with volunteers from your Council
36 to determine the Priority Information Needs, which are
37 specific to your region.

38
39 These Priority Information Needs are
40 the Council's opportunity to direct research on
41 subsistence fisheries on Federal waters in your region.
42 So again this is a critical stage in the process where
43 you're shaping research outcomes over time.
44 At your last meeting we asked for volunteers from the
45 Council and this summer Jarred and I met with Ron Kirk
46 to draft Priority Information Needs. So thank you very
47 much to Ron.

48
49 A list of these draft Priority
50

0097

1 Information Needs is on Page 52 in your book. Today
2 we're asking you to review those, make any revisions
3 that you would like and then approve them through a
4 motion.

5

6 You'll also see the Priority
7 Information Need for Northwest Arctic and North Slope
8 on that list. Those are there for your information,
9 but today we're asking the Council to finalize only the
10 Seward Peninsula portion of these PINs.

11

12 The Office of Subsistence Management
13 will announce the 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity
14 for the Monitoring Program later this winter based on
15 the Priority Information Needs that you approve today.
16 Researchers then develop proposals based on your list
17 of research needs.

18

19 Proposals from researchers are reviewed
20 by the Technical Review Committee and the Council also
21 gives feedback if you'll remember that from previous
22 cycles. Then all this input is presented to the
23 Federal Subsistence Board, which makes the
24 recommendation on which projects to fund. The Office
25 of Subsistence Management then funds as many projects
26 as possible based on their budget. These projects will
27 then begin and then the cycle starts over.

28

29 So now we're ready for you to discuss
30 and finalize your 2025 Priority Information Needs. The
31 results of today's discussion will be combined with the
32 results for the Northwest Arctic and North Slope
33 Councils and those discussions will happen later this
34 month. That list will make up the 2024 Priority
35 Information Needs for the Northern Region.

36

37 So we can walk through each item on
38 this list one by one and make any final edits that you
39 see fit. I'd recommend that after we've reviewed all
40 the Priority Information Needs for the Seward Peninsula
41 that the Council put forward a motion to approve the
42 list. Then at that point the list will be finalized.

43

44 So I think you're all on Page 52, so
45 I'll read through each PIN and then I'll go back one by
46 one and see if there are any additional edits that need
47 to be made.

48

49 First I just wanted to note there is no

50

0098

1 Unalakleet River chinook escapement Priority
2 Information Need on this list because that project was
3 funded for the 2022 cycle. That's a four-year project.
4 So my recommendation would be that you can put that
5 back on your PIN. The acronym for Priority Information
6 Needs is PIN. On your PIN list during the next
7 two-year cycle.

8

9 So the draft PINs are chinook, chum and
10 coho salmon abundance estimates for Boston, Fish,
11 Paragon, and Wagonwheel rivers.

12

13 Next, summer and fall chum salmon
14 abundance estimates for the Agiapuk River drainage
15 including American River and Igloo Creek.

16

17 Next, chinook, chum, and coho salmon
18 abundance estimates for the Pikmiktalik River, with
19 comparison to historical counts.

20

21 Changes in arctic grayling, dolly
22 varden, and sheefish populations related to climate
23 change.

24

25 Changes in salmon species composition
26 and expansion of salmon species into new waters in the
27 Seward Peninsula.

28

29 Map traditional fishing areas in the
30 Seward Peninsula region.

31

32 Finally, the effects of expanding
33 beaver range and population on subsistence fisheries in
34 the Seward Peninsula region. Include effects of dams on
35 fish migration and effects of changes to water quality
36 on fish health.

37

38 So having read that list through I'll
39 go back to the first Priority Information Need and see
40 if there are any needed changes.

41

42 Chinook, chum and coho salmon abundance
43 estimates for Boston, Fish, Paragon, and Wagonwheel
44 Rivers.

45

46 MR. GRAY: Back I don't know how many
47 years ago everybody said, Tom, do this anadromous or
48 something cataloging of fish. That project evidently
49 never flew or is this part of that project or what?

50

0099

1 You know, I'm talking to another outfit to talk about
2 or address this. I don't know what the word is,
3 anadromous or whatever cataloging. It's going to go
4 through -- the tribal council that I belong to has to
5 bless it. If it does, it will be a couple hundred,
6 four hundred thousand dollar project.

7
8 Anyway, I told the guy go research and
9 find out what's happened. People in the past -- we've
10 got lots of new faces here except for the old guys.
11 (Laughter) But people in the past tried to shut me up
12 about my river. Oh, you don't have lands, you don't,
13 you don't, you don't. Now I finally see, oh, this is a
14 priority. There's still this anadromous issue.

15
16 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Council
17 Member Mr. Gray. Yeah, the Anadromous Waters Catalogue
18 that's primarily administered by Fish and Game and they
19 try to archive and catalogue. The dream is to have
20 this database that has every single river in it with
21 every single species of fish in it and have an
22 understanding. There's a lot of rivers, I think, still
23 that are not complete. I'm not familiar with these
24 rivers and if they're in the Anadromous Waters
25 Catalogue.

26
27 Yeah, I think it was -- I want to say
28 it was like four years ago I was working with you guys
29 and we developed this PIN. If that's something that is
30 important to you to have that included, I'm not aware
31 -- we'd have to sit down and maybe look at the
32 Anadromous Waters Catalogue and see if it's got those
33 rivers in it or not. If it doesn't, it might warrant
34 having some work done there.

35
36 MR. GRAY: I thought that project was
37 going forward. I mean everybody said, okay, that's
38 enough Tom. Let this fly. We need to go there and I'm
39 interested in the DNA portion of this thing. If we're
40 only looking at Federal lands, you know, we need to not
41 only say, yep, there's silver salmon there, but go into
42 the DNA aspect of it and make this a real project and
43 not some rinky-dink little thing that is going to do us
44 no good.

45
46 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Council
47 Member Mr. Gray. I would ask if somebody online from
48 the State maybe could just briefly give us a summary of
49 the process for getting submissions for the Anadromous
50

0100

1 Waters Catalogue. That might also give you some
2 indication as to like other means. It might not have
3 to be a Priority Information Need that's on -- that's
4 funded by the Office of Subsistence Management, but
5 rather a sort of citizen's approach if that's even a
6 possibility.

7

8 I know there's validation needed by the
9 State to validate the claims of a certain species being
10 in river are true, but I'm not aware of the actual
11 process. So I would ask anyone from the State if they
12 could chime in and just give us a 30,000 foot level,
13 that would be great.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're all of the mind
16 over here that we thought it happened. I did too. It
17 has to do with the Northern Seward Peninsula, wasn't
18 it?

19

20 MR. GRAY: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was it?

23

24 MR. GRAY: What I was after was I know
25 in (indiscernible) and possibly Boston there's Federal
26 lands up there. Tom, is that true?

27

28 MR. SPARKS: Scattered parcels.

29

30 MR. GRAY: Yes. So that justified in
31 my eyes that we go study fish and go look at -- and
32 that was the words that I got back was this andrama --
33 whatever. Let's go deal with that. I haven't heard
34 anything since then until a guy came to me wanting to
35 do this study and needs the blessing of my tribal
36 council to do it. There's going to be at least a
37 presentation to the tribal council to see if there's
38 something there.

39

40 But the bottom line, I don't care whose
41 land it is, we're all eating the same dang fish and
42 those fish don't know whose lands they're going to.
43 Let's think about the subsistence users. We've all got
44 to be team players in this thing and we can't say
45 that's Federal land, that's State land. Let's meet and
46 have a cup of coffee and think about how can we get
47 this done.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Jarred.

50

0101

1 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. You
2 bring up a good point and it almost sounds to me like
3 maybe there's an investigator that, you know, has
4 landed some funding or is about to land some funding to
5 tackle these questions. So I guess then I would ask
6 the Council is it their wish then to keep this PIN on
7 the list. To me it sounds like, yes, there is. Then
8 also is there any modifications or revisions to this
9 PIN that you think are -- that would be beneficial to a
10 prospective investigator that is considering tackling
11 this question.

12
13 I'll also remind you too that just
14 because the PINs are on the list and have made the list
15 doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to be
16 addressed by an investigator. So our hopes is that
17 there's lingering out there. There's an investigator
18 listening in right now and will key in on these
19 Priority Information Needs and the desire of the
20 Council and to try to tackle these questions. I'll
21 leave it there.

22
23 MR. GRAY: So I'm going to keep pushing
24 this thing no matter what happens. You know, I'm -- I
25 believe that not only you guys, but the State and all
26 of us, we're all in this together and we need to make a
27 team effort to have our resource there for the
28 subsistence users. You know, all of us draw lines in
29 the sand and we forget about the end product, the
30 subsistence user. Reality is going to play the hand
31 and we need some cooperation. I've been sitting here
32 forever saying let's get something done and everybody
33 draws lines in the sand.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

36
37 Hannah.

38
39 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 The next Priority Information Need, if we've finalized
41 the first one, is summer and fall chum salmon abundance
42 estimates for the Agiapuk River drainage including
43 American River and Igloo Creek.

44
45 At this point if there are any changes
46 you'd like to make, just let us know.

47
48 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
49 Mission. Ever since I can remember growing up we used
50

0102

1 to go up to the Agiapuk River to go fall chum fishing
2 to dry our fish because that's where the fish lost
3 their oil and then they dried faster. What I didn't
4 know was that the sockeye salmon went to Pilgrim River.
5 I thought that they were going up to Agiapuk River at
6 the same time.

7
8 There's so much fish going up the
9 Agiapuk River. The trout goes through Agiapuk River,
10 but they winter in the American River more on the
11 eastern side. The chum salmon I know go up the Agiapuk
12 River and I'm not too sure about Igloo chum because I
13 was there when it was at low water, but we have had a
14 lot of water -- a lot of rain during the past year.
15 After they spawn the water -- you can smell the
16 decaying remains of pink salmon, chum salmon, whatever
17 spawned and died, so that's a big abundance there.

18
19 Also beaver are claiming territory
20 where the fast running waters are not moving. They're
21 more into the quiet waters. Anyplace that I have seen
22 so far as beaver activity and then chum salmon that
23 were abundant up to the end of this month. I heard a
24 lot of reports over the past summer. Yukon River,
25 Kuskokwim River closed to chum salmon. Everywhere down
26 south.

27
28 Chum salmon used to be our third choice
29 of fish after chinook and sockeye and dried pinks would
30 be number one. Chum was number three on the list, but
31 since most of the fish had already gone through or what
32 Ronald was mentioning about fish going under the ice
33 because I heard the same thing up around Brevig
34 Mission. When the ice is still there we're still out
35 subsistence marine mammal hunting, so we're not really
36 into salmon fishing at that time until pretty late.

37
38 The first time all these years the red
39 salmon was below maybe 2,000 that went to Salmon Lake.
40 That was the lowest I ever heard over the years. I was
41 expecting a late run, but never did come. Some of the
42 red salmon that they caught was like pigmy, pigmy fish.
43 Real small red salmon, pigmy fish. So that's something
44 that we really have seen a lack of red salmon during
45 the first month of fishing, but a lot of chum. So
46 we're happy to get chum other than maybe pollution of
47 the waters that are causing our fish to die off in
48 large numbers.

49
50

0103

1 That's all I have on number two.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else to
6 comment on it. Okay, Deahl.

7

8 MR. KATCHATAG: Do you ever consider
9 mining, what mining has -- how it affected the fish?

10

11 (No comment)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Yeah, I'm
14 interested in seeing how this goes. As a young fella
15 back in the '60s when I started fishing on the Agiapuk
16 River, summer fish, right next to Joe Garnie and his
17 grandma Gussy with my grandma Elsie. Anyway, forward
18 the tape a little bit in early '80s I was over there
19 and I was flying a plane one day and I flew over the
20 Agiapuk River and there was a doggone run of chum in
21 there that were all prettied up and there was little
22 pads of ice coming down the river.

23

24 So I fished them in the summertime and
25 I fished them in the late fall time. So I'm real
26 interested in how that turns out. So I'm good with
27 what's written there. That's a food source for people
28 from his end of the country over there, Teller and
29 Brevig. They need to know about that. I'm sure you
30 know stuff about it, but it's good to have it
31 documented in other words.

32

33 Go ahead, Elmer.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: What I want to add on is
36 that when it starts freezing up our people used to go
37 up to the Agiapuk River and get the frozen fish to have
38 as food during the winter because after they go through
39 the process of molting and whatever, laying eggs, you
40 know, they die off, but they're soft. Their flesh is
41 soft, so I think that they wouldn't get bad during the
42 fall season, but that's what they used to do all the
43 time. Go up there after they spawn and die off and go
44 get the fish for food.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy.

49

50

0104

1 MR. GRAY: So I'm also in support of
2 this project. I moose hunted up there in October right
3 before freeze-up and I'm just amazed at bright, shiny
4 silvers. Holy cow. I mean not silvers, I'm sorry.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Chum?

7
8 MR. GRAY: Chums. Bright, shiny chums.
9 Our chum run is over with in July and here it is a
10 couple months later there's bright fish. It's pretty
11 amazing.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll agree with you.
14 I almost jumped out of the plane into the river when I
15 flew over and I saw them there in October. Anyway, I
16 think we're good with that one, Hannah.

17
18 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. I just
19 wondered if Deahl's comment, if I could address that
20 briefly. You had asked about the effects of mining. I
21 was wondering if you could tell me more about your
22 concerns and about whether you were suggesting that --
23 you know, if you're hoping that something could be
24 addressed. If that topic could be addressed through
25 research. I will note that there's some parameters on
26 what can be included and funded by the FRMP, but I just
27 wanted to make sure I understood your question.

28
29 Thanks.

30
31 MR. KATCHATAG: I'm concerned about
32 mining because the government wants to open mining in
33 our region up in North River, the Golsovia River,
34 Koyuk, Elim. If they do, we'll have nothing. That's my
35 concern.

36
37 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Member Deahl.
38 I don't think that we have a draft PIN specific to the
39 Golsovia River on our list at this time. That's
40 something that we could discuss further or we could
41 bracket that and think about adding it for the next
42 cycle's list.

43
44 So under the Fisheries Resource
45 Monitoring Program unfortunately we can't -- we'd have
46 to discuss the language of such a PIN because issues
47 such as contamination cannot be funded by the FRMP, but
48 would instead need to be addressed by the land manager.

49
50

0105

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd like to address
2 that question that he's got about mining. I don't
3 think there is any active mining going on up in there
4 at this time.

5

6 MR. KATCHATAG: No, there's no active
7 mining, but the government wants to open up mining in
8 North River, Golsovia River. That's for gold. And
9 Koyuk and Elim. We're trying to fight that right now
10 because they said they will open it. They will open
11 mining in North River. If they do, where they want to
12 mine feeds the Shaktoolik River, Nulato River and North
13 River.

14

15 The head of Golsovia belongs to the
16 Yukon people and they're already mining there and it's
17 going down in Golsovia. But they want to move down
18 into Norton Sound region and mine gold in north
19 Golsovia. They got one big hill where they shifted the
20 ground to look for what they want. The ashes went down
21 to the river and they found a lot of little fish dead
22 on the sandbars in the river. So if that continues you
23 can forget about fishing the Norton Sound, the whole
24 region.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Go ahead.

27

28 MS. VOORHEES: Member Deahl. It sounds
29 like perhaps a baseline study is something that would
30 be of interest in that area. I believe it would be
31 Federal nexus in that area.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are you asking us if
34 we should add that to it or just another PIN or are we
35 just.....

36

37 MS. VOORHEES: Yes. That's up to the
38 Council's discretion. I would also mention that there
39 are quite a few Priority Information Needs on this list
40 at this time. The more PINs that you have, you know,
41 it may reduce the likelihood that your top priority
42 PINs are funded. So it's always a balancing act in
43 that regard.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I have a question. I
46 don't know if anybody can answer it real quick. An
47 environmental impact study where he's talking about is
48 anybody aware of any of that at this table?

49

50

0106

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: No. Okay. Tom. Here
4 you go. Tom the BLM man. Have a talk right there with
5 that microphone. You might address that. Thank you,
6 Tom Sparks.

7

8

MR. SPARKS: You're quite welcome. We
9 are engaged in an environmental impact statement where
10 the public land orders that is being discussed here.
11 Those are down at the Secretarial level, but all of our
12 land use plans have promoted to lifting those public
13 land orders. Most of them go back to the '70s, so
14 they're very old. During the ANILCA and the Native
15 Claims Settlement Act.

16

17

The specific area around Unalakleet has
18 actually been open for gold as a locatable mineral
19 since the '80s and we have no record of any active
20 Federal claims there. So there's a little bit of
21 disinformation going around. Nevertheless that's
22 something that the Bureau of Land Management is
23 currently engaged in.

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0107

1 count in Pikmiktalik River since the last time the
2 count was done by Kawerak. I'm wondering if they can
3 re-establish that and bring the count back, counting
4 tower back into Pikmiktalik because I know we have our
5 own salmon that go up that Pikmiktalik River.

6
7 Pikmiktalik River goes quite a ways in.
8 It goes way back towards -- almost towards -- it goes
9 way towards Andreafsky. It's way back here. It goes
10 up to right about Charlie Green. So the salmon do go
11 that far up Pikmiktalik River. We did have our own
12 abundance, our own stock there before and there was a
13 fish counting tower there and Kawerak hunted that for a
14 while and it's gone now. I'd like to see if that can
15 be brought back.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
20 Anybody else with any comments on that Pikmiktalik
21 River abundance estimate? Go ahead, Jarred.

22
23 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
24 Chair. Just real quickly. So the last time the
25 Pikmiktalik River was funded was back in 2006 and then
26 back in 2004, 2002. So, yeah, it looked like early in
27 the days there was quite the effort to start that up
28 and then it's been off the books since 2006.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
33 bring that up. I'm pretty sure if there's a
34 possibility of someone being a sportfishing guide in
35 our area, they'd gladly want to go fishing in
36 Pikmiktalik River because there's an abundance of fish
37 we go after over there with our rod and reels. We get
38 kings, silvers. They go up that river. So I know.
39 That's why I'm wondering why Kawerak stopped our fish
40 counting. I'd like to bring it back.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So on this salmon
43 abundance estimate for the Pikmiktalik are we all in
44 agreement that it should continue to be on the list?
45 It's already on the list.

46
47 MR. KIRK: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We got escapement
50

0108

1 goals on the State side for that, escapements from
2 past? Do they have goals? Good question, Tom.

3

4 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I am
5 not aware. I'm not sure. There might be. I can look
6 quickly.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We've got today and
9 tomorrow, so go ahead, Tommy.

10

11 MR. GRAY: So you know I was down in
12 your part of the world last summer and the river he's
13 talking about is a big deal to his region. Not only
14 his region, but I think the Yukon people too. To
15 protect that fishery I think it's important enough that
16 he needs the escapement goals.

17

18 His village should be -- somebody
19 should explain to his IRA council or city council or
20 whoever what is in place and what can be put in place
21 in the process and so on and so forth. It's one thing
22 to count fish, but it's another thing to obligate the
23 escapement goals. I think that is more important at
24 this point than just counting fish. You know, somebody
25 needs to go to his village and explain that.

26

27 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.
28 Thank you, Tom. I'm just wondering if there's anyone
29 online from the State who could address that concern.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
34 it, Hannah. Go ahead.

35

36 MR. KIRK: I'm glad Tom brought up the
37 issue of the Yukon people coming up. They've been
38 doing that since they closed the Yukon for subsistence
39 fishing. They've been coming to our area and they've
40 been fishing right off the mouth of Pikhiktalik River
41 and New Knockhock River. They're so close to each
42 other. They're both fresh water rivers and the fish go
43 up both those rivers. I'm glad he brought that issue
44 up. It's very vital to our area for subsistence way of
45 life both for our village and the Yukon River people.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like a C&T

50

0109

1 thing. Go ahead.

2

3

MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 So it sounds like we're also keeping that PIN on our
5 list. I'll move on to the next one which is Changes in
6 Arctic Grayling, Dolly Varden, and Sheefish populations
7 related to climate change. The way it's written that
8 would apply to any Federal public waters in the Seward
9 Peninsula Region.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council got any
12 comments. Go ahead, Tommy.

13

14

MR. GRAY: So arctic grayling in my
15 river I've got a premier arctic grayling river, so I
16 really don't care what you guys study. I've got some
17 of the best grayling fishing on the Seward Peninsula.
18 Dolly varden are just a shark to me. They rape and
19 pillage. If we could get rid of them, we'd have more
20 salmon and more fry going to the ocean. So I really
21 don't care about dollies. Sheefish I don't have.

22

23 So this line item here, to me, it could
24 go, it could stay. If it's going to take away a chance
25 for funding for another project, I would say get rid of
26 it, but I'm just one vote in here and I've explained my
27 place. Again, I've got premier grayling and dollies to
28 me, just get rid of them. They're like a wolf.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So when
31 they talk about -- when this PIN is in here, are we
32 talking about -- we're looking at the Seward Peninsula,
33 right? Are we talking about the whole Seward Peninsula
34 when we look into this, when we do this, pretty
35 extensive? And then we blame climate change on what
36 happened. Do we have any database -- do we have any
37 background or anything from before climate change
38 started?

39

40 MR. STONE: You're asking the million
41 dollar questions. Through the Chair. Yeah, so that
42 again -- you know, it's a pretty vague question, this
43 Priority Information Need, and it puts the impetus on
44 the investigator to try to come up with a clever way --
45 like maybe there's status that's out there that I'm not
46 aware of and they somehow are able to get together 30
47 years or 50 years of scales or some kind of additional
48 data set that I'm not aware of and utilize that to show
49 changes in climate and how that affects whitefish and

50

0110

1 grayling and dolly varden.

2

3 So I guess what I'm trying to say is
4 some of these Priority Information Needs you can leave
5 vague like that or you can make them as specific as you
6 like. If there's a particular research question that
7 you want to address, there's nothing wrong with making
8 it very specific.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I kind of worded
11 it a little -- call it humor behind it because it does
12 reach out and -- what do you base it on, this study on?
13 Do you have something from before? I'm not sure how it
14 got in there. We might have been talking about it. I
15 don't recall now. It would be nice to know where
16 everything is at, but I think we've had other studies
17 that are going on that could capture some of that.
18 We've got stuff going on in the four rivers of the
19 northern Norton Sound or northern Seward Peninsula.
20 We've had fish population -- I don't know if
21 population, but we've had whitefish runs and stuff like
22 that studied elsewhere. So we must have something
23 cataloged. I don't know. This one is kind of far
24 reaching because you're talking about related to
25 climate change.

26

27 I'm like Tommy. I know dolly vardens
28 and what they do. They consume a lot of salmon fry in
29 the spring. Sheefish populations in our rivers are
30 non-existent that I know of. I don't know what's going
31 on up north in northern Seward Peninsula. Do you, Tom?

32

33 MR. GRAY: (Shakes head no)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nothing? You never
36 hear of anything? Nikki. Come on, Nikki. Bring it
37 on.

38

39 MS. BRAEM: For the record I'm Nikki
40 Braem. I'm the cultural anthropologist at BELA. I
41 have a little insight on how this got into the PINs.
42 Unfortunately we don't really have a northern Seward
43 Peninsula rep right now who could maybe speak to what's
44 going on up there from personal experience.

45

46 At some of the meetings I've been at
47 when we go out and do consultation meetings and we talk
48 about a little bit of everything during the course of
49 the day. It's interesting that in Shishmaref and back

50

0111

1 when I worked for the State even at Buckland some of
2 those northern Seward Peninsula communities were
3 talking about how now they're getting sheefish. Like
4 they might have gotten some in the past. They knew
5 about them. But now like they're really catching them.
6 They're catching more of them.

7

8 So it might have even come through like
9 NPS where we kind of said, you know, we're hearing
10 about sheefish. If I recall from the Buckland study,
11 which would have been published in about 2017 before I
12 left, they were getting them at the village site now
13 upriver by Buckland. They're like, well, that's
14 different.

15

16 So it doesn't mean you have to like
17 this PIN or keep it on, but that's probably how it made
18 it into here just when they kind of cast a wide net
19 asking about, you know, what are you hearing about
20 people are interested in. Then the northern Seward Pen
21 I suspect something is going on in that regard, but I
22 don't have more than that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So Buckland is
25 where?

26

27 MR. GRAY: Up by Candle.

28

29 MS. BRAEM: It's east. There's
30 Shishmaref and then you go east and eventually you're
31 at Deering and Buckland.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right.

34

35 MS. BRAEM: But Shishmaref did talk
36 about sheefish just last month when we were up there.
37 It doesn't mean you have to like this PIN or keep it,
38 but that might have been where it came from.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It was hard to pick up
41 -- I don't remember discussing this stuff, so it was
42 like where did it come from. So anyway, thank you for
43 enlightening us. What do we want to do with this PIN?
44 Leland and Ron.

45

46 MR. OYOUNICK: My name is Leland. I'm
47 from Unalakleet and I was wondering with all our
48 climate change and this high water stuff could it be
49 that some of those fish get stuck in the lakes when
50

0112

1 they -- the whole flat gets filled with water. There's
2 lakes on there. I don't know if those fish get stuck
3 in those lakes and you've got to think about that like
4 Elmer says.

5

6 You know, where we live there's few
7 lakes. They're not real thick. Most of them will
8 freeze all the way to the bottom through the winter.
9 At 20 below will do that, you know. There's one river
10 maybe where they could flourish and it doesn't freeze
11 to the bottom. We call that Big Lake. I kind of think
12 that's where our whitefish come from because there's a
13 couple guys who got -- I don't know, they said sacks of
14 them one fall right in that tributary that goes to Big
15 Lake somehow.

16

17 When the water is low it doesn't flow
18 back and forth, so maybe they get stuck in the lake. I
19 always wondered about that. I'm not asking a question.
20 I'm just bringing this up. When you look at the flats
21 in the high water, there's no lands.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.
24 Ron and then Tom.

25

26 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chairman. I brought
27 this up this portion of sheefish because in our area,
28 like I stated earlier, the river splits in a canal.
29 There's big canal, there's little canal, big canal and
30 off big canal it splits again. It goes up and there's
31 a pond up there that we've been using for years. My
32 ancestors used it. My parents use it. It's a pond.
33 It's a lake.

34

35 We call it Nanvaranuk and a lot of the
36 Unalakleet hunters are aware of that lake. It's called
37 Nanvaranuk. That's where we get all our sheefish from.
38 They spawn there. They go further up from the lake.
39 There's a little creek that goes further up so they go
40 into that lake and they go further up and spawn.
41 That's the reason why this is on here. When I had a
42 meeting with these folks this spring I threw it on
43 there. I wanted it to be discussed during this
44 meeting.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Now we
49 know where it came from. We didn't talk about it, but

50

0113

1 you did.

2

3

MR. KIRK: I did.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was like.....

6

7

8

MR. KIRK: Like you stated earlier Tom
talks too much.

9

10

(Laughter)

11

12

13

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So it is
something of some interest. Is there any way we could
-- if we're going to use that one as a PIN, can we kind
of fine tune it a little bit? Are we talking about
sheefish populations?

17

18

19

MR. KIRK: Yes.

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Maybe we zoom in on
sheefish populations. Tommy, go ahead.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MR. GRAY: So, you know, only certain
projects are going to get funded. If we look around
the country, you know, my White Mountain, my country,
every now and again we get sheefish. His country.
He's got a limited sheefish supply. You go to Ruby.
Across from Ruby upriver is the mouth of a river.
Sheefish. Oddball places.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

But I guess in my head there's a lot of
projects that should be higher on the priority list
than other projects. This is one of those projects in
my mind that is really not going to impact a lot of
people. It may impact Stebbins. It might impact
St. Michael. A handful of people that go up there and
catch those fish it will impact.

38

39

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I'm supportive of that to a point. I
think the more people that we can impact, the better
off we're going to be. If we've got to pick and
choose, you know, and I'll be real frank about it, he's
got a lot of Federal land, so his project is going to
come out smelling like a rose compared to my project
when you look at this PIN because I'm going to have a
hard time justifying it. But my project is going to
impact 100 times more people than his project. You see
what I'm trying to say?

0114

1 I hate to just pick on them. Anyway,
2 I'm thinking out loud here. Sorry.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm just wondering
5 when these PIN projects are looked into by those of you
6 that are doing them. You probably have that kind of
7 analysis going on where you're looking to see what
8 impact this study is going to offer to how many.

9
10 Go ahead, Jarred.

11
12 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
13 Chair. Yeah, you bring up a great point. When we have
14 the Technical Review Committee sit down and evaluate
15 these projects, there's five criteria that they sit and
16 look at. They look at the strategic priority, they
17 look at the scientific merit making sure that the
18 project is sound and that they're going to be able to
19 capture their stated objectives, they look at the
20 investigator's ability and their resources, they look
21 at the cost to benefit and lastly they also look to the
22 extent of which that they're going to try and be
23 meaningful involved or bring in a partner, Alaska
24 Native or rural organization.

25
26 So those are the five things and you're
27 kind of hinting at just the right thing, the strategic
28 priority. They're going to look at how large of a
29 subsistence fishery is this and what impacts is it
30 going to have on the people that rely on them. Those
31 projects generally shake out a little bit higher.
32 During the competitive funding process where the
33 projects that have a higher strategic priority
34 generally rank higher.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So do we want to leave
37 it on there and let them decide through their analysis
38 if it shakes out to be fair to everybody.

39
40 MR. GRAY: I think that's fine, yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's good. Okay.
43 You're on.

44
45 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 know that Leland also brought up a concern specific to
47 defective fish freezing in lakes possibly if I heard
48 that right.

49
50

0115

1 MR. OYOUNICK: Maybe they get stuck in
2 the lakes during the high water, the high tide during
3 -- like we had this big flood. Man, it almost got to
4 the house, you know. It did get to the house, but it
5 just surrounded it. So the whole flat was covered with
6 water. How are the fish going to know which way to go,
7 you know. They don't have sonar or GPS that they can
8 rely on, you know. I just wondered about that. That's
9 all.

10

11 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. Through the
12 Chair. I was just wondering if that was something that
13 needed to be added somewhere or if we just want to
14 bracket that for now as a concern and potential
15 investigators, if they're doing their homework, they
16 review the transcripts from these meetings, so they
17 will pick up on those concerns that have been raised as
18 well.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's interesting
21 that he talks about that because you see that every now
22 and then, these high water events. In Washington I
23 lived right on a river there that actually did what
24 he's talking about and the chum salmon that were
25 swimming up the river ended up crossing the road in a
26 place where -- they went the wrong channel. So good
27 point. They go in the wrong channel, they end up in
28 the wrong place.

29

30 All right. So I guess we keep moving
31 on.

32

33 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 So can I -- if I'm on the same page, then we'd just
35 like to keep that as is for now on the list?

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think it's consensus
38 here to just leave it on there. It will get picked out
39 or picked up if it's strategically -- see what happens.
40 Okay. So we're done with that one.

41

42 MS. VOORHEES: All right. Number five.
43 Changes in salmon species composition and expansion of
44 salmon species into new waters in the Seward Peninsula.

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I've got to have a --
48 did you talk about that?

49

50

0116

1 MR. KIRK: No, Mr. Chair. This issue
2 was brought up during the meeting and I just told them
3 to just leave it on there and bring it up to the board
4 because I wasn't too sure what it was about.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we know where it
7 came from, Jarred?

8
9 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I don't
10 recall exactly where it came from, but earlier
11 fisheries biologist Brendan Scanlon from ADF&G had kind
12 of hinted at the idea that sockeye and their certain
13 range is changing. With given climate change it's
14 possible that new species of salmon are being found in
15 new rivers. So I would be willing to venture to guess
16 that that's probably where this Priority Information
17 Need came from.

18
19 When Hannah, myself and Council Member
20 Kirk met this summer, we took a list of Priority
21 Information Needs from previous cycles that had been
22 unaddressed by investigators and we felt that was a
23 good starting point for our conversations to kind of
24 think about what Priority Information Needs to consider
25 moving forward. So this was one of them and I'm not
26 exactly sure when this one came about.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So a question most of
29 our fisheries are subsistence fisheries keep track of
30 what you catch. So wouldn't those household surveys
31 maybe.....

32
33 MS. BRAEM: Well, Norton Sound they --
34 I'm sorry. I should get to a microphone.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nikki.

37
38 MS. BRAEM: For the record, this is
39 Nikki Braem at BELA. So in Norton Sound there are
40 harvest permits like we have here where you go get your
41 permit and you fill it out and send it in. There are
42 some household surveys done in other communities in
43 Norton Sound. Once you get past Wales -- I mean once
44 you get past Cape Prince of Wales there's nothing.
45 There are no annual monitoring of harvests once you get
46 up there.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.
49 We're doing something about it on the norther side of
50

0117

1 the Seward Peninsula, about looking into fish stocks up
2 there. It would seem like we'd want to have some kind
3 of a survey, household survey, active up at Shishmaref
4 and whatnot to help gather information.

5

6 I see where it's coming from now, but I
7 don't think that's a real priority to us, is it?

8

9 Elmer, did you have something to add?

10

11 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr. The
12 salmon -- after listening to the radio news last summer
13 everything was closed down there. And then I kind of
14 thought about what happened four to five years ago when
15 they first went out. Was there a fall storm? Was
16 there something out in the waters that was adverse to
17 their smolt life or was there just too many predators?

18

19

20 I think when -- we talk about fish
21 resources. We just talk about the resource. We don't,
22 you know, look at all the changes that are coming into
23 our area. We do have water and sewer systems in our
24 communities. They go directly into the ocean water.
25 So that's something each community needs to look at is
26 the quality of water where the fish migrate.

27

28 And then reports of micro-plastic in
29 the water. I seen the waters at Port Clarence Bay,
30 Grantley Harbor, green with algae. So there's
31 something very wrong with the waters in which the fish
32 resources are -- marine mammals. They're coming out
33 with sores in other Councils' reports.

34

35 So we need to re-look at what is really
36 going out there because we just blame this and that.
37 We need to look back at what happened when they first
38 went out between their smolt stage and when they were
39 supposed to return. Was there something adverse when
40 they went out or is there something out there that kept
41 -- that let them die off or did they migrate.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So
46 bringing it back to the changes of salmon species
47 composition and expansion of the salmon species into
48 new waters in the Seward Peninsula. I think we can
49 just let that one slide. I don't think that's real

50

0118

1 definite to anything.

2

3 Move on to the map of traditional
4 fishing areas in the Seward Peninsula. I just read it
5 for you.

6

7 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 If I may also add a question on this one. I'm just
9 wondering if there's any more specific information or
10 just areas of focus that you'd like to include when
11 finalizing this PIN.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Where I fish I don't
14 want you to put it on the map.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What about you, Tommy?

19

20 MR. GRAY: Secret hole.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just a little humor
23 there, folks. It's a long day. It doesn't matter to
24 me. Anybody else got anything to add to it? Ron.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Over here. Many of the
27 traditional fishing areas in the Seward Peninsula might
28 not be traditional anymore because of what natural
29 disasters, you know, change whatever is in the water.
30 So I would think that, oh, I used to fish there a long
31 time ago. I'm changing my fishing techniques right now
32 up in the Agiapuk River.

33

34 Everybody used to go up the Agiapuk
35 River maybe about 10 years ago. They quit going up
36 there too much because they don't depend on sled dogs
37 too much and then it constantly rains when you try to
38 dry fish and that is not productive. You don't produce
39 anything when it's raining. They just start smelling
40 as soon as you hang them up.

41

42 So that's wasted energy that we have
43 seen over the years of how many times did it really
44 rain on us after we caught our fish and we have to
45 start over again. So over the years our changes to
46 mass fishing has kind of changed quite a bit. It used
47 to be large families up there gathering their fish for
48 the coming season now. There's rarely anyone going up
49 there.

50

0119

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

4

5 Hannah.

6

7 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

8 just wanted to note that even though that was a joke

9 about areas being secret fishing spots, there could be

10 that concern with a project that tried to map

11 traditional fishing areas and also to acknowledge

12 Elmer's point that that's probably changing over time

13 where they are.

14

15 I think, if I remember correctly, part
16 of the original impetus behind this one was possibly to
17 protect fishing areas as changes occur, including
18 development, climate change, et cetera, to have that
19 background established.

20

21 MR. GRAY: So it's like my area,
22 traditional fishing areas. Let's start outside in the
23 ocean. You know, guys fishing in the ocean, commercial
24 fishing, have traditional areas that they fish from
25 year after year. The fish comes in the river. When
26 they first come in the river there's areas that the
27 locals go rod and reel from or seine from.

28

29 As the fish got -- like I'm a fishing
30 lodge. I own a fishing lodge. From the bottom of the
31 holes to the top of the holes that I fish is 50 holes.
32 You ain't getting those holes. I'm not going to give
33 them to you because the first thing that's going to
34 happen is freedom of speech or public whatever.
35 Somebody is going to find out you got this and this and
36 all of a sudden it's going to be on Facebook. Now I'm
37 fighting everybody.

38

39 It's foolish for me to -- you know, I
40 think for your -- your line of work so to speak is you
41 guys need to ensure that our people have subsistence
42 fish. You don't need to micromanage or get in the
43 weeds so deep that you're trying to manage these holes.
44 If that makes sense.

45

46 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Member Gray.
47 I'll turn this back to the Council and see if you'd
48 like to keep this on the list or remove it for now.

49

50

0120

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thumbs up or thumbs
2 down? I got the intent of why you'd want something for
3 historical purposes when development comes along. I
4 think what happens when development comes along you've
5 got the studies that go on, impact studies. I think
6 that information would come up then, wouldn't it?

7

8 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yeah, I
9 agree. I'm not familiar with what the map study could
10 look like. If it's going to be that specific where
11 it's saying, you know, these holes are Tom's favorite
12 number one spots, but in the event of large-scale
13 development or things of that nature, if there was a
14 need to assess that, I would think that that would sure
15 come about during that time of impact studies.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I think
18 that happened down at Bonanza Channel. IPOP comes to
19 town and everybody got involved in that one. They shut
20 down.

21

22 Tommy, go ahead.

23

24 MR. GRAY: So one of my -- I have many
25 hats I wear. One of my hats is I have a contract to
26 run water quality people around. You know, 10 times a
27 year I take people in a boat and go chase water
28 quality, which it kind of talks about what you guys are
29 talking about here.

30

31 The other side of the coin is my river
32 system there's 400 some thousand acres of land that
33 surround the first 25 miles of the river system, 30
34 miles that's Native owned. So you may have
35 jurisdiction on the water, but in one sense it's being
36 covered by water quality people. The land issue is all
37 Native owned until you get 30 miles upriver. So, you
38 know, to me it's let other people do that job. They're
39 going to do it better.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.
42 Leland, did you have a comment to make on that?

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: No.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Elmer, go
47 ahead.

48

49 MR. SEETOT: Elmer with the same

50

0121

1 subject. I think the traditional and tribal councils
2 met with the community of Brevig so many years back
3 mapping out traditional subsistence harvest areas. So
4 if you need to find out something about a certain
5 community where their traditional harvest areas are, I
6 would contact the traditional or tribal offices.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
9 think that will come up in the future if there's any
10 development heading for some area that we want.....

11

12 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair, this is....

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead.
15 Somebody is out there on the line there. Go ahead.

16

17 MR. SCANLON: I'm sorry. This is
18 Brendan Scanlon again with Fish and Game. I wanted to
19 mention to anyone who is looking for a nice summary of
20 some historical subsistence and commercial fishing in
21 all six subdistricts. In 2015, as part of the Norton
22 Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team, we wrote a
23 Comprehensive Salmon Plan. When I say we, I mean
24 Charlie Lean wrote most of it. He's got a lot of
25 detail on some of the subsistence fisheries and runs
26 and timing and concerns for the last 50 years or so.

27

28 Anyway, it's a document that's already
29 published. So if someone were going to go down a road
30 of trying to document traditional fishing sites and
31 timing and preferences, they might want to look at this
32 document first so they get a head start and maybe not
33 duplicate efforts.

34

35 That's all. Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brendan.
38 That helps out a lot. I said either it's going to come
39 up and there's going to be a study or there's something
40 out there like you just said. There's already
41 something out there. I don't think that mapping
42 traditional fishing areas on the Seward Peninsula
43 Region is real necessary. Everybody feel the same?

44

45 (Council nodding)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, consensus.
48 Next. Thanks.

49

50

0122

1 MS. VOORHEES: All right. Roger that.
2 The final PIN is The effects of expanding beaver range
3 and population on subsistence fisheries in the Seward
4 Peninsula region. Include effects of dams on fish
5 migration and effects of changes to water quality on
6 fish health.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I have a comment. In
9 the discussion in the past where beaver dams were
10 starting to move from east to west. I think the first
11 ones I saw in our area were in the mid '70s down in the
12 lower Pilgrim area. Smith Creek to be exact. Tommy
13 knows where that is. Anyway, that was where I saw my
14 first beaver dam in our area that I recall.

15
16 It was said that smolt salmon, like
17 coho, was a good thing. It was giving them rearing
18 ponds and areas with the feed and whatnot. It wasn't
19 good for chum salmon and it wasn't good for pinks, but
20 we got lots of pinks, so obviously beavers to me don't
21 -- aren't detrimental to the fish that spawn in the
22 rivers that -- when they spawn in the fall time -- or
23 in the summertime, the next spring they're outgoing
24 fry. So it doesn't seem to be detrimental to the fry
25 stage salmon, but it is good for smolt. Silvers were
26 probably the main one that was talked about.

27
28 Anybody else? Tommy.

29
30 MR. GRAY: So, you know, I heard this
31 theory that the beaver dams are good for salmon smolt,
32 especially cohos. Believe me, I have been all over
33 this country. I'm a bear hunting guide. I've been
34 there, seen the other side of the mountain, on and on.
35 But I question do we need 12 beaver dams in a five-mile
36 creek?

37
38 My feeling is whoever brought these
39 beavers in and let them take off the way they did needs
40 to go out and eradicate them. They're like rats. Get
41 rid of them. You know, they're like wolves. What good
42 are they doing? We had silver salmon long before we
43 had beavers. You know, we can all justify our programs
44 and our whatevers, but I don't think beavers are a good
45 thing for our area.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Darn beavers.
48 The effects of expanding beaver range and population on
49 subsistence fisheries in the Seward Peninsula region.
50

0123

1 Include effects of dams on fish migration and effects
2 of changes to water quality on fish health.

3

4 Tommy, are you seeing any water quality
5 issues when you take these people out because of the
6 beavers?

7

8 MR. GRAY: You know, again, I go all
9 over the place and I drink water out of the river.
10 People look at me like how stupid are you. But I
11 haven't gotten sick. Maybe I should be a little more
12 careful. Everybody is scared of getting that beaver
13 fever crap. You know, they've got the filters and this
14 and that.

15

16 You know, I've got to give beavers
17 credit. They're not only damming creeks up, now
18 they're in the rivers in the last three or four years.
19 They're in the rivers building dams on the side of a
20 swift flowing river that they can't dam off and setting
21 up shop right in the rivers. So they're adapting to
22 our world. You know, should we study them? No. Let's
23 kill them. Get rid of them, you know. Nobody on my
24 river system wants them around.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Huh. So, anyway,
27 beavers. I'm a moose guy. I love moose meat, right,
28 so I'm at a potluck presented by people from Chugiak
29 maybe. No. They're people from Prince William Sound.
30 Lots of moose meat. Of course, that's me. And then
31 there's something over there and I said what the heck
32 is that and it was beaver meat. You know, I like to
33 try things. So I tried it and I got done eating and I
34 went back for seconds. I had beaver meat, okay.

35

36 We need to learn how to eat them. We
37 don't like bears, but I learned how to eat bears from
38 my Grandma Elsie Ball back in the sixties. You can eat
39 them or you can not eat them, but beavers are good.
40 They're really good.

41

42 Anyhow, even the museum down south. I
43 think we need to take that -- you know, there's too
44 many. Well, let's take care of them. Let's wear hats.
45 Let's eat some. Sometimes we can be our own worst
46 enemy where if we don't like something we just want to
47 avoid it. So I'm tackling it on the humorous side
48 because it could be contentious and I don't want to
49 argue with Tom.

50

0124

1 I think learning on the range is we
2 witnessed the range every time we go up and down the
3 Pilgrim or the Kuzitrin or the El Dorado. We see them
4 everywhere. I think that's kind of a given. How we
5 eradicate them if we want to is another question.

6
7 Jobe Chakuchuk told me one time that
8 there was a place on the -- was it Fish River? I can't
9 remember the name. But bears are one thing. They make
10 sure when a bear showed up they followed that thing
11 until they killed it.

12
13 Beavers, there's a place where the last
14 stand of the beaver was at one point in time back in
15 the day where they killed the last ones off and it was
16 over in that area. So they took the time to actually
17 go out and take care of business. I don't know if
18 anybody else had heard anything from anybody back then.
19 They said they wiped them out. So they took it on
20 their own to do it. I think that's where we're at.

21
22 If we want to know the effects, all we
23 have to do is go out and take a tour for ourselves. I
24 think that's a good thing to not worry about. Anybody
25 else yea or nay besides me? I'm saying no. We don't
26 need it. We know the range. I'm okay with taking that
27 one off. Tommy's okay. Ron's okay. All right. Done.

28
29 Thank you, Hannah.

30
31 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 wanted to let you know that tomorrow there is -- I'm
33 sorry, on October 6th there is a talk called Tundra Be
34 Dammed, Beavers of the Arctic at 6:30 at the UAF
35 Northwest Campus here in Nome if you're interested.
36 It's about the expansion of beavers.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So we've
39 got -- under the Seward Peninsula we've got four PINs.
40 Am I on that one correctly?

41
42 MS. VOORHEES: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There was something
45 about the sheefish populations. Are we kind of leaving
46 that one there just to see if it gets a nod? Okay.
47 All right. So we've got four out of the seven. Okay,
48 we're done with that. Five minute break or are we done
49 at the end of the day? I'm not even sure. Go ahead.

50

0125

1 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, may I ask
2 that the Council makes a motion to approve these four
3 PINs. I can read through them one more time if needed
4 or if not we can go ahead and.....

5
6 MR. GRAY: So moved.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray moves to make
9 a motion to move forward those four PINs.

10
11 MR. KIRK: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron seconds. All
14 those in favor say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
19 sign.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Passes
24 with four PINs. Thank you. Jarred.

25
26 MR. STONE: Just real quickly. The
27 Partners update that I have next is very brief, very
28 short. It would probably take two to three minutes if
29 you'd like.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name
35 is Jarred Stone. The talk I'm giving today has got
36 some associated materials you can find in your Council
37 books, Page 54.

38
39 So here very shortly sometime in
40 October in the coming weeks the Office of Subsistence
41 Management will post a Notice of Funding Opportunity
42 for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.
43 This is different than the program that we talked about
44 just previous. This is what we refer to as our
45 Partners Program.

46
47 This is a competitive grant for Alaska
48 Native and rural nonprofit organizations. The intent
49 of the program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
50

0126

1 involvement in Federal subsistence management by
2 providing salary funds to organizations so that they
3 can hire a professional biologist, a social scientist
4 or an educator.

5

6 The grant also provides funds for
7 science and culture camps and paid student internships.
8 So if you'd like to find more information on this
9 funding opportunity, we'll be posting it to our website
10 here pretty shortly. You can also contact Karen Hyer
11 via email or phone and all of her contact information
12 is there at the bottom of Page 54. She'd be glad to
13 point you in the right direction if you're interested.

14

15 Thank you for your time. Are there any
16 questions?

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I think
23 we're done with that. Thank you for that information.

24

25 MR. STONE: Thank you. I think that
26 was less than three minutes too.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I didn't start my
29 watch. What time are we looking at slowing up today or
30 ending today?

31

32 MR. GRAY: Where are we at?

33

34 (Group discussion)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're going to take a
37 10-minute break here and get everybody up and around
38 and then we'll get back here and try to get this out.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Good job you guys. Thank
41 you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

44

45 (Off record)

46

47 (On record)

48

49 MS. PILCHER: So next up on the agenda

50

0127

1 is 11(d), identifying issues for FY2022 Annual Report.
2 This is an action item. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
3 of the Council. For the record my name is Nissa
4 Pilcher. I'm your Subsistence Council Coordinator.
5 It's time for the Council to decide what issues to
6 include on its annual report. For your information
7 guidelines for the Annual Report can be found on Page
8 55 of your meeting book. This is an action item.

9

10 ANILCA established the Annual Report as
11 a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of
12 regional subsistence uses and needs and to provide
13 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
14 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
15 and proposed regulations.

16

17 Section 805(a)(3)(d) of ANILCA
18 stipulates that your Annual Report should contain (1)
19 an identification of current and anticipated
20 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations
21 within the region; (2) an evaluation of current and
22 anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife
23 populations within the region; (3) a recommended
24 strategy for the management of fish and wildlife
25 populations within the region to accommodate such
26 subsistence uses and needs; and lastly (4)
27 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
28 guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.

29

30 So I would like to emphasize that your
31 Annual Report ensures the Board has the most up to date
32 awareness of issues, concerns and current events that
33 impact your subsistence way of life. With your report
34 and recommendations the Board can make informed
35 decisions on regulatory and policy actions.

36

37 So please share items or information
38 that you would like to see raised to the Board's
39 attention in your 2022 Annual Report and have a
40 discussion on what you would like OSM to include under
41 these topics.

42

43 I'll make a note of those items at this
44 time. After the meeting is over I'll draft the topics
45 of your Annual Report based on the information provided
46 in your discussion. Your Council will review this
47 draft report at your next meeting, which would be in
48 the winter of 2023 and provide edits and additional
49 information.

50

0128

1 If you cannot think of topics to
2 include on the report now and remember them later
3 during the duration of this meeting, you can share them
4 at that time with the permission of your Chairman.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 Just to remind you guys earlier this
9 morning we talked about your FY2021 Annual Report.
10 Those topics were resident caribou herd in the northern
11 Seward Peninsula as well as the Bering Sea Western
12 Interior Planning Area Environmental Impact Statement
13 Concerns. That's on Page 18 of your book.

14
15 MR. GRAY: So the caribou issue has
16 been an ongoing issue forever and I sit on the Western
17 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. I brought up that
18 very issue that you guys brought up and the big Federal
19 Board recommended that a study and collars and blah,
20 blah, blah go on that herd so that we can understand a
21 little bit about it. Where has it gone since then?

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Who's got an answer?
24 Anybody?

25
26 MR. GRAY: And let me explain myself.
27 Probably 10 years ago I had a big fight with Fish and
28 Game and I went to the Board and the Board, the Western
29 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, said years ago,
30 yeah, go study those animals. I forget the guy's name.
31 The guy before Alex. Do you guys remember him?

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jim Dau?

34
35 MR. GRAY: Jim Dau came up to me right
36 in the meeting and he said there's no way in hell
37 you're putting satellite collars on my caribou. Jim
38 Dau's been gone, the new guy came in. Our big Federal
39 Board that we send recommendations to said let's study
40 these animals and put collars on them and blah, blah,
41 blah. I'm curious where that settled out because if we
42 don't -- we haven't got what we're after, I would say
43 we need to follow up on that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Letty's got the floor.

46
47 MS. HUGHES: Thank you. For the
48 record, this is Letty Hughes, Bering Land Bridge. So
49 you were probably out earlier, Tom, when OSM was

50

0129

1 providing just non-action items on the Annual Report.
2 So when this had come up also at least on the Park
3 Service side, you know, our response is that we
4 definitely acknowledge that there are likely caribou or
5 reindeer across, you know, year round on the Seward
6 Peninsula.

7
8 Now as it relates to National Parkland,
9 there's not any work at this moment in time that we
10 have done for a study. I don't know what the State has
11 going on. You'd have to ask them. But in terms of
12 what we said we would like to do is initiate tribal
13 consultations, conduct literature review and engage
14 with staff from the University of Alaska Fairbanks of
15 who is left at the Reindeer Research Program.

16
17 So I mean that's what we can at least
18 start with in the near future, but as of right now
19 there's not any studies. Even though I know I've heard
20 from multiple -- many years now being out here that
21 this has been a voice on this RAC.

22
23 MR. GRAY: So, again, I guess, this
24 issue has been brought up. I'm the president of the
25 Reindeer Herders Association and I brought it up at the
26 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. I don't
27 know that I was here. I may have been here when we
28 talked about it and it was referred on to the big
29 Federal Board that let's get something done and
30 understand what's going on. The Feds said let's get
31 something done and understand what's going on.

32
33 The concern that I have is there's
34 interest from the industry. The industry wants
35 something. When an agency tells me, oh, we're going to
36 go to the university and see what's left of the
37 University Reindeer Program, that's dead. It's gone.
38 That program is gone. I don't know that Jackie is
39 going to be able to help you do anything with this
40 program. I mean Freddy Goodhope probably knows as much
41 as anybody about what's going on up there. Probably
42 more so because he's out on the range.

43
44 So anyway I'm trying to get away from
45 spinning our wheels and spending another year doing
46 nothing. I'm hoping to kind of pin down what kind of
47 results can we get out of the Federal RAC, the big
48 board because you would think that they would have more
49 push than -- I know all I do is piss people off. We
50

0130

1 need some resolution to this project. But going to the
2 University, there is no more program there. It's gone.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are we done with that
5 one?

6

7 MR. GRAY: I mean the issue I have is
8 we made it a priority. It went to the big Board. What
9 I'm after is what is the big Board going to do. Where
10 are we going to go from here. Maybe the big Board has
11 the idea that we pursued it, there's nothing more we
12 can do, piss on it. We're going to move on. I don't
13 know how this shakes out, but I'm shaking the willows
14 again.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Robbin.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Through the
21 Chair. This is Robbin Lavine, Subsistence Policy
22 Coordinator for OSM. I'm going to apologize because I
23 didn't fully track all of your -- this issue. So I
24 would love you to rephrase it because there are a
25 number of different things that I'm aware that the
26 Board is tracking.

27

28 The Board may be specifically focused
29 and the things that I'm more aware of is what happened
30 in regards to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and
31 Wildlife Special Action 21-01. But I think you're
32 talking about something a little different and I'm
33 going to apologize because I wasn't tracking when you
34 began and when my brain fully started engaging I don't
35 think I had the whole ask. So could you rephrase the
36 issue for us. Thanks.

37

38 MR. GRAY: And maybe I need to
39 apologize. Maybe I'm out in left field in this thing.
40 Let me -- identify issues. In the report -- where is
41 that report? We had talked about caribou on the Seward
42 Peninsula and we wanted to know more about the caribou
43 on the Seward Peninsula. That went in the Annual
44 Report to the big boys, the RAC.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: FSB.

47

48 MR. GRAY: And in the past Tom Gray had
49 gone to the working group and got blessing from the

50

0131

1 working group to put satellite collars on caribou 15
2 years ago. So this isn't a new issue. It's an old,
3 old issue. The reindeer industry wants to see some
4 resolution on the caribou on the Seward Peninsula, deer
5 in the summertime.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I've got a question.

8
9 MR. GRAY: So the question that I had
10 is where are we now. Where is this going to go. The
11 big Board put their feelings out there, but is that the
12 end of it?

13
14 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. This
15 is Robbin. There are a number of different agencies,
16 of course, that are represented on the Federal
17 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Program
18 makes an effort for everybody to work together. For
19 the Seward Peninsula we're going to be looking at
20 information and opportunity to conduct research from
21 the agencies that are here. So that would be Park
22 Service and BLM.

23
24 Then, of course, we're working -- so
25 when the Board says let's do more research, that's --
26 those are the agencies that might be able to enact
27 Board wishes. If we want a more holistic understanding
28 to what's happening, of course we work with our
29 counterparts at Fish and Game.

30
31 So as a process person, that's me, as a
32 process person those would be the folks that I'd go to
33 and I have not heard of a joint effort to assess what
34 you -- to assess the population status here on the
35 Peninsula of both potential resident caribou and
36 caribou migrating through from the Western Arctic
37 Caribou Herd. I'm going to ask and see if anyone is
38 online or if anyone in the room is aware and can give
39 us any update. I believe that BELA has just told us
40 that they're not aware of any effort and I'm not
41 hearing anyone speak up.

42
43 So then the next thing we might say is
44 we're at this point in the agenda we are asking for a
45 report to the Board. It sounds like you're going to
46 say let's add this as an agenda item or as an issue to
47 report back to the Board again. So this is a
48 conversation. These Annual Reports are a conversation.
49 A way that we converse with the Board.

50

0132

1 I might suggest that you think about
2 placing this right back on the Annual Report. It
3 sounds to me like it continues to be an issue and
4 you're not satisfied with the Board's response.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I was
9 going to suggest that we just resend it. Go ahead,
10 Tommy.

11
12 MR. GRAY: You can see I get kind of
13 frustrated in the system. You know, coming to me and
14 saying, oh, we're going to work with the players at the
15 table and that's as good as we can do, that's not an
16 answer. To me -- I mean this is a team player
17 situation. There's two teams in this game. There's
18 the Feds and there's the State. There isn't any other
19 teams that really mean anything because you can't put
20 collars on animals unless you get the State's blessing.
21 You have to have their blessing.

22
23 So those are the main players in this.
24 The Park, granted, they're a great asset, but they're
25 not going to dictate you can put collars on. It's the
26 State that does that. When I saw this thing going
27 forward, I thought, oh, about time. The Feds took a
28 stand and they're calling out the State on this. Well,
29 I read that report different than you read it.

30
31 You know, my -- what I think we need to
32 do is make sure all of the bases are covered. All the
33 players are covered and not -- you know, whether it's
34 the Park or the BLM or whoever the players are, we
35 involve all of them. That way we don't come here a
36 year from now with an answer that Tom Gray is not happy
37 with.

38
39 I'm sorry. This thing has been out
40 there for 15 years I bet. I thought it was finally --
41 I thought Louie did something great. Man, he's going
42 to push this number and now it blows up in my face. So
43 I'm all for putting it forward, but not only putting it
44 forward. Making sure all the players are at the table.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we can hand
47 it back to them. I don't have a problem with that. I
48 know that the State hasn't moved on it because I asked
49 the question of I think Mr. Hansen here several months
50

0133

1 ago. Forgot about that. They hadn't made a move on
2 it. Tommy's been aware of this group of animals up
3 there and so have I. I've known about it since the
4 '80s.

5

6 Go ahead.

7

8 MS. HUGHES: This is Letty with
9 National Park Service. Through the Chair. So to kind
10 of follow up with Tom's concern with all the players at
11 the table, and I know Tom is aware of this, but with
12 the Western Arctic Herd Working Group meeting coming up
13 in December that's also another time to bring up this
14 concern and awareness where all parties are going to be
15 at the table.

16

17 MR. GRAY: And I plan on bringing it
18 up. The way I read this response to our Annual Report
19 I read it like, all right, something is going to
20 happen. I'm going to read this response at the Western
21 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting and just say
22 all the players weren't at the table and there's going
23 to be a letter coming inviting you guys to be at the
24 table.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm just looking at
27 my hunt map here. I jump in there every once in a
28 while. I see that there's BLM land there involved and
29 there's the Bering Land Bridge Preserve land that's
30 involved where these animals are, that I've known them
31 to be. Look at that Kuzitrin Lake. That's in the Park
32 -- or the Preserve I should say, not the Park. The
33 Bendelebens are under BLM jurisdiction.

34

35 MR. GRAY: We're talking about up
36 by.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I know where they're
39 at. I'm telling you where they're at. That's just
40 some of the areas that they are in. People are hunting
41 them. If there's no accountability, those animals
42 don't belong to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So if
43 you hunt them and they get consistently hunted, pretty
44 soon there's no more left. You've just wiped something
45 out that nobody knows anything about other than we know
46 where to go hunt them at.

47

48 So that's my concern. Do we want to
49 hunt them to extinction? They're a residential herd.

50

0134

1 They've been there for a long time. Maggie Olson told
2 me about them. That's how long ago I've known about
3 them. That's a long time ago. So they've been there.

4

5 The question is why doesn't anybody
6 want to manage them. That's my question. I think
7 Tommy is kind of in the same boat. The reindeer
8 herders are worried about them too. But they're a
9 residential and they know about them, so how come we
10 don't get some kind of information, biological
11 information on them. And do they need to be managed.

12

13 Anyway, go ahead.

14

15 MR. GRAY: So now I'm going to put my
16 hat this way. I'm a reindeer herder. I'm the
17 president of the Reindeer Herders Association. I have
18 an obligation to protect the reindeer side of this
19 herd. If they're caribou, so be it. I mean they're
20 caribou. But we need -- and I asked the State, I said
21 let's put satellite collars and see where they go. If
22 they stay on the Peninsula, let's do some DNA studies
23 because we have DNA. We know DNA for reindeer. Some
24 studies has happened on caribou. So there's that
25 avenue we can go down.

26

27 Jim Dau said, oh, no, let's do DNA
28 studies. The university, the reindeer industry did DNA
29 studies. The State did nothing. So they never
30 followed up on what they were going to do. Again, this
31 whole can of worms is hunch your back and don't worry
32 about it and Tom Gray will go away. You know, again,
33 this issue came up and I thought, all right, we're
34 going somewhere. Now I hear we're not. So anyway
35 that's what I'm about.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any ladies want to
38 speak? No? Go ahead, Robbin.

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Through the Chair. I know it's getting late in the
42 day. I was one of the ones pushing to get through new
43 business quickly. But I do note -- I will note that I
44 have heard of resident populations. Now in other
45 locations across the state, and depending on local
46 management folks, there's varying degrees of interest
47 in identifying them more specifically and then there's
48 also varying degrees of resistance either from agencies
49 or local folks because if this is a small population

50

0135

1 and it is residential, management and access to it may
2 need to be restrictive, right?

3

4

5 Anyway, because this is an issue not
6 just here but in other parts of the state, I think we
7 should be drawing connections on a balcony level
8 statewide and those kind of issues, your herd connected
9 to others, is something that I think would be
10 interesting to again bring before the Board for greater
11 guidance and direction and action.

11

12

13 So at my level I'll be making those
14 connections and I will also be pushing for this issue
15 to be addressed. Not just here, but in other locations
16 across the state.

16

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63

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin. So
my thoughts were just that if it's something that we
need to be concerned that could get pretty much wiped
out. I'm not worried about them leading reindeer off
with the herd. They're all the way up there where
there is no reindeer range. So I'm speaking on the
other side. So there's no reindeer range there
anymore. There was one over in the valley on the other
side. That was Isabelle -- what was their -- Trig and
Isabelle. But anyway.....

MR. GRAY: Hold on.

CHAIRMAN GREEN:these things have
been up there. I want to make sure that we don't hunt
them out. That's what I'm worried -- that's my side of
things. I want to see it provided, that people get
them, but I don't want to see them hunted out. That's
my concern. Thank you.

Go ahead, Tommy. You were going to say
something?

MR. GRAY: Yes. Yes. The whole Seward
Peninsula there's only one range I think on the Seward
Peninsula that doesn't have a name on it. The whole
Seward Peninsula is divided up in ranges. Midnight
Mountain and Serpentine Hot Springs, there's ranges up
there. Whether they're Park lands or State lands or
BLM lands. The whole Seward Peninsula has names on
ranges.

0136

1 The reindeer industry has been trying
2 to get people to address -- you know, we went to the
3 State and the State's comment on this was, oh, no,
4 these animals go off the Peninsula every year and
5 there's a new batch that come on the Peninsula every
6 year. They said they cycle out.

7
8 I said, okay, let's put satellite
9 collars on and track them. If they cycle out, the
10 collars will go. Oh, no, we can't put the collars on
11 because we'd have to use a helicopter and that's not
12 right. It's not what we want to see happen collaring
13 animals. They had a place called Onion Portage they can
14 use. Didn't want to use helicopters.

15
16 Well, here we are 10 years, 12 years
17 later. They're using helicopters to put satellite
18 collars on. What was not realistic 10, 15 years ago is
19 common day today. We're still wanting to know if these
20 animals are cycling off the Seward Peninsula. The only
21 way we're going to find out is collars.

22
23 But more importantly we need some
24 understanding of what is there. It can't be that
25 complicated. I mean the Park wants to work with us.
26 Why not get everybody at the table and create a plan
27 and go forward. So, anyway, I'm not going to dwell on
28 this anymore. I think I've said my piece.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So Robbin -- thank
31 you, Tommy. So Robbin you're going to formulate some
32 verbiage there for this to be reinstated in the -- as a
33 part of our letter. Resident caribou.

34
35 What else are we concerned with here?
36 Are we concerned about the beluga herd out here? Are
37 we concerned about.....

38
39 MR. GRAY: So the beluga -- I'm the
40 chairman of the Beluga Whale Committee and we're
41 developing a management plan that we're taking to the
42 villages and hopefully the villages can make the
43 management plan what they want it and adopt it as their
44 project and their whatever. Part of the reason for the
45 management plan is if you look at Kotzebue, Kotzebue
46 has no more beluga whales. They overharvested. We
47 don't want that to happen down here.

48
49 Now granted we have lots of whales down
50

0137

1 here, but it won't last long. Believe me. We had an
2 escapement or a harvestable surplus of 180 animals. We
3 were hitting 260 animals a year getting harvested. So
4 now they've re-evaluated how they juggled numbers or
5 did numbers from a survey and they say we're within the
6 260. But give me two, three years, we're going to be
7 up around 300. So we need this plan. I don't know
8 that this board is going to be involved in that.

9

10 Anyway, the plan needs to be the
11 hunters. The hunters have to go forward with that.
12 All we are is the messenger in this thing even though
13 I'm the head of the Beluga Whale Committee. If the
14 hunters don't adopt it, they won't have any whales down
15 the road.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So do you want to put
18 that in there?

19

20 MR. GRAY: At this point I don't think
21 so. I think let's -- we're running hard. I've got a
22 team of people working on this thing. We built this
23 thing. Let us run as hard as we can. Again, it's the
24 hunters that need to take it and run with it. I don't
25 think this board can really help that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would ask the
28 question just so I don't forget it. I would ask the
29 question that your committee keep us abreast of what's
30 going on because I'd like to know what kind of a
31 management deal. I am a hunter, so I want to know
32 what's going on. I don't want to be eliminated. I
33 want to know how things are to take place.

34

35 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And we're going to
36 hold a meeting.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Because what we'll do
39 is we've got us here that will take it home.

40

41 MR. GRAY: There's a big plan out
42 there. We've got funding to go to seven or eight
43 villages, major killing villages like Elim is a high
44 number village. We're going to go to Unalakleet if we
45 can. Hooper Bay. You know, we have reports all over
46 the place. So just to get the people talking we have a
47 plan. It's more the non-profits and some of the other
48 players we're hoping will come in and be part of this
49 thing.

50

0138

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Robbin wants to
2 say something.

3
4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Council. I would just remind you that
6 the Annual Report, your Council's Annual Report, serves
7 a very critical role in informing the Board. Whether
8 or not the Board can take action on some of these items
9 it is relevant to your subsistence way of life.

10
11 I'll just note that. You can include
12 items, issues on your
13 Annual Report that are for the Board's information and
14 they may need to kind of plug into their calculus as
15 they take action on regulatory policy issues that they
16 do have authority over. It's still going to be
17 important to know.

18
19 That being said it may not be relevant.
20 You may not want to put it in your Annual Report this
21 time, but there are certainly items that you can say
22 for your information this Council wants the Board to be
23 aware.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.
28 Somebody's mic needs to be muted or phone. I hear
29 children. Okay. Tom, you were going to say something?

30
31 MR. GRAY: I said I wasn't going to
32 talk anymore.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. All right.
35 Leland.

36
37 MR. OYOUNICK: Hey, Tom, is there
38 anybody from Unalakleet on your Beluga Whale
39 Commission?

40
41 MR. GRAY: There is. Deahl was on
42 there. I don't know if you're still on there. No? I
43 think Frank is going to our meeting this fall and some
44 young hunters are going I know. I'm hoping next week
45 to go to Unalakleet and hold a meeting down there and
46 I'll bring a scientist and myself to talk about this
47 management plan.

48
49 I'm going to hold that same meeting in
50

0139

1 Nome probably next week. If I can put Unalakleet
2 together, I'll definitely do Nome and we'll have a
3 scientist come out that knows the science part of this
4 thing. We'll put a meeting together for both Nome and
5 I'm going to try and get Elim too because they're a
6 working machine down there.

7

8 You know, it's important that we
9 understand what we have and how much we can slaughter
10 and areas. You know, part of the management plan is
11 going to talk about calving areas and molting areas and
12 how many animals do we have, how can we bring it down
13 to -- let's say we were at 9,000 animals. If we hit
14 5,000 animals, no more hunting. Done. It's over with.

15

16 So things like that. This plan is --
17 but it's got to be the hunters adopt it. Not Tom Gray,
18 not my board. It's the hunters.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

21

22 MR. OYOUMICK: I just wondered if
23 anybody was from Unalakleet.

24

25 MR. GRAY: Yeah, Frank I think -- Frank
26 Katchatag is on the board. He was supposed to go to
27 the meeting next month.

28

29 MR. OYOUMICK: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Another area of
32 concern. Like she said, for information for the
33 Federal Subsistence Board. I'm going to bring this up.
34 It's about what the trawlers are doing with marine
35 mammals in the Bering Sea. 17,900. That's just a
36 ballpark number. They're allowed to kill seals. 8,200
37 of them are oogruks, bearded seals. 9,700 of them are
38 ribbon seals. Okay?

39

40 This is all coming up because of a
41 group that was started here several months ago.
42 There's over 20,000 of us that are -- it's a stop
43 trawler bycatch. So this information that just came
44 out they're allowed to kill. I have a hard time with
45 that.

46

47 I didn't realize that was going on.
48 This information ain't out there until you start
49 getting into it. That is something that I'm aware of

50

0140

1 now and that I want to see the Federal Subsistence
2 Board be aware of. They're talking 18,000 animals. We
3 eat those guys.

4
5 Do you see ribbon seals every day? No.
6 They're pretty solitary and they're way out. Rare to
7 get. But if you get one, you know you're going to
8 probably eat it and take the hide and use it. They're
9 just throwing them away. They're also allowed to kill
10 I think 24 orca. They catch sharks. They catch all
11 kinds of stuff.

12
13 It's a real hard thing because for
14 about the last 30 years we've been having money coming
15 into this region through NSEDC that funds a lot of
16 things and it's give and take. What we're giving is
17 18,000 seals a year. That's just at a minimum. We're
18 giving how many thousands of chum salmon? How many
19 thousands of chinook salmon?

20
21 It's time to take a look and quit
22 turning the other cheek here. I've sat at a lot of
23 tables and people don't really want to talk about it
24 because it really makes you uneasy because we're part
25 of that. Yeah, the shock, huh? When I saw the numbers
26 I did the same thing you did. I couldn't believe my
27 eyes. Anyway, that's their allocation.

28
29 So we need to start paying attention to
30 this kind of stuff and we need to make the Federal
31 Subsistence Board aware of it so that it gets a broader
32 look. It's pretty quiet in here. So yeah. Anyway, I
33 want that in there somewhere and you can validate what
34 I just said. If I'm off, I'm off, but I saw the sheet
35 that it came off of. Maybe somebody made something up,
36 but it sure got my attention. I haven't had a chance
37 -- it just came out. I haven't had a chance to look it
38 up myself.

39
40 So I want people at the table here to
41 be aware of what's going on out there. I call it
42 trading. Trading a lot of stuff for beads and blankets
43 and we're getting the blankets and the beads because
44 we're losing our salmon runs. There's things that are
45 out there that are helping. I'm not going to blame it
46 all on climate change. If you could see what those
47 things do at the bottom of the ocean and they've been
48 doing it for over 30 years. You've got to wonder.
49 Sooner or later the system starts to fail.
50

0141

1 I've been told by a science friend of
2 mine about the production in the Bering Sea some eight
3 years ago -- and we were all talking global warming
4 back then -- that the Bering Sea is ripe for salmon
5 production. So I want to know why if that's the case
6 even back then why we're having these failures.
7 Because what those failures are doing and we're talking
8 beluga whale, we're talking seals, we're talking
9 migrating birds. We're talking about everything that's
10 using that system besides us.

11

12 We're worried about us. Elmer is
13 worried about those animals, what they're going to get.
14 So am I. What are the beluga going to eat. They don't
15 just eat tom cod and herring. They eat salmon. Seals
16 do too. So that's a big concern. It's high time that
17 we voice our opinion on it and bring it to light. It's
18 a hard knock. CDQ programs are basically enabling it.
19 Because we're all invested in it, it's a hard thing to
20 swallow.

21

22 Enough said about that. What else do
23 we want to put on this thing. I just added a big thing
24 there. Anybody else?

25

26 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I stated earlier when
27 we started on pollock fisheries. You know, I mentioned
28 earlier how do we know how much salmon are they getting
29 when they do their trawling. Do they go over their
30 quota catch? If they're limited to 45,000 salmon, how
31 do we know that they're not getting 60,000 salmon and
32 throwing them overboard? We need to do something about
33 that.

34

35 I'm wondering if there's any way we can
36 write a letter to Fish and Game and have them stop
37 pollock fishing for a while to bring out salmon stock
38 back up. If they can stop us from crab fishing in our
39 area, we should be able to stop them from pollock
40 fishing so that our stock can rise right back up.
41 We're fighting for our children's children's future.
42 We're not doing this for us because -- you know.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I
47 bring this to light because if any of you have seen
48 anything on YouTube or any of the destruction that
49 those things create on the bottom of the sea floor,
50

0142

1 you'll sit back even worse at what they're doing. It's
2 not just to the seals. It's not just to the -- what
3 about the Marine Mammal Protection Act? That's just
4 stomping all over it saying it doesn't mean anything.

5

6 You can't -- I don't know. Are you
7 part Native? Yeah, you can't go out there and shoot a
8 seal. You're going to prison or you're going to pay
9 one heck of a fine. These people are slaughtering them
10 and they're not doing anything about it because it's
11 acceptable because the Department of Commerce says it's
12 all about money. That needs to stop. People need to
13 start voicing it.

14

15 I stick my neck out. Somebody is going
16 to want to chew my head off. I'm not talking about
17 you, but it's going to come up. Sometimes the powers
18 that be have their way.

19

20 Elmer was waving and then you.

21

22 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot. You
23 mentioned something about trawling. When they're
24 trawling, are they stirring up the bottom to release
25 carbon dioxide, which we've all been hearing over the
26 years that produces acidity and stuff like that.

27

28 I think when they're talking about
29 certain resource harvests they're just talking only one
30 side of the harvest. They're not talking about what
31 damage it does to what they just went through. Many
32 things are kind of overlooked just to get to the end
33 product.

34

35 So that's not our way of life in the
36 subsistence area. We have to produce something for our
37 community for the long run. It's not just for the
38 short run. Just eat it and, oh, that was a good bite.
39 Stuff like that. I think we -- I'm still not really
40 satisfied with the Federal and State agencies not
41 really looking at the ecosystem side or the
42 environmental side of resource extraction and harvest.

43

44 Something that I don't think nobody
45 really wants to talk about because I am seeing it at
46 home firsthand, the pollution. A lot of plastic. They
47 talk about the gyre out in the Pacific, all that trash,
48 stuff like that. So it's something that we kind of
49 overlook. We just talk about regulations. We just

50

0143

1 talk about harvest means and methods. I don't think
2 that's the way to go. You've got to look at the whole
3 picture.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Was
8 there somebody else?

9

10 MR. OYOUMICK: Right here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland, go ahead.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: Maybe that's why they
15 won't let us know when they're going to have their
16 meetings at North Pacific Fisheries Management because
17 of our opinions and what we have to say. I'm just
18 guessing, but it kind of sounds like it, you know.
19 They won't let us know when they're going to have
20 meetings. We can't tell them and voice our opinions.
21 This is America but only to some people, I guess.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just to reiterate
24 something I said earlier. The chairman of the North
25 Pacific Fisheries Management Council comes from Nome
26 and he works for the CDQ program.

27

28 Robbin, go ahead.

29

30 MS. LAVINE: I thought this would be --
31 thank you, Mr. Chair. Through the Chair. I thought
32 this might be a great time to bring to your attention
33 something that I think you were talking about earlier
34 today and that we weren't fully tracking. Not all of
35 our Federal agencies in the Federal Subsistence
36 Management Program were aware, but the Federal Partners
37 are holding their first ever tribal consultations on
38 Alaska fisheries protection and restoration.

39

40 They're virtual and in-person sessions
41 with Alaska Native leaders on subsistence needs and
42 they'll be taking place in Bethel tomorrow and in
43 Fairbanks on the 7th. That's Friday and you will be
44 able to attend these tribal consultations by phone or
45 by Zoom.

46

47 It's the Department of the Interior and
48 the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and
49 Atmospheric Administration. They'll be holding those

50

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1 tribal consultations October 5th and October 7th in
2 person and virtually. So if you want to know more, you
3 can -- I can share this information with you off the
4 record.

5

6 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin, for
9 that. That's good information. Like we don't have
10 enough meetings to go to. Go ahead, Nissa.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: Just to follow up on what
13 Robbin said. They were supposed to meet in Nome on the
14 6th, but they ended up calling it off because of the
15 storm. They were going to let me know when they were
16 going to re-hold it in Nome so I could let you guys
17 know, but they haven't contacted me yet.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That
20 happens. Who was it again that contacted you?

21

22 MS. PILCHER: So the contact that I
23 have is through BIA, but I believe it was -- the
24 meeting is mostly NOAA and DOI, which BIA is under DOI.
25 So it's DOI and NOAA.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Lots of
28 meetings all of a sudden. I'm not thick enough to
29 spread out on all of them. I have to pick and choose.

30

31 Okay. So is there anything else we
32 want to add to that letter that anybody can think
33 about? We've got the caribou. We don't need to talk
34 about beluga or we want to enlighten them about the
35 beluga?

36

37 MR. GRAY: If you want. That don't
38 matter.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's information for
41 them. The same thing with this trawler bycatch issue.
42 That's getting hot and heavy. It's not something -- we
43 don't hear a lot about it here in Nome because nobody
44 wants to talk about it maybe. I don't know. But I'm
45 bringing it forward. I want to see people have
46 something to eat and a future around here. That's what
47 I'm here for. I know these other guys are in the same
48 boat.

49

50

0145

1 What else do we want? Anything else?

2

3 MR. GRAY: In the old days it was
4 whiskey and water.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, yeah.

7

8 MR. GRAY: Not anymore.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doggone it. They got
11 it mixed in a can now. It's just like drinking pop.

12

13 Okay. Where are we at?

14

15 MR. GRAY: Dinner.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's what I
18 was leading to. It's 5:30, 5:32 now. So we should go
19 camping for the night.

20

21 Nissa, go ahead.

22

23 MS. PILCHER: Nissa Pilcher for the
24 record. Just to let you guys know when we do bring it
25 up in the morning I'll ask for a formal motion. We can
26 recap what you guys said today and then anything that
27 you guys can think of over tonight.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's kind of
30 what I thought too. All right. So recess until the
31 morning at 9:00 o'clock. Thank you, everybody.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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0146

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 4th day of
15 October 2022;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th
27 day of October 2022.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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