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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE
March 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Sue Entsminger, Chair
 - Linda Evans
 - William Glanz
 - Timothy McManus
 - Donald Woodruff
 - Robert Wright
 - Charles Jagow
- Regional Council Coordinator, Tom Kron

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

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3 (Telephonic - 3/4/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So with that
8 we have a quorum to get started. And if I'm making
9 noise you can tell me, my phone is going to be mostly
10 on. And, Tim, did you get my request to do an
11 invocation.

12

13 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, do you want me to
14 go ahead and start.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
17 going to call the meeting to order and I will ask Tim
18 to start with the invocation.

19

20 (Invocation)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
23 Tim. Okay. The next thing would be the roll call,
24 and, Robert, can you do that?

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: I don't have my book, I
27 didn't get one.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What? Just
30 for the record, I just called everybody and identified
31 them, called on each of you and there's plenty of us,
32 six of us on line. So -- and let me.....

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: I don't know who those
35 people are.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
38 here we go. Robert, I'm going to call the roll say
39 you're present or here, or not here. Nicholas Henry
40 did not call in. And if you are on Nicholas, please
41 identify yourself.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda Evans.

46

47 REPORTER: Hey, Sue, really quick, is
48 your volume on your computer at all?

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not.

2

3 REPORTER: So somebody's computer
4 volume's on because it's making feedback whenever you
5 talk.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm muted on
8 my computer.

9

10 REPORTER: Okay, it might not be you,
11 Sue, it might be somebody else's line. But just go
12 ahead and see if it's better.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
15 right, I was calling for Linda Evans.

16

17 MR. KRON: Sue.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
20 online.

21

22 MS. EVANS: I'm here.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Linda,
25 okay, thanks for calling in. So Bill Glanz, you're
26 here.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'm on.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert
31 Wright.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: I'm here.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
36 Jagow. I heard you earlier, Charlie, your mute's not
37 working.

38

39 MR. JAGOW: I'm here.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Donald
42 and Timothy. So there's seven of us online.

43

44 Okay. I want to welcome everybody and
45 roll call's done. How do we want to do this, Tom?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, for

50

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1 some -- are you guys hearing Tom?

2

3 MS. WESSELS: I think -- Sue, this is
4 Katya. I think Tom is trying to talk with other
5 members that didn't call in so he is on mute for this
6 line.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think he's
9 -- there he goes.

10

11 MR. KRON: Sue, I'm back on.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go.

14

15 MR. KRON: So, Madame Chair, I would
16 recommend that we ask who is on from the different
17 agencies and if you want I can do that.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great, go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. KRON: Okay. Question, from OSM,
23 who is on besides me and Katya.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner.

26

27 MR. KRON: Thank you, Pippa. Anyone
28 else.

29

30 MR. VICKERS: Yes, Brent Vickers.

31

32 MR. KRON: Good morning, Brent.

33

34 MR. VICKERS: Good morning.

35

36 MR. KRON: Okay, how about from the
37 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other Staff from the
38 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

39

40 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is
41 Holly Carroll, Yukon Subsistence Fisheries Manager.

42

43 MR. KRON: Welcome, Holly. Anyone
44 else.

45

46 MR. LORENZINI: Good morning. This is
47 Tim Lorenzini from the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

48

49 MR. KRON: Anyone else.

50

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1 REPORTER: I'm sorry, what was your
2 name?

3
4 MR. KRON: Tim Lorenzini.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lorenzini
7 with the Tetlin Refuge.

8
9 MR. KRON: Anyone else from the Fish
10 and Wildlife Service.

11
12 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, Shawn Bayless,
13 Tetlin Refuge. Good morning.

14
15 MR. KRON: Good morning, Shawn. Anyone
16 else from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, good morning. This
19 is.....

20
21 MR. LAKE: Bryce Lake with Yukon Flats.

22
23 MR. KRON: I heard Vince, and I'm not
24 sure.

25
26 MR. LAKE: Vince Mathews is the former
27 person and then Bryce Lake with Yukon Flats.

28
29 MS. MULLIGAN: Ally Mulligan with Yukon
30 Flats as well.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I don't know if
33 Nicholas got on there, I do have other contact
34 information for Nicholas if he did not get on.

35
36 MR. KRON: So anyone else from the Fish
37 and Wildlife Service.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. KRON: Okay. Let's move on to the
42 Park Service. Who is on from the Park Service.

43
44 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
45 Cellarius with Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and
46 Preserve.

47
48 MR. KRON: Good morning, again, Dr.
49 Cellarius. Who else from the Park Service.

50

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1 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. This is Amy
2 Craver from Denali National Park and Preserve.

3
4 MR. KRON: Hey, Amy, welcome.

5
6 MS. CRAVER: Thank you.

7
8 MR. KRON: Anyone else from the Park
9 Service.

10
11 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is
12 Dave Sarafin, Fishery Biologist out at Wrangell-
13 St.Elias National Park.

14
15 MR. KRON: Good morning, Dave. Who
16 else from the Park Service.

17
18 MR. JOLY: Good morning. This is Kyle
19 Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Yukon-Charley.

20
21 MR. KRON: Good morning, Kyle. Who
22 else from the Park Service.

23
24 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good morning. This is
25 Marcy Okada with Yukon-Charley Rivers National
26 Preserve.

27
28 MR. KRON: Good morning, Marcy. Who
29 else from the Park Service.

30
31 MR. REAM: Good morning. This is
32 Joshua Ream, Regional Subsistence Program Manager for
33 the National Park Service.

34
35 MR. KRON: Good morning, Dr. Ream. Who
36 else from the Park Service.

37
38 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
39 Jochum, Subsistence Program Analyst also with the
40 Regional Office Subsistence Program.

41
42 MR. KRON: Good morning, Kim. Who else
43 from the Park Service.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MR. KRON: Okay, let's move on to
48 Bureau of Land Management. Anyone from Bureau of Land
49 Management on.

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1 CAROLINE: This is Caroline. I'm also
2 with Wrangell-St.Elias, Caroline (Indiscernible).

3
4 MR. KRON: Okay, morning Caroline.
5 Okay, Park Service or BLM.

6
7 MR. HERRIGES: Good morning. This is
8 Jim Herriges with the Eastern Interior Field Office.

9
10 MR. KRON: Good morning, Jim. Anyone
11 else from BLM or the Park Service or Fish and Wildlife
12 Service.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. KRON: Okay. Let's move on to
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Anyone on from
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

19
20 MS. JALLEN: Yes, good morning. This is
21 Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game in Fairbanks, Acting Summer Season Manager.

23
24 MR. KRON: Good morning, Deena. Anyone
25 else from Fish and Game.

26
27 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Madame
28 Chair and members of the Council. This is Jeff
29 Estensen, I am the fall season -- Yukon Area Fall
30 Season Manager here in Fairbanks. Good day.

31
32 MR. KRON: Good morning, Jeff. Anyone
33 else from Fish and Game.

34
35 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
36 Burch, Special Projects Coordinator for the Department
37 of Fish and Game out of the Palmer Office.

38
39 MR. KRON: Morning Mark. Anyone else
40 from Fish and Game.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MR. KRON: Again, if we've got anyone
45 else from OSM, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service,
46 or BLM, or Fish and Game, please join in, but, beyond
47 that -- do we have representatives here from Bureau of
48 Indian Affairs.

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1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes. This is Pat
2 Petrivelli with the -- Subsistence Anthropologist with
3 the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anchorage.

4
5 MR. KRON: Morning, Pat. Okay, how
6 about YRDFA, anyone here from YRDFA.

7
8 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, yes. This is
9 Catherine Moncrieff with YRDFA. Can you hear me -- I
10 mean am I coming across?

11
12 MR. KRON: You're coming through loud
13 and clear, good job.

14
15 MS. MONCRIEFF: And Serena will be
16 joining us later but she's calling in to another RAC
17 meeting this morning.

18
19 MR. KRON: Okay. All right. So,
20 again, I'd just ask, again, if there's anyone else from
21 any of the agencies or YRDFA, anyone else on the phone.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MR. KRON: Okay. Now, again, I guess
26 we'll go to other organizations. Tanana Chiefs, are
27 there any tribal representatives that called in.

28
29 MR. STEVENS: Good morning. This is
30 Ben Stevens with TCC. I work with the Tanana Chiefs.
31 I am not a tribal rep.

32
33 MR. KRON: Okay. All right, very good.
34 Anyone else.

35
36 MR. IRVINE: Good morning. I'm Bruce
37 Irvine. I work with TCC. I'm not a tribal rep.

38
39 MR. KRON: Morning Bruce. Anyone else
40 from any of the villages or organizations that has
41 called in.

42
43 MS. LINNELL: Good morning. This is
44 Karen Linnell with Ahtna InterTribal Resource
45 Commission.

46
47 MR. KRON: Morning, Karen.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria Stickwan
50

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1 with Ahtna Inc.

2

3 MR. KRON: Morning, Gloria.

4

5 MS. EWAN: Good morning. This is Faye
6 Ewan. Native Village of Klutii Klaa, Copper Center.

7

8 MR. KRON: Morning, Faye. Others.

9

10 MS. MILLER: Odin Miller and Dustin
11 Carl, Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

12

13 MR. KRON: Morning, Dustin. Others.

14

15 MS. LIND: This is Deborah Lind with
16 Tanana Chiefs Conference.

17

18 MR. KRON: Morning, Deborah. Others.

19

20 MR. SIMON: Good morning. This is Jim
21 Simon, a consultant with Tanana Chiefs Conference,
22 Hunting and Fishing Task Force and Ahtna InterTribal
23 Resource Commission.

24

25 MR. KRON: Morning, Jim. I'm getting
26 an echo. It sounds like somebody has multiple things
27 connected. So, okay, anyone else on the phone that
28 we've missed.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff in Wiseman.

31

32 MR. KRON: Morning, Jack. Others on
33 the phone.

34

35 MS. SANFORD: Hanalee Sanford, Staff at
36 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

37

38 MR. KRON: Morning, Hanalee. Others.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. KRON: Okay. Sue, I think we've
43 got -- and it's a pretty incredible list here of people
44 that have joined in but I think we're ready if you want
45 to proceed with the rest of the meeting.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

50

0010

1 Thank you, for doing that job for me, good job. Now,
2 it's time to review and adopt the agenda, and Council
3 members I hope you have your agenda with you. And just
4 in the essence of time I wanted to just mention that
5 something had come up from the Federal Subsistence
6 Board asking us to have a compromise with the
7 Southcentral RAC over a proposal to start a new
8 subsistence fishery in Cordova. And I have put this in
9 the agenda under old business, the first one, and then
10 it was -- we were asked to look at Nome Creek again so
11 that's also going to be under old business. But I put
12 Nome Creek last, two other things, hunter ethics and an
13 update for NPS. I just wanted to have that as part of
14 the motion. So has everyone reviewed the agenda?

15

16 MR. KRON: Hey, Sue.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

19

20 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, this is Tom.
21 A couple of things that we had on the agenda under
22 agency reports that I think we can take off. The
23 climate change research by Todd Brinkmann. I talked to
24 Todd -- or I communicated with Todd yesterday, he's on
25 a plane all day today so he cannot participate. And we
26 would also recommend taking the impact of hatchery
27 production on Alaska wild fisheries off. And I think
28 both of those could be addressed at a future meeting.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the last
33 one was the -- which one, again.

34

35 MR. KRON: Under agency reports, impact
36 of hatchery production on Alaska wild fisheries, and
37 climate change research by Todd Brinkmann.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, got it.

40

41 MR. KRON: Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Looking for a
44 motion.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don
47 Woodruff, I'll make a motion.

48

49 MR. MCMANUS: Timothy McManus, I

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0011

1 second.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I assume your motion is to adopt the minutes -- or the agenda with the changes spoken, correct, Don.

MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any other discussion.

(No comments)

MR. MCMANUS: Question.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I am going to ask for unanimous consent, and do I hear anyone opposed.

(No opposing votes)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It passed unanimously, the agenda. Next, I'm going to turn it over to Tom for the election of officers.

MR. KRON: Okay. Election of officers. And, again, I'll just be on very briefly. Our charter requires that we vote on officers every spring, every late winter. So the first off, and, then again I'll turn it back over to the Chair, are there nominations for Chair of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff. I nominate Sue Entsminger.

MR. KRON: Thank you, Don.

MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz. I second that nomination.

MR. KRON: Thank you, Bill. Any other nominations.

(No comments)

MR. KRON: Hearing none, I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to maintain Sue Entsminger as

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1 the Chair of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
2 Council. Is there any opposition.

3

4 (No opposing votes)

5

6 MR. KRON: Hearing none, Sue,
7 congratulations, and I'll turn it back over to you.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
12 thanks, Tom. And thank you guys for the support.

13

14 So the next would be for the Vice
15 Chair. The floor is open for nominations.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don
18 Woodruff. I'll nominate Bill Glanz.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
21 have a nomination for Bill Glanz, are there any other
22 nominations.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
28 other nominations for Vice Chair.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
33 mean do I need a motion, usually to close nominations,
34 but since there is no other I'll ask for unanimous
35 consent. Is there any objections.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
40 congratulations, Bill.

41

42 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
45 Secretary. Open the floor to nominations for the
46 Secretary.

47

48 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz, I'd
49 like to nominate Don Woodruff.

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Bill.
2 Are there any other nominations for Secretary.

3
4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The floor is
8 open for any more nominations for Secretary.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
13 not hearing any other nominations and, hopefully
14 everybody's phone is not on mute that wanted to say
15 anything else.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm going
20 to ask for unanimous consent. Is there any opposition
21 for Don Woodruff as Secretary.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
26 congratulations, Don.

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Sue.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
31 Okay. Next is review and approve the previous minutes.
32 And hopefully everybody has had a chance to see it.

33
34 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion that we
35 approve the minutes as stated.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff,
38 I'll second that.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
41 Discussion.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, Sue, this is Don
44 again. The only thing I wanted to say about the
45 minutes is I wanted to give a shout out for Tim for his
46 involvement in helping to feed the local people and his
47 city -- his village council. I think that's an
48 honorable way to look at how we use our resources.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great, thank
4 you, Don. These teleconference virtual meetings aren't
5 the same.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: No they aren't.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
10 other discussion.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15 There's no other discussion I'll call for the question
16 and ask for a unanimous consent for the motion to
17 approve the minutes. Is there any opposition.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Hearing no opposition. Now, Council members this is
23 our report. For the new Council members, this is
24 probably all new to you but we kind of give a report on
25 our region and I think I would like to start with Bill
26 Glanz and we'll go down and allow you guys to go last
27 so you get a feel for it.

28

29 Go ahead, Bill.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Well, let's see.
32 We're still trying to work out the caribou situation up
33 here in Central because it's turned into a real
34 nightmare, which you've probably all heard. But we got
35 a couple of different things going into the Board of
36 Game to see if we can -- State Board of Game. And
37 they've taken over 5,000 caribou up here and now
38 there's 1,200 or something Jeff Gross stated to me that
39 they've taken out of 5,000 for this season -- for this
40 second part. And the only thing that galls me about
41 that is at our last meeting, with some of my co-members
42 on this Board, we were in Tok and the Governor sent one
43 of his big shots from the Fish and Game and he was
44 trying to say that we don't want this to crash on our
45 watch and all this kind of stuff and since we're an
46 international coalition, I don't know why the Governor
47 got his two cents involved there. But that's just what
48 happened. And I don't know if Jeff got thrown under
49 the bus with the caribou management or what. But it's

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1 just -- it's just horrendous what's going on around
2 here during the season. We were asking for more police
3 protection during it because there was cars parked on
4 the road and people camping on the roads and it was
5 just a -- and everything's tore up out there in the
6 woods where they had these big 2,000 pound big
7 fourwheelers, and I know it's a limit of 1,000, 1,500
8 under the State, but when you put four adults in one of
9 those side by side's right there you got 800 pounds and
10 their gear you got a grand, so they're already
11 overweight just by putting them -- and they're made to
12 go 70 miles an hour and so they're tearing everything
13 up out in the country around here.

14

15 And then that Sturgeon there who won
16 that case against the Feds with the Supreme Court, he's
17 told me that he couldn't even go hunting up there it
18 was such a mess up there now with everybody up there
19 hunting and driving whatever kind of watercraft they
20 have and he didn't get to go hunt in his own area
21 because there was so many people there.

22

23 And none of the locals got any moose up
24 there on the Yukon at all because all of the hundreds
25 of non-subsistence people that were hunting during the
26 season, which I know everybody has a chance to do, and
27 that just did not come out real well either, for the
28 locals.

29

30 And I'm trying to think what else I had
31 down here.

32

33 Oh, I do have one thing to a report, I
34 was looking at that and my wife said, it says here
35 you've only been on the Board since 2021 and I said,
36 uh, and I was on there since '05, so that's a bit of --
37 2005, yeah, so that was kind of a mess up there. And I
38 still haven't got my 15 year certificate. Remember we
39 did it the last meeting and they were going to mail it,
40 but I understand the way things are going with this
41 coronavirus crap so.

42

43 So that's about all I got going on here
44 that I can look and see right off the top of my head.

45

46 So thanks everybody and bear with us,
47 all right, I'll turn it back over to you, Sue.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

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1 Thanks, Bill. So I'm just going to call on you guys if
2 it's okay.

3

4

Timothy.

5

6

7 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, this is Tim
8 McManus. Falltime was pretty good. We had a bunch of
9 rain, it seemed like during hunting season. In Nenana
10 we always get an influx of hunters that come in down
11 here because we're on the highway system, they bring
12 all kinds of outfits down here. First day of moose
13 hunting season I got a call from the Council to do a
14 rescue so the first part of moose hunting season
15 pulling people off of sand bars and getting boats back
16 down to Nenana.

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Other than that it was a good hunting
season.

Lots of berries, lots of bees. This
fishing season, man it was -- there's really -- really
had to work for fish. Lots of high water, lots of
drift and rain and everything. So you had to put the
work in there to put some fish up this year. Did get a
few though with the restriction and the limits and
everything, we were happy with what we got.

This winter's been pretty good.
Usually we see lots of lynx tracks and rabbit tracks,
there's nothing around here this year. Just hearing
there's wolf packs around town, and our village pretty
much. Out towards the Nenana River crossing, I know
there's a pack there, there's a pack above Minto and
towards Fairbanks there's a pack. So we're kind of
surrounded by wolf packs.

Other than that the winter's been
pretty good, took a long time for freeze-up, there was
still open leads until about two weeks ago, that last
cold spell then it closed over.

That's it.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thanks,
Tim. Donald.

MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Madame Chair. My
report is going to be a little bit brief but I'll go
through the high points.

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1 The caribou were around here all winter
2 up on American Summit.

3
4 The hare and lynx populations are
5 falling rapidly, and I think they're in synch with
6 their seven to 10 year cycle.

7
8 The fur prices are very low and
9 trapping has been pretty limited.

10
11 The fish crash from last fall has been
12 real hard on our community but we've had some caribou
13 around so we're still eating.

14
15 I was able to participate in a BLM
16 teleconference just recently about fuel reduction and
17 fire protection of the hold fire lines around Eagle and
18 that was very successful. I'm glad to hear that they
19 respected everybody's point of view no matter what.

20
21 And I want to give a shout out to TCC
22 and their medical Staff for getting 90 percent of our
23 community vaccinated twice.

24
25 So that's my report.

26
27 Thank you, Sue.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
30 you, Don. Next is Charlie Jagow.

31
32 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, can you hear me?

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.

35
36 MR. JAGOW: Okay. I've got a pretty
37 short report. It was a pretty mild winter up on the
38 Porcupine, we didn't get a lot of snow, only about six
39 or seven inches until Christmas so it was a pretty hard
40 year to get around and travel.

41
42 The only real noticeable thing of the
43 season is the martin population really crashed out
44 there which is pretty concerning. I've been talking to
45 a bunch of trappers, in that part of the State and even
46 into the Interior, it seems like it's a pretty
47 widespread thing, and to me it seems like we've got
48 about 25 percent of the martin that we had, you know,
49 over the last seven or eight years. And with that,
50

0018

1 too, the rabbits have completely crashed and last year
2 the lynx had also crashed, but this season with very
3 very low, there was hardly any.

4
5 The only other noticeable thing is
6 there was a lot of wolverine this year, a lot more than
7 there's been the last three or four years, there's a
8 lot moving through even after I caught the ones that
9 were around local, there seemed to be wolverines kind
10 of moving through the whole season.

11
12 And that's all I've got.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
15 Charlie. And next is Robert.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: Hello. Hello all. This
18 is Robert Wright from Rampart. As you all know we're
19 in the middle of a fish crash. And I have to say that
20 we all really need to think conservatively this next
21 coming summer. Take just what you need or maybe not
22 even what you need and lean on some other resources and
23 try to think of the future generations while you're
24 doing it.

25
26 And the bears in the Rampart area seem
27 to be -- the black bears seem to be going away and more
28 grizzlies coming around, but we didn't see -- next to
29 no bears last fall when we were hunting. Had to go a
30 long ways away from Rampart to find a good black bear.
31 I only know of one good bear that was got last year in
32 Rampart.

33
34 The moose are in scarcity near Rampart.
35 There was only one villager from Rampart who got a
36 moose and that was shared with many people I know. I
37 know some people that are from Rampart that got a
38 couple in the Hess Creek Drainage, a really nice moose
39 and I'm happy for them, but there is not very many
40 moose around in the area right now. We had a really
41 deep snow year last year and I think that kind of
42 helped those numbers go way down, the wolves are in
43 there, get the moose in the deep snow.

44
45 The virus has really got me down. I
46 can't wait for us all to meet in person again. We
47 can't do as good as we can do, person to person, I
48 know, so I look forward to that.

49
50

0019

1 I hope everybody does think
2 conservatively with the salmon this year and keep that
3 in your minds. I'm really looking forward to the
4 spring and some birds coming in and some beaver
5 trapping. It's been a long, hard winter for a lot of
6 folks because not a lot of game was put away so people
7 are having hardship out there along the river. So I
8 look forward to a better year.

9

10 That's my report, thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
13 Robert. Okay, next, Linda Evans, are you still on and
14 could you give a report from your area.

15

16 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'm on. Right now I'm
17 in Albuquerque, New Mexico until May. I've been here
18 since October so I haven't been able to get in contact
19 with anyone to get an update on what's going on in
20 their areas as far as subsistence and stuff. I know --
21 I know from my point of view, where I'm from, I totally
22 agree with Robert Wright about the subsistence, the
23 lack of subsistence. It's a hardship on everyone. And
24 I would like to also support Robert Wright by saying,
25 that we all need to try to share the resources that we
26 do have.

27

28 And that's all I have to say at this
29 time, thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
32 you, Linda. I'll just check and see if Nicholas Henry
33 was able to call in.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nicholas
38 Henry, have you been able to call in and get online.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
43 you guys. Now, it's my turn.

44

45 Well, let's see how would I call it,
46 it's winter -- I think these winters are up and down,
47 up and down, up and down, this one we had some -- at
48 least a little bit of -- like a foot of snow early and
49 then boy we went through months without any new snow so
50

0020

1 it was only like a foot, settled to 8 inches or snow.
2 And then February we had mostly below zero. And then
3 now we're getting all kinds of snow in the last, let's
4 say two weeks, so we're building up to like two, two
5 and a half feet of snow on the ground.

6
7 I finally got out trapping this year
8 and set a few martin sets and traveled with some other
9 guys trapping in one of my favorite trapping spots and
10 those guys caught three wolves, that was pretty cool.

11
12 And I will report that Tok and Northway
13 did get down to minus 45, they didn't get down to the
14 minus 60 that they normally get.

15
16 But there is places in the mountains
17 right now that moose are belling out, you know, their
18 belly is hitting the snow and you can see a big rounded
19 area so it's getting pretty deep in some places.

20
21 We did have lots of wind. And I'm
22 hoping that the sheep have lots of windblown ridges and
23 able to have a good winter through -- winter well. I
24 will report that locals here, the Tanana -- or Upper
25 Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee and most of the
26 people are very disturbed at how relaxed the rules were
27 for the Fortymile Caribou and allowing such a larger
28 bag limit and, both, permits, moose and caribou at the
29 same time.

30
31 I also -- my love and everything is the
32 mountains and I was able to get out sheep hunting again
33 and getting a sheep and I'm lucky to have some young
34 fellow as my sheep hunting partner because my husband
35 won't go anymore unless it's just the two of us in a
36 not so hard area.

37
38 But I wanted to report that I was
39 appointed to the AITRC Board as a representative from
40 Mentasta Village, so I've attended two meetings
41 already.

42
43 I was on the teleconference for the
44 Federal Subsistence Board in January and then another
45 teleconference with the Subsistence Resource Commission
46 a few weeks ago. So I'm really practiced up on these
47 virtual meetings. I believe they're getting a little
48 hard because I think a lot of things do fall through
49 the cracks. And one of the interesting things that
50

0021

1 happened after the Federal Board meeting is what I had
2 mentioned to add to the agenda is that they want us to
3 compromise on this proposal, so that'll come up in the
4 agenda.

5

6 And that's about all I have for a
7 report.

8

9 Now, next, you're probably going to
10 hear my paper shuffling so forgive me.

11

12 Are there any public, tribal comments
13 on nonagenda items.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Hello, Jack Reakoff here.
16 If you'd like me to speak.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this is
19 the time, I believe, Jack, it's a nonagenda item, is
20 that correct.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. So Jack Reakoff. I
23 live in Wiseman in the Brooks Range, the Upper Koyukuk
24 River in the mountains. We got 15 inches of snow right
25 now. The snow came dry. We didn't get rain in the
26 snow and so the hills are blowing off.

27

28 The 2018/19 we had an inch of half of
29 rain in the snow in October and then we got another
30 inch and a quarter in March and April with five and a
31 half feet of snow decimating the sheep population in
32 the Upper Koyukuk River, and then again rain on snow
33 and earlier snows in '19 and '20 with rain on snow in
34 October and again rain on snow in April. A back to
35 back decimation of the sheep population. The Central
36 Brooks Range south slope is annihilated, the
37 populations are very low. There's been no surveys and
38 the surveys, are taking into account micro habitats
39 with a few sheep in it. So I want your Council to
40 realize that Unit 25A has actually a really poor
41 population. And 24A is -- 24 is really bad.

42

43 There's lots of lynx moving around.
44 The lynx that have come through here are really fat so
45 lynx are moving all over the place. I know guys over
46 in Kotzebue are catching lynx at the mouth of the Kobuk
47 River and the Noatak.

48

49 So the Western Interior Regional

50

0022

1 Council, I was on the Western Interior Council for --
2 since inception -- and the Secretary of Interior didn't
3 appoint any members to the Western Interior and we were
4 subtracting members over time so there's only 4 members
5 of 10 on the Western Interior Council and I was not
6 reappointed yet. I still have my applications in. It's
7 really hard for the Western Interior to work with only
8 four members. It's a huge region, as yours is, so just
9 think of working with a four member Council. That's
10 completely unconscionable, and there will be an agenda
11 item on your charters and the Subsistence Resource
12 Commissions -- actually you serve on the Resource
13 Commission -- I'm on the Gates of the Arctic
14 Subsistence Resource Commission, you serve until
15 reappointed, and so the charters for the Councils this
16 year are taking that and trying to move that forward,
17 and so I encourage your Council to adopt that, serving
18 until reappointed, that will allow the Councils to work
19 until the Secretary of Interior can get off their butt
20 and actually rubberstamp what the Federal Subsistence
21 Board has done.

22

23 So I want you to be aware of that.

24

25 Another issue that I wanted to bring up
26 is -- that's not on your agenda is the Central Yukon
27 Resource Management Plan, and they're in their Final
28 EIS. I have several issues with that plan. A, the
29 plan is all online, there's no hard copies given to any
30 public members. And the plan is so huge and the
31 internet is so bad, that the people that are affected,
32 and your Council has parts of Unit 25 that are in the
33 utility corridor, so the plan actually affects you, as
34 a Council. There's three Councils, the North Slope,
35 Western Interior and the Eastern Interior actually
36 entail the Central Yukon Management Plan. So the
37 planning process is working illegally and that they're
38 requiring the public to go online and download tens of
39 thousands of pages of material and try to analyze it.
40 I strongly oppose the BLM's pushing to -- the utility
41 corridor is 2.1 million acres, and the utility corridor
42 in Unit 25 entails portions of the Central Arctic -- or
43 correction, the Hodzana and the Porcupine Herd. The
44 Porcupine Herd is now coming really close to the road
45 and they're just to the north of Stevens Village and
46 Beaver. And so as that herd starts utilizing the area
47 closer to the road the State of Alaska wants to take
48 the entire, 2.1 million acres, and the BLM is not legal
49 -- under ANILCA law they're not allowed to convey the
50

0023

1 lands to the State under Public Order 5150. So I
2 wanted your Council to be aware that the resource
3 management plan has provisions to give away areas that
4 would highly affect people here, I live inside that
5 corridor, we completely would lose all subsistence use.
6 The utility corridor that has multiple use right now,
7 there's sporthunting, there's bow hunting, and so
8 forth, we truly have multiple use right now under BLM
9 management. If it goes to the State, it's all
10 sporthunting period. It's archery only and no use of
11 ATVs and we lose -- completely lose subsistence. There
12 are many communities that would utilize the Dalton
13 Highway Corridor and your communities would be Beaver,
14 Stevens, Rampart would be communities that would have
15 customary and traditional use in that area and probably
16 Minto would also, Coldfoot, Wiseman, Allakaket, Alatna,
17 Bettles, Evansville and Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, those
18 communities use that utility corridor. It's a long
19 corridor, it goes probably about 180 miles long.

20
21 So I wanted your Council to be aware
22 that that's proposed. And if you were to make
23 comments, I would encourage you to oppose conveying the
24 land to the State of Alaska because that would lose the
25 subsistence ability of people. With the salmon crash
26 on the Yukon, as everybody knows, those Yukon salmon
27 crashes for chums don't go away overnight, and so
28 people are going to be scrambling to come up with meat.
29 And people from Stevens and Rampart can actually go on
30 the road and go north of the Yukon and hunt caribou. I
31 wanted your Council to know that, and so you would have
32 subsistence use of those caribou, as the Porcupine
33 Caribou Herd comes closer and closer to this road.
34 They come right up to the road. They won't cross the
35 road. The Porcupine Herd is afraid of the Dalton
36 Highway, but they come really close to the road,
37 they've been coming here for four years. And they used
38 to go to the west. The oldtimers around here talked
39 about caribou, thousands of caribou coming out of the
40 east and crossed across going to the west and that's
41 what they would like to do but they're currently afraid
42 of the road.

43
44 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 I just wanted your Council -- any
47 questions from the Council.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
50

0024

1 you, Jack. Did anyone have any questions.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert Wright.

4 I'd like to thank you, Jack, for that information, very
5 much.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

8

9 MR. KRON: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Tom.

12

13 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'll
14 just followup a little bit. The Western Interior
15 Council opposed the Central Yukon BLM Plan as did the
16 North Slope Council. Two weeks ago the Western
17 Interior Council met, they unanimously opposed BLM's
18 Central Plan. And the North Slope Council met last
19 week, they opposed the Plan as well. And, again, as
20 Jack mentioned there are concerns about the Hodzana and
21 Porcupine Caribou Herds as well as the villages of
22 Stevens, Beaver, Rampart and Minto.

23

24 For your information, the letters in
25 opposition, I think the due date is March 11th so next
26 week, but both of the letters -- the letter from the
27 Western Interior Council and the letter from the North
28 Slope Council, I looked at both of them last night, and
29 we're in the process of getting those finalized so the
30 Council Chairs can approve them tomorrow. If your
31 Council were to want to do this as well, you know, I
32 could work with the clerical Staff and you for
33 signature, but I think again I could do it very quickly
34 today and tomorrow so that it could be done before the
35 deadline.

36

37 The other issue, again, given the short
38 amount of time left that you might do is talk about the
39 possibility of asking for an extension, but, again, as
40 noted, if you were to choose to do this I can work off
41 from the other two letters from the other two Councils
42 to make this happen.

43

44 It's your call. It's totally the
45 Council's call what you want to do.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank

50

0025

1 you, Tom, for that information. It's very helpful.
2 Council members, would you.....

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert. I make
5 the motion to do so.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
8 motion.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I'll
11 second.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Don
14 seconds it to be opposed to this land status change, I
15 guess, is what I can call it.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
20 discussion.

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, I just want to make
23 one comment about the Eastern Interior Plan that we
24 went through with BLM a few years ago. It was all
25 printed out for us. They came here twice and it was
26 all up front and above board, which doesn't seem to be
27 the case with this other process.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Nope.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
32 a very strong piece of information -- yeah, what's
33 falling through the cracks here. I suppose they could
34 blame it on Covid. But, yes, it should be coming
35 before the RAC I agree.

36
37 Other discussion. I think I heard.....

38
39 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair, this is Linda
40 Evans.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
43 ahead, Linda.

44
45 MS. EVANS: Awhile back the BLM did
46 meet in Fairbanks on this utility corridor, utilidor
47 that they wanted to get it pushed through and Baan O
48 Yeel Kon Corporation, I was president at the time, we
49 went on record to oppose that because of the effects it
50

0026

1 would have our subsistence use in that area. And I'm
2 not sure if they -- they must have records of that
3 meeting where we went and opposed it.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6

7 MS. EVANS: That's all, thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
10 good information, thank you. And we could add this to
11 our discussion.

12

13 I believe Don was upset because it
14 never came to us as a Council.

15

16 MS. EVANS: Yes, it seems like there was
17 limited -- limited information passed around about
18 that, they were just -- the State was just going to
19 pass that plan without any input and we made a big fuss
20 in Rampart over that when they came to meet with us.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes,
25 appreciate that Linda. Is there other discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Council
30 members. I guess, you know, just to help Staff, I would
31 say that by making this motion and that, you're
32 agreeing with most of what was said by Jack Reakoff.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I oppose for sure, so
35 you understand. I agree because it's going to effect
36 too many people in the Interior and we're already in
37 hardship and scarcity with a lot of other animals, so
38 this corridor is important to all of us so I think it's
39 very important that we oppose this and move forward
40 really as fast as we can.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
45 Robert. Yeah, it's just important to get stuff on the
46 record.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

49

50

0027

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
2 ahead, Don.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No, this is Vince.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince.
7 Sorry, Vince.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the North Slope did
10 -- Tom covered part of that, but they also asked for an
11 extension in the public process, just so it's on the
12 record. And if possible repeat the motion, I'm sure
13 BLM will be taking notes on it.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
16 believe Don made the motion, right.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don. I
19 made the second. But as I understand it that we're
20 backing up the Western Interior and the North Slope in
21 opposition to this corridor and the process that BLM
22 has facilitated for everyone.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So did
25 you.....

26
27 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert. I'd also
28 like to add that there was not very much consultation
29 with the tribes and the villages in the area and that's
30 completely wrong so I think they should give us a
31 chance, and to look at that more.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
34 for clarity, who made the motion, Robert?

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: Robert. I made the motion.
37 This is Robert. Madame Chair, thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I guess I
40 would ask, Robert, and the second, do you guys want to
41 add to extend the comment time?

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, please.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
46 hear.....

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am.

49
50

0028

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Don. I
2 think you said, yes, over top of my speaking, right,
3 Don, that you agree?

4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.
6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, this is Robert. The
8 motion should state that we'd like more time for
9 consultation and we oppose the conveyance of the land
10 from the State to the Feds, something like that.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13

14 MR. GLANZ: I think it's the other way
15 around, yeah.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Tom, I
18 think you got enough information.
19

20 MR. KRON: Yeah, I've got it, Madame
21 Chair. And, again, if you decide to pass the motion,
22 again, I would work very quickly from the letters for
23 Western Interior and North Slope and am confident
24 either tomorrow or Monday we could have things ready
25 for you to look at and then sign, if you choose.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
30 Is there any other discussion by Council members.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 MR. MCMANUS: Call for question.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question's
37 been called for. All in favor of the motion to oppose
38 the Haul Road being conveyed from BLM to the State, to
39 extend the comment period. I'm going to ask for
40 unanimous consent, and ask is there anyone opposed.
41

42 (No opposing votes)
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no
45 opposition it passes unanimously.
46

47 MR. GLANZ: Outstanding.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Alrighty. So
50

0029

1 next I need to ask the public is there any other public
2 or tribal comments.

3

4 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Ma'am, this is Karen
5 Linnell.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
8 Karen.

9

10 MS. LINNELL: Ahtna InterTribal
11 Resource Commission. I don't see that we're on the
12 agenda. I do have a big update for you folks.

13

14 In January, at the Federal Subsistence
15 Board they approved our community hunt framework and so
16 we are now going to be managing a community harvest
17 system for the eight communities of Cantwell, Mentasta,
18 Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, Copper Center
19 and Chitina. And that we are using the census
20 designated place as a boundary for eligibility and this
21 was done so that we could get something passed rather
22 quickly for any resident who lives within that zone,
23 they can either choose to participate in the AITRC
24 managed community harvest system or they can choose to
25 participate in any other Federal hunt out here managed
26 by BLM or National Park Service or Tetlin Wildlife
27 Refuge. And we are excited about the prospect, it's
28 rather complex as hunting in National Parks and
29 Preserves have different resident zone eligibility as
30 the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge so we're working out those
31 details and trying to get things lined out well for
32 that.

33

34 As you know, Ahtna InterTribal Resource
35 Commission represents those eight Ahtna tribes and
36 communities and also as part of our membership is the
37 two ANCSA Corporations, Ahtna Incorporated and Chitina
38 Native Corporation. Seven of our communities are
39 reliant on the salmon that come up the Copper River,
40 and this year was an exceptionally poor year. Where we
41 used to be able to fill our permits in about a month,
42 we're not able to -- in Chistochina, you know, starting
43 beginning of June and going through July, we didn't
44 fill our permits of 500 salmon, we're not now. For the
45 whole.....

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0030

1 MS. LINNELL:66 salmon and 16
2 kings. It was a really poor year. We weren't getting
3 the returns. I shut down my wheel because we weren't
4 getting the returns, and this is not only my wheel, we
5 have four fishwheels in there on -- north of the
6 Chistochina River, on the south end of Chistochina
7 River there was one wheel and he did just as poorly.
8 One day I had an opportunity to watch the fishwheel
9 (indiscernible).....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MS. LINNELL:delivered the fish
15 to elders in the community, that day we received 40
16 fish, a very poor run, a very poor return and it just
17 wasn't -- and this is not just happening here. We're
18 seeing the same thing up and down the river.
19 Batzulnetas, up there at Katie John's camp, the same
20 thing, very poor returns. There was some flooding and
21 high waters that made it difficult for them to get to
22 their fishwheels and we have folks that fish at Slana
23 there and the same thing, condition, poor return,
24 longer, more effort was going into being able to fill
25 our permits, or lack of ability to fill the permits.
26 It's been a really bad year for salmon and we are
27 seeing a downward trend. It's a big deal. And I was
28 looking at your annual report and, you know, you folks
29 have jurisdiction over Copper River, I appreciate the
30 efforts that you folks did on 21-10, getting a split
31 decision on that and so the Board asked you folks to go
32 back and talk about it. You know it's not -- even --
33 although Chistochina, Mentasta are not part of the
34 Eastern Interior RAC, our relatives from Dot Lake are
35 in your jurisdiction and they do come down and get fish
36 in Chistochina and at Batzulnetas, and also Dry Creek
37 is being newly found -- found eligible for the fish --
38 they have been fishing at Slana instead of down at
39 Kenny Lake with (Indiscernible) and they, I'm sure,
40 didn't reach their -- get their needs met as well.

41

42 So these are things that we've been,
43 you know, handling -- we had one village this year that
44 didn't even get -- didn't get a moose. Between -- it's
45 one of our larger villages of about 100 people, not a
46 one of them got a moose this year so the reliance on
47 sockeye and the salmon, the chinook was even more
48 important and it's not meeting subsistence needs.
49 There were, you know, multiple issues as to why some
50

0031

1 were recovering from Covid, some were, you know, away
2 at work, but it was a really difficult year for that
3 village and -- and for, you know, thankfully other
4 folks around the community were able to share a little
5 with them, but in this kind of a year when things were
6 pretty scarce it's really hard to meet the needs of all
7 of our people and so I just wanted to bring that up.

8

9 We are working in partnership with the
10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on our
11 (indiscernible).....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted - phones ringing - paper
15 shuffling - walking around)

16

17 MS. LINNELL:and we kind of spoke
18 to that last year. We're looking at this year
19 spreading to all of Unit 13. The methodology is being
20 modified a little bit each year so that we can get
21 improved methods and the modeling so that we could get
22 an estimate on -- as to how many bears are out there in
23 all of Game Management Unit 13 (indiscernible) with
24 nine -- or 10 potential sites with nine traps at each
25 site and they'll be -- they've got a methodology with
26 that as far as moving them every two weeks so that they
27 can try to capture different animals (indiscernible)
28 possibly collecting close to 1,000 or more samples this
29 upcoming field season. Last year between Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game, Ahtna Incorporated and
31 AITRC we received -- or captured over 600 samples from
32 8 locations.

33

34 We're also working on a Town Lake
35 restoration plan. Town Lake is in Chitina. We're
36 trying to restore salmon to that lake and this has
37 changed because of some activities held during the
38 Copper mining days and so we're looking to restore the
39 salmon in there and right now doing feasibility and
40 field work to see what is there and what can we find.
41 We did find in the stream some chinook fry close to the
42 river -- Copper River up in the stream there so we're
43 real excited about what we found and being able to get
44 those salmon runs returned.

45

46 We also have a TEK project with the
47 Wrangell-St.Elias National Park talking about access
48 within the Park, winter access and how that's changed
49 with the river not staying frozen during the winter and
50

0032

1 how that impacts on the trapping and fall and winter
2 hunts. And then also looking at the traditional use or
3 the use of the Nelchina Caribou Herd in GMU11. As
4 folks know we have not been able to hunt caribou there
5 since the mid-80s, late '80s, 40-some years is enough
6 to know that the Mentasta Herd is not going to grow
7 beyond that 600 caribou and that we need to be able to
8 hunt the Nelchina Herd. That came out of that caribou
9 working group that you, Madame Chair, were a
10 participant in.

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good gracious.

13

14 MS. LINNELL: And so we're excited
15 about that. We're also (indiscernible) the use of the
16 land by Ahtna people and the Wrangell-St.Elias, 40
17 years and coming with our -- our -- the range of the
18 Ahtna people being the larger users of the Wrangell-
19 St.Elias so we're excited about getting that complete.
20 The draft -- the first draft is done and they're
21 tweaking that and the project should be done entirely
22 within about six months or so. So it'll be a nice
23 publication for the Wrangell-St.Elias Park.

24

25 And we got a new fisheries biologist
26 coming on here the middle of March and I can -- less
27 than two weeks and so we're excited to have him be
28 joining us.

29

30 Yeah, that's it.

31

32 As far as Staff is, we have an
33 anthropologist and two wildlife biologists on Staff as
34 well as our regulatory specialist.

35

36 I do want to say.....

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted- phone ringing)

40

41 MS. LINNELL:I appreciate the
42 discussion -- involvement of these land use plans.
43 It's important that the RACs be involved because it
44 impacts -- it impacts the access and use for
45 subsistence resources and the RACs should be consulted
46 and a part -- a participant in the development of those
47 plans. So I appreciate you bringing that up Jack.
48 You're ever so diligent and I truly appreciate your
49 raising the awareness level for all of us in being
50

0033

1 (indiscernible) efforts to protect our hunting and
2 fishing rights, our subsistence access and rights.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Karen. I am hearing a lot of noise. I'm not sure
8 where it's coming from, it's been going on for some
9 time here. But, yes, are there any questions for
10 Karen.

11

12 All right.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Something's
18 going on, I'm getting a lot of feedback and I am mute
19 on my.....

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Wright's in
22 agreement, thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
25 ahead, Robert, I didn't hear you.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: (Indiscernible - not
28 muted)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert are
31 you.....

32

33 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
34 Pippa Kenner. Madame Chair, I would like this
35 opportunity to remind everybody to put their phones on
36 mute. If you don't have a mute button press star six
37 and to take your phone off mute, when you wish to speak
38 you press star six again. So, again, if everybody
39 could remember to keep their phone on mute when they're
40 not speaking.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
45 something's going on. Robert Wright, I think you need
46 to mute because I heard you and I thought you were
47 speaking to me but you were not. Okay, the background
48 noise is gone now.

49

50

0034

1 All right, was there any questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just want to alert the Council that I -- you know, this annual report we talk about the Yukon River a lot and we need to -- and I would like to bring up the -- and we can do it at the annual report, but don't let me forget, I would like to have the Copper River in there also. So I'm going to ask the Vice Chair and the Secretary to please remind me when we get to that topic. So is there any other tribal or public nonagenda items.

15

16

17

MS. STICKWAN: Hello, this is Gloria Stickwan.

18

19

20

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead Gloria.

21

22

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29

MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria, I'm representing myself. I would just like to thank the Eastern Interior for showing concern on voting no on the FP21-10. I think that it is a concern for our people that right now with the lower run, returns of kings and sockeyes that it's a concern for the Ahtna people that a new fishery is being proposed to become permanent into the regulation.

30

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39

I just want to thank you for your vote and hopefully this will be worked out when we have a joint meeting with the two RACs and I just want to -- at the -- so I just have one suggestion, whether you want to take it or not, I think a report from Mark Somerville would be good to hear from, or somebody get the State to report on the Copper River to give on an update. I just think that would be helpful. I don't know how that could be done for your Council.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

And I just want to say again that I'm sorry to hear about, was it Andrew Firmin, I'm not sure who you said, but praying for him, and he's a good man, and friendly good person. Hope you guys have a good meeting today.

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Gloria. We are going to take up that next. But I just want to make sure anyone else on nonagenda items.

0035

1 MR. STEVENS: Madame Chair, this is Ben
2 Stevens.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
5 Ben Stevens, go ahead.

6
7 MR. STEVENS: Okay. I just wanted to
8 just briefly thank you and the members of the Council
9 for addressing the Central Yukon BLM Plan. It seems
10 like all of the discussions that I've been in have been
11 a lot of folks opposing the plan for many reasons and
12 it just seems to me like as much as they express their
13 concerns, the BLM folks are having a hard time putting
14 our concerns into their official NEPA boxes or whatever
15 framework they're trying to populate and it's just not
16 working out. And they're trying hard and our folks are
17 frustrated but somehow I hope things turn out to be in
18 the best interest of all and I think that hopefully
19 everyone's voices will eventually be heard and taken
20 into consideration.

21
22 So speaking from a person out there in
23 the affected area, I want to thank you folks for --
24 even our folks out there in the villages in rural
25 Alaska some consideration, it's most definitely
26 appreciated.

27
28 So Baasee.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
31 Ben.

32
33 MS. EWAN: Madame Chair, this is Faye
34 Ewan.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Faye Ewan, go
37 ahead.

38
39 MS. EWAN: I just would like to speak
40 on behalf of my people maybe on the fishing, the salmon
41 and you know, Sue, that it was very hard and hard times
42 and I just wanted to share that my catch that I got
43 weren't -- very little -- altogether, for my personal
44 use, I probably got 200 fish out of the 500 that's
45 permitted but I shared a lot of mine with the people
46 over the Mentasta and other areas in the Copper River
47 and Cantwell with people that -- and it isn't very much
48 but whatever little bit of fish they got they sure
49 appreciate it. And I think, you know, the way the fish
50

0036

1 is running this year it's going to look like it's going
2 to be another poor runs. And ANILCA, I don't think
3 they have upheld our, you know, our Section VIII, and
4 when there's time and shortage that we should be able
5 to hunt and fish in times of shortage and the
6 Constitutional of Alaska says that (indiscernible -
7 cell phone beeping) I would like to say, if
8 (indiscernible) should be able to fish to get our
9 elders and our people, our children fish because that
10 is our customary and traditional and it is our way of
11 life. It's more to us than the value of money.

12

13 And another thing too, I think we need
14 to do emergency hunt here. The groceries are so high
15 in Glennallen it's ridiculous and our people are very
16 limited, and the food run -- the food stamp went up,
17 but the food and the prices went up also with the -- so
18 there is not no -- we don't get more for our money,
19 that is something that's price gouging during this
20 Covid. I know a lot of people are hungry and I get --
21 I get a couple road kills this year and I'm probably
22 down to the last five packages of meat and I'm always
23 -- I hunt and fish, I live off this land and I say that
24 something's going on with the salmon -- and we need to
25 do something about the first run and let it go by so we
26 can be able to see fish five or 10 years from now. And
27 the young people today are losing their culture and
28 their traditional way of putting fish and meat away
29 because of all the regulations, you know, the low
30 shortage of meat and fish, they want to cut fish but
31 there is not enough to do because we had to make sure
32 we put it away right and most of the salmon, the fish
33 came in June month, it was very soft, (indiscernible)
34 climate change has really changed the texture of the
35 salmon and anybody from Copper River that knows salmon.
36 I've been here all my life, I've fished off this river,
37 I run my own fishwheel and right now I'm getting ready
38 -- I'm cleaning out my freezers and sending food all
39 over where I can, whatever I have to share with people.
40 And remember that is our traditional customary ways,
41 that we share, that is the Ahtna's way, that's the way
42 our people taught us to share with anybody, it doesn't
43 matter who you are, if you're hungry we share and
44 that's something that in this customary and traditional
45 way -- that needs to be implemented when them always
46 talking about our land, when the land is affected, it
47 effects everything about us traditional people that
48 have been here all our life from time immemorial.

49

50

0037

1 Tsin'aen, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tsin'aen,
4 too, Faye. Okay, I'm going to ask if there's any other
5 -- first of all did anybody have any questions of Faye.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
10 none, is there any other nonagenda items to be
11 discussed from the public or tribal.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
17 none. The next thing is old business. The first thing
18 on old business, I had mentioned earlier, is this
19 Federal Subsistence Proposal 21-10.

20

21 What happened at the Federal Board
22 meeting is, and I'm going to go off the cuff here
23 because we may have sent something out to everyone -- I
24 had asked that the Southcentral Coordinator send a
25 little brief thing of what the Federal Board did and
26 maybe Staff, one person could read in the record, but
27 just off the cuff, the simple thing that they are
28 telling us is, they're sorry that the two Councils
29 are.....

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted - phone beeping)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know
35 how to say it but basically they tabled this and put it
36 back to the -- maybe the word isn't tabled, but they
37 put it back to the RACs. And so now Southcentral and
38 Eastern Interior are asked to compromise. So they
39 don't want us to have a joint meeting and come up with
40 a compromise on this proposal which, if you remember,
41 for the Council members that were here at the last
42 meeting, we voted unanimously against this new fishery
43 for dipnetting in the lower Copper River. And just to
44 let you know, I am in Unit 12 and most of you are not
45 in Unit 12, and Unit 12 has C&Ts on the upper Copper
46 River for salmon and most of us are using fishwheels in
47 Slana, which is in Unit 13. We did this, and I sat at
48 the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting on
49 this subject and they spent an hour talking about it

50

0038

1 because they voted 6-3 to open that fishery. We voted
2 unanimously against that.

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted - phone beeping)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The proposal we are going to talk about, how we meet to compromise. The Southcentral decided, they picked two meeting dates and two places for us to have a joint meeting. And we are going to discuss, maybe a -- Katya, maybe you can just kind of brief everybody exact dates and how we would go about having a joint meeting. And I just want to bring up to all of the Council members, their choice was a meeting in Anchorage as a joint meeting. I think we need to discuss this, because after that meeting I started thinking about, oh, my gosh, it's wildlife proposals for the next meeting for Eastern Interior and do we want to be in Anchorage when we take up wildlife proposals, that's assuming that -- Katya, could you give those dates -- the first dates and second dates and then places that Southcentral voted on for having a joint meeting.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair. For the record this is Katya Wessels, Acting Policy Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management.

First of all I would like to say that during the Board meeting, the Federal Subsistence Board that happened in January of this year the Board voted to defer the vote on FP21-10 until such time that the Southcentral and the Eastern Interior RACs can meet and maybe work out on the development or explore in a compromise that can be supported by those affected.

And specifically during the Board meeting the Board also said that they do not want the same situation happening as happened on the Yukon River when it's up river, lower river, one against the other, pitted folks, users, subsistence users against each other for a very small proportion of the fishery. And the Board has the faith that the Advisory Councils have the right process to figure it out.

So the Southcentral met before the Eastern Interior, and they discussed that and they agreed that it would be a good idea to meet with the Eastern Interior and they voted on two sets of dates.

0039

1 Their first preference for the dates would be October
2 13th through 15th, and the second preference would be
3 October 6th through 8th. And the way that we can work
4 the things out, so there is like four options how we
5 can meet, and I emailed these options to you earlier
6 today, Sue, but you might have not gotten it. But I'll
7 just go over each option.

8

9 So Option 1 is the preferred dates for
10 the Southcentral, October 13th through 15th, which is
11 Wednesday and Friday. And if we're allowed to meet in
12 person it will be in Anchorage.

13

14 And let me pause my explanation, or the
15 court reporter rather, is it possible to stop that
16 beeping that's coming, I don't know from which meeting.

17

18 REPORTER: Yes, but we're going to have
19 to stop the meeting, because the recording will stop.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: But can you call the
22 operator and find out from who's phone that is coming?

23

24 REPORTER: Yes. But I can't record
25 anything you guys say so hold on just a moment.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we will.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 MR. KRON: Hey, Sue.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Me?

36

37 MR. KRON: Yeah, and I guess, again, we
38 were hoping to be able to finish up today and I know
39 this is frustrating and difficult but my recommendation
40 is that Katya go ahead -- essentially we've been on
41 hold here now for five or 10 minutes and in the
42 interest of trying to finish up today, if we could go
43 ahead I think that'd be good. And hopefully the
44 operator will get the problem dealt with.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thanks,
49 Tom. But I kept calling on Katya and she doesn't hear

50

0040

1 me.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I can hear you now
4 Sue. Okay, I can continue. I know it's very difficult
5 for people to really concentrate on what's being said
6 when there is the beeping online.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, go
9 ahead.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So there is four
12 options to choose from. The Option 1 is to meet the
13 dates that are preferred by the Southcentral, October
14 13th through 15th, Friday, Wednesday [sic] to meet in
15 Anchorage if we're allowed to meet in person. And the
16 way it would work, the Southcentral will meet the first
17 day, then Southcentral/Eastern Interior meet together
18 the second day, maybe even just for half a day to
19 discuss what's important for both Councils. And then
20 the Eastern Interior will meet on the third day by
21 itself, which is Friday.

22

23 So Option 2 is October 6th through 8th,
24 Wednesday through Friday again, meet in Anchorage.
25 Again, Southcentral meets separately the first day,
26 both Councils meet together the second day and Eastern
27 Interior meets separately the third day.

28

29 Option 3, again, the first set of
30 dates, October 13th through 15th, but Southcentral
31 meetings separately in Anchorage, then both Councils
32 meet together via teleconference on the second day, and
33 then Eastern Interior meets separately in Fairbanks on
34 the third day.

35

36 And Option 4 is very similar to Option
37 3 but the second set of dates, October 6th through 8th.
38 And, again, Southcentral separately in Anchorage the
39 first day, via teleconference both Councils the second
40 day, and Eastern Interior meets separately in Fairbanks
41 the third day.

42

43 Of course we need to remember that, you
44 know, we might still not be allowed to meet in person
45 but we'll just proceed as if we are allowed. So I
46 think the first thing to do is for the Council to see
47 which dates they prefer the most, October 13th through
48 15th, or October 6th through 8th. So I'll just leave
49 it at that and I'll let you to figure out which set of
50

0041

1 dates you prefer. And then we can figure out the
2 location options.

3

4

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
5 to ask a question of Staff. In the event that -- this
6 is what came to me, Council members, and you can ask
7 lots of questions, that meeting date of the 13th to the
8 15th, if we were able to meet in Anchorage and then
9 meet together but we fly back to Fairbanks and have our
10 meeting in Fairbanks instead of Anchorage, when we take
11 up our stuff separately. Is that an option?

12

13

MS. WESSELS: Well, that will need to
14 be discussed with the OSM ARD because that will be a
15 more costly option by any means because we will need to
16 get you first to Fairbanks and then fly you from
17 Fairbanks to Anchorage, and then, you know, a day
18 before the meeting then have you in Anchorage that day,
19 and then fly you back in the evening of that day, you
20 know, I don't have the estimates for that and usually
21 -- but I'm sure it will be a more costly meeting and it
22 will be -- we'll need to run by OSM's ARD.

23

24

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, common
25 sense tells me if you're flying us all to Anchorage and
26 you're going to bring us back to Fairbanks to get home,
27 we would -- to me there's not a big change in cost, and
28 then I'm not going to worry about that, I just want to
29 talk to the Council now.

30

31

So do the Council members, questions on
32 these -- on this potential teleconference and joint
33 meeting with Southcentral. Are you totally confused
34 now?

35

36

MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. I believe
37 the Council should choose the dates first and then we
38 can talk about other options, which locations.....

39

40

(Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted - coughing)

42

43

MS. WESSELS:we would like to
44 meet.

45

46

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
47 members.

48

49

MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, can you

50

0042

1 hear me?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
4 ahead, Robert.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: I'm fine with the October
7 13th through the 15th date. Otherwise I can
8 accommodate, but I like those dates best.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, and this is Charlie,
13 can you hear me?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
16 ahead, Charlie.

17

18 MR. JAGOW: I think I'd have to agree
19 with Robert, the 13th would be the best.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
22 let's just ask, is anyone opposed to the 13th to the
23 15th?

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm
28 hearing that the 13th to the 15th would work. I guess
29 my concern for the Council members, do you think it's
30 important for us to be in Fairbanks for our individual
31 meeting?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
36 members.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don
39 Woodruff. I think that to fully represent the people
40 in our district then we have to have a meeting -- or we
41 should have a meeting where they can participate
42 locally and that would be having us meeting in
43 Fairbanks.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, I agree.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council. You
48 see like, just Council members, I was asked to sit in
49 on that meeting with Southcentral and I heard them go

50

0043

1 through this for an hour trying to pick dates and stuff
2 but they did vote that they could come to Fairbanks but
3 for me to be reasonable, I know there's something
4 called multi-city plane reservations and if they're
5 flying us all the way to Anchorage, they can fly us
6 back to -- they have to fly you back to Fairbanks so
7 how important it is to you, Council members, that we
8 meet in person with Southcentral versus a
9 teleconference?

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don again.
12 I would put that in a category of 1 to 10 about 1 that
13 we need to meet in person with Southcentral.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want
16 to hear from everyone. Thanks, Don, I appreciate that.

17

18 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie Jagow
23 first and then Robert.

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
28 Charlie.

29

30 MR. JAGOW: Yes, if having a
31 teleconference also means that we can meet in Fairbanks
32 I would be for that just for public attendance, if our
33 meeting's in Anchorage, you know, that's completely out
34 of our region.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: I prefer in person in
43 Fairbanks so the locals can be part of it.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

46

47 MR. MCMANUS: Timothy McManus. I agree
48 with Robert and Charlie that I think it should be in
49 Fairbanks. I agree with in person, too.

50

0044

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So,
2 okay, Tim, I was multitasking in my brain, would you
3 repeat that please.

4
5 MR. MCMANUS: Yes, I agree with Charlie
6 and Robert, I'd prefer in Fairbanks and in person.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
9 want to ask, did you mean in person for all of us or do
10 you mean in person for the joint meeting?

11
12 MR. MCMANUS: No, I don't think we
13 should go to Anchorage. I believe we should be in
14 Fairbanks where our -- you know, that's who we
15 represent.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18
19 MR. MCMANUS: Because I don't think it
20 would be worth us going down there, it's more of a
21 sightseeing trip, nobody wants to go to Anchorage.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
24 I got to apologize to all of you guys.....

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, Madame
27 Chair, if I may.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
30 ahead.

31
32 MR. WRIGHT: I might have been
33 confused. But I think no matter what meeting we're
34 having, it's all really important for in person if
35 possible to start with. So I'm not against going to
36 Anchorage to meet in person with them at all. But I
37 would like our meeting in Fairbanks, after, in person
38 also. I think a meeting in Fairbanks with our meeting
39 for our stuff is very important for the locals to be
40 part of. Just to clarify.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Deeply
45 appreciate that Robert, your direction, myself. I would
46 -- if I were to recommend, that's what I would do.
47 Other Council members.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
50

0045

1 Katya.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

4 Katya.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I just want to
7 clarify one point. I received a text from the
8 Coordinator from the Southcentral and she said that
9 Southcentral did not vote to go to Fairbanks at all.
10 So that's just a clarification.

11

12 MS. LINNELL: They did say they're open

13 to it.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
16 what I heard.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Well, you know, I'm just
19 conveying the message to you from the Council
20 Coordinator of Southcentral.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this is
23 our meeting so we'll figure it out. And I would like
24 to ask other Council members their feelings relayed --
25 that Robert just said, would you agree with that?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just unmute
30 your phone when you're ready to chat.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm not
35 hearing anything. What's -- I need a motion.

36

37 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

40 Tim.

41

42 MR. MCMANUS: I just want to get this
43 -- I was kind of a little bit confused too. Our in
44 person meeting with our AC, the Eastern Interior, we'd
45 like that in Fairbanks and would like that in person so
46 our locals can be part of that. And then the joint
47 meeting is in Anchorage, and you asked if you wanted to
48 be in person, and that one also. Is that what I'm kind
49 of understanding here, you got two different things
50

0046

1 going on?

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. So we
4 would start -- like I think Southcentral would start
5 their meeting on Wednesday and then on Thursday we
6 would meet with them on our joint meeting, and then on
7 Friday, this is our suggestion that I'm hearing right
8 now, we would fly back to Fairbanks and have our
9 meeting in our area.

10

11

MR. GLANZ: There you go.

12

13

MR. MCMANUS: I think that's
14 doable.....

15

16

MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

17

18

MR. MCMANUS:if everybody else
19 agrees. That's all I got.

20

21

MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

22

23

MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'd go along with
24 that what Susan just said guys. This is Bill.

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So is
27 there any opposition to that idea?

28

29

(No opposing votes)

30

31

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
32 to just go unanimous consent that that's what we're
33 agreeing on?

34

35

MR. GLANZ: Sounds good.

36

37

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
38 there anyone opposed.

39

40

(No opposing votes)

41

42

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And do you
43 guys want to come up with an alternate also because
44 that will be -- and I'm sorry, I didn't ask for a
45 motion but I'm asking, Staff, I hope I don't need a
46 motion on that because we all agree.

47

48

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I don't think you
49 need a motion, Sue.

50

0047

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: On the record there's no
4 opposition to that.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So is
7 there -- do you guys have a second, an alternate that
8 we could go with.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm thinking
13 -- I'm going to suggest this to you all if we can't do
14 what we just voted on, that we meet jointly by
15 teleconference so we can just be all in Fairbanks, and
16 I don't see it as a problem that we don't fly down
17 there. They're the ones that asked us to have a
18 compromise so accommodate us, we're the volunteers.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would
23 everybody agree with that?

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
26 Robert.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: I agree, this is Robert.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
33 Robert. So you're agreeing that the alternate be a
34 teleconference with the joint?

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know as
39 your Chair I could suggest that they fly me down there
40 since it's mostly -- I'm familiar with the region but
41 you guys would hear it all so at any rate is this
42 enough discussion for Staff?

43

44 MS. WESSELS: I think so, Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
47 have that taken care of. We'll have that part of our
48 meeting taken care of when we get to scheduling
49 meetings for the future.

50

0048

1 And the information will be sent to us
2 regarding this 21-10 so we know what we are talking
3 about when this comes up at the meeting?

4
5 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Yes, it definitely will
8 be sent to you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, okay.
11 Is there any other discussion on this?

12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don. I have
14 a question for Katya.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Katya, could
19 you, just in your own words, summarize what this
20 compromise might be comprised of, because personally I
21 think it's premature to open a new fishery and I don't
22 know that a whole lot of discussion is going to change
23 my point of view considering all the trauma that's
24 going on on the Copper River.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Well, I cannot speak for
27 the Councils -- this is Katya Wessels for the record.
28 I cannot speak for the Councils what the compromise
29 might be. The matter is that the Board gives deference
30 to the Councils recommendations on the proposals and
31 two Councils gave opposing recommendations. Although
32 it needs to be noted that Eastern Interior, your
33 opinion, it was presented to the Board as just an
34 opinion, not as a recommendation because Eastern
35 Interior doesn't have C&T use determination for the
36 area where the new fishery is proposed to be created.
37 So -- but the Board wants, you know, to have consensus
38 between the users from the upper and lower river, and
39 they want both Councils to meet and talk about that in
40 person, and.....

41
42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted)

44
45 MS. WESSELS:see if any -- any
46 kind of compromise can be found. Like I said I cannot
47 speak for the Councils how this compromise might look.
48 It will be totally up to you and you can invite people
49 who are affected by this to that meeting, they can
50

0049

1 speak -- the public can speak at that meeting about how
2 it affects them one way or the other, you can also
3 invite subject matter specialists, people who are
4 knowledgeable about that fishery, they can tell you
5 about what's going on with that fishery and then you
6 can make an informed decision, you know, among two
7 Councils. And, you know, the Board wants you to come
8 to some kind of a compromise but it doesn't require you
9 to come to come to a compromise it will be totally up
10 to the Council members to make the decision based on
11 the information that they will receive during the joint
12 discussion.

13
14

Thank you.

15
16

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I might
17 add, Katya, I'm going to give the Council a little more
18 information, what I have been through. I was asked to
19 sit in on the Southcentral Council meeting but prior to
20 that, both the Chairs of Southcentral and Eastern
21 Interior were asked to meet and so Greg and I talked
22 with both our Council Coordinators and Greg informed me
23 that their vote was 6 to 3 and they felt like it was
24 highly vetted and I am asking for the transcripts of
25 the Southcentral meeting. I probably have more vested
26 interest in this than the rest of the Council because
27 of me representing Unit 12. And they -- so basically I
28 remember that the three that voted against opening this
29 new fishery were the people from the area and the
30 people -- the six that voted for it were not from the
31 area. I'm just giving you information because I don't
32 want you guys to debate -- we're not going to debate
33 this, we just need to do what the Federal Board asked
34 us to do, is to meet and have a compromise. And we're
35 not going to know if we're going to compromise and we
36 shouldn't get into the details of the compromise now at
37 this meeting, we are just going to have to do what the
38 Federal Board asked us to do and I think we went
39 through that on our meeting dates so I would appreciate
40 if we don't get into the merits so much because I don't
41 think we can change what was asked of us to do and that
42 was to have a compromise. So if we don't want to
43 compromise that's what we tell them.

44
45

So I think we shouldn't really debate
46 the whole proposal right now since that's not what's on
47 the -- we're just making a meeting date.

48
49

Does that help you, Don.

50

0050

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes. But what I was
2 referring to was is if the Board had directed someone
3 or some Councils to sort of become part of a compromise
4 that they thought was reasonable.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I don't
7 think they did that at all, they just don't want to --
8 what happened with the division of the Councils like it
9 did on the Yukon, they don't want to see it happen on
10 the Copper.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I don't want to
13 see that either. Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I said
16 if it -- we would just have to meet and all we're
17 asking is do we meet in person or do we meet
18 teleconference, and I think we've already went through
19 that so -- is that -- do you have any other questions,
20 Don, I'm sorry but I'm just trying to keep it to what's
21 on the subject here.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, that's all clear,
24 thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Alrighty.
27 Are there any other.....

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
30 Katya Wessels.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
33 ahead, Katya.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Sorry. I just want to
36 clarify. So the Council is agreeable to meet on
37 October 13th through 15th as the first preferred date
38 and the first preference would be to meet in person,
39 together with Southcentral, in Anchorage, and then move
40 the meeting to Fairbanks so the users from the region
41 can attend the meeting if it's in person.

42
43 And the second preference, if the first
44 preference is not possible, is to the same dates
45 October 13th through 15th, meet with Southcentral via
46 teleconference and then continue the in person meeting
47 in Fairbanks.

48
49 Is that correct?

50

0051

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I just
6 wanted to mention, also, that Katya did say that we
7 don't have a C&T on the lower Copper River where this
8 fishery was to be opened, but we do have C&Ts on the
9 upper Copper River, just to make that clear, and that's
10 why we're part of this.

11

12 Okay.

13

14 So is there any other discussion on
15 this.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, moving
20 -- rapidly moving.....

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. I just had
23 a thought also, this is Katya.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: In regards to C&T, that
28 perhaps, and maybe can speak more to that but maybe
29 Eastern Interior, since the call for the wildlife
30 proposals is open, but this is actually -- yeah, that's
31 a fishery proposal, I was thinking that, you know, if
32 there is use, any use of the lower regions of the river
33 that maybe Council wants to consider, you know, asking
34 for additional C&T but I would let Pippa speak about
35 that as she's more knowledgeable in regards to that.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Hi, Katya, this is Pippa
38 Kenner with OSM. Yes, the call for proposals to change
39 fisheries regulations will occur next winter and we'll
40 wait until that time to put in a proposal to -- or to
41 look at the C&Ts on the Copper River.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
46 on the agenda is hunter ethics education and outreach.

47

48 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
49 Tom Kron. Again, I think the issue here, we've heard

50

0052

1 from the Refuge system, Vince, have chimed in, we've
2 had meetings at your Council meetings about hunter
3 education and ethics, and I guess just open it up to
4 see if there's any reports. And, again, the request
5 that I made earlier is we need to try to keep things
6 really concise and focused. The hope is to complete
7 our business here for the Eastern Interior today.

8

9 So, Vince, or the Refuge system, if you
10 have any updates on the hunter education and ethics
11 issue.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. Let me ask
14 if other Staff are online to go first from the Refuge,
15 Yukon Flats.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18

19 MR. FOX: Madame Chair. This is Jimmy
20 Fox, Refuge Manager, can you hear me okay?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can, go
23 ahead.

24

25 MR. FOX: Okay. I'll be really brief.
26 Thank you for having us today. And our hearts are
27 heavy with the news for and what happened with Andrew
28 Firmin and we're hoping the best for him and his
29 family.

30

31 Real briefly the hunter liaison project
32 continued this past fall in both Circle and Fort Yukon.
33 Little different interactions there between those two
34 communities. It was rather slow in Fort Yukon. It
35 seemed like many of the hunters that would typically
36 come into the airport in Fort Yukon did not. There was
37 very little activity in Fort Yukon at the airport this
38 past fall. There was some caribou meat that was
39 distributed among community members.

40

41 And there was a lot of activity in
42 Circle. Amanda Pope interacted with over 250 people.
43 About half of those hunters actually were going up
44 river and about a fifth were going down river and
45 another fifth were actually hunting along the Steese
46 Highway.

47

48 So that ends my report and I'll turn it
49 over to Vince Mathews if he'd like to add anything.

50

0053

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No, he covered all of it.
4 I don't have anything to add, thanks.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
7 know, Andy Bassich and I were on this hunter ethics and
8 education committee. I was wondering is there any hope
9 that it ever'll meet again.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
12 Katya Wessels.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
15 ahead, Katya.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: All of the work that OSM
18 had been doing in regards to the hunter ethics has been
19 on pause due to the shortage of Staff. And I really
20 apologize for that but we have it on our radar and
21 hopefully when we're fully Staffed we can return to
22 doing this work which was endorsed by the Federal
23 Subsistence Board.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So are
28 there any questions of anyone regarding this hunter
29 ethics and education or any comments.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince, I
34 think.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm still pursuing
37 relationships with the Military Bases but, again, this
38 whole virus thing has got everybody locked up so we do
39 have interest in building relationships with the
40 Military Bases, Ft. Wainwright and Eielson. So I just
41 want to -- it's out there, once the virus moves maybe
42 we can move forward.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thanks,
47 Vince. Yes, and I was invited by the Arctic National
48 Refuge Staff to go up to Arctic Village and meet with
49 people up there and that was a year ago so it didn't

50

0054

1 happen because of the same reasons, just to keep
2 everybody on the update.

3

4 Is there any other comments or
5 questions, Council members.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
10 none, next on the agenda is an update on the National
11 Park Service individual C&T determinations. And would
12 that be Joshua or Barbara.

13

14 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Madame
15 Chair. This is Kim Jochum, I will do the update if
16 that's okay.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What's
19 your name again?

20

21 MS. JOCHUM: Kim Jochum.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Kim, okay.

24

25 MS. JOCHUM: Yes, Kim, okay. Great.
26 Good morning, Madame Chair and Council members. For
27 the record my name is Kim Jochum and I'm a Subsistence
28 Program Analyst with the National Park Service Regional
29 Subsistence Team. Today I'm here to report on recent
30 decisions made by the Federal Subsistence Board on the
31 process used to make customary and traditional use
32 determinations for individuals, also referred to as
33 individual C&T. This is not an action item at this
34 point.

35

36 So before I start talking about these
37 recent decisions I just want to remind everyone that
38 individual C&Ts are not a new thing but they might --
39 you might not be as familiar with them because they are
40 so rare.

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted - music)

44

45 MS. JOCHUM: Less than 10 people have
46 applied for them in the last 40 years and almost all
47 customary and traditional use determinations are for
48 communities and areas, not for individuals.

49

50

0055

1 Is there -- does somebody have a
2 question, please feel free to speak up and I'm happy to
3 answer that at any time.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MS. JOCHUM: Is somebody unmuted again,
8 great. It's not me. Can you guys hear me still,
9 should I keep going or.....

10
11 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa
12 Kenner. And I just wanted to say that somebody has put
13 their phone -- put our meeting on hold, probably while
14 they answered another call.

15
16 MS. JOCHUM: Should I try to speak on
17 top of it or should I give it a minute.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: I think you should give it
20 a minute, this is Katya Wessels.

21
22 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, thank you.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Court reporter, can you
25 please call the operator and find out who has this call
26 on mute.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ah, I think
29 we found it. Go ahead.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: Great.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay, before we proceed.
34 This is Katya Wessels and I would kindly ask all the
35 participants of the meeting, if you receive another
36 phone call do not put this meeting on mute, please hang
37 up to answer the other phone call and please call back
38 in. Thank you very much.

39
40 MS. JOCHUM: Thank you, Katya. Great,
41 so maybe I'll just repeat for a second here the few
42 points I was trying to make here before getting into
43 detail about decisions the Board made.

44
45 So individual C&Ts are not anything
46 new, you might not be as familiar with them because
47 they're rare. Less than 10 people have applied for
48 them in the last 40 years and almost all customary and
49 traditional use determinations are for communities and
50

0056

1 areas and not for individuals. Further individual C&Ts
2 and the recent Board decisions will not in any way
3 impact your ability to fish, hunt, trap or gather
4 resources. And these Board decisions to individual C&T
5 make the whole process easier and faster for the
6 applicant. It became more streamlined overall. So the
7 National Park Service now can efficiently help
8 applicants with their applications, that applications
9 could be submitted outside of the regulatory cycle and
10 therefore we can be more responsive while people still
11 must meet the same requirements as previously.

12

13 The National Park Service did not want
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users waiting for years
15 to be eligible to go hunt and fish on Park lands, and
16 that is why the Board modified these steps. We are
17 simply now reporting to you what actions the Board
18 took. This not an action item that you need to vote on
19 right now.

20

21 Last fall we asked all 10 Subsistence
22 Regional Advisory Councils, if you all remember that,
23 and the seven Park Subsistence Resource Commissions for
24 feedback. We incorporated the feedback that we
25 received into our proposed process and this is what was
26 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board at their
27 January 2021 meeting.

28

29 So the revised process includes two
30 critical recommendations made by the Regional Advisory
31 Councils and the Subsistence Resource Commissions in
32 the fall.

33

34 First is that there is no delegation of
35 authority to NPS. The Federal Subsistence Board will
36 retain the final decisionmaking authority.

37

38 Second, the process now includes a
39 formal recommendation from both the affected RACs and
40 the affected SRC.

41

42 But perhaps the biggest change is that
43 the process is no longer tied to a lengthy regulatory
44 proposal cycle. And, instead, the application window
45 is open continuously and once the RACs and the SRCs
46 have weighed in, the Board will take action on the
47 request at its next public meeting. This accomplishes
48 an important goal of being able to process applications
49 in a timely manner.

50

0057

1 Many of the RACs and SRCs voted to
2 defer action until they had more time to study this
3 issue. However, the Federal Subsistence Board already
4 took action to improve the process, the Board still
5 welcomes any feedback that you might have for further
6 improvement, either now or at any point in the future.
7 Ultimately the National Park Service and the Federal
8 Subsistence Board just want this process to be as
9 streamlined and responsive as possible.

10
11 Thank you for your time, and I am happy
12 to answer any questions you have. And if you have
13 feedback for the Board I am happy to deliver that as
14 well.

15
16 The next will be Amy Craver, the
17 Subsistence Manager and Cultural Anthropologist for
18 Denali National Park and Preserve and she will present
19 an individual C&T for Blaine Mayo.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. CRAVER: Okay. Good morning,
24 Madame Chair and members of the Council. For the
25 record my name is Amy Craver.

26
27 As you've already heard the Federal
28 Subsistence Board has revised its policy on individual
29 customary and traditional use determinations. Under
30 the new policy proposals can be submitted at any time.

31
32 On February 5th, 2021, the National
33 Park Service received a proposal to add five
34 individuals from a single household to the customary
35 and traditional use determination for moose in Unit
36 13E. The named individuals include Blaine Mayo, his
37 wife, Tracy Mayo, and their children Owen Mayo, Adelynn
38 Mayo and Ryland Mayo. Blaine Mayo, as the head of the
39 household, requested a C&T use determination for moose
40 in 13E in 2019. Under the Federal Subsistence Board's
41 previous policy the proponent for an individual C&T
42 needed a National Park Service 13440 subsistence
43 eligibility permit at the time of the application or
44 live in a resident zone community of the Park. Mr.
45 Mayo did not live in a resident zone community nor did
46 he have the requisite subsistence eligibility permit.
47 His application, however, did reveal some complications
48 with the Board's policy and triggered the revision that
49 is in effect today.

50

1 The Mayo family is originally from
2 Cantwell, a resident zone community for Denali National
3 Park. Several generations of his family have exhibited
4 an extensive pattern of subsistence use of moose in
5 13E. And they have long maintained a hunting camp in
6 the proximity of the Park's boundaries. In 2018 the
7 family moved to Healy. While this community is in the
8 proximity to the Park it is not a resident zone
9 community, nor is Healy included in the existing
10 customary and traditional use determination for moose.
11 The Mayo family intends to continue their pattern of
12 subsistence use of moose in 13E and, are, thus, seeking
13 an individual C&T determination. Blaine Mayo's
14 brother, Kevin Mayo, also now resides in Healy was
15 granted an individual C&T determination for moose in
16 13E in 2010. Blaine Mayo and his household currently
17 possess a National Park Service 13440 subsistence
18 eligibility permit for Denali National Park. The
19 proponents have provided substantial information
20 regarding their family's customary and traditional use
21 of moose that exemplifies the eight factors for
22 customary and traditional use determinations. As
23 evidenced in the analysis, this family exhibits a clear
24 long-term and consistent pattern of use of moose in
25 13E. This pattern has been repeated for many years
26 through several generations. Method and means are
27 characterized by efficiency, economy and effort and
28 cost based on local characteristics. The pattern is
29 consistent with past method and means of harvest at or
30 near the family's hunting camp within the unit in
31 question. Knowledge and handling, preparing,
32 preserving and storing moose meat is shared among and
33 between generations as is the knowledge of skills,
34 values, associated with hunting moose in the area.
35 Moose meat is regularly shared within the family and
36 within the broader Cantwell and Healy communities. The
37 proponents demonstrate a pattern of use that relates to
38 the reliance on a wide diversity of wild foods that
39 provide the family with cultural, economic, social and
40 nutritional benefits. Furthermore, the family's
41 pattern of use is also evidenced through the Federal
42 Subsistence Board's previous determination for Blaine
43 Mayo's brother, Kevin.

44
45 For these reasons there appear to be
46 substantial evidence to support the issuance of the
47 customary and traditional use determination for the
48 proponent, all members of the nuclear household.
49
50

0059

1 So as per the Federal Subsistence
2 Board's revised policy, the next step is for affected
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Park
4 Subsistence Resource Commission to offer formal
5 recommendations on this matter.

6
7 And for the record at the last Denali
8 SRC meeting they voted to approve this individual C&T
9 and then it was also approved by the Southcentral RAC.

10
11 So this is an action item for your
12 Council and I'm happy to answer any questions that you
13 have.

14
15 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
16 the Council.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
19 assume that's it from the Park Service?

20
21 MS. CRAVER: Yes.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
24 there any questions, Council members.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don
27 Woodruff, I got a question.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
30 Don.

31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. In reading
33 this C&T determination and it's, I don't know, 10 pages
34 maybe, 16, I'm in agreement with the C&T determination,
35 I'm just wondering if it's only for moose or is it also
36 for the other species that they traditionally use in
37 documenting their history of use.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MS. CRAVER: Through the Chair. Don,
42 this is just for moose.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
47 other questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0060

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions or
2 comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
7 you very much for the Park Service. Next on the agenda
8 is what happened with Nome Creek.....

9
10 MS. CRAVER: Excuse me, Madame Chair.
11 This is an action item so could we have the Council
12 vote on whether or not to accept it.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I thought
15 she said it wasn't an action item. But.....

16
17 MS. CRAVER: Nope.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20
21 MS. CRAVER: Well, this particular
22 individual C&T we are requesting for the Council to
23 vote to whether or not they support the individual C&T.
24 The previous presentation on C&T was just general
25 background information but this is an action item.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So did
30 we not vote on this at our last meeting?

31
32 MS. CRAVER: Pardon?

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know I've
35 been to a lot of meetings and I thought we may have
36 voted on this at our last meeting, did we not?

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
41 this is an action item, Council members, and I
42 apologize.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll make a motion.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that you,
47 Don.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: And I'll second the motion.

50

0061

1 This is Bill Glanz, I'll second it.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair. I would
4 like to make a motion and then we'll entertain a
5 second. I would like to make the motion that we accept
6 this C&T and then we'll have some discussion about it
7 after the second.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Bill
12 seconded it already. Bill.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Yes, true, I seconded.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. So it's evident
19 -- to speak to this motion, that these folks have a
20 long history of use of all types of wildlife and
21 resources for their community as well as themselves and
22 so I would be voting in a positive way to support their
23 continued use of moose in 13E.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Other
26 discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear any
31 other discussion.

32

33 MR. GLANZ: I say the question gets
34 called, nobody's saying anything.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill
37 are you calling for the question.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Ma'am.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
42 question has been called for. All of those in favor of
43 this individual C&T for this family say -- I'm going to
44 say aye, and then ask is there any other -- first --
45 I'm really stumbling, sorry. I'm going to just ask for
46 unanimous consent. Does everybody understand.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0062

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
2 opposition to the motion.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no
7 opposition it passes unanimously.

8
9 Thank you, guys. And I apologize for
10 that Amy.

11
12 Okay. Next on the agenda is the Nome
13 Creek, and is someone going to give me a report on
14 that.

15
16 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
17 Tom, can I go ahead.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
20 ahead.

21
22 MR. KRON: I'll just start and I think
23 Jim Herriges, he was on this morning, hopefully he is
24 still on and he can join in when I've finished.

25
26 Nome Creek. It's on BLM lands. It's
27 within the Fairbanks non-subsistence area for the State
28 but, again, it's been -- it was closed under State
29 regulations when we first started fisheries issues two
30 decades ago, we adopted the State closure, and I'll
31 just followup. So, again, it's been closed to
32 subsistence, both State and Federal, but the State has
33 -- State Sportfish Division has been allowing catch and
34 release sportfishing and the Nome Creek area, there's a
35 road that goes right to it on BLM lands. There's a
36 campground there. But anyway it's been closed to
37 subsistence but it's been opened to catch and release
38 sportfishing. At your meeting, at the Eastern Interior
39 Council meeting last fall you voted to -- relative to
40 the closure review -- when we were looking at this
41 issue -- your Council voted to eliminate the catch and
42 release sportfishing because there was mortality, some
43 mortality associated with catch and release
44 sportfishing.

45
46 That recommendation went to the Federal
47 Board when it met January 26th through the 29th. And
48 at that Board meeting, and, again, as Sue mentioned,
49 she was on for the discussion there, but there was
50

0063

1 discussion around this particular closure review and it
2 was Closure Review 21-07. Around this issue the Board
3 talked with Fish and Game and also with BLM and there
4 was discussion about allowing a small hook and line
5 grayling fishery at Nome Creek. And after the
6 discussion, the Solicitor's Office, Ken Lord came in
7 and basically said that we shouldn't be making changes
8 on an issue like this outside of the normal regulatory
9 proposal process, and they suggested that the next
10 fisheries cycle, which, again, will be starting a year
11 from now, that the Council could choose to submit a
12 proposal at that time to make changes for this Nome
13 Creek issue. And the Board also added that if you
14 wanted to, you could submit a special action for the
15 next two summers to provide for subsistence opportunity
16 at Nome Creek.

17
18 Having said all of this, I'll just
19 reference another situation which is a little
20 different, but it's similar. Up on the Koyukuk, the
21 Jim River, again, like Nome Creek, was closed under
22 State regulations when the Federal process was started
23 two decades ago, the Federal Program essentially moved
24 over that closure. There's a sportfishery allowed at
25 Jim River and the closure review process happened and
26 that Council, the Western Interior Council recommended
27 that a small hook and line subsistence fishery be
28 allowed on Nome Creek [sic] essentially asserting that
29 we need to provide a priority for subsistence. The
30 Western Interior Council, after, you know, and Jack
31 Reakoff who was on your conference call earlier, he
32 looked at the issue and the pros and cons and my
33 understanding is essentially what the Western Interior
34 Council decided in that case was to essentially it's
35 been going on for two decades, leave it alone for the
36 next couple of summers and then the next proposal cycle
37 to submit a proposal to implement this change.

38
39 So, again, they didn't want to mess
40 around with special actions the next two summers but
41 instead just a year from now submit a fishery proposal
42 to allow subsistence fishing on the Jim River up there
43 that drains into the Koyukuk.

44
45 So anyway with that history, again,
46 it's your Council's call how you'd like to proceed. My
47 understanding is that there are going to be
48 radiotelemetry studies done on grayling in a
49 cooperative study between Fish and Game and BLM there
50

0064

1 at Nome Creek the next two years and, again, I don't
2 know -- I'm hoping Jim HERRIGES is online and he can
3 provide any additional comments. But, again, it's
4 totally up to this Council how you'd like to proceed on
5 this.

6

7

So, Jim, are you there?

8

9

10 MR. HERRIGES: I am, yes, this is Jim
11 HERRIGES with the Eastern Interior Field Office at BLM.
12 Madame Chair and Council members. Yeah, the main thing
13 I would add to what Tom just described, I guess, is
14 that BLM and Fish and Game had discussed following the
15 last Council meeting, you know, that subsistence
16 fishery in Nome Creek, assuming that harvest would
17 likely be pretty light could be sustainable there in
18 addition to a catch and release sportfishery and -- and
19 BLM and Fish and Game were already planning some
20 studies of Arctic grayling in Nome Creek and the rest
21 of Beaver Creek and that is planned to begin this
22 summer with the moving to distribution study using
23 radiotagged fish and that will continue for two years.
24 Then with an understanding of the seasonal movements
25 and (indiscernible) overwintering in some areas
26 mark/recapture study to estimate population could best
27 be designed and interpreted because grayling move quite
28 a bit in -- seasonally and probably from year to year
29 as well.

30

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So -- so taking this work together,
which would be completed in late 2023 then the
fisheries folks would better understand the fish
availability for both subsistence and sport harvest in
Nome Creek as well as Beaver Creek and -- and at that
time could make a fairly scientific, I guess, estimate
of -- of what is sustainable. And -- so we would be
best prepared to put together proposal in early 2024
but that is something that I think is -- is open for
the RAC to weigh in on basically. We also discussed
this at our next -- at the next -- at this time next
year during the regular fisheries cycle.

43

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

44

Anything.....

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. BURCH: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
ahead.

0065

1 MR. BURCH: Yes, this is Mark Burch with
2 the Department of Fish and Game. I just wanted to let
3 you know as well that we have our fisheries biologist
4 from Sportfish, Lisa Stube, on the line in case you
5 have any questions or need any additional information
6 from her.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
11 thank you, Mark. What is her name again, Lisa?

12
13 MR. BURCH: Lisa Stube. And Klaus
14 Wuttig is also on the line if necessary. Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
17 Did you have anything to add Lisa.

18
19 MS. STUBE: Madame Chair. No, other
20 than the proposal to try to get funding for the
21 radiotelemetry project has been submitted and we're
22 just waiting for final word. Like was mentioned, Jim
23 mentioned that right now our main objective is to
24 examine movements, look at seasonal movements, run
25 timing, distributions, both, you know, in the summer
26 and the spring and overwintering areas, and also -- and
27 then use the data, movement data to -- to best
28 construct a mark/recapture experiment which we plan to
29 conduct in 2023. And one of the things that we are
30 hoping to look for is to look at movement of Arctic
31 grayling between Beaver Creek and it's Nome Creek
32 tributary.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
35 Council members, do you have any questions of these
36 people.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a question, this
39 is Don.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
42 Don.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: So, Lisa, this 2023
45 mark/recapture study, will we have the data for the
46 Council in time for the 2024 fisheries proposals to
47 either review this or add to it or whatever comes up?

48
49 MS. STUBE: I would say that yes it's --
50

0066

1 it's going to be a straightforward mark/recapture and
2 I'll definitely try to have the data analyzed by late
3 2023.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6

7 MS. STUBE: And -- and plus, especially
8 when we can all meet in -- meet in person again. I
9 mean I hope to present some of the findings for
10 movement data, too, the radiotelemetry study to the
11 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council as well.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
14 other questions from Council members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's up
19 to the Council, do you want to wait for the next cycle
20 on this?

21

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Need your
26 input.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
29 Don.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Don, go
32 ahead.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Since the -- the way I
35 understand it, since the Board is sort of sending this
36 back to us for review, I think that with more data we
37 could possibly put a proposal in to support or
38 mortality concerns, or to maybe open it up for a very
39 limited period of time for subsistence catch.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so what
42 is the wishes of the Council.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
45 Robert.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
48 Robert.

49

50

0067

1 MR. WRIGHT: It's extremely hard to
2 make rules and regulations when people are not in the
3 room that are affected. So it's really tough, this one
4 for me. But I do agree with Don. People are in need
5 right now so having a little bit of opening there and
6 another way for people to get food is important for me,
7 that's why we sit on this Board, it's to support the
8 locals and make sure they eat first. So I agree with
9 Tom [sic] -- I mean I agree with what was said.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

16

17 MR. MCMANUS: I just want to say, you
18 know, the sportsfishing, you know, those people out
19 there that's getting the dollars for them guys going
20 out there to do that, you know, be able to sportsfish
21 and so they're pushing to keep it sportsfish, you know,
22 they want to make them dollars, they want to have the
23 income. You know, you always got somebody out there
24 that's not getting the nutritions that they need that's
25 supplying for them, you know, that's a no brainer. I'd
26 like to support on this one, is support for the
27 subsistence. I agree with Charlie, that's why we sit
28 on this Board making decisions and it is tough, you
29 know, when not everybody's at the table here but
30 they're asking for our support to help them feed their
31 families then I'm all for it.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36 Council members, I'm hearing what you're saying but I
37 want a clarification from Staff. So the next cycle for
38 fisheries would not take effect until 2024; is that
39 correct, if nothing was done now?

40

41 MR. KRON: Yeah, Sue, this is Tom. I
42 was unmuting my phone and I couldn't hear part of what
43 you said, but I think the question was relative to the
44 next fish cycle, could I explain a little bit?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

47

48 MR. KRON: Okay. The next fish cycle
49 would start a year from now. Again, we're taking

50

0068

1 wildlife proposals at this meeting. The next fish
2 cycle will start a year from now and essentially would
3 be for proposals for -- it would basically be for
4 proposals that would be implemented, if they were
5 adopted, in 2023. We just went through a fisheries
6 cycle, we're starting a wildlife cycle now, but the
7 next -- you know, any fish proposal, if you decide to
8 submit a Nome Creek fish proposal you could do that a
9 year from now, analysis would be developed over the
10 summer, then at the fall meeting a year and a half from
11 now you would review all of the fish proposals and then
12 the Board would meet again in January in essentially
13 two years to implement fish proposals that following
14 summer.

15

16 So that's the cycle we're in. We're
17 basically wildlife proposals one year, fish proposals
18 the next year. And, again, it's basically about a nine
19 month process from the time you submit a proposal until
20 it gets reviewed by the Federal Board.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair. I hope that
23 clears it up.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
26 wanted to know the year that if a proposal was made for
27 the next cycle it would take effect in '23, not '24,
28 correct?

29

30 MR. KRON: That is correct.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, someone
33 said '24 so that's what was sticking in my head. Okay.
34 So, Council, if I understand this correctly and you may
35 also, we have a choice of waiting for the next cycle to
36 put in a proposal or special action request; is that
37 correct Tom?

38

39 MR. KRON: That is correct. Again, as
40 noted Western Interior Council, their perspective was
41 that essentially the fishery had been -- the
42 subsistence fishery had been closed for two decades and
43 they didn't think it was worth messing around with
44 special actions just for the next two years, they
45 thought it would be better to wait and deal with things
46 through the proposal process.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

0069

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So now I need
2 the Council to decide what you want to do with this,
3 let it go to the cycle or do a special action.

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: In the meantime
6 sportfishing continues.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was that,
9 I didn't hear.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: I think we could make --
16 the Council could make a much more informed decision if
17 we had population data and harvest data, or mortality
18 data even from this sportfish.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Help me
21 to.....

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: It's hard for me to
24 understand to open up a fishery that's been closed for
25 two decades if we don't have population data to support
26 that or vice versa. If there's no fish then we could
27 actually just -- it could just remain closed.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand
30 what you're saying Don. So I guess our decision at
31 this meeting is do you want some more data right now?

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: No, I think it might be
34 best if we wait until after 2023, not this next fish
35 cycle, unless somebody just wants to put a proposal in,
36 I think that that would be worth reviewing, if it's
37 been closed for two decades I think I'd have to support
38 Western Interior and say let's leave it alone until we
39 can get a fish -- a sound fish proposal that would be
40 supported by both Councils.

41
42 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

45
46 MR. KRON: Yeah, I'll just jump in.
47 Again, Western Interior, their perspective relates to
48 the Jim River, which drains into the Koyukuk. So their
49 proposal that I mentioned is totally separate from the
50

0070

1 Nome Creek issue. But my understanding is that a year
2 from now they plan to submit a Jim River proposal to
3 allow a small subsistence fishery on the Jim River.

4
5 And to be in line with what they are
6 thinking, if you were to do this on Nome Creek,
7 essentially you would just hold off on doing anything
8 but plan to have a proposal ready to submit for Nome
9 Creek a year from now and, again, OSM Staff can work
10 with you to put that together and, again, it would be
11 coordinated obviously with BLM and the Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game as well.

13
14 But, again, essentially not do anything
15 at this meeting, not pursue the special action
16 approach, which the Board suggested you might consider,
17 but just hold off and do a proposal a year from now.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council, what
22 is your decision, what do you want to do? Did that
23 change your opinion, Don?

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
28 Robert.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: I was curious, they must
31 have done some kind of counts and looked in this river
32 before they opened some kind of sportfishing on there,
33 is that true, and don't they have some information
34 available that we could see that gave them the mind set
35 that that was good enough fish in there and everything
36 to open the sportsfishing?

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I guess
41 Fish and Game, is that one for you.

42
43 MS. STUBE: Yes, this is Lisa Stube,
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There was a study
45 done in the year 2000. This has been open to
46 sportfishing for a very long time. And it was closed
47 back in 1995, Nome Creek, specifically, to catch and
48 release after the Nome Creek Road was put in and
49 campgrounds were constructed. But the sportfish
50

0071

1 harvest limit is five fish in Beaver Creek which Nome
2 Creek is a tributary. So there was a mark/recapture
3 study on both Nome Creek and Beaver Creek in the year
4 2000, the -- you know, the conclusions on Beaver Creek
5 is -- is -- I don't have my data right -- right here at
6 hand, but Beaver Creek can easily support, you know, a
7 yearly harvest of a thousand fish and right now, I mean
8 just looking through the statewide harvest survey we
9 haven't even come close to that, I mean combining both
10 Beaver and Nome Creeks, we haven't even begin to become
11 even close to that. And, of course, Nome is closed to
12 harvest, it's just catch and release.

13

14 The mark/recapture study on Nome Creek
15 was a bit inclusive. There was some issues with
16 deploying transmitters and, because, you know, you're
17 -- you're supposed to have kind of a closed system and,
18 you know, generally Arctic grayling will go to summer
19 feeding areas and they'll stay there, kind of stay
20 put, and -- but there was a lot of movement between
21 Nome Creek and Beaver Creek so results incurred a huge
22 standard error. So that's the one thing that we're
23 hoping to do with this telemetry study is to look at
24 summer movements and be able to time a -- a
25 mark/recapture specific to -- to Nome Creek. And right
26 now we're also planning to -- to repeat for Beaver
27 Creek as well. We'll see, we have to wait -- wait and
28 see what -- what we find out with the radiotelemetry
29 study over the next two summers.

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
41 ahead, I thought you had something.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I think I'm all
44 for waiting and -- and wait and see and not do a
45 special action. And I think that's what I've sort of
46 been hearing from the Council. My experience with
47 fishing for grayling on these small side creeks is that
48 the water temperature on the lower part of the river,
49 which would probably be where a good part of the

50

0072

1 grayling spend their time and until the water
2 temperature gets to a certain degree and then they haul
3 ass way up to the -- sorry for my French there -- to
4 the upper river where the water temperature is much
5 cooler, so that would put big populations of fish in
6 Nome Creek during the summer.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

11

12 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie. I
13 think I would be for waiting on this one. It seems like
14 there wouldn't be a lot of use on Nome Creek other than
15 for maybe people of Central, so maybe Bill would know
16 if the folks there go and fish but it doesn't seem like
17 it would really affect that many people.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, this is Bill.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Bill.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: For me to go to Nome Creek,
24 I'd have to drive by six or eight streams that I could
25 keep all the fish I catch so that's why I don't go back
26 in there, plus it's a long way back in there if you got
27 a camper or something. It really doesn't have that
28 much use from what I see by going by Fiftyseven Mile
29 where the entrance is at on that pipeline -- the old
30 pipeline road. I don't even know if it affects anybody
31 other than campers, because nobody that I know go all
32 the way over there to go fishing when you can go to
33 Birch Creek and catch all you want. Any creek around
34 here has fish (indiscernible) goes out into the weeds
35 and drains out towards Medicine Lake.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted - vehicle chiming)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
41 finished, Bill.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Say what now, yes, I'm
44 finished. I'm sorry, I thought I said that's all I got
45 for now.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
48 There was some beeping going on, like someone was
49 starting a car.

50

0073

1 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I heard that. Yeah,
2 I heard that, but it wasn't me.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, good.
5 Anyone else.

6
7 MR. GLANZ: Back again, Madame Chair.
8 I'm for like what Don said, let's get all our facts
9 together before we start doing anything.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, Madame
14 Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Robert.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: I agree. I agree with the
19 guys on the Board here.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Robert. Anyone else.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone
27 disagree.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll give you
32 a second chance, does anyone disagree.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
37 believe that we will get more information and wait for
38 the fisheries cycle. Thank you everyone for the
39 discussion.

40
41 All right. I see it's three minutes to
42 12:00, do we want to break or do you just want to work
43 through lunch.

44
45 MR. GLANZ: Well, we're all home so I
46 guess it don't matter much, we can get a sandwich right
47 from the refrigerator so.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know,

50

0074

1 that's how I feel. Is that -- everyone else, anyone
2 not okay with that.

3

4 MR. JAGOW: This is Charlie. I say we
5 just go through lunch.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, Madame
8 Chair. If we could take a small bathroom break I'd be
9 happy with that like 10 minutes or so.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: I'll go with you on that
14 Robert.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
17 going to take a 10 minute break, we'll be back at
18 12:10, 13 minutes, so grab yourself a sandwich and be
19 back at 12:10.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now, Council
28 members, I'm assuming you're all back.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll get Tom
34 called back in here and in the meantime I am going to
35 make sure you're all online here.

36

37 Linda Evans on still.

38

39 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'm here.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
42 Linda. And welcome to this -- our RAC, and looking
43 very much forward to meet you.

44

45 MS. EVANS: Yeah, thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
48 welcome.

49

50

0075

1 Bill Glanz, are you on.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I bet you're
6 still there, Bill, you're probably making your
7 sandwich.

8

9 Robert Wright are you on.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. KRON: Yeah, Sue.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

16

17 MR. KRON: Yeah, this is Tom Kron
18 again. I just called in on my other phone so I'm good
19 to go. They just said we've got 39 people on the
20 conference line so I think, again, if you want -- I can
21 go through a roll call and just see who's on from the
22 Council.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I started
25 that and Bill wasn't on, Robert wasn't on, Linda's on
26 and myself, Charlie Jagow, are you on.

27

28 MR. JAGOW: I'm here.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm here.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Timothy.

35

36 MR. MCMANUS: I'm here.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
39 Robert -- Robert Wright, are you back on.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't have
44 Robert right now.

45

46 Bill Glanz, are you back on.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0076

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So at this
2 time I'm not hearing Bill or Robert. I still have
3 five, do you want me to continue?
4

5 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. You've got a
6 quorum. Hopefully they will call back in. I can work
7 on trying to contact them but, again, we were just
8 taking a 10 minute break and it's been more than 10
9 minutes so it's your call, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Yeah,
12 Robert wanted to take off and he might have had
13 something going. This is tough -- this is tough for me
14 right now, I'm looking outside and it's the most
15 beautiful day that I've had in two weeks, man, would I
16 love to be out there.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
19 Pippa Kenner.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, yes.

22

23 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I just wanted to let
24 Tom know and others that the next thing on your agenda
25 is the call for proposals and it's really just
26 informational so if we did want to get going it -- it's
27 -- most of it's informational.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I am
30 aware but it is a call for proposals and I don't want
31 to go on without those two being aware that we're on
32 the call for proposals after you introduce it. So you
33 can go ahead if you are the presenter. We got five of
34 us online.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: I'm online, Madame Chair.
37 This is Bill.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Bill's
40 back. And.....

41

42 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Ma'am.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:how
45 about Robert.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm

50

0077

1 going to check in on Robert from time to time but who
2 is introducing the call for wildlife proposals.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
5 Pippa Kenner. I'm ready to present.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, go
8 ahead. We have six now, one more, then for Robert.

9

10 MS. KENNER: Okay. Well, my name is
11 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
12 Subsistence Management, and, hello, Madame Chair and
13 Council members. I want you to know how much we
14 appreciate you participating in these teleconferences
15 rather than meeting in person. And also I just wanted
16 to say I was very saddened by the news of Andrew
17 Firmin.

18

19 So the materials for this presentation
20 begin on Page 16 of your Council books.

21

22 And we want to tell you that the call
23 for proposals is now open to change Federal subsistence
24 wildlife regulations. You may propose changes to
25 season dates, harvest limits, method and means of
26 harvest and customary and traditional use
27 determinations. Now, for the public the call for
28 proposals will close on May 24th and proposals must be
29 submitted on or before May 24th. There is no form to
30 submit -- you don't need a form to submit your
31 proposal, nor do we have one, but proposals can be
32 submitted in writing, by mail, or hand delivery to OSM,
33 and you can also submit a proposal on the web. Because
34 this Council is meeting in teleconference we cannot
35 accept proposals from the public at this meeting, but
36 any member of the public wishing to submit a proposal
37 or needing more information, please call me at the
38 Office of Subsistence Management. My number is 907-
39 786-3883. That's 786-3883. And I'll be happy to
40 discuss your proposal with you and help you submit it.

41

42 Now, for the Council, this meeting is
43 your opportunity to submit proposals.

44

45 Submitting a proposal is an action item
46 on your agenda if the Council wishes to submit a
47 proposal. And, of course, any individual Council
48 member is welcome to submit a proposal before the
49 deadline of May 24th.

50

0078

1 And, of course, at your fall meeting
2 all the proposals submitted that affect your area are
3 going to come back to you for you to make
4 recommendations to the Board.

5

6 So, thank you, Madame Chair and Council
7 members. Staff are on hand to answer your questions.
8 And I'd also like to point out that wildlife status
9 updates from ADF&G and Federal Staff are ready if you
10 request them.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
13 you.

14

15 MS. KENNER: That's the end of my
16 presentation. Yes, you're welcome.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
19 members. All of us have been through this, call for
20 proposals. This is a call for the wildlife proposals
21 and I would be -- first of all, do you have any
22 questions of Pippa.

23

24 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair, Tim
25 McManus.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim, go
28 ahead.

29

30 MR. MCMANUS: Hello, Pippa, how are
31 you.

32

33 MS. KENNER: I'm fine, thank you.

34

35 MR. MCMANUS: Well, it's good to hear
36 from you. You said the deadline for proposals is May
37 24th?

38

39 MS. KENNER: Yes.

40

41 MR. MCMANUS: Okay. And that's for the
42 game -- is that game or fish proposals, or both?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Game.

45

46 MS. KENNER: I think -- yeah, wildlife.

47

48 MR. MCMANUS: Okay. Because I keep
49 getting -- everybody keeps breaking up on my phone, I

50

0079

1 don't know if it's just my phone but I keep getting --
2 not hearing all the words.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Tim, this is Pippa Kenner
5 for the record. That's a good reminder to all the
6 presenters to speak slowly and clearly.

7

8 MR. MCMANUS: Okay. And can I get your
9 number again, I couldn't get that.

10

11 MS. KENNER: Yes. Yeah, I'd love to
12 give you my number. It's 907-786-3883.

13

14 MR. MCMANUS: Okay, thank you.

15

16 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

19

20 MR. MCMANUS: That was all, Madame
21 Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did
24 someone say they had any questions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
29 This is the call for proposals. Do any Council members
30 have any proposals, wildlife proposals they'd like to
31 bring forth.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
36 call for wildlife proposals.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is our
41 chance as a Council to bring up any wildlife proposals.

42

43 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
44 Burch.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Mark, go
47 ahead.

48

49 MR. BURCH: Yes. Jeffrey Gross did

50

0080

1 provide -- the area biologist did provide me with some
2 information about the Fortymile Caribou Herd since your
3 last meeting, if you'd like to hear that as far as
4 background information for any potential proposals.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 It's up to you though.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I think
14 that would be great. I'd like to hear it.

15

16 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. This is Bill
17 Glanz. I'd love to hear what he's got to say from the
18 Fortymile Herd.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: And this is Robert, I'd
21 like to speak after.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Robert.

24

25 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
26 have just a little bit of information here and of
27 course I'd be happy to entertain questions as I can
28 after that, and if I'm not able to get answers then I
29 can go find answers, probably talk to Jeff.

30

31 The only new information about the
32 Fortymile Herd since last fall's Eastern Interior
33 Regional Advisory Council meeting is that on Saturday,
34 February 24th, 2021, the bag limit for the ongoing
35 Fortymile Caribou Herd hunt RC867 was increased from
36 two to three caribou of either sex. This action will
37 provide additional late season hunting opportunity,
38 puts more caribou in Alaska's freezers and helps make
39 further progress toward meeting the 2020/2021 harvest
40 objective for the herd.

41

42 Harvest has been steady this winter but
43 with the larger harvest quota and multiple bag limit
44 this year we anticipate the season will stay open for
45 the remainder of the winter season. This should
46 provide hunters with excellent hunting opport --
47 harvest opportunity as temperatures increase and
48 daylight lengthens. The season is scheduled to remain
49 open through March 31st. This action was done

50

0081

1 primarily to provide some additional late winter
2 hunting opportunity and help make progress toward
3 meeting the 2020/2021 harvest objectives for the herd.
4 Harvest was steady this winter but there's a
5 significant amount of winter harvest quota remaining
6 going into the last month of the season and we do not
7 anticipate that the harvest quota will be met by the
8 scheduled season closure of March 31st, 2021. This
9 action should provide additional harvest opportunity as
10 temperatures increase and the days get longer, of
11 course.

12
13 A few scattered caribou remain in the
14 vicinity of the Steese and Taylor Highways but not
15 enough to result in a significant harvest or hunter
16 crowding.

17
18 The winter Fortymile Caribou Herd hunt
19 quota is 5,000 animals. The harvest to date is 1,367,
20 including 624 bulls and 743 cows. That's 46 percent
21 bulls and 54 percent cows.

22
23 So that's the information that Jeff
24 provided. As I said, I'd be happy to answer questions
25 or at least listen and pass along any information that
26 you might have for Jeff or questions.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
31 Mark. Any questions.

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don. I have a
34 question for Mark.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
37 Don.

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Mark, last
40 meeting our Council voted unanimously to send a letter
41 to the Commissioner, I'm reading from it, about the
42 increased harvest and the effects of increased hunting
43 pressure, and I don't know the status of that letter to
44 the Commissioner, has he responded. As a member of the
45 Harvest Coalition we put a lot of tools in the toolbox
46 for the managers and the biologists, and reduction of
47 the herd was one of those because of a food crises for
48 them. Do you know where we stand with that and what
49 about the population counts. We haven't heard any
50

0082

1 population counts for quite some time.

2

3 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I don't know if there
4 was a response to that question. I would hope that
5 perhaps somebody from OSM could chime in here as well
6 if they have heard a response from the Department on
7 that letter. I -- I just don't recall.

8

9 As far as the numbers going up -- or
10 the population of the Fortymile, I don't have those
11 numbers either and I'm pretty sure there was not a
12 census completed last summer, I don't recall for sure
13 though, I do know that Jeff has given you the most
14 recent information that we have, and with your
15 involvement with that group you've probably heard. And
16 I know you're well aware of the stress that the
17 population is starting to show as far as -- that would
18 lead to the concern about the population overall being
19 -- being on the high side.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mark. One
22 followup statement.

23

24 Bill was referring to the Region 3
25 supervisor that came to the last Harvest Coalition
26 meeting and he spoke about the Commissioner and the
27 Governor's concerns about the Fortymile Herd crashing
28 because of food stress and the Commissioner and the
29 Governor, for some reason, decided that that wasn't an
30 option, to have the caribou crash and that herd
31 reduction was the preferred method, because I think
32 back in -- well, back in history the herd declined to
33 about 7,000 so we don't want that to happen.

34

35 Okay, thank you.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz.

38

39 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, this is
40 Jim Herriges. I can provide a little.....

41

42 MR. GLANZ: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. HERRIGES:bit of update on
45 numbers. Mark was correct, there hasn't been any
46 recent population counts of the Fortymile Herd. The
47 most recent photo census was in 2017 when they counted
48 something like 71,000 caribou and from that, estimated
49 that there was 84,000 in the herd. Since then Fish and
50

50

0083

1 Game has just been doing modeling using things like
2 calving rates and -- and calf/cow ratios and
3 mortalities from radiotelemetry studies plugging those
4 in a model and coming up with estimates of the herd and
5 last summer those models were showing potentially 30
6 percent decline, approximately, from that 84,000
7 animals and those -- that's a -- that is a -- just an
8 estimate and it's hard to know for sure. I'm not sure
9 what the confidence intervals are on that, but they're
10 probably pretty wide, you know, plus or minus, probably
11 plus or minus more than 10,000 caribou. So -- but
12 there was indications that a significant decline had
13 occurred since 2017, so in those three years. And so
14 the strategy, even the indication of the continued
15 nutritional condition, low indices of nutritional
16 condition an apparent decline in the population was to
17 achieve a significant harvest to try to reduce the
18 population to a sustainable level more rapidly, I
19 guess, would be the -- a brief summary of that. And,
20 yeah, Jeff, could speak more directly and get into more
21 details on that, but that was the line of reasoning by
22 Fish and Game and, yeah, we have two members on the --
23 that were on the -- on the harvest management coalition
24 so they could talk, I guess, about whether or not that
25 action is -- is basically in line with that harvest
26 management plan.

27
28 But that's just a quick summary on the
29 -- on the status -- the herd -- the status of the herd
30 and I believe those were basically the numbers that
31 Jeff shared last fall.

32
33 MR. GLANZ: Okay, this is Bill.....

34
35 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

36
37 MR. GLANZ:Glanz, I've got a few
38 questions.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead with
41 your questions, Bill.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Last spring did
44 they do any calf weights and cow weights to see what
45 the nutrition was doing. And the simple part of all
46 this is we were finally starting to get caribou in Fort
47 Yukon, Stevens Village and all in between and that was
48 my justification for you're just trying to keep it from
49 going to one of these kind of deals because the caribou
50

0084

1 have been stuck in our area here, which we had 6.4
2 million acres burned or something, that ridiculous
3 figure, and they're still going over these black hills
4 looking for brows and so forth, once we start getting
5 them out of here I think it'll stabilize itself. Like
6 I say, this area stabilized, what, 100, 200,000 years
7 ago and I just think everything's a little too quick.
8 A little too quick on the draw because of the
9 Governor's pressing on and so forth and so on.

10

11 And I worked in jobs with a lot of
12 political stuff like Mayors and Governors, and they
13 lean on you and I understand that -- but anyway, I feel
14 it was still ridiculous starting it this hard and this
15 early and, oh, we don't know yet, and we don't hear
16 that, and we don't, you know, we're hearing a lot of I
17 don't know and not a who's that. So anyway that's my
18 feelings totally. But then, again, I'm passionate
19 about the caribou, we were on that since '95, on that
20 Board, most of us on this Board, and nobody called us,
21 not a sole talked to us about we're going to -- because
22 I go into -- when they were giving permits, they said,
23 hey, did you hear they're going to get two; two what,
24 two caribou, it's a big secret, and I said, that's
25 weird because they never called Don, me or anybody to
26 even let us know what's going on and then the villages
27 are calling us at our house complaining because we were
28 just starting to get them, what are you guys doing, so
29 I mean it's more than just the Central area, it's Fort
30 Yukon, it's the whole 25 area.

31

32 But, anyway, that's my speech.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thanks,
35 Bill.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

38

39 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark.
40 I might describe the rationale as I understand it if
41 you'd like.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You could
44 try.

45

46 MR. BURCH: Yeah. Well, I think -- I
47 know everybody on this group is well informed and that
48 the Fortymile Herd is an important herd and has been
49 for a long time, that's why it's our priority to keep
50

0085

1 it within bounds so that it doesn't crash and then, of
2 course, not be available for anyone to harvest. And
3 while we appreciate the -- the things that tend to
4 happen is the population gets bigger, caribou
5 populations tend to move further and become available
6 to more people which is generally a good thing but at
7 the same time they do that because they're looking for
8 food and they become more stressed and we start to see
9 more signs of stress in our information that we gather
10 on all those kind of things like calf weights, and
11 calving rates and those kind of indices and that's
12 what's raised the concern that nobody really wants that
13 herd to crash and that would be the possible outcome of
14 not taking dramatic action to reduce the numbers at
15 this time.

16

17 So as I say, I don't expect that to be
18 all new information for anybody but I just wanted to
19 kind of lay that out, at least, the rationale.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
24 other questions. I just want the Council to know that
25 I'm pretty much in step with what Bill was saying.
26 When you look at the history of caribou and you think
27 about the feast and famine all the time it just feels
28 like we're -- what an upswing but -- at any rate,
29 Council members this was information and we're on call
30 for proposals. I would ask if -- first of all, Robert,
31 you had something before we continue. You wanted to be
32 next.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to
37 unmute your phone.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert, you
42 just butt in. If you're hearing me, just butt in
43 whenever you want to talk because we were on this
44 Fortymile Caribou and you had said, I'm next.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
49 ahead, Robert.

50

0086

1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 You're calling for proposals?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

5
6 MR. WRIGHT: And I keep bringing up the
7 fact that we're getting into moose scarcity along the
8 Yukon River in the Interior. They don't have a -- they
9 haven't had a good moose count in a long time and I
10 don't see how they can manage sustainably into the
11 future without doing that and keep letting people hunt
12 steady and full blast on the moose. I would really
13 like to see a new moose count because of that and
14 because of the hardship we're having with the salmon
15 right now, it's becoming very important for the people
16 along the river to have moose and have it managed well.

17
18 So we're seeing things change.

19
20 The moose are not going into rut. The
21 last couple years I was really lucky to get a moose on
22 the last day of the season for both years. The moose
23 are just not calling. I had to go all the way to the
24 Nowitna Wildlife Refuge the last two years to get a
25 moose because I could not find one in the Rampart area
26 and in the Interior along the river between the bridge
27 and Tanana. It's a tough place to hunt but there's
28 always been good moose in those areas and they're
29 disappearing.

30
31 So -- and I'm also seeing small calves
32 in the winter, last winter, in March, the moose were
33 really tiny, calves, we thought they were deer or goats
34 or something along the cat trail, but here -- we seen a
35 small herd of moose in the deep snow bunched up
36 together and they were huddling around a couple small
37 calves that were small as a big dog, real small. So I
38 asked some questions last year and I didn't -- I was
39 told that that's not true but I seen it with my own
40 eyes so things need to be looked at. We are having
41 trouble finding food so I think we need to find some
42 kind of way to get a better moose count and start to
43 think sustainably into the future.

44
45 And the caribou hunt, they get stressed
46 a little bit when they're looking for food but they
47 need to get stressed to know when to go look for food
48 and new area to live in. And we have all these motor
49 vehicles running all over the ground that we want to
50

0087

1 get better, hunting them and killing them all, that
2 don't seem like it's helping the ground come back, the
3 food come back, to me. It seems like it's wiping the
4 area out even more letting the vehicles ride everywhere
5 on the ground out there.

6
7 These are just my thoughts. I think
8 that we need to propose a better moose count in the
9 future.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, okay.
14 But were you asking to write a proposal on moose
15 seasons in your area?

16
17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is for
21 you Robert.

22
23 MR. WRIGHT: I didn't hear you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
26 sorry. Yeah, Robert, I was asking, were you asking to
27 write a proposal for moose, a season?

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Yes. Yes, Ma'am, I was
30 asking maybe that our Board could write something to
31 the -- in the effect that we should do a more in-depth
32 moose count in the Interior in the places that are not
33 known hot spots because from what I know, the biologist
34 tend to take most of their counting time and spend it
35 on the hot spots and not really pay attention to the
36 rest of the areas as good as they do those hot spots.
37 So I was just concerned about the future sustainability
38 if we let the hunt stay the same and there's no counts
39 being done, how can we manage properly; that's my idea.

40
41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
45 explain -- draft a letter to agencies to do more work
46 on that and this call for proposals is wildlife
47 proposals where you would change a season and bag limit
48 and I was wondering if you had a particular proposal
49 that you wanted to change a season or bag limit in your
50

0088

1 area?

2

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MR. WRIGHT: I don't as of right now but I will tomorrow.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, isn't that the way it goes. Well, Robert, if you do have a proposal tomorrow I would call Staff and have them write it up and you would be putting it in and that way it doesn't fall through the cracks and it would come up at our next meeting.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. A lot of times at the meeting, you think you've covered it and then you think of something after the meeting's over and this is a chance that you could write an individual proposal. But I'm really wondering if the Council, anyone on our Council right now, any proposals they would like to put forward for wildlife?

MR. KRON: Sue.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MR. KRON: Yeah, this is Tom. And I'll just followup on what you just mentioned. We have a lot of people from Fish and Game and the Refuges listening right now but do you want to draft a letter to the State and Federal agency Staff, the Refuges, Alaska Department of Fish and Game requesting more focus on moose surveys. Is that something you'd like to do?

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I absolutely heard that from Robert, yes.

MR. KRON: Got it. Again, well, we can -- I'll work with Staff to draft something up and we'll get it to you but it would probably be good to clarify that more people on the Council, besides you and me and Robert think that that's a good idea.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're getting some feedback, are you mute on your.....

MR. KRON: Yes.

0089

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Yes,
2 Robert, would you like to put that in a motion.

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: I would love to put a
5 motion in. I propose we write a letter to OSM
6 proposing a better moose count in the Interior and
7 maybe in all areas, just for better management into the
8 future since we're having such hard times with our
9 salmon. I think it's very important that we take care
10 of our moose populations and keep them healthy into the
11 future.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)

17
18 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that if that's
19 a motion he put in because I'd love to have that happen
20 also. This is Bill.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: That was a motion.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: Okay, and I second it then.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Bill
29 seconded it so now do we need more discussion?

30
31 MR. KRON: No, Madame Chair, I think
32 this covers it but essentially I'll work with you then
33 to draft a letter and essentially it will be to Fish
34 and Game and the Refuges along the Yukon, to put a
35 higher priority on getting moose counts.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
40 believe that clarifies it well.

41
42 REPORTER: Okay, sorry, I need to
43 interrupt. Somebody's Teams is not muted and their
44 line is open and so we got to figure this out because
45 we can barely understand any of you guys.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, I think
48 it's yours because I'm muted, and when you speak you're
49 not muted.

50

0090

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, I'm muted here. I've
2 got my sound off.

3
4 REPORTER: It's much better now.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
7 right, I believe that clarifies, is there any other
8 discussion on this motion.

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Question.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
13 question's been called for, I'm going to ask for
14 unanimous consent, and is there any opposition to
15 unanimous consent.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
20 the motion passes unanimously.

21
22 MR. GLANZ: Outstanding.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, thank
25 you, Robert, and thanks for the clarification.

26
27 Okay. So now on the agenda we're on
28 the call for wildlife proposals and it's great when
29 other things come up like this and we deal with it,
30 does anyone have a wildlife proposal they would like to
31 put in. This would be Federal wildlife proposals.

32
33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear
37 any but if you think of one before the end of the
38 meeting we're open to hear about it.

39
40 So now the wildlife status update from
41 ADF&G, did we cover all of that or is there more?

42
43 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, this was
44 just at your request and I think Mark entered in with
45 comments so if you would like more this is your
46 opportunity to ask for it otherwise we can move on with
47 the agenda.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I

50

0091

1 really like whenever we bring up subjects that are near
2 and dear to us as Robert did so I appreciate that.
3 Does anyone want to hear any more updates from the
4 Staff, Fish and Game and Federal Staff.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

9 Next on the agenda is the Council charter review.

10

11 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, again,
12 this is Tom Kron. Basically now is your chance if you
13 want to make changes to the Council charter. All of
14 the 10 Councils across the state are doing this.

15

16 One of the things that I've recommended
17 for all 10 Councils to consider is the rollover issue
18 that Jack mentioned this morning. With appointments
19 not being made in timely fashion, historically
20 appointments to Councils were made in the first week of
21 December but we've had a couple years now when they've
22 been made very late or as Jack mentioned, for three of
23 our Councils this year there were no appointments made
24 at all, and what we're recommending is that all of the
25 10 Councils include this rollover provision which
26 allows Council members to continue to serve until an
27 appointment is made for their seat.

28

29 I think as you know, Madame Chair,
30 there were concerns about representation for the Board
31 meeting in January because we didn't have appointments
32 -- we didn't get appointments until the 15th of January
33 so we did get them, at least, in January this year,
34 but, again, that would be the one issue and if there
35 are others that you or your Council want to consider
36 -- but, again, this is an action item and we're
37 definitely requesting that you look at this issue.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were we
42 presented in one of those multiple emails that we got,
43 the charter review?

44

45 MR. KRON: The charter is in your book
46 and I was just looking it is starting on Page 61, so
47 that's your existing charter. And let me talk a little
48 bit about this rollover provision.

49

50

0092

1 My understanding from Dr. Cellarius is
2 that historically that the SRCs across Alaska, they've
3 had the rollover provision in the charters. This is
4 something that wasn't in the charters for the Councils
5 but was in the charters for the SRC. My understanding
6 now is that they've rolled that into a Park Service
7 regulation so it's no longer in the charters for the
8 SRCs but they still have it within Park Service
9 regulations. We do not have that in our charters or in
10 Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, and our
11 recommendation is you consider requesting that this be
12 added to your charter.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
17 Council members, questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or ideas.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don. I
24 have an idea. On Page 64 on Item 12, it's membership
25 and designation.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can, go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: You're coming across loud
31 and clear Don.

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Council
34 membership is composed of representatives of the
35 following, 10 members. Next paragraph, to ensure
36 Council members represent diversity of interest, and
37 then we have to be approved by the Secretary. And I
38 think that right in the area of approval by the
39 Secretary of the Interior, concurrence with the
40 Secretary of Agriculture would be a place that we could
41 put our preference for the rollover process.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
44 guess unless we need to say explicitly where it
45 goes.....

46
47 MR. KRON: Yeah, and, Madame Chair, and
48 I guess I'll refer to Katya, if she's got a preference,
49 but I believe all of the Councils so far that have met
50

0093

1 have included -- have wanted to include this in their
2 charters but I'll just ask Katya if she has a
3 recommendation as to where it should go in the charter
4 or if we just deal with that at a later date. Do we
5 need to determine now where it should go or just
6 whether or not it should be implemented.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
9 Katya Wessels.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Madame Chair,
15 members of the Council. So because of the delays in
16 the Council appointments that we experienced in the
17 last few years that you might want to consider this
18 provision that is actually called rollover, carryover,
19 I'm sorry. I said rollover, carryover. And that
20 allows members to serve after the expiration of his or
21 her term until a successor is appointed.

22

23 So this is called carryover term that
24 will come in play if the appointment letters are late.
25 Rather than the members term expiring and the Council
26 having an empty seat on the Council that member could
27 continue to serve until an appointment letter comes in.

28

29 And the only thing that needs to be
30 done during this charter review, if you want this
31 language added then you need to vote on adding this
32 language. It's going to be up to the Secretary of
33 Interior and DOI [sic] where they're going to put this
34 language, if it is approved by the Board. Your
35 recommendation to insert this language is going to go
36 to the Federal Subsistence Board, they're going to
37 discuss it during their meeting August of this year,
38 and then they will forward their recommendation to the
39 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and that
40 will be completely up to the Secretaries and DOI where
41 they insert the language if they decide to approve it.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, yeah,
46 that is kind of what I was getting at. I don't think
47 it will matter, just if we would agree with that, does
48 that help, Donald?

49

50

0094

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I just unmuted my phone.
2 Yes, that does help and I think that this is a sound
3 process because it's very stressful as a member to get
4 the letter at the last second and then not have the
5 Council material available to us, that happened to me
6 once. Okay. So I think that the carryover process is
7 pretty important to all the Council members and I would
8 just suggest that we do a unanimous vote on that.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11
12 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, you need a
13 motion first.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
16 totally understand that. So do I hear that as a
17 motion, Don.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I understand that.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's
22 your motion.

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: My motion is to proceed
25 with a carryover position for existing Council members.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a
28 second.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: That sounds good, Don, I'll
31 be happy to second that one also to get this cleaned
32 up.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
35 anyone have any questions how this works.

36
37 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
40 ahead.

41
42 MR. MCMANUS: Hello.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Hello.

45
46 MR. MCMANUS: I could kind of hear you
47 guys but I guess you're not hearing me too well. This
48 is Tim McManus.

49
50

0095

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Tim, we hear you fine.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard you.

4

5 MR. MCMANUS: All right. I keep
6 breaking up, something's going on. All right. I said
7 a couple things but nobody answered back so I just
8 wondered if it's me.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can you
11 hear you good now.

12

13 MR. MCMANUS: Okay. I was trying to
14 second a couple of those but nobody heard me so, we're
15 good.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
18 sorry. Okay. Yeah, this is the great part about
19 teleconferencing. But we'll take your second anyway.
20 I want to know does anyone else have any discussion.

21

22 REPORTER: Who made the motion?

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Don Woodruff.

25

26 REPORTER: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
29 discussion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will just
34 pipe in here just a little bit because I've been on the
35 Subsistence Resource Commission for I don't know how
36 long now. And that is the process and, you know,
37 sometimes the only problem that might arise, which
38 isn't anything to worry about for us, you're on until
39 you're not reappointed is how it works. So, you know,
40 it could go a couple years even, it had for some of the
41 stuff when they don't reappoint people so it's -- it
42 will keep the Councils from the problem that they came
43 into this last go -- the last two gos, it was.

44

45 Any other discussion.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

50

0096

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill
2 has called for the question and I'm going to, again,
3 ask for unanimous consent, is there anyone opposed to
4 the motion.

5
6 (No opposing votes)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
9 none, it passes unanimously for the carryover to add to
10 our charter.

11
12 All right, that was the charter review,
13 is there anything else anyone wants to bring up on the
14 charter.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, we
19 will be moving along. The next thing is our annual
20 report. And FYI, I believe, you're going to take that
21 up, Tom, but I have something to add when Tom's done.
22 So you'll be introducing this Tom.

23
24 MR. KRON: Yeah, I'm looking through
25 the book right now. Basically your draft annual report
26 starts on Page 19 and, Sue, I saw from the email that
27 you had proposed adding another very well worded item,
28 but, again, Page 19 in your books is the draft. And,
29 again, this is your meeting to consider if you'd like
30 to change something that's in the draft or add
31 something, and, again, Madame Chair, I just read what
32 you proposed adding.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I want
37 to know if any of the Council members are by their --
38 able to get my email where I sent it to you, what I
39 wanted to add.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
44 read that if that's okay with the Council, into the
45 record.

46
47 MR. GLANZ: Go right ahead.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is
50

0097

1 decline in the Copper River salmon. I confess I had
2 some help with this from AITRC and people that are well
3 in the knowledge of all the numbers here.

4
5 The 2021 preseason estimates indicate
6 that sockeye and chinook will be below the most recent
7 10 year average by 37.4 percent and 22.4 percent
8 respectively. For the chinook this recent 10 year
9 average already represents a steep decline from
10 previous decades. The 10 year average for the 1998 to
11 2017 period was 86,684 compared with only 47,386 for
12 the 2010/2019 period. This was from Flanke 2019.3.
13 While sockeye runs were generally strong during the
14 early 2010, again, quoting both Cotz and Somerville,
15 2017.29, they have been markedly smaller since 2017 and
16 alarmingly low during 2018 and 2020. The estimated
17 total run size for /18 -- 2018 that is is 8-thousand
18 117 -- 121, while preliminary estimates for 2020 put
19 the number to 602,000 making these among the lowest
20 return since at least the early 1980s. These declines
21 indicate an urgent need for more research and better
22 understanding of the Copper River salmon fishery in
23 order to inform management of these crucial subsistence
24 resources. The Office of Subsistence Management should
25 prioritize funding research into the Copper River.

26
27 Okay. That is one topic that we would
28 add and I would ask the Council to consider that to add
29 to the report.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: This is Robert, Madame
34 Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
37 ahead, Robert.

38
39 MR. WRIGHT: I'm all for adding that to
40 the agenda.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

43
44 MR. WRIGHT: Do I have to make a
45 motion.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, why
48 not.

49
50

0098

1 MR. WRIGHT: I make a motion that we
2 add your letter to the agenda.

3
4 MR. MCMANUS: Second by Tim McManus.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion by
7 Robert and seconded by Tim. Thank you both.

8
9 Is there any other discussion on this.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
14 that we heard a lot from our area.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
19 getting feedback and I'm not sure why, and I don't
20 think it's me. Do we need any other discussion on
21 this.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28 Question's been called for, I'm going to ask for
29 unanimous consent to add it to the annual report. Is
30 there any objection.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
35 it passes unanimous. In looking at the annual report,
36 is there any changes or additions -- other additions.

37
38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Assuming you
42 all have seen it.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
47 other additions or corrections.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0099

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I hear
2 no more additions or corrections so I believe we need a
3 motion to accept the annual report with the addition.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion to accept
6 the annual report. Bill Glanz.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A motion by
9 Bill.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I'll
12 second.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Don
15 seconds. Any other discussion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
20 none I'm going to ask for unanimous consent on the
21 motion to accept the annual report. Is there any
22 opposition.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
27 the motion passes unanimous.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
34 next is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring.....

35

36 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Program.
39 Who is -- yes, go ahead.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Okay, good morning --
42 excuse me, good afternoon, Madame Chair, members of the
43 Council. For the record, again, my name is Pippa
44 Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
45 Subsistence Management.

46

47 I'm here today to update the Council on
48 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the
49 funding opportunity that closes on March 15th. This is
50

0100

1 not an action item for the Council, I'm merely updating
2 you on where we are in the funding process.

3

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We are seeking applications for projects that address the priority information needs that you developed at your last Council meeting and that gather information to manage and conserve subsistence fisheries in Federal public waters in Alaska.

The Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and communities and promoting collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations. For the 2022 funding cycle we anticipate having about \$2.25 million available for the first year of new projects. Everyone -- anyone wanting to apply can find information about the program at our web page or by visiting grants.gov.

After the funding opportunity window closes the Technical Review Committee will review the applications and the result of that review will be presented to you at your next meeting in the fall.

This is not an action item.

If there are any questions I'd be happy to answer them, and this concludes my presentation.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Pippa. Any questions of Pippa.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing no questions, thank you, Pippa.

MS. KENNER: You're welcome, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is any Alaska Board of Game proposals. So there's a call for proposals and I might have to have Mark Burch tell us what the situation is on deadlines and what has changed with the Board of Game.

0101

1 MR. BURCH: Hello, Madame Chair. Yeah,
2 the Board of Game voted to postpone most of their --
3 their 2021 meetings to 2022 during the next cycle,
4 they're pushing a year ahead, basically or back,
5 however you want to look at it. There are a few things
6 that they're going to take up in an upcoming meeting a
7 little later this year, things like allowing the take
8 of brown bears without the locking tag and the
9 exemptions on those, and then also some cow hunts for
10 moose. So kind of the routine things that they need to
11 do every year. Other than that things are being
12 postponed largely.

13
14 Is that kind of what you were looking
15 for.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it was.
20 And refresh our memory, which was the next Board of
21 Game meeting for March, what region was it?

22
23 MR. BURCH: The one they moved is
24 Region 4 so that would be certainly part of your area
25 from -- well, I guess it's 13 which is adjacent to you
26 guys out to the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutians.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So 13
29 is part of that?

30
31 MR. BURCH: Yeah. Right. Yep.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
34 So when does that Interior come up again?

35
36 MR. BURCH: Let me look, I can find it
37 on the website. It might be the cycle after that. The
38 way the Board of Fish is operating is they're
39 essentially moving the out year meetings to the next
40 year so they're not going to double up.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so
43 everything's delayed a year, I was just wondering for
44 wildlife proposals, when would our region come up, is
45 it -- I think it was going to be two years, is it going
46 -- am I wrong, now is it going to be three?

47
48 MR. BURCH: Let me see.

49
50

0102

1 (Pause)

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MR. BURCH: Yeah, let's see 2020/2021, that's the one we're in now was supposed to be Region 4. And then next year was supposed to be Southcentral and Southeast, so that's moved. And now the Interior region, it was 2022/23 and now it's going to be '23/24 it looks like.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That would be the things that this Council is interested in so now we have an update.

MR. BURCH: Yep. Yep.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council members any questions.

MR. BURCH: Oh, you know if you don't mind, Madame Chair, there's one more thing I could mention on the statewide, which is also kind of associ -- it's going to be this coming year.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't mind a bit, go ahead.

MR. BURCH: Yeah, okay. We're putting in a proposal that would require salvage of hares, so snowshoe hares. And the reason for that is essentially to be responsible managers so that it would not be allowed to just go out and kill a hare, it would have to be salvaged for human use. And it could be any appropriate human use. It could be salvaging the hide or fur for uses, taxidermy or making it into gloves of, you know, what have you, that way. Eating the meat by humans or even using the carcass for bait on a trap line would be human use. So that's something that's out there.

I just mostly wanted to make you aware of it.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you, Mark. So that's something new you're telling us.

(No comments)

0103

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess he
2 didn't hear me -- yeah, so that's something new is what
3 you're telling us?

4
5 MR. BURCH: Oh, I'm sorry, yes, that's
6 a new proposal. Currently there's no salvage
7 requirement for snowshoe hares.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's a
10 proposal, it's not been taken to the Board yet?

11
12 MR. BURCH: Right. It does have a
13 number and I should have it right here and I'm not
14 seeing it. But, yeah, it's going to the -- in the
15 statewide cycle which is the coming cycle.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
18 Council members, do you have any questions.

19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don, I have
21 a question.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
24 Don.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Mark,
27 traditionally we've used hares for dog food, whether it
28 be the head, the legs, the feet, or the hide and we
29 keep the meat for our own consumption, so what is going
30 to be the designation. Is feeding your dogs part of a
31 human use?

32
33 MR. BURCH: I believe so. And so would
34 the use of the meat. And so if you -- if you salvage
35 the bulk of the body, meat, for human consumption then
36 you could do whatever you wanted to do with the rest of
37 it, and certainly feeding it to dogs, or you could feed
38 the whole animal to dogs is my understanding. As long
39 as it's used for something.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
44 this is a proposal so it's not a regulation yet. Okay,
45 I have a question for you, Mark.

46
47 The Copper River proposals to the Fish
48 Board, can you tell me when the deadline would be to
49 comment on them?

50

0104

1 MR. BURCH: I'll have to find out about
2 that one. My understanding is that the Fisheries Board
3 did something similar, they postponed their meetings
4 but then they're going to double up in the next cycle,
5 but I'll have to look that up and get back with you.
6 Perhaps I can send you a text or something.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's
9 important for us to know when because I don't think we
10 need to take up these proposals at this meeting if it's
11 going to be delayed for a year. But we.....

12
13 MR. BURCH: Right, that makes sense. I
14 beli -- well, I don't know what the deadline will be
15 for commenting but certainly the meeting will be after
16 your fall meeting. I'll have to find that out but I'll
17 get on that right away.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
20 maybe you could get it to us before the end of the
21 meeting because Council.....

22
23 MR. BURCH: I think (indiscernible -
24 breaking up)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:members,
27 some of these proposals.....

28
29 MR. BURCH: Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we'll
32 want to take up at our next meeting, I believe, or it
33 would maybe be two meetings from now based on if it's a
34 year, but he'll get us that information and I'll look
35 for that information when you get it, and you can text
36 it to me, Mark, I believe you have that, or just butt
37 in in the meeting, that's fine too.

38
39 MR. BURCH: Okay. Either -- one way or
40 another I'll get it to you for sure.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, before
43 the end of the meeting.

44
45 MR. BURCH: Yes.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
48 next report, and I have asked to have these shortened
49 for five minutes. I will tell you that Andrew and I
50

0105

1 talked Friday, last week, before he had these health
2 issues and I got to repeat what he told me at the
3 meeting, Tom was with us on that meeting, he said most
4 of -- these reports are like leisure read for us so
5 please keep them short. We can take them -- in the
6 evenings and read them at home, and all of that so I
7 just wanted to reiterate just for the Council members,
8 that we think that keeping these short would be really
9 helpful.

10

11 All right.....

12

13 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
16 ahead.

17

18 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Sue. This is
19 Jim Simon with TCC and AITRC. Just so you know that
20 the Interior, the AYK State Board of Fisheries
21 proposals are due May 10th.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
26 you for that information. May 10th, and so we would
27 have another meeting in the fall to take up any of the
28 proposals; this is Board of Fish, right?

29

30 MR. SIMON: Yeah, if the RAC wanted to
31 submit any State proposal changes they would have to do
32 so now in order to meet the May 10th, 2021 deadline.

33

34 Thanks.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, the 10th
37 of this year. But I thought it was delayed a year.

38

39 MR. SIMON: The Board of Fisheries plan
40 is to double up so to stay on cycle but also do what
41 was postponed this year to next year, but they need a
42 supplemental budget request through the Governor's
43 office to the Legislature in order to afford to do
44 that.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know
47 about others but now I'm confused. Well, Mark's going
48 to get us that information and -- soon, I hope. You
49 guys who've been going to your Advisory Committee

50

0106

1 meetings, have you learned anything about this?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because what
6 I'm hearing is the Yukon River is up for proposals,
7 fisheries proposals.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean I
12 really need some information here because I'm -- all of
13 the Copper River proposals that are -- they went
14 through, we would be.....

15

16 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. MCMANUS: This is Tim McManus. I
21 think what Jim is saying, he's just saying if we have a
22 proposal that we want to submit the deadline is in May
23 and I don't think we have anything.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
26 Council members have any proposals they want to put
27 forth to meet this May 10th deadline.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
32 (Indiscernible - cuts out) our region. Tim says he
33 doesn't think we have any. So if anyone has any you
34 need to -- even if you think of something as we're
35 going along just at the end of one of these reports
36 just bring it up, okay.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: All right.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
41 I'm waiting for, also, on the Copper River there was --
42 I'm being reminded by Katya by personal message here
43 that the Copper River fisheries proposal, they were
44 like joint proposals, and I thought -- didn't we take
45 those joint proposals up at our last meeting?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know I've

50

0107

1 taken them up at two other meetings, at the SRC and
2 AITRC.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: These are
7 Federal proposals and I believe these -- I thought they
8 acted on.....

9

10 MS. WESSELS: They're not -- Madame
11 Chair, this is Katya. You know what I was reminding
12 you about, is they're not Federal proposals, they are
13 State proposals, they have already been submitted,
14 they're in the process of receiving public comments on
15 those State proposals. And there's just some of the
16 proposals that are applicable to the Copper River so I
17 was just wondering if you or the Council want to look
18 at any of those and make comments, that's all.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And what
21 I'm.....

22

23 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, if I might.
24 They have not set the comment deadline yet and they are
25 taking them up in January of 2022.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, and
28 that's what I was aware of, that's why I'm a little
29 confused why I'm hearing all this other stuff, it's
30 conflicting information. That's why I wanted a report
31 from Mark Burch, on the Board of Fish, and I think
32 he'll get back to us on that. Because if we don't need
33 to take it up at this meeting that would be great,
34 because I think everybody's kind of looking forward to
35 a one day meeting.

36

37 Okay, Mark, if you're hearing me, we're
38 looking for that information.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next
43 thing on agency reports is to ask is there any tribal
44 governments that has any reports. We did hear some
45 stuff on nonagenda items earlier, is there any
46 additional information from tribal or Native
47 organizations.

48

49 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, this is

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0108

1 Karen Linnell.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, go ahead.

MS. LINNELL: I just briefly want to say thank you for adding the Copper River to your annual report. You know what is happening here is clearly a downward trend and we need to get more information on the river so that it can be better managed. The whole Copper River is Federal waters and so we are thinking that at some point there may be a point where it's just Federal jurisdiction if we continue this downward trend, and we don't want that. We want healthy salmon populations and we want to ensure that users, subsistence users -- Federally-qualified subsistence users and other users around the state are able to participate in harvest from our salmon on the Copper River. But if we're not cautious, we're going to end up in where subsistence uses may be restricted. And like you've heard for many years on the Yukon, it's -- and the issues that they've had there, you know, we don't want to get to that point.

So I do appreciate the RAC and the Council members knowing and understanding that and carrying that concern forward. I do want to say publicly, tell you thank you for that.

Other than that if you guys had any questions on my report from this morning I'll be happy to answer them otherwise I'll be happy to give a more detailed report in the fall.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Karen. Council members, do you have any questions of Karen.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we appreciate all that you bring to us too, Karen, thank you.

MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim, go

0109

1 ahead.

2

3 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, I'm going to switch
4 hats here for a minute. I happen to be the First Chief
5 of Nenana so I'm going to do a Native organization
6 here, and a little bit of FYI, too, at the same time.

7

8 So this fall, geared up to catch, you
9 know, fall fish to put up in our smokehouse, I have
10 quite a few people that I fish for in the fall and
11 they're busier times but fishing is usually really good
12 so we're pretty busy but this year with the crash I
13 seen it first hand. I was out on the wheel and I was
14 throwing the chums back in and keeping silvers which
15 were pretty much at the end of their cycle, they
16 weren't all that great, there was a few good ones.
17 But, you know, I put up fish for our seniors, I put up
18 fish for our tribal hall. So I fished for about a week,
19 standing on the wheel, catching chums with a dipnet and
20 they come right out of the chute, catch them with in
21 the net and pop them right back in the river, get our
22 count to Fish and Game. I was in touch with them every
23 day pretty much when I fished, for that one week,
24 didn't do it every day. So then the crash came and we
25 put in for an emergency for the fish, and through
26 Tanana Chiefs we were able to get some fish. They got
27 fish out of the Bristol Bay area and so the villages
28 got fish. And a couple weeks ago Nenana got theirs and
29 we've been handing them out here and there. But then
30 our city water plant froze up so we were out of water
31 for awhile and we're still dealing with having no
32 water, it's not good for our drinking right now. My
33 dog wouldn't even drink it this morning.

34

35 So we're thankful for Tanana Chiefs and
36 getting the fish.

37

38 That was my little tribal update for
39 you guys.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
44 Tim. Okay, any questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Again, this
49 is the time for any tribal or Native -- tribal

50

0110

1 governments or Native organization reports.

2

3 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark,
4 if you'd like me to interject?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would.

7

8 MR. BURCH: Okay. The information
9 you've gotten so far, of course, is solid as you might
10 expect. I wanted to hold off until I had something I
11 really knew for sure. It sounds like the actual date
12 of that next meeting to discuss -- where the Board of
13 Fish will take up proposals on the Copper River has not
14 been set yet but it'll be in the fall, probably after
15 mid-October, and the date of that meeting will be set,
16 I think between now and March 8th. So the point is,
17 depending on when your fall meeting is, you can
18 probably postpone the discussion of those Copper River
19 proposals until your fall meeting.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is
24 extremely helpful, thank you.

25

26 And I will say I also got an email from
27 Jim Simon and he pulled it right off of the website
28 regarding the call for fish proposals to the Board of
29 Fish, the call deadline is May 10th as he said, and
30 this is for the -- let's see now, it says fishing
31 regulations for Bristol Bay, finfish, Arctic, Yukon,
32 Kuskokwim, finfish, Alaska Peninsula, Bering Sea, so
33 that takes in -- and as we go through these reports,
34 Council members, I want you to think, is there any
35 Board of Fish, that's State proposals you want to put
36 in, you know, write them down and then when you're
37 ready, you can interrupt between speakers and let us
38 know. If that's okay with the Council that's how I'm
39 going to do this.

40

41 If there's any objections speak up now?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
46 well, thanks, Mark. Now, I'm going to ask one more
47 time, was there any more tribal government or Native
48 organization reports.

49

50

0111

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. First is the 2020/21
5 Yukon River preseason salmon and it's U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife Service and ADF&G.

7

8

MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
9 Pippa Kenner. So that would be Holly Carroll and what
10 would it be, Jeff Estensen, are you guys on?

11

12 (No comments)

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MR. KRON: Yeah, and Gerald Maschmann,
too, but it's basically a team effort.

MS. KENNER: I'm thinking, Tom --
again, this is Pippa. I'm going to email them now and
so why don't you go ahead and move on and I'll let you
know what I hear from them.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Sue, and, again, this
is based on the information I sent you yesterday but
basically we've got a group of salmon proposals from
Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G. One of the next
ones on the list is 2020 AYK chum information, that was
from ADF&G, there was some information from Ms. Howard
from ADF&G and some information on Prince William
Sound, Copper River forecast and I would recommend just
opening it up to any of those people that may be
online. It sounds like we've lost some people we had
earlier this morning.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
you, Tom. So I don't know about the rest of the crew
but this is really kind of hard. All those reports
were sent in one email and I got a million emails
looking at me right now and I'm trying to find it. I
think you said there was a report there.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, if you
want, again, we had asked -- I had asked the agency
people in Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G, Park
Service to keep their reports short, to five minutes,
and we were able to get some of the material in the
book. The Refuges coming up, for example, Arctic and
Tetlin have information in the book. And I'll bet we

0112

1 got somebody on, Vince or Refuge Staff, so my
2 suggestion -- and if you want I can just go ahead and
3 lead us through this and we'll get people as best we
4 can. Do you want me to do that?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want
7 to find my email, that's all.

8

9 MR. KRON: Okay. The email -- the last
10 email I sent you was Wednesday, the 3rd at 3:37 p.m.,
11 so that's the one I'm looking at right now. But,
12 again, it's got the list, and some of these we have in
13 the book and some of them I received attachments, short
14 summaries for the Council members to read.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
17 Pippa Kenner.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa.

20

21 MS. KENNER: Hi. Holly wrote back and
22 said they're all in the middle of giving their
23 presentations to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council and
24 maybe can we circle back to them.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
27 where we're at. So, yes, we can circle back, how easy
28 is that.

29

30 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

33

34 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch from
35 Fish and Game for the record, once again. Katie Howard
36 and Sabrina Garcia are ready to go with their report if
37 you'd like to take their report.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
42 regarding the Yukon River preseason?

43

44 MR. BURCH: That's regarding the --
45 yeah, the Yukon River and the hatcheries, interaction.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If they're

50

0113

1 ready to go that would be fine and the next one can let
2 us know when they're ready.

3

4 DR. HOWARD: Hi, this is Doctor Katie
5 Howard, can you hear me? (Crackle on Howard's line)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can hear
8 you.

9

10 DR. HOWARD: (Crackle on Howard's line)

11 Okay, great. So for people who don't know me, I
12 started my career at Fish and Game as a research
13 biologist -- fisheries research biologist on the Yukon,
14 and I've held a couple of jobs since then, but my
15 expertise really focuses on the marine life stage of
16 salmon.

17

18 In May I started a new job -- well,
19 it's a job that existed but the -- the job duties were
20 changed in recognition that there's more and more
21 concern about what's going on with salmon in the ocean
22 and so they created this position that's really focused
23 trying to understand across the state, you know, what
24 is happening with our Alaska salmon in the ocean.

25

26 And so now we have two Staff members
27 that are pretty solely focused on the marine life of
28 salmon, myself, and Sabrina Garcia. And, maybe,
29 Sabrina, you can introduce yourself a little bit.

30

31 MS. GARCIA: Yeah, thanks, Katie. Good
32 afternoon everyone. Like Katie just said my name is
33 Sabrina Garcia and I'm a marine research biologist with
34 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game based in
35 Anchorage. And similar to Katie I started my career
36 with Fish and Game as the assistant manager on the
37 Yukon and I'm now working mostly on the early marine
38 life of juvenile salmon from Western Alaska. One of my
39 main projects is the Northern Bering Sea Juvenile
40 Salmon Survey. Some of you may have heard of that one,
41 it occurs every year to study juvenile salmon after
42 they spend their first few months at sea. And this
43 survey is one of the ones that produces an annual
44 forecast for Yukon River chinook salmon.

45

46 And I'd be happy to answer any
47 questions about that survey after Katie goes through
48 her presentation.

49

50

0114

1 Thank you.

2

3 DR. HOWARD: (Crackle on Howard's line)

4 Yeah, so the role of hatchery interactions with wild
5 Alaska salmon right now is a topic of a lot of active
6 investigation and there's really still a lot of
7 scientific debate about -- and opinion, about the
8 magnitude of hatchery fish impacts on wild salmon and
9 most likely the magnitude of that impact is different
10 depending on what stocks you're talking about. And
11 really if you asked three scientists to come talk to
12 you about the role of hatcheries on wild salmon stocks,
13 you might end up getting three very different ideas and
14 opinions about what that might mean.

15

16 So I don't think that anybody would
17 argue that there's no impact but -- but, you know,
18 there's -- there could be a wide range of impacts on
19 different stocks, and so rather than just tell you my
20 opinions, I was thinking it might be more helpful to
21 talk a bit about the marine life of Yukon salmon and
22 what we know and that would hopefully provide you with
23 some information that might help you -- help form your
24 own opinions about, you know, what might be going on
25 with hatchery fish and Yukon River salmon.

26

27 And so I did send out like a one page
28 handout and I don't know if people had the opportunity
29 to receive that. It was a little last minute. But if
30 people did that would probably be good to look at
31 because I'll -- I'll basically be talking about the
32 ideas that are in that document.

33

34 So Yukon salmon as you probably are
35 aware are -- they leave the river, the young salmon
36 leave the river shortly after ice break up and most
37 have left by the end of July. The pink and the chum
38 salmon leave shortly after hatching, they're quite
39 small, they're only about, you know, two inches long
40 when they leave the river. The chinook are older,
41 they're typically around two years old and coho are
42 typically around three years old when they leave the
43 river. So they're much larger when they leave the
44 river. And during this first year at sea, we call
45 those young salmon, juveniles, so if I -- if I slip
46 into a bunch of lingo just remember that if I say
47 juveniles it's really talking about that first year in
48 the ocean. And they spend that first summer in the
49 ocean in near shore waters of the Northern Bering Sea,

50

0115

1 again, if you want to talk with Sabrina more about the
2 project that she's leading, that's -- that's really
3 focused mostly on Yukon salmon at that juvenile life
4 stage. And -- and if you do have that handout, there
5 is a map on it and there's a red oval on that map and
6 that just gives you an idea of the area that we're
7 talking about where these juvenile salmon from the
8 Yukon are spending that early part of their marine
9 life. And so that's really north of Nunivak Island,
10 east of St. Lawrence Island, south of the Bering
11 Strait, including Norton Sound.

12

13 The most important thing that we
14 learned about Yukon salmon from this research in the
15 ocean is that good or bad returns of adults coming back
16 to the river are primarily determined very early in
17 their life before their first winter at sea. And so if
18 you remember nothing else, remember that, because that
19 is -- that's a new understanding we didn't have a few
20 years ago and it helps us do a couple of things.

21

22 One, is it helps us do some
23 forecasting, and that's the kind of work that Sabrina
24 does, but it also helps us understand how important
25 different causes of mortality in salmon in the ocean
26 are for the health of Yukon salmon runs. And so what
27 we now know that we didn't know a few years ago is that
28 things that cause salmon to die before the end of their
29 first summer at sea have a bigger affect on the number
30 of fish that return to the Yukon River than all other
31 causes of death. So there's still a lot of fish that,
32 you know, even if they make it to their first winter in
33 the ocean, most of those fish don't survive to become
34 adults. A lot -- there's a lot of mortality, a lot of
35 death, but it's pretty stable at that point after that
36 first summer at sea and it's really the time before --
37 even as juvenile life stage, before that summer at sea,
38 that -- that is most critical, it's like the make it or
39 break it time for whether you're going to see good or
40 bad runs in the future.

41

42 And when you're thinking -- and
43 thinking about hatchery influence on Yukon salmon, in
44 particular, it's -- it's good to kind of have that in
45 mind because at that juvenile life stage, if -- if you
46 do have that map available to you it shows you where
47 the juvenile Yukon River, we're talking just Yukon
48 River right now, Yukon River juveniles and that really
49 critical time but then there are also some white

50

0116

1 triangles that show you where the hatcheries are and
2 these are the active hatcheries that produce that go to
3 the ocean. And there really aren't any in the Bering
4 Sea and -- and Yukon fish are pretty far away from the
5 hatcheries with one exception, and that exception are
6 the chinook that are produced by the Whitehorse Rapid
7 (ph) Fish Hatchery in Canada on the Yukon River. But
8 that isn't a big production hatchery at all. That is
9 associated -- you know, they have a hydro tower dam
10 here and the hatchery is just trying to mitigate for
11 the fish that die because of that dam and the turbines
12 of the -- for the hydropower. And so it's a much
13 smaller scale effort and we don't think that, you know,
14 there are really any impacts to the wild stocks based
15 on that, you know, one small hatchery in Canada.

16

17 I will say -- so that's just talking
18 about the juvenile life stage, now, older age salmon
19 what we call imatures so after they've spent that first
20 year in the ocean. So they do overlap with hatchery
21 fish quite a bit. So Yukon chinook stay in the Bering
22 Sea for their whole life and there aren't really
23 hatchery pink salmon that go up into the Bering Sea but
24 there are chum salmon that go up into the Bering Sea
25 and there are -- you can see on that map there are a
26 huge mess of white triangles in Japan and the
27 (Indiscernible) islands and that -- there's a lot of
28 chum salmon hatcheries in that area and a lot of Asian
29 hatchery chum do go into the Bering Sea. And as well
30 some chum salmon from North America.

31

32 Now, Yukon chum salmon and pink salmon
33 and coho are -- they migrate through the Bering Sea and
34 into the North Pacific ocean, the eastern North Pacific
35 and the Gulf of Alaska and so they have a lot more
36 potential to overlap with hatchery pink and chum salmon
37 from really all over but mostly from North America and
38 then some Asian chum do also go into the eastern North
39 Pacific. And so while we don't think that these later
40 life stages of overlap with hatchery fish are probably
41 affecting abundance because that seems to be really
42 determined early in their life it is possible that
43 these interactions could affect the age or the size of
44 the fish that return. There are some ideas that --
45 that are out there that, you know, some scientists have
46 presented evidence for that it's possible that the
47 cause of why salmon are getting smaller in Alaska, and
48 really everywhere they're -- they're getting smaller
49 everywhere could be because of interactions with

50

0117

1 hatchery fish. So that's still a possibility. I have
2 to note, though, that that's just one idea and there
3 are some other ideas out there other scientists have
4 put forward to explain why salmon are getting smaller
5 when they return to the river and some of those have to
6 do with predators. There's an idea that there are more
7 predators now than there used to be, things like orcas
8 and salmonsharks and they are selectively feeding on
9 the larger fish so that's one idea. Another idea
10 that's out there is that climate change, the fish are
11 just getting smaller because of a chain reaction of
12 things that happen when the water warms, there's less
13 oxygen in the water and the fish end up growing fast at
14 a young age but then maturing earlier. So, again,
15 that's just a place where there's a lot of debate right
16 now and a lot of opinions but it's not really clear
17 which ones are the most likely. But as I mentioned,
18 you know, we are trying to put some more resources into
19 investigating these interactions between hatchery and
20 wild salmon in Alaska.

21
22 And just to end, a little bit of
23 information from the project Sabrina's working on is,
24 you know, based on the information we're seeing with
25 the juveniles, the abundance we're seeing with the
26 juveniles, we do expect continued poor run sizes to the
27 Yukon River for chinook salmon in 2021 and 2022 and
28 Sabrina's also working on a project to develop similar
29 forecast ability for Yukon River fall chum so that we
30 can try to anticipate the really bad run -- fall chum
31 run, like what we saw in 2020.

32
33 And with that I think I'll leave it
34 there and see if there are any questions or if people
35 want to hear more from Sabrina about some of these
36 forecasts.

37
38 MR. KRON: Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. KRON: Yeah, and Dr. Howard, very
44 interesting presentation. I guess I would request, I
45 looked back through my email and I don't think that
46 we've gotten copies of the.....

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted - on hold, beeping)
50

0118

1 MR. KRON:summary sheet that was
2 referenced earlier on with the diamonds on it. So,
3 again, if you could work with Mark Burch and get that
4 to me I'll get it out to the Council members.

5

6 The other thing, just for the rest of
7 the agency presentations and I tried to get word to
8 Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, BIA, Staff,
9 and ADF&G but we wanted to try to keep the
10 presentations short. Again, we want to try to finish
11 the meeting up today if at all possible. And, again,
12 we'd like to receive any written information that we
13 can get out to the Council members so they can read it
14 in detail, but for the future presentations this
15 afternoon, please keep them to five minutes.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 DR. HOWARD: Oh, I apologize. I didn't
20 -- I didn't realize, but, yeah, we'll make sure that we
21 get that handout to everybody.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
26 you. Council members, do you have any questions?

27

28 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Tim, go
31 ahead.

32

33 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, I just want to ask
34 Tom when he does get that information to pass it on to
35 me, please.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. KRON: Will do. As soon as I get
40 it from Mark we'll do that. Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The report
43 that she read, is that different than the one you sent
44 me that says a journey in the marine life of Yukon
45 River salmon by Dr. Katie Howard and Sabrina?

46

47 MR. KRON: We'll have to ask them. Dr.
48 Howard.

49

50

0119

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, I just
2 wanted to know, I have that, I think it's a PowerPoint.
3 Is this the one that should have been sent to everyone
4 is what I'm asking, to the presenter?

5
6 MR. KRON: Yeah, I'm just trying
7 to.....

8
9 DR. HOWARD: We did originally send a
10 PowerPoint presentation and then we realized that that
11 was just, you know, way too much for what you guys were
12 asking for so we followed up with like a one page
13 handout, PDF. And so I can send that back out to make
14 sure that it's available to people.

15
16 MR. KRON: Yes, Sue, if I could just
17 jump in. Dr. Howard, what I have and what's been
18 distributed to the Council members, what I distributed
19 yesterday is titled a journey in the marine life of
20 Yukon River salmon by Dr. Howard and Sabrina Garcia.
21 So that is something we have but it sounded like there
22 was a one page summary that we hadn't seen yet.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roger. Yeah,
27 if you could get that out to us that would be great.

28
29 Now, Council members is there any
30 questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now, I
35 will try to reiterate, as Tom said, we'd like to keep
36 the short version of these reports to five minutes if
37 you can and that's okay, we understand, I know it's a
38 lot but it's going to be helpful here.

39
40 Pippa sent me a text and said that
41 Holly Carroll is ready.

42
43 MS. CARROLL: Yes, Madame Chair, I'm on
44 the line. This is Holly Carroll.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
47 guess we're looking for the short version, Holly, so
48 good luck. Thank you.

49
50

0120

1 MS. CARROLL: Thank you. Madame Chair,
2 Council members. I'm Holly Carroll. You probably
3 heard that I replaced Fred Bue as the Yukon River
4 subsistence fishery manager for the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service. I was trained very well by him
6 because I worked with him for years and I also normally
7 get to work with Gerald Maschmann but he's on leave for
8 this meeting so you're stuck with me. The beauty is I
9 can definitely keep this short.

10

11 Many of you know last season was pretty
12 poor runs. Our harvests were well below average
13 particularly for the chum. The Yukon fishermen saw
14 half as many chum as they normally harvest, which
15 equates to a lot of empty freezers as you guys all
16 know. But most significantly, too, is that we failed
17 to meet our escapement objectives for chinook salmon at
18 the Canadian Border. The escapement goal there is
19 42,500 to 55,000 and we saw 33,500 cross the border.
20 And so we definitely are going to be taking a pretty
21 cautious approach next year. One of the reasons for
22 that is that we don't have official forecasts at this
23 time, they're not official until they go through the
24 Yukon River Panel process and that meeting is April
25 12th through the 14th. After we go through that
26 process we're going to consult with fishermen from all
27 over the Yukon River at the preseason meeting that's
28 held by YR DFA. Once we do that we create a management
29 strategy that we'll send out to all the households by
30 mail, we'll also put it out in a news release.

31

32 But the outlooks that I'll share with
33 you today are preliminary.

34

35 For the chinook run, we are looking at
36 a run size similar or smaller to what we saw last year.
37 So that is a run size of about 102,000 to 189,000. For
38 perspective last year's chinook run on the main stem
39 was 162 and we did not meet goals. So this forecast
40 kind of indicates that we're probably going to need to
41 take a very conservative approach and fishermen are
42 likely to see first pulse closure. We haven't done
43 that in quite a few years. What we've been doing is
44 once the first pulse arrives we put fishermen on half
45 their fishing schedule, which probably feels quite
46 restrictive as it is but if we go to a full pulse
47 closure, typically that means a full closure in each
48 area as the first pulse is passing through. So we
49 definitely want to give fishermen the heads up that
50

50

0121

1 fishing might be pretty sparse in the early part of the
2 run.

3

4

5 You can also expect that depending on
6 the run size we might be looking at fishing on half the
7 regulatory window schedule, and also we might be
8 limiting gillnets to six inch or smaller mesh. That's
9 essential because it allows the larger fish to go on to
10 the spawning grounds. When the runs are smaller we
11 really need every big fish to make it up there.

11

12

13 Now, our summer chum forecast is a
14 little bit better at 1.2 million fish. That's a
15 healthy run size that should allow for a full
16 subsistence harvest, that could even allow for
17 commercial harvest. The problem is is that run comes
18 in at the same time as the chinook. And so if we're
19 needing to take conservative measures to protect the
20 chinook it may be hard for us to harvest as many of
21 those summer chum. We may even be looking at having
22 selective gear only. So for instance, during the first
23 pulse closure we may be allowed -- allowing dipnet or
24 beach seines or manned fishwheels, where people can
25 release every king alive and still take some summer
26 chum. That is the hope, that even when things get bad
27 that is something we can do to allow the harvest of
28 summer chum.

28

29

30 So the fall species, the fall chum run
31 is predicted to be 542,000 to 762,000, that's a wide
32 range so we're going to be taking a cautious approach
33 to that as well because we had a poor return of four
34 year olds last year and, though we are expecting better
35 five year olds we won't know until they come in. The
36 beauty of the fall chum run is that we can redo the
37 forecast once we see the summer chum run because we can
38 use the relationship between the summer chum and the
39 fall chum to better predict the size of the fall chum
40 run. But the fall manager for the State, Jeff
41 Estensen, he is expecting to allow full subsistence
42 harvest opportunity if the run comes in at the size
43 projected and there could even be commercial fall chum
44 fishing. If it does occur, though, that's likely not
45 going to happen until after July 16th which is the
46 transition between summer and fall.

46

47

48 So as far as keeping my update short,
49 I'll stop there and I will just standby for questions
50 and also I would defer to Jeff Estensen and the acting

50

0122

1 summer manager, Deena Jallen, who are probably also on
2 the line if they want to add anything.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
5 you, very much. That was very good. So Council
6 members, do you have any questions.

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have a
9 question.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
12 Don.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
17 ahead, Don. Do you hear me?

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.

20

21 MS. CARROLL: We can hear you, Don, if
22 you want to ask your question.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, thank you. I'm
25 interested in the fall harvest of chum from this last
26 season. Somewhere I read there was like 77,000 fish
27 harvested, do you have any accurate data on that?

28

29 MS. CARROLL: So, actually, no 77,000
30 is what should have been harvested, that's the five
31 year average. There was only 6,000 fall chum harvested
32 on the Yukon. It's one of the lowest harvests we've
33 ever seen.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: So my other question
36 was, in 1931 there was a serious fisheries crash, I
37 think it was the fall chum crash and as best as I can
38 tell the human factor wasn't involved. Do you know why
39 something like that would happen?

40

41 MS. CARROLL: Well, I'm certainly going
42 to defer to Jeff or Bonnie if they're on the line. But
43 salmon crashes they occur naturally. I mean that's the
44 beauty of salmon, is they have this innate ability to
45 come back in very large numbers and very small numbers
46 and then still perpetuate themselves. They basically
47 adapt, particularly the chums. You see this cycle
48 where they have a terrible run and then, gosh, next
49 year they're back to good. With chinook we've seen a

50

0123

1 slightly different pattern. But, yeah, that's fairly
2 normal for chum salmon.

3

4

5 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
6 is Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game. Yeah, I would
7 concur with that for sure, you know. Any salmon run
8 comes back from multiple brood years, you know, any one
9 of those given brood years there could be a natural
10 disaster of any kind that can affect it but the thing
11 is is that might produce one age class that overall,
12 you know, they will come back, even the small numbers
13 so.

13

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MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, thank you, you
answered my question.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
other questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need to
have a sound check because Don could not hear me, is
anyone hearing me?

MR. GLANZ: I'm hearing you fine.

MS. CARROLL: I'm hearing you loud and
clear.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good,
thanks. Are there any other questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
you very much and thank you for such a concise and
great report.

Was there anyone else on the Fish and
Wildlife Service and Fish and Game, on this 2021 Yukon
River preseason thing.

MS. CARROLL: Madame Chair. We give a
combined report so I wasn't aware of any other from
Fish and Wildlife Service.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
think we have covered that one and thank you very much

0124

1 all of you.

2

3 Okay, if I've missed somebody you need
4 to speak up. The next thing on the agenda is Yukon
5 River Drainage Fisheries Association. YRDFA. Serena
6 and Catherine.

7

8 MS. FITKA: Yes, good afternoon. This
9 is Serena Fitka. Can you hear me okay?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can hear
12 you, can you hear me?

13

14 MS. FITKA: Yes, I can.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
17 ahead.

18

19 MS. FITKA: Okay, great. Good
20 afternoon, Madame Chair and Council members. Thank you
21 for the opportunity to present to the Yukon -- or
22 Eastern Interior RAC. I am pleased to represent the
23 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. My name is
24 Serena Fitka and I am the Executive Director of YRDFA.
25 I have Catherine Moncrieff with us as well.

26

27 I'd like to bring your attention to our
28 report which was provided as a supplemental material to
29 your meeting booklet. I believe it's on Page 37. It
30 highlights our accomplishments and update the RACs on
31 our Fisheries Resource Management Program projects and
32 other related activities.

33

34 So YRDFA held their 30th annual Board
35 meeting by teleconference on December 15th and 16th.
36 Some of the highlights of that meeting were all our
37 seats were filled. We have new Board members.
38 Stanley Pete from Nunam Iqua, Al Von Finster from
39 Whitehorse, new alternates Richard Tuluk from Chevak,
40 Paul Andrews from Emmonak and Michelle Peterson from
41 Mountain Village, James Roberts from Tanana and Carl
42 Sidney from Teslin.

43

44 Four out of the six resolutions that
45 were presented to the Board were passed during the
46 meeting. And the delegation reported poor fishing
47 throughout the Yukon River drainage along with high
48 water levels, reports of ichthyophonus in fish and the
49 current impacts of climate change.

50

1 This year we were able to host a post-
2 season meeting and due to Covid19 we felt it was
3 necessary to have another meeting to discuss the 2020
4 season. The post-season meeting was held on December
5 17th via teleconference, 47 participants joined the
6 call and it lasted for 180 minutes. YRDFA Board
7 members gave reports of fishing conditions and concerns
8 the communities had. Low to no subsistence harvest of
9 salmon were reported throughout the drainage along with
10 high water conditions making it difficult to fish. The
11 coastal communities reported large pods of belugas at
12 the south mouth, middle river reported that the short
13 openings caused combat fishing where everyone would try
14 to go and catch what they can. A Russian Mission
15 fisher reported catching bright and healthy looking
16 chum and sockeyes in their ice nets in November and
17 December. In the up river communities, reports of
18 ichthyophonus were prevalent in the salmon and were not
19 suitable for consumption. Many subsistence fishermen
20 held off on fishing for chinook and waited for fall
21 chum, which many were not able to harvest because of
22 low returns and closures.

23
24 We also held off-season teleconferences
25 in October, November and February. The teleconferences
26 were topic driven and focused on providing fishers with
27 information related to the Yukon River. We understood
28 that the travel restrictions and the inability to meet
29 -- we wanted to make sure that there was an opportunity
30 to hear about research and other related issues that
31 were affecting Yukon River fisheries. We have hopes to
32 continue providing information that is important to the
33 Yukon River communities.

34
35 Some of the upcoming activities to mark
36 on your calendars. The 2021 YRDFA Board meeting is
37 scheduled for April 27th and 28th in Fairbanks, Alaska
38 at Pikes Riverfront Lodge. The Board will meet face to
39 face meeting with the option of nonBoard members
40 participating virtually. The Board felt it was very
41 important to meet face to face to effectively discuss
42 issues the Yukon River communities are facing.

43
44 There are 12 Board member seats that
45 are up for election and three alternates. You can go
46 to our website at yukonsalmon.org to see who's term is
47 up for 2021.

48
49 The 2021 preseason meeting will be held
50

0126

1 virtually on April 29th.

2

3 We will be planning to host district
4 meetings the week before the preseason meeting, this
5 will give the fishing districts the opportunity to
6 discuss their concerns and report to the management
7 during the preseason meeting. We will have more
8 information in the coming weeks so please check out our
9 website at yukonsalmon.org, or our FaceBook page, Yukon
10 River Drainage Fisheries Association.

11

12 Some of the other activities.

13

14 Update on the fishers disaster request.
15 We have not heard anything from the Governor. We
16 reached out to the Governor's office last month and
17 talked with John Moller, which he said the Governor has
18 the reports in hand to review. Since then we have not
19 heard anything from their office. Last week I talked
20 with Anne Robertson with Murkowski's office to inquire
21 about the status of the declaration request and their
22 office will be in contact with the Governor's office
23 and YRDFA.

24

25 Our first Yukon River Salmon Management
26 in-season teleconference will begin June 1st 2021 at
27 1:00 o'clock p.m., we will be sending posters and
28 letters to all tribes and First Nation offices. Please
29 keep an eye out for them posted in your community. We
30 encourage all community members to please participate
31 in trying to increase participation in areas where we
32 see low participation. So please encourage your
33 fishers in your district to participate in our in-
34 season teleconference every Tuesday at 1:00 o'clock
35 p.m., from June until the end of August.

36

37 I will go ahead and turn it over to
38 Catherine to give reports on projects, and after that
39 we'll take any questions.

40

41 Catherine.

42

43 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi. Thank you for this
44 opportunity to report to your Council.

45

46 As Serena said my name is Catherine
47 Moncrieff and I am the YRDFA Staff anthropologist. Can
48 you hear me okay?

49

50

0127

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I can.

2

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

23

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

41

42 We have two new exciting new projects.

43

44 The first one: They Told Us There'd
45 Come a Time, Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition on
46 the Yukon River, a catalog of elders warnings. It's
47 funded by the North Pacific Research Board, it is a
48 partnership with the Tanana Chiefs Conference Young
49 Adult Emerging Leaders. Through this project we will
50

50

0128

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

12
13 We also have a newly funded project
14 which has not yet begun. It's titled, Integrating
15 Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge into
16 Anadromous Waters Catalog and Fish Inventories of
17 Selected Drainages of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers, 2021
18 to 2023. This project is funded by the Alaska
19 Sustainable Salmon Fund, or AKSSF will have YR DFA
20 partnering with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 Habitat Division to document important areas with
22 anadromous fish. Together we will work with the
23 communities of Tanana, Nenana, and Manley Hot Springs,
24 to identify important fish locations for the anadromous
25 waters catalog.

26
27 And that concludes our report, unless
28 Serena has anything to add, we can take questions, and
29 thank you very much for your time.

30
31 MS. FITKA: No, I don't, Catherine.
32 I'll take any questions.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
35 questions, Council members.

36
37 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did someone
40 have a question?

41
42 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, Tim McManus.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. MCMANUS: Hello, ladies, Serena,
47 Catherine, good to hear from you. When are your
48 projects supposed to be starting up this way and how do
49 we get applicants into them? Can you guys just send
50

0129

1 that to my email?

2

3 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes. Sorry, this is
4 Catherine. And, Tim, I think you were probably asking
5 about that last one I was talking about, the anadromous
6 waters catalog, and, yes, the project begins in April
7 and so we'll be doing outreach and reaching back out to
8 your communities to make sure that you're fully
9 involved.

10

11 MR. MCMANUS: Okay. You guys got my
12 contact number so keep.....

13

14 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes, okay.

15

16 MR. MCMANUS:in touch with me,
17 please.

18

19 MS. MONCRIEFF: I will do that.

20

21 MR. MCMANUS: Thank you.

22

23 MS, MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
26 other questions from the Council.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not
31 hearing any so thank you ladies.

32

33 MS. FITKA: Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
36 welcome. All right, I'm working off of two agendas
37 here. One is all these reports that were sent to Tom,
38 that was in our email, and I'm going to ask Tom, did we
39 cover all of those. I think there's an ADF&G 2021
40 Prince William Sound and Copper River forecast that we
41 need to do yet before we move on to the rest of the
42 Fish and Wildlife Refuges?

43

44 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Again, that
45 was a piece of material that I got from you. I sent it
46 back out to the rest of the Council as you requested,
47 but I do not know if we're going to be able to get a
48 report from ADF&G on that.

49

50

0130

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
4 was regarding the Copper River. Now if anyone is online
5 that has that report, now is the time.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, we don't.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
10 Hearing none, we will continue with the rest of the
11 Fish and Wildlife Service reports starting with Arctic.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Someone did
17 not press mute.

18

19 MR. BERENDZEN: Hello, Madame Chair,
20 this is Steve Berendzen, Arctic Refuge. Are you ready
21 for the Arctic report.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are if I
24 could get rid of that background noise. Yeah, somebody
25 -- somebody that just spoke probably did not push star
26 six or mute their phone. Okay, go ahead.

27

28 MR. BERENDZEN: Good afternoon, Madame
29 Chair and Council members. For the record my name is
30 Steve Berendzen, I'm the Refuge Manager for Arctic
31 National Wildlife Refuge.

32

33 We've provided a Refuge summary update
34 that should be in your packet but actually my report
35 will be brief because this last year due to Covid we've
36 had limited field activities and I don't have much for
37 updates.

38

39 But one thing I'm happy to announce is
40 in the way of Staffing, we did fill our supervisory
41 biologist position, Paul Lenert was selected and
42 entered on duty in December and he is now a full member
43 of our team and doing a great job, we're very happy to
44 have him on in that position.

45

46 Some updates on the oil and gas
47 program. The record of decision -- well, EIS was
48 signed back in August.....

49

50

0131

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted - TV on)

3
4 MR. BERENDZEN:the leases that
5 were allowed by that were auctioned in January with
6 nine leases sold. And then another thing that was
7 being worked on was the environmental assessment that
8 was being developed for the seismic proposal. It was
9 submitted by Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation. That was
10 not completed. Multiple reasons. But that was not
11 completed, it's too late for that to occur, potential
12 polar bear impacts and, you know, we also have
13 direction from the new Administration that is reviewing
14 the program, the oil and gas program and we're still
15 pending, you know, further guidance from them on how
16 things will continue with oil and gas development.

17
18 And another subject, if Covid allows,
19 we hope to get out in the field this summer and do some
20 monitoring projects. And some of those for -- in
21 support of oil and gas development, or at least in
22 support of knowing what resources could be impacted and
23 learning more about the resources, baseline
24 information, before activities start up. But we're
25 hoping to get in the field and do field activity.
26 However some of those projects have already been
27 removed from the list due to the uncertainty with Covid
28 and we're not sure, you know, what we will be able to
29 do this year, there's still a big question surrounding
30 the Covid, safety, you know, mitigation needs and
31 potential obstacles there.

32
33 Another thing, we just issued a
34 contract for a traditional access study for three
35 villages, to look at the traditional access on Arctic
36 Refuge. The three villages are Kaktovik, Arctic
37 Village and Venetie. And looking at the traditional
38 means of access that may have been used and we have
39 issued a contract for that and that should start very
40 soon. This need was identified in our comprehensive
41 conservation plan that was completed in 2015 and it was
42 -- that that plan said that this needs to be initiated
43 within six years so we're meeting that requirement.

44
45 We also have a lawsuit against us from
46 the Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association
47 over the regulatory change that we recently implemented
48 to prohibit domestic goats, sheep and camelids, that
49 includes llamas and alpacas from -- prohibiting them
50

0132

1 from being on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And the
2 Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association has,
3 you know, major heartburn with that and they have filed
4 a lawsuit and we're working with that right now.

5

6 And my last topic is the concerns over
7 the Central Yukon RMP, we have -- we share a lot of the
8 concerns we've heard and we are also submitting
9 comments on that.

10

11 So that's all I've got in the way of
12 updates. If anybody has any questions, I'll be happy
13 to give my best answer to them.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
16 you, very much, Steve, good job. Any questions of
17 Steve.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
22 don't hear any questions, Steve, so thank you very
23 much.

24

25 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anybody else
28 from the Arctic going to be speaking?

29

30 MR. BERENDZEN: I don't think there is
31 -- no, there is not anyone else that's representing
32 Arctic today.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
35 well, thank you.

36

37 MR. BERENDZEN: You're welcome.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
40 will be Yukon Flats and then Tetlin.

41

42 MR. FOX: Good afternoon, Madame Chair
43 and Council members. For the record this is Jimmy Fox,
44 Refuge Manager for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
45 Refuge. We did not submit a written report and we will
46 try to give a brief oral report and keep within that
47 five minutes.

48

49 I want to speak briefly on outreach and

50

0133

1 then I'll switch over to projects.

2

3

4 Just real quick on outreach. I wanted
5 to share and give kudos to Vince Mathews. We've tried
6 pretty hard to do outreach around the nomination period
7 for the Council through our social media and also we
8 have done a pretty good job, I think, of communicating
9 a Federal subsistence hunt in 25D west and how to
10 participate in that hunt and just trying to do a lot of
11 communication outreach around the moose seasons.

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We are also collaborating with UAF,
University of Alaska-Fairbanks and the Council of
Athabascan Tribal Governments on an outreach booklet
that would focus on the changing environment of the
Yukon Flats. And it would feature voices of
scientists, biologists and also people that are living
out there on the land, what they're seeing. We're real
excited about that and hope to have that out to every
box holder this summer.

I'll shift over to a few projects
briefly.

Steve mentioned the Central Yukon
Resource Management Plan draft EIS. We have been
working hard to develop some comments that we will be
submitting by the deadline on that.

We also, along with various numbers of
tribes and corporations and scientists, ecologists will
be looking at the changing fire dynamics on the Yukon
Flats in a several day discussion coming up in early
April. We'll summarize what was heard and what maybe
we can do about the changing fire environment in a
report later in the summer and should be ready for
report out to you folks next fall on that.

We are excited to really start to get
into training and seeing the collaborative project with
the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments called
Eyes in the Bush Project going this May. And that's,
basically we will have -- CATG will have observers in
Circle, in Fort Yukon and hopefully Venetie that will
be documenting various environmental events and
collecting samples and those will be community members
in those three communities that'll be reporting what
they're seeing, like if river ice goes out, or bud
bursts, green-up, arrival of various migratory birds,

0134

1 tick collections, et cetera, so hopefully we will get
2 those folks going starting in May and that'll be a year
3 long project with CATG, really excited about that.

4

5 As I speak we have two aircrafts flying
6 to the Refuge to get our multi-year lynx research
7 project going again. So a year ago we were coming out
8 of the field and, of course, Covid grounded a lot of
9 our operations and we're excited, this is our first on
10 the ground operation that's been authorized since Covid
11 hit. So great day to be flying out over the Yukon
12 Flats, I wish I was with those folks. That'll be a
13 month long project.

14

15 On that topic of activities, I expect
16 that we'll continue to do our aviation based surveys
17 this summer but it's yet to be seen whether or not we
18 will be able to do our traditional on the ground work
19 in the summer. We'll see how that goes.

20

21 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
26 thank you, Jimmy. Council members, anyone have any
27 questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
32 I want to thank you again, Jimmy, for your report.

33

34 MR. FOX: Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next would be
37 Tetlin.

38

39 MR. LORENZINI: Hi, Sue, can you hear
40 me?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can hear
43 you, Hi, Tim.

44

45 MR. LORENZINI: Hi. So we included a
46 written report and I'll just go over that briefly. My
47 name is Tim Lorenzini. I'm the Supervisory Park Ranger
48 here at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

49

50

0135

1 The first thing I'll say is we have a
2 Staff update, an environmental educator is very close
3 to being announced who that is, within the next week or
4 so, which will be a big help to our Visitor's Service
5 Program to get that person on Staff. We also are
6 hiring two seasonal Park Rangers in addition to our
7 normal two seasonal Park Rangers to work at the Tok
8 Visitor's Center, which would be operating two
9 visitor's center in Tok, which I'll talk more about
10 later.

11

12 As far as biology projects we have duck
13 banding going on this coming summer, but last year we
14 got a lot of returns. There's a map of where they're
15 coming from but in short a lot of them are Pacific
16 Northwest Puget Sound, lower Fraser River, just over
17 the border of Canada is where a lot our waterfowl are
18 being reported.

19

20 The lynx project is coming home
21 tomorrow. They've been out for four weeks. There has
22 been a couple cabins out there that have been
23 operating, they have not caught many lynx as was to be
24 expected, last year they struggled to get their
25 numbers. Their goal is 20 and last year I believe they
26 had eight and this year after four weeks with two
27 different cabins operating they've caught -- they've
28 recollared a single lynx. They've caught that same
29 lynx six times in four different traps. To my
30 knowledge they have not collared a second lynx because
31 it's been pretty sparse out there for animals, for lynx
32 at least. And a lot of the other lynx are dying that
33 have collars that have collars that were put on in
34 previous years and so that kind of lines up with them
35 not catching new lynx because there aren't lynx out
36 there, there are not too many out there.

37

38 Right now there's a subsistence caribou
39 hunt that is ongoing. The subsistence Federal moose
40 hunt just closed. And the caribou hunt should be open
41 into April, it's targeting Nelchina Herd caribou with a
42 limit of one and reports are coming in on those fairly
43 steady, they've wintered in an area where hunters have
44 some access to them.

45

46 And, yeah, the Visitor's Service
47 Program here, we ran a visitor center near the Canada
48 Border since 1991 and we've been working to develop a
49 relationship with other Federal agencies, including BLM

50

0136

1 and the National Park Service in coordination with the
2 Tok Chamber of Commerce to operate out of their
3 visitor's center in the middle of Tok and that is
4 hopefully going to get started this summer. There are
5 some unknowns with Covid and related restrictions.
6 We've been working on Covid mitigation plans for a long
7 time now and we're hoping to open in some capacity,
8 we're not exactly sure what that will look like right
9 now but our hope is to have a more normal summer, even
10 if the Canada Border does not open.

11

12 And that concludes all the updates from
13 Tetlin Refuge.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
16 noted Shawn was on, was he going to speak too.

17

18 MR. BAYLESS: Hi, Sue -- Madame Chair.
19 No, I have nothing to add unless you have questions of
20 me.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
23 right. I'm going to ask the Council. Does the Council
24 have any questions of the Tetlin Refuge.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All I can
29 say, Shawn, I'd like to see you again. What is the
30 status of going into your office?

31

32 MR. BAYLESS: Come on in.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I can
35 come in.

36

37 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, bring a mask.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
40 sounds good. Thank you.

41

42 MR. BAYLESS: You bet, thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
45 Tim. I don't think there's any other questions,
46 Council members.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0137

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Thanks, guys. Next on the agenda is Park Service,
3 starting with Denali.

4
5 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Madame
6 Chair, and Council members. So I was hoping that Pat
7 Owen, our wildlife biologist could present the wildlife
8 update but she's tied up in another meeting
9 unfortunately. And so -- but I did forward her
10 wildlife update so I think you should have that in your
11 packet.

12
13 And I'll just keep this really brief.
14 We held a teleconference SRC meeting on February 23rd
15 and that went pretty well. And we did Southcentral
16 Regional Advisory Council -- appointed Caleb Pollum to
17 our SRC. And I did want to -- one kind of interesting
18 development. The law enforcement folks have now
19 appointed a lead person to be the subsistence liaison,
20 which I think is a really good move, so one person that
21 I can work with.

22
23 And then I also just wanted to mention,
24 it's been a year since Tim McManus and Charlie Wright
25 were appointed by the Eastern Interior RAC to the
26 Denali SRC and I just wanted to -- I guess publicly I
27 just want to say both of them have just been a pleasure
28 to work with and they've just brought so much expertise
29 and it's just really been great working with them so I
30 just thank you for those appointments.

31
32 And I'll just conclude with that, and
33 if there's any questions.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
36 you, Amy. That report was sent to us by email in that
37 one big mass of information that Tom sent us from the
38 biologist, Pat.

39
40 MS. CRAVER: Oh, actually, Madame
41 Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

44
45 MS. CRAVER: I just got an email saying
46 that Pat Owen, our wildlife biologist has been able to
47 join the meeting so maybe she can just hit the
48 highlights real quick because I know time is of
49 concern.

50

0138

1 So, Pat, are you there.

2

3 MS. OWEN: I am.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

6 Pat.

7

8 MS. OWEN: Can you hear me? Hi.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I can

11 hear you.

12

13 MS. OWEN: I didn't hear what just
14 preceded me saying hi, so am I on?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You are on.

17 This is Sue, you are on.

18

19 MS. OWEN: Okay. All right, thank you.

20 Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you, members of the

21 Council. I'll make this very quick.

22

23 There are not a lot of updates. Just a
24 couple things I would like to bring your attention to.

25

26 Bear monitoring. Status quo there with
27 the projects that we've had going on. A couple of
28 collars still out that will be coming off this year and
29 next. Once we get the rest of the collars back, the
30 data analysis will be completed. It has begun on that
31 project but we've got a little ways to go. Our bear
32 DNA citizen science project was not done last year,
33 probably will not be done again this year due to lack
34 of funding. Bear management for us was probably where
35 most of our action has been in the past year. I did, I
36 believe, give you updates last fall about two bear
37 management issues that we had. One at Savage River and
38 one in the Kantishna area. If anyone is interested,
39 final detailed reports of both of those situations has
40 been completed and if anyone would like to contact me I
41 can direct you to those or email them to you if you're
42 interested in reading a detailed timeline and a little
43 bit about lessons learned and that sort of thing with
44 both of those situations.

45

46 Moose monitoring for us. We were due,
47 according to our three year rotation to do a moose
48 survey this fall as part of -- this past fall, as part
49 of the Central Alaska Monitoring Network. All of our

50

0139

1 moose surveys right now are on hold for the Central
2 Alaska Monitoring Network while we evaluate the
3 protocol. So none of the Parks, the three Parks in
4 that network are going to be doing any moose surveys
5 until we decide if we're going to stick with that
6 protocol or change things up a bit.

7

8 Nothing to report on caribou
9 monitoring. Typically our reports come out in March of
10 each year. About the only thing to report there is
11 later on this month we will have some caribou capture
12 work going on.

13

14 Sheep surveys, we do expect to do
15 ground base sheep surveys again this year. We did not
16 do them last year because of Covid.

17

18 Wolf monitoring, there was a capture
19 effort done in November of last year. 10 new wolves
20 were radiocollared. Two new packs were added. One in
21 particular in the Cantwell area, and the other very
22 close to Park Headquarters, and as a matter of fact
23 someone just reported a wolf walking through
24 headquarters just about a week ago.

25

26 We had an alpine wildlife project going
27 on that I think I described at one point, a project I'm
28 pretty excited about, looking at the effect of climate
29 change on alpine wildlife species. Again, due to Covid
30 that project did not -- none of the field work for that
31 project occurred last year but will resume this year.
32 We're in the process of working out logistics for that
33 crew to be here.

34

35 Same sort of situation with all of our
36 avian projects, they were pretty much on hold last
37 year. Hoping that things will resume this year. Carol
38 MacIntyre, our avian biologist intends to do eagle
39 surveys in April. And as a matter of fact at the end
40 of next week she will be heading out to the Mentasta
41 Mountains for about a month to be doing some work out
42 there, catching and radiotagging eagles out there.

43

44 And then the last thing that I'll
45 mention is about fisheries. The past few years we've
46 had a fisheries technician who's done some survey work
47 for us in the Park and also was responsible for writing
48 up a literature and program review. We will not be
49 filling that fisheries technician position this summer,
50

0140

1 again, due to a lack of funding. But the literature
2 and program review is in final draft form, it just
3 needs a little bit of cleaning up and hopefully by
4 summer we should be ready to have that out for
5 distribution.

6
7 So, that, in a quick nutshell, is
8 what's going on wildlife related at Denali.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
11 you, Pat.

12
13 MS. OWEN: All right, thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
16 members -- you're welcome. Any questions of Pat.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pat, I have
21 one. You mentioned an eagle study, banding eagles, and
22 did you say you're coming to Mentasta?

23
24 MS. OWEN: I'm not. I'm not. No,
25 Carol MacIntyre, for the past few years has been doing
26 some field work in the Mentasta Mountains and this is
27 all part of a much larger project but she will be
28 heading out there at the end of next week and they are
29 planning on attempting, anyway, at catching and
30 radiotagging some golden eagles.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh. Well,
33 she'll be in my backyard. I would love to hear more
34 about that.

35
36 MS. OWEN: Okay. Well, I can -- if you
37 have the hard copy of the update, I believe that Amy
38 was going to provide that to you, Carol's contact
39 information is in there. You might have a little bit
40 of trouble getting a hold of her in probably the next
41 week because I know she's really overwhelmed. I mean
42 they're going to be out in the field for a month and
43 she's prepping for it. They go out with dogs. They
44 set up camp out there and they are pretty much out
45 there to stay. They don't come in and out. They go
46 out there and stay for the entire time. I know that
47 she is, like I said, pretty overwhelmed with trying to
48 get herself ready to go out there, but you might want
49 to try getting in touch with her probably around the
50

0141

1 middle of April, unless you want to try to get in touch
2 with her before she heads out. I don't know, I just
3 can't say how well she will respond. But if you want
4 more information about the project when she's got a
5 little more time to talk probably best to wait until
6 after she returns. And if you have any difficulty
7 getting a hold of Carol you can sure contact me and I
8 can get together what Carol might be able to provide.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I see
11 her information in the report, thank you.

12
13 MS. OWEN: You're welcome.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
16 Any other -- thank you Pat. Now, next would be the
17 Yukon-Charley.

18
19 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good afternoon, Madame
20 Chair, and Council members. I'd like to refer you to
21 Page 40 of your meeting packet for those of you that
22 have received your meeting packet. For the record my
23 name is Marcy Okada and I am the Subsistence
24 Coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

25
26 I'll just provide a quick update.

27
28 Our biological Staff is currently
29 monitoring about 21 adult female moose in the Preserve.
30 They're also conducting studies on calf survivability
31 within the Preserve and they plan on deploying
32 additional collars on female moose and they plan on
33 continuing to monitor calf survival this spring.

34
35 Our Staff also continue to monitor
36 eight packs of wolves within the Preserve. One
37 interesting study that recently came out was looking at
38 how changes in temperature and precipitation and the
39 start of spring affects when wolves den and also the
40 affects on the reproductive success. They found that
41 the onset of spring has shifted about 14 days earlier,
42 but the average denning date has not changed due to
43 this effect.

44
45 And lastly Park Staff -- or Preserve
46 Staff have detected an invasive plant species within
47 the Preserve, it's white sweet clover. And concerns
48 are if this plant continues to get established it'll
49 eventually take over and also affect out Native plants
50

0142

1 are growing within the Preserve.

2

3 So we also have Kyle Joly from our
4 Staff online and he would be able to answer further
5 biological questions that you might have.

6

7 So that's my quick update.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
12 you, Marcy. Council members, any questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm not
17 hearing any questions. If I'm skipping over anything
18 you guys butt in any time. Thank you, again, Marcy.

19

20 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is
23 Wrangell-St.Elias.

24

25 CAROLINE: Madame Chair, this is
26 Caroline (Indiscernible). Barbara Cellarius had to
27 step away.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
30 right ahead Caroline.

31

32 CAROLINE: All right. Good afternoon
33 everyone. For the record this is Caroline
34 (Indiscernible) from Wrangell-St.Elias National Park.
35 The Wrangell-St.Elias wildlife report starts on Page 49
36 of your meeting books.

37

38 The only new wildlife information for
39 Eastern Interior concerns the Chisana Caribou Herd,
40 which is a small international herd occurring in Yukon
41 and Alaska. And in Alaska its range is primarily
42 within Wrangell-St.Elias. With recent caribou
43 collaring efforts there are now 50 collars out in the
44 Chisana Caribou Herd, including 21 GPS satellite
45 collars.

46

47 The subsistence and anthropology report
48 starts on Page 51 of your meeting book.

49

50

0143

1 Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and
2 Preserve issues Federal subsistence permits for moose,
3 sheep, goat and caribou hunts in Units 11 and 12. In
4 cooperation with ADF&G the Park also issues joint State
5 and Federal permits for the RM291 moose hunt. The
6 number of permits issued and the number of animals
7 harvested is summarized in Tables 1 and 2. I'll give
8 you a few highlights from the 2020 season focusing on
9 Unit 12 because it is in the Eastern Interior region.
10 For the 2020 season the Chisana Caribou harvest quota
11 was seven bull caribou. A total of 7 permits were
12 issued, four people reported hunting and three animals
13 were harvested.

14
15 For the Unit 12 sheep hunt for hunters
16 60 years of age or older 12 permits were issued, four
17 people reported hunting and one sheep was harvested.

18
19 Moving on to Table 2 on Page 53 and the
20 joint State/Federal moose permit in the northern part
21 of Unit 11 and a small portion of Unit 12, so west of
22 the Nabesna River, a total of 316 permits were issued,
23 including 173 to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
24 A total of 26 moose were harvested, including 15 by
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

26
27 And our subsistence and anthropology
28 report also summarizes several ongoing projects
29 including a couple of projects that AITRC is working on
30 in cooperation with the Park.

31
32 In addition, an ethnohistory of the
33 Chisana River Basin should be available by your next
34 meeting.

35
36 That concludes my report. I'm happy to
37 try and answer any questions and if I don't have an
38 answer I can forward your questions on to Barbara or
39 Judy.

40
41 Thank you, very much.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
44 Caroline. Is there any questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
49 you, very much Caroline, and say hi to Barbara.
50

0144

1 CAROLINE: Will do.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MR. SARAFIN: Madame Chair, this is
9 Dave Sarafin. I have a fisheries report for Wrangell-
10 St.Elias if you'd like.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
13 ahead, Dave.

14

15 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, thank you. Yes, I
16 think in the materials, the report begins on Page 42 of
17 your book. But trying to -- I'll try to be brief, but
18 we are still hoping to get Tanada Creek salmon weir in
19 this season. And we'd like everyone to know,
20 especially around the Slana, Chistochina, Mentasta area
21 that we currently have seasonal job recruitments that
22 are open on our Park Service website and these are
23 scheduled to close next Wednesday, March (cuts out) --
24 so that will be for hiring a crew at Tanada. There's
25 also a local hire posted for Copper Center as well.

26

27 Besides the weir, we have another year
28 of FRMP burbot study that's been getting delayed and
29 that one, again, is starting to look likely it might
30 get delayed due to Covid risk mitigations again this
31 year.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,
37 somebody -- excuse me -- but it sounds like somebody
38 did not mute their phone, maybe the last person that
39 was on or prior to that. Whoever is talking right now
40 your phone needs to be muted.

41

42 Okay, go ahead, Dave. Sorry.

43

44 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Yeah, there was
45 also another project that was scheduled in the Park
46 this year by the USGS that would be tracing mercury in
47 lake trout food webs. That project also may be in
48 jeopardy of not going this year due to Covid, where it
49 might be delayed to a future year possibly.

50

0145

1 Switching to the Copper River -- upper
2 Copper River Federal subsistence fisheries. The 2020
3 season, on Tables 1 through 4 at the end of this
4 report, will show a historical reported and expanded
5 harvest for the Federal subsistence fisheries in each
6 subdistrict, including the numbers of permits issued,
7 there's like 216 for Chitina and 377 for Glennallen
8 subdistricts. Presently we're at about 85 percent of
9 harvest reports returned now and harvest figures are
10 pretty similar to what was provided to you there in the
11 tables with about 16,000 fish, which is 72 percent of
12 the five year average and about 77 percent of the 10
13 year average.

14
15 The Copper River salmon run strengths
16 for 2020 both chinook and king salmon were very, very
17 poor this year and the sustainable goals for chinook
18 was likely not met and for sockeye, as well, may not
19 have been met, it's right on the edge.

20
21 There were no Federal special actions
22 issued by the in-season manager this season.

23
24 And just a brief recap of the preseason
25 Copper River salmon forecast that Alaska Department of
26 Fish and Game has put out, they're forecasting for a
27 return of 37,000 chinook salmon, which is 22 percent
28 below recent 10 year average of 48,000. Forecast for
29 wild production sockeye salmon is roughly 1.3 million
30 fish which is 37 percent below the recent 10 year
31 average for wild stock return. And, yeah, the
32 preseason -- 2020 preseason for total sockeye return is
33 1.35 -- or 1.347,000 fish. And in-season management,
34 again, is anticipated, you know, to be based on the run
35 strength indices we see early in the season along with
36 the sonar estimates.

37
38 And for Federal management, unless in-
39 season run abundance indices prompt concerns of meeting
40 escapement goals, we anticipate all Federal subsistence
41 salmon fisheries of the upper Copper River to be open
42 continuously May 11th through September 30th.

43
44 And that concludes my report.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
47 you, Dave. Any questions of Dave.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0146

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm not
2 hearing any, and thank you for your report, Dave.

3
4 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
7 Did I miss anybody on these Federal agency reports.

8
9 MR. KRON: Sue, I think Jim Herriges
10 had a report as well and it's included in the copies
11 that I sent out yesterday but I don't know if Jim is
12 still on.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah,
15 he's actually next, the BLM, I was just thinking of the
16 Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service so,
17 yeah, this will be under BLM.

18
19 Thanks, Tom.

20
21 MR. HERRIGES: Okay, good afternoon
22 Madame Chair and Council members. I'm Jim Herriges
23 and I'll give just a very brief report on -- for BLM
24 some of which we've already talked about so I'll skip
25 those items and just make you aware of a few things
26 that are happening.

27
28 The Central Yukon Draft Resource
29 Management Plan comment period was mentioned, closes
30 March 11th. I'd encourage members to go ahead and make
31 individual comments there. And there's a link in the
32 materials I provided that will take you there. And it
33 also explains on that page how to, you know, give a
34 comment, and I encourage you to read that because in
35 order to be most effective, comments need to be
36 considered substantive, which means going beyond just
37 what you like or don't like and describing how it
38 affects you or others or why it wasn't fully considered
39 by BLM and those types of things. So just an
40 additional reminder there.

41
42 We are also nearing having a draft of
43 our travel management plans for the White Mountains and
44 the Steese areas. Those plans are going to define
45 where and how the various methods of transportation
46 including motorized vehicles like ATVS may be used.
47 For example, some areas will be recommended to be
48 closed to motorized vehicles during the summer, some
49 will only be open for use on designated trails in some
50

0147

1 areas cross country travel will be allowed is -- those
2 are kind of the range of things being considered. So
3 if this is of interest to anybody make sure and watch
4 for announcements. I'm guessing we'll have virtual
5 public meetings, unfortunately.

6
7 The field office received good feedback
8 from the Eagle community about the Eagle fire fuels
9 treatment project and we're modifying the treatment
10 maps in response to those and we'll get another round
11 of input and hope to have that environmental assessment
12 done by the end of this month.

13
14 Study of moose movement in the upper
15 Draanjik drainage will be started this month with help
16 from the Yukon-Charley Staff. We're out doing things
17 in Yukon-Charley now as well. We'll start with
18 hopefully getting 15 adult moose -- adult female moose
19 collared this winter in the (Indiscernible) drainage,
20 and Draanjik River above that and then put additional
21 collars out elsewhere next winter.

22
23 And lastly, beginning this summer the
24 field office is planning to try and repair and
25 rehabilitate the (Indiscernible) Mountain Trail near
26 Eagle Summit on the Steese Highway following the damage
27 caused by off highway vehicles used by caribou hunters
28 last summer and fall. That will involve placing
29 boardwalks for hikers outside of the areas damaged by
30 OHVs and trying to control erosion and do some
31 revegetation to minimize further erosion and permafrost
32 melting.

33
34 And I can answer any questions. I also
35 put contact information in the materials there if you
36 want to just get a hold of me and ask me anything about
37 what I mentioned or otherwise.

38
39 Thanks.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
42 Jim. Any questions, Council members, of Jim.

43
44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
48 none, thank you, again, Jim, for your report.

49
50

0148

1 All right, the next thing on our agenda
2 is OSM.

3
4 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. First of all
5 I wanted to thank all of you, all the Council members
6 for all their great work. Trying to do things in a
7 teleconference environment is very, very difficult, and
8 a sad situation and I think we all look forward to
9 getting out of this and getting back to semi-normal.

10
11 Again, I'll make this report very
12 quick.

13
14 First of all, on OSM Staffing.

15
16 Katya Wessels served as a number of
17 years as Council Coordinator, she's currently serving
18 as Policy Coordinator and she was just selected for the
19 Council Coordination Division Chief position and she
20 will start there in a little over a week.

21
22 Relative to Council appointments and
23 applications. We are asking people to apply whether
24 they're Council members or maybe they're just listening
25 on and would like to apply but please contact Katya or
26 I if -- or me, if you want applications but we
27 definitely would appreciate receiving any applications
28 for Council nominations. The date has been extended, I
29 think, through the 12th.

30
31 The other thing, and, again, we're just
32 hoping that we can get back to normal. This fall, our
33 understanding is that they're going to be requiring the
34 new RealID driver's licenses, logos, for
35 transportation. So in order to fly people out -- to
36 fly Council members out to meetings we'll need to make
37 sure that you have a new ID, the new RealID. So if you
38 haven't gotten it yet please get that.

39
40 There's also a summary in the
41 information I sent out to everybody about the lawsuit
42 from the state of Alaska and it gives you an update on
43 the status of that. And we're understanding that there
44 will be more information coming out on that over the
45 course of the coming months.

46
47 But that's all I have, just a brief
48 summary because I sent the materials out.

49
50

0149

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

4 Any questions, Council members.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just

9 want to make sure I covered this correctly. I am

10 getting from Mark Burch and from Jim Simon that if we

11 have any Board of Fish proposals the deadline is May

12 10th of this year and this is the only meeting we would

13 have to put forth a proposal for the Board of Fish.

14 And if you have anything now's the time to do that, and

15 if you don't, go to Staff or whoever to help you if

16 something comes up between now and May 10th and write

17 the proposal and at least it would be put forth and we

18 could take it up.

19

20 So I'm going to put that call out one

21 more time, if anybody has any Board of Fish proposals.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I don't

26 hear any. And now for future meetings. I believe we

27 went through our fall 2021 meeting date and location.

28 And now we need to select the winter 2022.

29

30 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, if I could

31 just jump in, I'll just give you a quick update. So

32 far, prior to this week five of the Councils had

33 already met. I just tried to get a hold of Eva Patton,

34 who is the coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

35 meeting, they're still in progress. I think we're

36 ahead of them a little bit by maybe 30 minutes, but

37 anyway so far for the week of February 7th, and I'm

38 looking on Page 59 in your Council book, the week of

39 February 7th is taken with Bristol Bay and

40 Southcentral. We have two meetings that week.

41

42 The week of February 14th is also

43 taken, Northwest Arctic and Western Interior have

44 chosen meeting dates there.

45

46 The rest of the meeting window on Page

47 59 is available to you to select.

48

49 So, again, make a selection and as soon

50

0150

1 as you do I will let Eva know in the Yukon Delta
2 meeting what your selection was.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What was
5 Southcentral, the 9th or the.....

6

7 MR. KRON: Southcentral is the 10th,
8 the 10th and the 11th.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
11 right, Council members, it looks like we have the weeks
12 past February 22nd.

13

14 MR. KRON: That's correct, Madame
15 Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Tom.

18

19 MR. KRON: Yeah, that's correct.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22

23 Suggestions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I need
28 to know when the -- did the SRC -- did the Wrangell-
29 St.Elias SRC put in for fall meeting, I might have to
30 check that, I don't want to interfere with that. I'm
31 looking.

32

33 MS. STICKWAN: Sue, this is Gloria.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Gloria,
36 go ahead.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: September 28th and 29th
39 as the first choice.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No,
42 this would be the -- this would be for the winter
43 meeting in February and March.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought
46 you said fall.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
49 sorry, if I said that. Yeah, we're looking at February
50

0151

1 22.

2

3 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie.

4 Could we do something after March 7th.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm perfectly

7 great on that. So what days of the week, Charlie.

8

9 MR. JAGOW: How about March 9th and

10 10th.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: March 9th and

13 10th, okay, that's a suggestion.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Sounds good to me. This

16 is Robert.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, sounds good to me.

19 Bill Glanz thinks so.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Sounds good to me. This

24 is Don.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

27

28 MR. MCMANUS: Sounds good. Tim

29 McManus.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep, sounds

32 good to me, too. So without making a motion I would

33 say we're all agreeing. If there's any opposition to

34 March 9th and 10th, speak now.

35

36 (No objection)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so a

39 meeting place. Staff, where are we at on the meeting

40 place stuff.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: How about Fairbanks.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds

45 good to me. Does anyone have any objection to that.

46

47 (No objection)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys

50

0152

1 want to pick an alternative date.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: I like Fairbanks because
4 it's kind of easy for everybody from all directions to
5 get there. This is Robert. Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I tend to
8 agree with you there. But it is interesting to get out
9 into the villages (indiscernible - cuts out)

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Did we talk about Arctic
15 Village not long ago, in one of the last meetings.

16

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, can you hear
21 me, this is Robert.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: No, they heard you. I
24 could hear you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My phone --
27 sorry about that guys, my phone went dead.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
30 Robert.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: In the past we did talk
35 about a meeting in Arctic Village, didn't we?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did, yes.
38 Do you want to have it as an alternative?

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, that would be very
41 nice.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you want
44 Fairbanks and then Arctic Village as an alternative?

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: I would like it the other
47 way, Arctic Village and then Fairbanks if that doesn't
48 work out.

49

50

0153

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3

4 MR. GLANZ: The only problem, Madame
5 Chair. If we go 9th and 10th and 11th would be a
6 travel day from Arctic Village and so that means me and
7 Don and a couple of us will be stuck in Fairbanks the
8 whole weekend, the 12th, 13th and we wouldn't get out
9 of there until Monday.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they don't
12 fly on the 11th?

13

14 MR. GLANZ: They fly on the 11th but
15 you got to be at the airport by 11:00 o'clock, I
16 believe, to go to Central and Eagle.

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: So if we get a charter
19 going then we could just stop there and drop you off,
20 maybe that might work.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: That would work good.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: You could also move the
25 dates to 8th and 9th.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: That sounds better yet.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, that'll work.

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
32 Don.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, yes.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
39 ahead.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 I think that the best time to go to Arctic Village is
43 when we're doing wildlife proposals.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Yes, that's right.

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, that's true.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I agree.

50

0154

1 MR. WRIGHT: So with that.....

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Because I'm pretty sure
4 there's not that many fish on the upper river by then.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: That's true.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: You're right, Don.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
13 think we probably ought to stick to that.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Maybe Fort Yukon will be a
16 better place because they have a hard time getting
17 fish.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
20 I'm hearing you say Fairbanks, you like Fairbanks, but
21 now you're saying Fort Yukon, is your alternative?

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: What do you other Board
24 members think?

25

26 MR. MCMANUS: Fort Yukon.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Fort Yukon, and if not
29 Fairbanks.

30

31 MR. JAGOW: Yep. I'd go to Fort Yukon.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

36

37 MR. MCMANUS: Sounds good.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So because
40 it's Fort Yukon, do you want it moved to 8th and 9th so
41 you don't have any trouble flying back.

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: That's right. That would
44 work really good.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: Correct.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0155

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
2 hearing consensus here that Arctic Village [sic] 8th
3 and 9th, either way, 9th and 10th is our second choice
4 for Fairbanks or you wanted 8th and 9th for Fairbanks
5 also.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
10 that a yes for just keep the meeting date the 8th and
11 9th?

12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
16 opposed.

17
18 (No opposition)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
21 We have the meeting date 8th and 9th, No. 1 choice Fort
22 Yukon, No. 2 choice Fairbanks.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good to me.

25
26 MR. JAGOW: Yes.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
29 Any opposition.

30
31 (No opposition)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it
34 sounds like we have our dates set.

35
36 Now, you're doing really good guys.
37 Would anyone like to do any closing comments.

38
39 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, I just want to
44 remind everybody to put Andrew in their prayers and his
45 family. We missed him at this meeting. It seems like
46 when he speaks about topics and subjects, to me it was
47 always on point and direct and so I missed that about
48 him at this meeting so I just want to remind everybody
49 to keep his family in your prayers.
50

0156

1 And thank you guys for your time, Madame
2 Chair, and all the Staff, you do wonderful work.

3
4 That's it.

5
6 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie, Madame
7 Chair -- or Robert.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to thank all the
12 Board members and everybody who presented today for
13 their time. I'd also like to send prayers to Andrew
14 and his family. And I thank everybody for doing the
15 best they can always.

16
17 That's all, thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

20
21 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair, this is Linda
22 Evans.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
25 ahead, Linda.

26
27 MS. EVANS: I'd like to thank everyone
28 for all their participation in this meeting. I know
29 it's my first meeting and I have a lot to catch up on.
30 I really appreciate everyone's comments and the
31 background information that they provided, it's very
32 helpful.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
37 Linda.

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
40 Don.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
43 Don.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I would just
46 really like to thank everyone's ability to help
47 function as a cohesive team, we all come from diverse
48 backgrounds but we have a commonality and that is
49 putting food on the table for our constituents and I
50

0157

1 want to thank everyone for their hard work. And
2 repeated prayers for Andrew and his family and I hope
3 he has a speedy recovery.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Anyone
8 else.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
13 in closing comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just
18 like to reiterate, man I was just talking to Andrew
19 Monday and things weren't like he -- so we must
20 continue to pray for him and his family. And I pray to
21 God that he has a speedy recovery, he's too young for
22 this.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: Boy, he sure is.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I really
27 miss him a lot. He has a lot to contribute, he's a
28 very smart young man and I really appreciate him a lot.
29 So -- and I appreciate all of you guys putting up with
30 me as your Chair for so long. The day will come I'll
31 get too old for this. So I'm anxious to see, well,
32 participation from everyone and I really appreciate all
33 of you guys, this is a really group of people. And
34 thank you all very much and all the help that we get
35 from Staff, very important.

36
37 Is there anything else.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Well, just one thing, Madame
40 Chair. I'm sure the village of Fort Yukon is going to
41 miss him just as much as we do because he's been quite
42 the backbone of that community for a lot of years.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
45 I assume -- we'll see how he works out, he told me
46 before he got -- before he went through this, he said
47 I'm going to serve my term out for sure, he said, so,
48 let's hope he's at our next meeting.

49
50

0158

1 MR. GLANZ: Good deal.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Sure hope so. All right,
6 okay, everybody, thank you. Good meeting.

7

8 MR. IRVINE: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

11

12 MR. IRVINE: Hi, this is Bruce, could I
13 give a really quick comment.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is this?

16

17 MR. IRVINE: Bruce Irvine.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Bruce, go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. IRVINE: Hello, Madame Chair and
23 Council members. This is Bruce Irvine Upper Tanana
24 Den'a from Northway and NPR research coordinator at
25 Tanana Chiefs Conference, part of the TCC Hunting,
26 Fishing and Gathering Task Force.

27

28 And I would just like to take this time
29 to thank the Eastern Interior RAC for including AITRC,
30 issuing it into the annual report given that the upper
31 Tanana tribes of Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Northway,
32 Tanacross, Tetlin and Tok have Federal subsistence
33 customary and traditional use for Chitina subdistrict
34 and Glennallen subdistrict of Copper River. You know,
35 I just want to thank you again, I learned a lot today
36 about RAC meeting operations and I'm looking forward to
37 future meetings of the Eastern Interior RAC. And I
38 hope for a speedy recovery for Andrew. And thank you,
39 again, for allowing me to give a closing comment today.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we
44 deeply appreciate that, Bruce, thank you. Maybe you
45 need to put your name in the hat for a RAC member.

46

47 MR. IRVINE: All right, thank you.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: While we're on the line, so

50

0159

1 has Andy Bassich put in or did he not put in, or what's
2 going on with him.

3

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He had put in for this cycle so somebody at Staff is going to have to answer these questions how this works, does he have to put in again.

MR. GLANZ: Okay.

MR. KRON: Yeah, I'll jump in. Maybe Katya is there as well. But my understanding, again, he put in and as I understand it the name was forwarded but we did not get a confirmation back from Washington, D.C. We do not control the decisions that are made there so I don't know what's happening there. We are requesting, I have requested and I think Katya's pushing as well to try to get a reconsideration of applicants that were not selected by Washington, D.C. I do not know if that's going to happen or not but we're pushing to get an out of cycle appointment process. Again, we've got three Councils, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior and Southeast that didn't get any appointments at all, zero. They're operating with four or five Council members, total.

So, again, we need those appointments, you know, I specifically mentioned Andy and put in a request there but we're hoping we can get out of cycle appointments and my understanding is Andy has put in for a possible appointment for the upcoming cycle as well. But -- and I've corresponded with Andy and talked to him, I haven't gotten a response back, but that's the status.

MR. GLANZ: Okay. Appreciate that.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, all right, Council members, is there anything else.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If not, are we ready to adjourn.

MR. MCMANUS: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WRIGHT: I second that. This is Robert.

0160

1

MR. GLANZ: All right.

2

3

MR. MCMANUS: All in favor say bye.

4

5

(Laughter)

6

7

(Off record)

8

9

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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