

EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Telephonic
October 14, 2020
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andy Bassich
Andrew Firmin
William Glanz
Timothy McManus
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright
Charles Jagow

Regional Council Coordinator, Katya Wessels

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

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

2
3 (Telephonic - 10/14/2020)4
5 (On record)6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue
8 Entsminger. Eastern Regional Advisory Council, calling
9 the meeting to order. And we will start with an
10 invocation and Donald Woodruff has volunteered.11
12 Don, go ahead.13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Sue. Welcome
15 everyone. I'd like to dedicate this invocation if I
16 can to the fisheries managers because in the past I've
17 given invocations for the Staff and the Council members
18 to listen very carefully and make sound judgments and
19 I'd like to dedicate this one to the fisheries managers
20 that don't seem to be listening at all.21
22 And, so, Heavenly Father, please give
23 us all the ability to listen and think clearly so that
24 we can help the people that we represent.25
26 Thank you.27
28 We ask this in God's and your Jesus
29 Christ's name.30
31 Amen.32
33 IN UNISON: Amen.34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
36 Donald. A few things to help our meeting to go along.
37 We follow Robert's Rules of Order, and I'm asking
38 everyone to please mute your phone. I just checked my
39 phone, it's one of those land lines with a mute on it
40 and I can push mute and I don't have to push star-six,
41 but you still have to push star-six to come back on and
42 push your mute button to come back on, so if you don't
43 hear us make sure you're taking care of that.44
45 And if people want to speak, you need
46 to address the Chair and say your name each time. I
47 think as the meeting goes along, especially Council
48 members, I do recognize names, we'll go through
49 introductions, and I'm looking at this here, I have a

50

1 little cheat sheet I'm going by.

2

3

MR. WRIGHT: Roll call.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
6 very important for people, when -- I just went through
7 a teleconference with the Subsistence Resource
8 Commission and it's very important to -- for the
9 public, when it's called on, and try not to make the
10 meeting go longer, it's very important to have the
11 respect for the volunteers as they participate in this
12 meeting and try to make decisions at this meeting.

13

14

15

Okay, Katya, did you have anything else
that we need to address on handling the meeting.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MS. WESSELS: Well, I just want to ask
everyone if they would like to speak, they just attract
Chair's attention by saying Madame Chair, and then they
introduce themselves -- when Chair allows them to
speak, they introduce themselves, because we're all on
the phone here and not everybody recognizes everybody's
voices so please be courteous and try to follow this
protocol.

25

26

27

Thank you.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Name and
organization and affiliation.

All right.

37

38

39

40

41

42

Roll call, and I'm wondering if Robert,
you should have the names, can you do the roll call for
us, and that's Robert -- Charlie Wright.

37

38

39

40

41

42

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Charlie
Wright, can you do the roll call or do you want Katya
to do it?

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WRIGHT: I'm sitting in my truck
without my book, I'd rather have Katya do it, please.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
sounds good. Go ahead, Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Thank you, Madame

1 Chair. This is Katya Wessels, Council Coordinator for
2 the Eastern Interior. I'm going to do the roll call
3 and I will start with you, Susan Entsminger, Chair of
4 Mentasta.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Vice Chair, Andrew
9 Firmin, of Fort Yukon.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: I'm here.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Oh, great, Andrew, we're
14 happy you got through.

15
16 Secretary, Robert Charlie Wright of
17 Tanana.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Great.

22
23 Andy Bassich of Eagle.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Present.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Donald Woodruff of Eagle.

28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Bill Glanz of Central.

32
33 MR. GLANZ: I'm here, thank you.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Charlie Jagow of
36 Porcupine River.

37
38 MR. JAGOW: Here.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

41
42 Tim McManus of Nenana.

43
44 MR. MCMANUS: I'm here.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. We have eight
47 out of eight seated members presented so we have a
48 quorum.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
4 thank you, Katya.

5
6 Next, I welcome all the Council members
7 and all the public and all the Staff. And we'll go
8 through introduction of Staff. We've already
9 introduced our Council members so I'm going to start
10 off with OSM and then we'll go to the different
11 agencies. I'll call on the different agencies and it
12 should help, you know, maybe just to help out to tell
13 -- when we'll call on you and have you introduce
14 yourself.

15
16 It'll be OSM; U.S. Fish and Wildlife
17 Service, Park Service, BLM, BIA, tribal governments;
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Native
19 organizations; YRDFA; and members of the public.

20
21 So OSM could you introduce yourself.

22
23 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. This is Tom
24 Kron and I'm from OSM and I'll be the leadership team
25 representative.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MS. HYER: Good morning, Madame Chair
30 and Council members. This is Karen Hyer, I'm a
31 fisheries biologist with OSM.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa Kenner
34 and I'm an anthropologist with OSM.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Hi, this is Lisa Maas. I'm
37 a wildlife biologist and the Acting Policy Coordinator
38 with OSM.

39
40 MR. GRAHAM: This is Cory Graham,
41 fisheries biologist, OSM.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
44 from OSM.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning
49 to you folks.

50

1 Next, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2
3 MS. CONITZ: Good morning, this is Jan
4 Conitz, I'm a fisheries biologist and assisting with
5 Yukon fisheries management.

6
7 MR. FOX: Good morning, Madame Chair
8 and Council members. This is Jimmy Fox, Refuge Manager
9 at Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

10
11 MS. MULLIGAN: Good morning, Madame
12 Chair. This is Ally Mulligan, assistant Refuge Manager
13 with Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

14
15 MR. BERTRAM: Good morning. This is
16 Mark Bertram, I'm a wildlife biologist at Yukon Flats
17 Refuge.

18
19 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Madame
20 Chair. This is Jeff Estensen with the Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game, fall season manager for
22 ADF&G here in Fairbanks. Good morning.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
25 other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service people on line.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
30 National Park Service.

31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning, Sue,
33 Council members. This is Barbara Cellarius with
34 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. I'm the
35 subsistence coordinator and cultural anthropologist.

36
37 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning this is Dave
38 Sarafin, fisheries biologist out at Wrangell-St. Elias
39 National Park.

40
41 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is
42 Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley
43 Rivers National Preserve.

44
45 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. This is Amy
46 Craver with Denali National Park and Preserve.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
49 other National Park Service people on line.

50

1 (Teleconference interference - Western
2 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure
5 I heard that.

6
7 (Teleconference interference - Western
8 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning, this
11 is.....

12
13 (Teleconference interference - Western
14 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Hello.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is
19 getting a little confusing. I was actually asking BLM,
20 and now I'm hearing all kinds of people coming in.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Hello.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Excuse me, whoever was
25 just talking, can you tell us who you are.

26
27 MR. CHEN: Katya, this is Glenn Chen
28 from BIA, we're listening to the Western Interior
29 conference, someone needs to turn off their phone
30 that's connected to the Western Interior conference
31 right now.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So whoever has
34 their phone not on mute for the Eastern Interior,
35 please mute your phone.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what's
38 happening, we're hearing a bunch of background.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Sorry about that.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is
43 Vince with Arctic, Yukon Flats and Kanuti Refuges. And
44 there'll be Staff. I'm trying to cover both the
45 Western meeting also, so there'll be other Staff if
46 questions come up if I'm not available.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think just
2 to help us, we were trying to be orderly here and do
3 introductions by agencies but I'm going to just call
4 now -- I heard some BIA people, are there any others on
5 line.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tribal
10 governments on line, introduce yourselves.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal
15 governments on line.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,
20 Gloria.

21
22 Any other tribal governments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game. I heard one fisheries
28 biologist introduce himself, I don't remember his name,
29 are there any others.

30
31 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch.
32 I'm a biologist with the Department of Fish and Game.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Madame
37 Chair and Council members. This is Brooke McDavid with
38 the Subsistence Division of Fish and Game.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
41 from Fish and Game.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native
46 organizations.

47
48 MR. MCKENNA: Good morning. This is
49 Brian McKenna, Tanana Chiefs Conference.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

2

3 MS. NICOLAS: Good morning, this is
4 Sharon Nicolas with Doyon listening on behalf of James
5 Marunde.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

8

9 MR. TINNEL: This is Andrew Tinnel,
10 also with Doyon.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
13 else.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. YRDFA,
18 anyone on.

19

20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, yes, Madame Chair
21 and Council. This is Catherine Moncrieff with the
22 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. I'm the
23 Staff anthropologist. And I hope that Serena Fitka,
24 our Executive Director, she's currently listening to
25 the Western Interior meeting and she'll try to jump in
26 if you're taking reports from agencies later.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
31 else from YRDFA.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Members of
36 the public.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
41 members on line.

42

43 MS. POPE: Hello, this is Amanda Pope
44 from Circle. I'm the hunter liaison for CATG.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
47 you. Anyone else.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 public members on line today.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
7 Welcome everyone and.....

8
9 MR. BURCHAM: There's one more Federal
10 agency, Milo Burcham of the Forest Service and I'm here
11 to present FP21-10. Good morning everybody.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
14 you.

15
16 MR. HERRIGES: And, Madame Chair, Jim
17 Herriges is here with BLM.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good
20 morning, everyone.

21
22 Next on the agenda is to review and
23 adopt the agenda. And I just have a few suggestions
24 here. I had asked Katya to put the sheep emovi problem
25 on because the Department of Environmental Conservation
26 is asking for a domestic to be tested and I think this
27 is an important issue to the Council. So we were going
28 to add it in under old business, 11D.

29
30 And I wanted to ask the Council
31 members, regarding the reports, Andrew and I have
32 talked about this and we wanted to give you some
33 options, do you want to have all, full reports, of all
34 the agency reports with the 15 minutes, do you want a
35 shortened version or do you want to just look at them
36 and ask questions. How would you guys like to handle
37 that?

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

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

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I think
45 a very abbreviated report, a verbal report would be
46 good, keeping it no more than five minutes.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Would
49 you all agree to that? If you have opposition speak

50

1 up.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: This is Andrew in Fort
4 Yukon, I agree to that.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Do we
7 have any opposition to it.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12 Hearing no opposition, I'm requesting that the agency
13 reports be five minutes.

14

15 And there was one other thing I wanted
16 to bring up, it's been brought to by my attention by
17 our Coordinator that it's probably important for us to
18 move our future meeting date early on in the meeting so
19 we can get our dates that we want, we're always
20 competing with other Councils, in particularly,
21 Western. So that one we were talking about having it
22 moved to the first day of the meeting, any suggestions.
23 Thinking about putting it in right after the minutes.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: Sounds good.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
28 ahead, who was speaking.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: That was Don.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
33 Don, I didn't hear you.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I think that
36 that's a good plan, is just to move it down after the
37 minutes.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
40 there any opposition.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
45 hearing none, those would be the changes with a motion.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: So this is Katya. You
48 also wanted to move the FP21-10 ahead of the crossover
49 proposals.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
2 Yes, I was starting to question my -- importance of
3 that -- it's okay to leave it where it is if the
4 Council members are okay.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Okay. And there were two
11 requests from Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and from
12 Denali National Park and Preserve to have their reports
13 added to the agenda.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And with no
16 opposition of Council members I would say that's okay
17 because we have a five minute.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
26 Andy.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would also --
29 speaking to adding agenda items, if there's a
30 possibility to get someone from ADF&G, preferably Jeff
31 Gross, to give us a brief report on why the caribou
32 season was so liberal this year. It kind of went
33 against all of the Coalitions recommendations from the
34 past meetings, and so I'd really like to get an
35 explanation from that.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
38 would you like it on the agenda where it's the last,
39 some of the reports, it's under Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game, or do you have a place for it?

41
42 MR. BASSICH: No, it doesn't matter,
43 wherever you see fit. I think the most important thing
44 is just to get some kind of explanation from them and
45 I'd like to hear it and I know we're going to have a
46 few questions. We have a number of members on our
47 Eastern RAC that are part of that Coalition so it's a
48 big concern.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, well,
2 Andy, take a look at the agenda there, under agency
3 reports, I mean that's -- if you want it somewhere else
4 you probably should tell me. If it comes up towards
5 the end of the meeting and it's like the very end of
6 the meeting, so if you want to see it somewhere else
7 you'll have to say so.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would prefer if
10 we could have it early in the morning tomorrow. I
11 don't know if Jeff Gross is on, but maybe it would give
12 some time for Katya to contact him and then maybe just
13 do it early in the morning tomorrow, first thing, when
14 we're a little bit fresh.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
17 think we can arrange that and somebody can make a call
18 to Jeff and see if he's available in the morning and
19 that would be at 9:00 o'clock, right, Katya.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, I had myself on
24 mute, yes, I'm going to contact Mark Burch and request
25 a presentation from ADF&G on that matter, specifically
26 with Jeff Gross.

27
28 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, if I might
29 interrupt, this is Mark. I have the message I'll work
30 on it.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
33 Mark. That'll be real helpful.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, Bill Glanz.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
38 ahead, Bill.

39
40 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'd like to have that
41 first thing in the morning too because I have to leave
42 out tomorrow at around 2:00 o'clock to get over the
43 mountain passes. We had a real fiasco up here but
44 we'll get into that tomorrow morning. 4,000 caribou in
45 our neighborhood was taken in about six days or seven.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my, yeah.
48 All right, well, that sounds good Bill, and Mark Burch
49 can work on that and I think we can make it happen.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: Good.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I hope
4 we didn't confuse everyone totally here.

5
6 We need a motion to approve the agenda
7 as we spoke.

8
9 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff, I
10 make a motion.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
13 Don.

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I make a motion we
16 adopt the agenda as revised.

17
18 MR. GLANZ: I second that, Bill Glanz.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
21 moved and seconded. Is there any other discussion.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
26 I will ask for unanimous approval and all say aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
35 it's the minutes. We have before us two sets of
36 minutes because our last minutes -- at the last meeting
37 the minutes were not adopted so let's take that, hum,
38 there's two sets of minutes. The fall 2019 minutes
39 were not approved and you all should have seen that.
40 Are you ready for a motion.

41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
43 Don Woodruff.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: I would move that we
48 adopt the meeting minutes from March 3rd and 4th.

49
50

1 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair, this is Tim
2 McManus, I second that.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
5 other discussion.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
10 say aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
15 opposed.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
20 passes for the minutes of the March 3rd and 4th.

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
23 Don Woodruff.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
26 Don.

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to adopt
29 the minutes from the October 15th/16th meeting in 2019.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that, Bill
32 Glanz.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
35 been moved and seconded, any discussion on those
36 minutes.

37
38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
42 that I worked with Zach and Tom Kron on these and I did
43 approve them and just wanted to let you guys know that
44 we'd taken care of it.

45
46 Any other discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

Page 16

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
2 of the minutes. All in favor say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

6
7 (No opposing votes)
8

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
11 They passed. Next on the agenda is the reports from
12 the Council members.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
15 Katya.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
18 Katya.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: You voted to have the new
21 meeting dates right after the meeting minutes.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, I
24 appreciate that. I'm going to need help here and thank
25 you for that. All right, let's go to our -- it's Page
26 307 if you have your book in front of you -- or 306 --
27 306 is the meeting calendar for winter 2021 and we're
28 voting on dates for fall 2021.

29
30 And, Charlie Wright, I guess if you
31 don't have your book in front of you it's going to be
32 hard to look at a calendar. But to help you guys out,
33 if you go to Page 307, YK-Delta is scheduling there's
34 on October 6th and 7th, and the Southcentral is October
35 13th and 14th.

36
37 Any suggestions, Council members.

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff.

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

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I think the next
45 week the 20th and 21st if other Council members can
46 agree with that.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
49 discussion.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
4 ahead.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, as I always state
7 the earlier the better for me. Often times the 20th of
8 October is the last day that we can run the river so
9 unless I can get an airplane or a helicopter to get in
10 and out I can't attend in person if we have an in
11 present meeting, so please keep that in mind. But
12 otherwise I'll go with whatever the Council wants to
13 do.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
18 Katya.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
21 ahead Katya.

22
23 MS. WESSELS: I just received a message
24 that Western Interior selected October 13th and 14th of
25 2021. They beat us to it.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
30 13th and 14th?

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Yes, that's right.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we
35 were.....

36
37 MS. WESSELS: So that week is
38 completely out for the Eastern Interior because we
39 already have two Councils meeting on October 13th and
40 14th, Western Interior and Southcentral.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Donald
43 suggested 20/21.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: No, I think I said 19,
46 20.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you did.
49 Okay, Donald, 19 and.....

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: The middle of the week.

2
3 MR. GLANZ: Yes, it is.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
6 Tuesday/Wednesday instead of Wednesday/Thursday, sorry.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. You also
9 have, you know, an opportunity if you want to meet a
10 little bit earlier in October 4th-8th, that week, which
11 only has one Council meeting that week, YK-Delta
12 meeting October 6th and 7th.

13
14 Council members.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. I
17 would prefer that.

18
19 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff. I
22 would like to remind the Council members that 25B, the
23 moose season goes until October 7th, so anybody that's
24 trying to get a little meat together at the end of the
25 season would miss the meeting.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: I believe I'm the only
28 one that would be affected by that, this is Andy.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: This is Andrew in Fort
31 Yukon. I don't have a problem with either week, either
32 the 19th through the 21st or the 5th through the 7th is
33 fine with me.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, give me
36 a suggestion then, do you guys want to pick one date
37 and have a second date as an alternate.

38
39 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie here.
40 Could we do the 7th through the 8th.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It works
43 better for you Charlie Jagow.

44
45 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, that would definitely
46 work better than -- that's about the earliest I would
47 be able to get in.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: It'll work too, Bill Glanz.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear
2 you Bill.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: I saw October 7th and 8th
5 would work fine for me also.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8
9 So Council members do you want to pick
10 7th and 8th as your first choice, any opposition.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then
15 19/20 as the second.

16
17 MR. MCMANUS: Sounds good. Madame
18 Chair, this is Tim McManus, that sounds good.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

21
22 MR. MCMANUS: Good for me anyway.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
25 else.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
28 Katya. You also should select the tentative community,
29 where you want to meet.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
32 members.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, given --
35 this is Andy. Given the possibility for Covid still be
36 an issue I'd recommend that we just retain staying in
37 Fairbanks if we're going to meet in person. I wouldn't
38 want to have the possibility of infecting other
39 villages.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we all in
42 agreement, if not, speak up.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
47 not hearing any opposition so 7th and 8th Eastern
48 Interior in Fairbanks.

49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay. And the second
2 tentative dates 19th or 20th, correct, this is Katya.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Correct.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Correct.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Okay. You approved March
11 4th and 5th in Fairbanks or Arctic Village for the
12 winter 2021, correct?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I
15 remember that. And I guess all of that will depend on
16 the circumstances of the pandemic, correct?

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
21 how I remember it, yes.

22
23 Okay. Anything else on the topic.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
28 Council reports and Andrew, I'll have you go first.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. This is Andrew
31 Firmin in Fort Yukon. I don't know how far along I'll
32 get.

33
34 But I guess we're finally trying to get
35 snow here in Fort Yukon but over the past summer I know
36 we seemed to have a fair bird hunt this spring. We had
37 some high water events for most of the summer but it
38 was pretty bad with the pandemic. I'm kind of fearful
39 for moose populations and maybe the pressure that it
40 put on some of our other populations due to not having
41 any fishing opportunity at all this summer. I think I
42 got three fish for all summer and that was it. So I
43 think that's going to be a -- with having travel closed
44 down on us, I was planning to go to Seward or Copper
45 Center to go try to get sockeye or some other type of
46 fish but having our travel windows open/close in and
47 out of the village kept me from going any place else
48 and even just to go to town just to go to the store.
49 We closed our community, you know, on March 23rd, and
50

1 we've had only like three or four travel windows for
2 residents in the mean time. So I know it did put some
3 pressure on a lot of our other fish and game resources
4 here. You know people are targeting other species and
5 we're having a lot of issues with dog mushers right
6 now, them trying to feed their dogs and actually
7 culling their teams and stuff like that. You know
8 people trying to give -- spread them out, or trimming
9 the amount of their dogs down just because they can't
10 afford to feed them all winter. I think I talked to
11 somebody yesterday and they had trimmed their team to
12 six dogs and they had enough to feed them for the
13 winter and that was it. So out of somebody that
14 normally has twice as many dogs, so it's not a good
15 situation all the way around and people are pooling
16 together to look for things.

17
18 But we did have it seems like a fairly
19 successful moose hunt and a lot of sharing, but I'm
20 just curious as to the amount of maybe moose that were
21 taken out of season or that were taken, you know, out
22 of necessity that, you know, the pressure that that
23 puts on it, on other resources, just having that happen
24 from not having any of the fish in our region and not
25 being able to fish period all summer.

26
27 So I probably got some more things to
28 say but I'll wait for other parts of the meeting to say
29 them.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks
34 Andrew.

35
36 Next, Charlie Robert Wright.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie. Thanks,
39 Madame Chair. Hello all. I hope your families are
40 safe and healthy with the virus going on.

41
42 I hear Andrew and echo his thoughts. A
43 lot of hardship along the river, not only on the sled
44 dogs but people especially, hardships. With the warm
45 weather people trying to get moose, moose not coming to
46 the call. The last two years, I struggled through the
47 whole moose season and was lucky enough to get a moose
48 on the last day for the last two years, it's way too
49 warm for the moose to go into rut. The cow moose stand
50

1 in the lake and I paddle right up to them and they look
2 at me when I call at them like what are you doing. So
3 they're far from in rut. Just finally came to call
4 last day like I said. It's going to cause a lot of
5 hardship in the Interior with no fish so leaning on
6 other species.

7
8 There's a lot of good whitefish running
9 right now, the humpies in the Interior, Yukon. People
10 have been going out and getting them. I just pulled my
11 net two days ago out of the ice in the eddy so a lot of
12 high water this summer. Looking forward to winter.

13
14 That's about all I have to report at
15 this time.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Sue, are you there.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just
20 noticed that I pushed mute, sorry. Yes, now I'm back,
21 sorry.

22
23 Andy Bassich.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame
26 Chair. Andy Bassich from Eagle.

27
28 I concur with the other reports.

29
30 The biggest concerns here are king
31 salmon and especially fall chum salmon. We have
32 similar situations in Eagle with the tremendous cost of
33 trying to maintain a dog team without the use of fall
34 chum. I'm sure we'll get into more of this
35 discussions, a lot of them were out of our control at
36 this point in time.

37
38 One of the biggest concerns that I have
39 is the way the fall caribou season was opened up and
40 liberalized. With fishing not being available to us
41 for the foreseeable couple years, caribou and moose
42 become an incredible need here and we're really
43 concerned with the way the caribou management actions
44 took place this year. We don't know whether we're
45 going to see them this winter. They may have been
46 turned. That's why I want to get a report.

47
48 But, you know, food security is a huge
49 issue, especially during Covid. And there's some

50

1 really bad timing losing the fisheries and possibly
2 turning caribou before they move through our area for
3 the wintertime. So not real happy with the way things
4 are going here, putting a lot of hardship on people
5 that require these food sources.

6
7 Talking with the NOAA people, the Yukon
8 River was the second highest recorded in history
9 continually all summer long, it never dropped until
10 falltime.

11
12 And then the last thing I wanted to
13 report is the fishing for king salmon was the poorest
14 quality of escapement I've ever seen in the years I've
15 been fishing, over 30 years. The fish that were caught
16 were very poor, soft, and it wasn't due to warm water,
17 temperatures were cooler than last year, so have a
18 tremendous amount of concerns for the king salmon,
19 escapements into Canada and future spawning events off
20 of these poor escapements.

21
22 That's all I had, Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
25 Andy.

26
27 Next is Donald Woodruff.

28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 This is Don Woodruff in Eagle.

31
32 I'd like to start out on a positive
33 note and that being that there's no Covid in Eagle,
34 hasn't been.

35
36 The other thing is that we had a very
37 successful caribou hunt. We were allowed two caribou
38 per person, per harvest ticket, so had to get two
39 harvest tickets.

40
41 And on a more negative note, the
42 fisheries was just pretty bad. But I did catch 12
43 kings this early -- right at the very beginning before
44 the first run and the quality was all very good.

45
46 And we'll get into the discussion a
47 little bit more about the caribou and the harvest of
48 caribou later in the meeting.

49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
4 you, Donald.

5
6 Next is Bill Glanz.

7
8 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Bill Glanz, I'm here.
9 Anyway, just have to highlight what they talked about
10 with the caribou here. And like Andy says, our
11 Coalitions, we never even had a meeting to have a vote
12 on it. And we had very little law enforcement up here.
13 The Finelli Mountain Trail which is -- motorized
14 vehicles on it, they tore the living hell out of that
15 trail with them big fourwheelers with tires bigger than
16 the semis has. And I'd like to ask for Jim or one of
17 the guys from the BLM, we need to find a way on them
18 big fourwheelers because there's four adults in it and
19 a 1,500 pound weight limit, they got to be way
20 exceeding that. And so the whole community's up in
21 arms about this, the deal that went on here. It was a
22 total -- total ridiculous.

23
24 And like everybody said with the
25 weather, hardly anybody got any fish.

26
27 And the moose was kind of far and few
28 between in Central here, we had a lot of outside
29 hunters in here also, and it was just a nightmare.

30
31 So I can't wait until we get Jeff on
32 the phone and find out what happened and who gave them
33 all the permission.

34
35 So anyway that's all I got to add right
36 now so I'll pass it on to somebody else. My phone
37 already beeped, I ran out of one phone already so I'm
38 going to let somebody else talk.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Bill.
43 I think I'm going to have the same problem with that.

44
45 Charlie Jagow.

46
47 MR. JAGOW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Charlie Jagow at Porcupine. I don't have very much to
49 report. It was a pretty cold, rainy summer, and it was

50

1 mostly drier up on the Porcupine and the Coleen River.
2 We did have a bit of a break from the fire season that
3 we've been having, which was a really good thing.
4

5 A pretty warm fall but despite that we
6 had pretty good moose hunting. The moose were talking
7 to each other, which was a little surprising with the
8 weather we were having.
9

10 We're finally starting to actually get
11 freeze up now, it's starting to run ice on the
12 Porcupine.
13

14 And on a separate note I would like to
15 second Bill's concerns and frustrations with the
16 Fortymile hunt. I traveled through the Steese quite a
17 bit during hunting season and I kind of get to see the
18 amount of traffic there and it's always been mayhem but
19 this year was pretty exceptional, it seems like it
20 would be impossible that we don't start altering that
21 migration route with the hunting pressure.
22

23 That's all I've got.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Charlie.
27

28 Tim McManus.
29

30 MR. MCMANUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 I'd like to start off thanking everybody for taking
32 their time for being on this teleconference. Glad to
33 hear everybody's staying safe and being healthy. Last
34 time we met they shut everything down right after we
35 seen each other so glad everybody's hanging in there.
36

37 Springtime did some geese hunting. The
38 geese they follow the ice so the ice went out kind of
39 fast where we were at, where we were hunting down on
40 Minto Flats so it was kind of a hit or miss for some
41 guys, you know, the ice jam, and did pretty good on the
42 geese.
43

44 Summer ended up -- in the summer there
45 was lots of high water, there was lots of drift, you
46 know, fishing was pretty challenging this year. A lot
47 of fish -- fished the first on the river that where --
48 where we were at on the Yukon, just dealt with the high
49 water and drift and restrictions.
50

1 But, you know, the berry season was
2 really good. Lots of berries were harvesting.

3
4 Bees were really bad this summer, the
5 yellowjackets were lots everywhere -- there was just
6 bees everywhere. The round nest which means the cold
7 winter.

8
9 And then this fall, you know, moose
10 hunting was -- there's still lots more out everywhere,
11 a lot of the hunters I talked to, they got a moose,
12 because more than likely they dropped it in the water,
13 you know, being two inches or a couple feet, there's
14 still water everywhere.

15
16 Was able to fish on a fishwheel, had to
17 sit there with a dipnet and throw the chums back in.
18 Did that three different days, caught silvers and
19 whitefish to put up for our seniors for their weekly
20 lunches for this winter and put fish up for our Council
21 for this winter, too.

22
23 Right now there's a little bit of ice
24 in the mornings, a little bit of hint of snow when I
25 came up here this morning. It's coming.

26
27 Other than that that's all I got,
28 Madame Chair.

29
30 Oh, one more thing, they had an antlers
31 permit drawing and it was by telephone. I don't know
32 if a lot of you might have heard this or not, but it
33 happened in the morning and, you know, they set the
34 time at 9:00 and by 9:00 o'clock and 20 seconds they
35 were all -- the permits were issued out and gone
36 already, those kind of issues that we had here. Those
37 permit hunts in our area, one person from Nenana got it
38 but he called in to Fish and Game and said, hey, I just
39 get my thing, and they said that he tied the last
40 permit so they gave him one. The issues that we're
41 having down there.

42
43 Other than that, I'm done, thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
46 you, Tim.

47
48 And for my report, I would like to say,
49 yeah, it was probably a pretty cold late in the winter

50

1 and then this Covid thing hit, we had just finished our
2 meeting in Fairbanks, the game meeting after the group
3 -- three of us were, and we testified there, I ended up
4 getting Andrew and Charlie Wright up and the three of
5 us gave our testimony together for the RAC so that
6 worked out pretty cool. Then we get home and we find
7 out about this Covid thing. Sometimes I think I
8 already had it.

9

10 But at any rate spring progressed and
11 the closure, I ended up being impacted greatly because
12 Department of Fish and Game closed down the non-
13 resident hunting season and that's a big chunk --
14 actually it's my seasonal work -- it's my whole year's
15 work and so I lost a significant part of my income.
16 The month of May I wasn't able to accommodate all the
17 hunters, I had to move some later, and also had to be
18 able to accommodate some in June. But as May went on,
19 I noticed.....

20

21 (Teleconference interference - Western
22 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Later on in
25 the fall we -- but it really affected.....

26

27 (Teleconference interference - Western
28 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

29

30 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
31 Katya. I would like to ask whoever has their phone not
32 on mute, please mute your phone, we can hear you
33 listening to the other teleconference.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody
36 needs to.....

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Please mute your phone.

39

40 (Teleconference interference - Western
41 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

42

43 MS. WESSELS: We cannot continue our
44 teleconference, please mute your phones.

45

46 (Teleconference interference - Western
47 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: Vince.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody's
2 not muted.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Oh, come on.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Please mute your phone.
7 Whoever is listening to the Western Interior
8 teleconference please mute your phone.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, somebody
11 must have got the hint. Okay.

12
13 Continuing my report, we didn't have a
14 good berry crop here.

15
16 (Teleconference interference - Western
17 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm still
20 hearing background here.

21
22 Our summer was cold and wet just like
23 Charlie reported in his area. And I have to reiterate
24 a little bit on the caribou season. In all of my
25 history in this state, I don't understand close, close,
26 close, protect, protect, protect and then open it in
27 that crazy wild about-face in the way they're managing
28 these caribou. It was phenomenal to me see the drastic
29 change in how they started managing the Fortymile
30 Caribou. It just seems like it doesn't have to be --
31 should not be feast or famine as it appears; it's
32 craziness to me.

33
34 But at any rate, you know, a lot of the
35 people here are doing okay moose hunting. As you know
36 I'm located on the southern end of the Eastern
37 Interior, so the road system people are very dependent
38 on the salmon on the Copper River and at our meeting at
39 the Subsistence Resource Commission we took up similar
40 proposals we'll be taking up here so I'll be saying
41 more about those situations then.

42
43 And that is the Chair's report.

44
45 Oh, I did listen in to part of the
46 Southcentral meeting and had -- I was asked to Chair
47 the Subsistence Resource Commission meeting and it is
48 challenging to do our meetings like this, so I
49 appreciate all of you and all of your patience as we go
50

1 through this meeting. And thank you members for your
2 reports.

3
4 Katya, next on the agenda is some
5 service awards.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Yes. Next on the agenda
8 is the service award. And this year we just have one
9 award for the Eastern Interior, that's for Bill Glanz,
10 and I'm just going to say a few words about Bill and
11 then you all can join me if you have anything else to
12 say.

13
14 So Bill Glanz lives in the region and
15 maintains a subsistence lifestyle close to four
16 decades. The majority of Bill's 38 years in Alaska was
17 spent in rural areas. However, before coming to Alaska
18 Bill worked for 20 years as a structural firefighter in
19 Chicago, which gave him a great appreciation for open
20 spaces and living in a rural community.

21
22 Bill is a longstanding member of his
23 community in Central and has been actively involved in
24 a magnitude of Advisory Councils and committees related
25 to the preservation of fish, wildlife and subsistence
26 practices since their inception.

27
28 Bill has been the Chair of the Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game's Central Advisory
30 Committee since 1991, when it was started.

31
32 He's a member of the International
33 Fortymile Caribou Harvest Coalition since 1995.

34
35 And is a member of the Eastern Interior
36 Council since 2005.

37
38 And Bill gained the majority of his
39 knowledge of traditional and customary subsistence
40 practices from his interactions with Native Alaskans
41 while he was employed with Alaska Fire Services and
42 managed fire camps in the region.

43
44 Through years he enjoyed going to fish
45 camps in Fort Yukon and learning about the subsistence
46 harvest of fish.

47
48 Although retired now in Central with
49 his wife, Colleen, Bill still actively participates in

50

1 subsistence harvest of moose and caribou and fishes for
2 grayling and salmon on the Yukon River.

3
4 He also processes all of his own game
5 and gathers firewood to maintain an active subsistence
6 lifestyle.

7
8 One of Bill's friends says, Bill is
9 brutally honest and not afraid to voice his opinion on
10 a subject but also does a great job listening and works
11 effectively with the State, local and Federal
12 authorities.

13
14 I'm pleased to recognize Bill's 15
15 years of service for this Council and his tireless
16 efforts on behalf of subsistence users of Central.

17
18 Bill, since we're all meeting via
19 teleconference this time we cannot present this service
20 award to you in person and we're sorry about it, we
21 plan to mail it to you and will appreciate if you can
22 take a photo of your award and email it to us.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 So does anyone have anything to add
27 about Bill.

28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello, this is Don
30 Woodruff.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Don.

33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, I'd like to add
35 something for Bill. I helped Bill build a cabin on the
36 Yukon and we used snowmachines to haul the logs and I
37 tell you there was no stopping that guy once he started
38 hooking on to a log so I really appreciate Bill's
39 determination.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Anyone else
44 would like to add anything.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair, Andy.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Andy.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, this is Andy.
2 Yeah, thank you. I just want to congratulate Bill.
3 And I think one of the really special things about this
4 is the consistency and longevity in which Bill has
5 contributed to the Eastern RAC. It's often times hard
6 to find people that will stick with something a long
7 time. There's a lot of effort goes into participating
8 and I think one of the things that Bill brings to this
9 Council is a long time use, subsistence use of multiple
10 resources. And I really appreciate his efforts in
11 trying to encourage younger people to be involved as
12 well.

13
14 So he's just a great guy to have on the
15 Council and I hope he will continue to serve because I
16 learn a lot from Bill every time we have a meeting.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. Does
21 anyone else have anything else they want to add.

22
23 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, this is Charlie.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Charlie.

26
27 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to thank Bill for
28 his awesome service. Keep it up Bill, you got a lot of
29 good years left in you.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Thank you, guys.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Bill, would you
34 like to say anything to the Council.

35
36 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair, this is Tim
37 McManus.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Tim.

40
41 MR. MCMANUS: You know I just met Bill
42 -- first time I met him was when I got on this Board,
43 but to listen to his stories, point of view, you know,
44 that's the kind of things I take out of these meetings
45 and stuff, is wisdom and stuff from other guys. I just
46 want to thank him for that.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Tim. Anyone
49 else.

50

1 Sue, do you want to say anything.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, this is
4 Sue. Bill, I deeply appreciate you. I appreciate your
5 opinions and not afraid to say how you feel. That
6 means a lot to me when people speak up and speak their
7 hearts. Really appreciate that about you and your
8 service.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue.

11
12 Bill, would you like to say anything to
13 the Council.

14
15 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'd like to address
16 the Council there. I appreciate all the words and all
17 that and I really enjoy this, being involved with these
18 different organizations, especially when you have crews
19 like the Eastern Interior, they're all in it for only
20 one thing and that's the fish and game.

21
22 That's all I got to say is I appreciate
23 them.

24
25 And I reapplied, I just hope I get
26 appointed for another tour, that'd be great guys, and
27 if I don't well it's been great working with all you
28 people for 15 years so keep up the good work, that's
29 all I can say. And, Sue, and Katya, all you keep it up
30 too.

31
32 Thank you, much.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you very much Bill.

35
36 This concludes the service award part
37 of the agenda.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
40 Katya. And we really appreciate you much Bill.

41
42 Next on the agenda is the public and
43 tribal comment on non-agenda items. Would there be any
44 public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.

45
46 MS. POPE: Yes, this is Amanda Pope
47 from Circle.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go

50

1 ahead.

2

3 MS. POPE: I just wanted to say that
4 when the Fish and Game opened the Fortymile caribou
5 hunt for residents to apply for two permits per person,
6 I was concerned that subsistence hunters weren't able
7 to participate in this opportunity because they
8 announced it a week after the subsistence hunt started.

9

10 And there was also concerns from people
11 here in Circle that they were basically trying to get
12 the same animals as all the other hunters who would
13 come into the area. And the amount of people that came
14 through were quite a lot. And they were also concerned
15 about the fact that people who came into the area were
16 able to hunt for moose and caribou at the same time.
17 And considering the wanton waste that had been shown in
18 the last couple of years it gives the people here -- or
19 it doesn't make them feel very good with them trying to
20 compete with outside hunters.

21

22 That's all I had, thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
25 you, Amanda. Any questions of Amanda.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
30 Andy.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I don't
33 really have a question, I just want to support the
34 statements made by Amanda. We'll probably be hearing
35 more of those comments from those of us in other areas
36 affected by this opening. But I want to thank her for
37 getting on board at this teleconference and speaking up
38 to what happened in their region and how it's impacting
39 subsistence uses and food security for people in the
40 rural areas in Alaska.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
45 you, Andy.

46

47 Are there any other public or tribal
48 comments on the non-agenda items.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
4 none. I do want to remind Amanda that tomorrow morning
5 you might want to listen in as we speak to ADF&G about
6 the Fortymile caribou.

7

8 All right, under old business .805(c)
9 report information update.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

1 the numbers for those proposals were WP20-48, that's
2 for seasons and caribou limits in Unit 20F -- 20E --
3 25C and then WP20-51, C&T for sheep in Unit 12 by
4 residents of Slana; another proposal was WP20-08 traps
5 and snares with identification number, that was
6 rejected by the Board; WP20-19 the revisions for
7 elder/minor sheep hunt in Unit 11 was rejected as well;
8 WP20-48 rescind the closure to non-Federally-qualified
9 users in Arctic Village Sheep Management Area was
10 rejected also in concurrence with the Council's
11 recommendation.

12
13 You know one of the things I wanted to
14 mention to you about WP20-48, though it was rejected,
15 the Federal Board members expressed an opinion that a
16 group of stakeholders needs to be assembled to come up
17 with a workable solution in regards to the issue in the
18 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and that finding
19 the solution might take up to two wildlife regulatory
20 cycles. That's what some of the Board members said.
21 Also one of the Board members noted that further
22 harvest data is needed.

23
24 And also the Board adopted WP20-50
25 request revisions to the hunt areas, seasons and
26 harvest limits of moose in Unit 12. The Board voted to
27 maintain status quo on Wildlife Closure 20-42 for
28 caribou hunting in Unit 12.

29
30 So basically the Board agreed with all
31 of your Council's recommendations.

32
33 So if you have any questions you can
34 ask them or if not then that concludes the .805(c)
35 presentation.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
38 members any questions.

39
40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Katya,
44 thank you very much.

45
46 Next is Lisa Maas, WSA21, one, two and
47 three, update.

48
49 MS. MAAS: Yeah, thanks, Madame Chair.

50

1 This is Lisa Maas, wildlife biologist and Acting Policy
2 Coordinator with OSM. And if you turn to Page 24 of
3 your meeting books there is a summary of all these
4 special actions affecting the Southcentral and Eastern
5 Interior regions, and so I wasn't really going to -- I
6 mean you can read what the summary is on Page 24 and
7 25, so I'm mostly just available for questions if you
8 guys had any questions about any of these special
9 actions.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
12 trying to mute my phone and I got to make sure I do it
13 right here. I'm back and any questions of Lisa
14 regarding these wildlife special actions.

15
16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. If you
20 have any you can certainly call her later.

21
22 Next is the Hunter Ethics Outreach and
23 Education Initiative. Katya.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 For the record Katya Wessels, Council Coordinator with
27 the Eastern Interior.

28
29 So this is a very short presentation.
30 Basically for the ones that are not familiar with this
31 subject, the Council has been concerned regarding the
32 escalating user conflict and wanton waste in the region
33 for quite awhile. So during the winter of 2017 meeting
34 the Council voted to adopt hunter ethics education as a
35 regular agenda item for future Council meetings, that
36 is why this agenda item is on the agenda today.

37
38 There's a lot of work being done on the
39 development of the hunter ethics education initiative.
40 Also I just want to remind everyone that during the
41 winter 2020 meeting the Council had a new coordinator
42 who was not aware that this was a standard topic of
43 discussion. I don't think you had a discussion on
44 hunter ethics during the winter of 2020. So last time
45 the Council discussed this topic was during the fall
46 2019 meeting.

47
48 And after that meeting Vince Mathews
49 and I were able to make a little bit of progress on one
50

1 of the pilot project concepts that was titled Hunt Like
2 an Alaskan and was working with a military group so it
3 was going to create a program educating the importance
4 of mutual respect while hunting through building and
5 improved relationships between military, local
6 communities and the land. And Vince and I had a chance
7 to meet with several representatives from the Elieson
8 Air Force Base and Ft. Wainwright. They expressed real
9 interest in cooperating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife on
10 this. However, since then OSM was not able to advance
11 this initiative during the last year primarily because
12 of the pandemic and also because of Staff shortages.

13
14 This is basically all I have to report
15 at this moment. We intend to continue to advance this
16 initiative when, you know, the situation with the
17 pandemic allows and when we get more Staff. And if
18 Vince Mathews is on line or Jimmy Fox, maybe you can
19 talk a little bit about the hunter liaison projects
20 that you've been working on because it's also part of
21 this initiative.

22
23 Vince, or Jimmy, are you, or anyone on
24 line.

25
26 MR. FOX: Yes, through the Chair --
27 Madame Chair and Council members, this is Jimmy Fox,
28 Yukon Flats Refuge Manager, can you hear me okay?

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

32
33 MR. FOX: Okay. Great. Thank you,
34 Katya.

35
36 The Council of Athabascan Tribal
37 Governments continued performing a project, a
38 partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
39 and CATG to station hunter liaisons in both Fort Yukon
40 and Circle. And that just concluded recently and it
41 was a pretty interesting year as you all can imagine.
42 You know, again, this is a community based hunter
43 education project and so we've got CATG employees, two
44 people, one in Fort Yukon and one in Circle, and, of
45 course, this year with the global pandemic it was kind
46 of an odd year, and what CATG saw in Fort Yukon was
47 really no hunters -- no hunters at the airport and
48 three hunters at the boat ramp.

49
50

1 But, as you can imagine in Circle, on
2 the road system it's a different story and Amanda was
3 -- is probably still on the line, but I can share with
4 you that she encountered a large number of people in
5 Circle and also at the bridge at Birch Creek. In
6 Circle a majority of folks that she encountered, both
7 non-resident and in-state resident were headed up river
8 and then there was a large number also headed down
9 river but most folks were headed up river. There was
10 meat sharing.

11
12 So I think the take home is that the
13 project continues to be successful. Both hunter
14 liaisons find that people are very willing to talk and
15 learn more about meat sharing and cultural values of
16 local residents and property, boundary line concerns
17 have come up in those conversations, so it's a great
18 project. I'm tickled that we can continue to support
19 the project.

20
21 And if Amanda's on line, if you had a
22 highlight you'd like to share I'd yield, if that's
23 okay, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that
26 would be great.

27
28 MS. POPE: Hello, Madame Chair, this is
29 Amanda Pope. Hello to you all. I had the opportunity
30 to collect data for the Board and I wanted to say thank
31 you for giving me the chance to do so. I enjoyed the
32 job and I hope my report gives you the information
33 needed that you requested.

34
35 If you have any feedback or other
36 questions please let me know.

37
38 I also wanted to say that out of all
39 the people that I encountered, half of them went into
40 the Preserve, as Jimmy had said, I think it would be
41 nice if the National Park Service would be involved
42 with the Program and possibly fund a hunter liaison in
43 Eagle.

44
45 I look forward to working with you all
46 next year and that's all I had and thank you for your
47 time.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
50

1 you, Amanda.

2

3

Are there any questions.

4

5

MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

8

Andy.

9

10

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I want to

11

thank all the people that have been supporting this,

12

Katya and Vince for your continued efforts and Amanda

13

and also the Refuge Managers and employees. It's a

14

really important program. I'm glad to see that there's

15

some success and I would like to maybe make a

16

suggestion for our next step and that would be to try

17

and formulate a hunter liaison that would be at the

18

beginning of the Taylor Highway to contact hunters on

19

the Taylor Highway and have some of these interactions.

20

I think that would be a real good thing to begin to

21

develop a program, whether it's in Tok, or preferably

22

right at the beginning of the highway, maybe have a

23

station or vehicle there or trailer or something where

24

hunters are required to stop in. And it sounds like

25

probably something on the Steese Highway, although with

26

the numbers of people going up the Steese I don't know

27

how practical that would be. But maybe an initial

28

program started on the beginning of the Taylor Highway

29

might be a really good next step for us to work

30

towards.

31

32

Thank you. That's all I have, Madame

33

Chair.

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank

36

you Andy.

37

38

Anything else. Other Council members.

39

40

(No comments)

41

42

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So as far as

43

this hunter ethics and outreach everything's gotten on

44

hold for awhile but we will still be working on that,

45

correct, Katya?

46

47

MS. WESSELS: Yes, this is correct.

48

Since the Board approved this initiative and approved

49

us moving forward, we're acting on the approval of the

50

1 Board and we're planning to move forward. But, again,
2 a lot of things depends, you know, with the situation
3 of the ongoing pandemic and the Staff shortages at OSM
4 so.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 Andy.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, I think
12 my recommendation to this Council would be to, before
13 the closure of this meeting maybe try and set a date,
14 Katya, with some of the key players engaged in this to
15 do a little bit more brainstorming and just continue
16 the effort. I think we've made great progress and I'd
17 hate to lose the momentum that we have due to the
18 Covid19. I think the fact that we can meet by
19 teleconference like we're doing right now would
20 probably be really beneficial for us to do with a few
21 key players in this just to keep the momentum.

22
23 So that would be my suggestion, Madame
24 Chair, is maybe before we adjourn if we could come up
25 with a date to have a preliminary or some kind of a
26 teleconference for those interested in participating in
27 this. Setting a date will keep this alive. If we just
28 walk away from this meeting without setting a date it
29 probably will be much more difficult to make that
30 happen. So just a suggestion for the Coordinator and
31 the Chair person of the Eastern RAC before the close of
32 this meeting.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
37 you, Andy. Actually I think now is a good time to do
38 that on the agenda, and what we need to do is have a
39 motion that Katya work on setting up a meeting date
40 with the people that have volunteered all along. What
41 do you think on that Andy?

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I mean that's fine.
44 I just think it's really good to try and set a
45 preliminary date, you know, it can just be pick a month
46 out where we think it might be a good time, maybe a
47 little bit later in the winter. I'm sure people are
48 really busy scrambling and maybe sometime in February
49 prior to our next meeting we could organize a hunter

50

1 ethics teleconference meeting. My recommendation would
2 be sometime in February, mid to late February so it's
3 fresh in everyone's mind when we meet again as an
4 Eastern RAC. But I would leave those dates up to Katya
5 and Vince, they seem to be the ones that are capable of
6 keeping this motivated so I'll defer to them but I
7 think it's prudent to do that.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess what
12 I'm saying is, Andy, maybe it's easier just to make a
13 motion now that you recommend them to do that and then
14 they organize the dates and that with the players.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Copy that, Madame Chair.
17 So the motion would be that the Eastern RAC would like
18 to establish a meeting in the springtime to continue
19 the efforts with hunter outreach and ethics program.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
22 second.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'll second it. This
25 is Bill Glanz.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
28 been moved and seconded. Do we need any other
29 discussion.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: No. I'll just reference
32 my earlier comments, Madame Chair and call for
33 question.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
36 question is called for and I'm going to ask it this
37 way, for unanimous consent, and if there's any
38 opposition say so. And I'm asking, is there any
39 opposition to unanimous consent.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
44 the motion passes. Thank you, Andy. And I guess you
45 got that Katya.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you very much.
48 I got it. I will work on it.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 The next thing on the agenda is something I requested.
3 We did get an email from Katya, this is a Department of
4 Environmental Conservation has put out a regulation and
5 there's a comment period that's the end of October --
6 October 31st is the last time you can comment on it.
7 This was brought up at the Subsistence Resource
8 Commission, the Wrangell Park that I recently attended
9 and we voted for it. We had some input from a person
10 who -- Becky Schwanke, she's a -- worked with the
11 Alaska Chapter of Wild Sheep and she actually brought
12 it to our attention and it's a very big concern about
13 the sheep population in Alaska. And I was just
14 wondering if Mark Burch could speak to this at all and
15 maybe introduce it because I don't think Becky is on
16 line or anybody from DEC is on line.

17
18 But what they're asking is that all
19 domestics be tested and under -- or over the age of two
20 months -- the Wild Sheep people recommended that all
21 domestics be tested before they come into Alaska. And
22 as your Chair, you know, I'm an avid sheep hunter and
23 concern for sheep populations in Alaska and I think
24 this is really a good thing to do.

25
26 So I'm wondering now, Mark Burch, can
27 you say anymore to this?

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

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Go
33 ahead, Katya.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to tell
36 everyone and all of the participants of the
37 teleconference that the materials that were provided
38 for this agenda items are posted on our website and the
39 address for that is
40 www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ei_materials.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I bet
45 everyone can just jump on their computer and figure
46 that out. Actually my computer's up. You said it was
47 under regions Federal subsistence.....

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Regions, yes, and it's in
50

1 the Eastern Interior page and there is a sub page for
2 meeting materials.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm wondering
5 if any of the Council members had a chance to look at
6 this.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: I also emailed that to
9 the Council members.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
12 Oh, I see it's under meeting materials -- has anyone
13 looked at this, Council members?

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's one
18 person that didn't look at it, does that mean
19 everybody.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy. I've looked
22 at it. I guess I'm in question of are we taking action
23 on this item, do you need a motion to support this
24 project.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

27
28 MR. BASSICH:or this requirement?

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm
31 recommending that we hit the comment period for DEC on
32 testing domestics. The SRC adopted it with all
33 amendments, not just two months and older, but all
34 domestics.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, copy that. I'm in
37 full support of these requirements being put in place
38 given that the potential devastating effect to Alaska
39 wildlife. So if we need a motion to support the
40 regulation as presented to us, so moved.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you move.
43 Andy has made the motion to support, are you supporting
44 all ages or just two months and older?

45
46 MR. BASSICH: All ages.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All ages. A
49 motion to support testing of all ages of domestic sheep

50

1 and goat. We have a motion on the floor, is there a
2 second.

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second it, Charlie
5 Wright.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
8 Charlie.

9
10 Okay. Any other discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
17 question's been called for. I'm going to ask for
18 unanimous consent again, is there anyone opposed to the
19 motion.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
24 the motion passes unanimously.

25
26 Thank you guys. I think this is a very
27 important thing to send that message to DEC.

28
29 Now, under new business Fisheries
30 Proposals and Closures, OSM. Fisheries and
31 anthropology.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
34 Katya.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead
37 Katya.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to mention
40 to everyone who is participating, especially to the
41 Council members, to please open your meeting material
42 to Page 26. So there is a proposal presentation
43 procedure, it's the same procedure for the closure
44 reviews so the procedures for closure review is on Page
45 27 are incorrect, so just keep it open on Page 26, this
46 way you'll know how to go through the procedures
47 correctly.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Katya. And Katya printed me something that I have at
3 our meetings all the time I can read it from my little
4 sheet also.

5
6 All right. We're going to be starting
7 with FCR21-06 Tanana Drainage, Toklat River, all
8 species, August 15th through May 15th. And this is
9 going to be introduced by Cory Graham.

10
11 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, Madame Chair and
12 members of the Council. For the record my name is Cory
13 Graham and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
14 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. The analysis for
15 Fisheries Closure Review 21-06 begins on Page 28 of
16 your Council materials. I'll give you a second to find
17 the analysis.

18
19 And before I get started I would like
20 to explain the Federal Subsistence Board's closure
21 policy. So this policy provides a process for the
22 review of the regulatory closures for the harvest of
23 fish and wildlife. All closures are periodically
24 reevaluated to determine whether the circumstances
25 necessitating the original closure still exists and
26 warrants continuation of the closure. Our policy is
27 that closures are reviewed every four years by
28 presenting them to affected Regional Councils during
29 the normal regulatory proposal process in the form of
30 proposals to maintain, modify or eliminate individual
31 closures.

32
33 And with that in mind I'll now present
34 Fisheries Closure Review 21-06, which concerns the
35 Toklat River in Denali National Park and Preserve. The
36 Toklat River is a tributary of the Kantishna River.
37 The Toklat River is closed to subsistence for all fish
38 from August 15th through May 15th each year. At the
39 beginning of the Federal Program in 1992, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board adopted this closure from State
41 regulation and it has not been reviewed or modified
42 since. The Toklat River leaves Denali National Park
43 approximately 15 miles above its confluence with the
44 Kantishna River. The portion of the Toklat and the
45 pre-ANILCA section of Denali National Park is strictly
46 closed to all subsistence fishing, therefore this
47 closure review is only relevant to the portion of the
48 Toklat River within the new Park.

49
50

1 Recently State sport and subsistence
2 regulations have changed to allow fishing for salmon
3 and non-salmon fish in the Toklat River year-round,
4 this means that subsistence and sportfishing are
5 currently allowed under State regulations when
6 subsistence fishing is not allowed under Federal
7 regulations.

8
9 The Toklat River is one of the largest
10 producers of fall chum salmon in the Tanana River
11 drainage. Average escapement of fall chum salmon from
12 1997 to 2016 was 15,610 fish, and estimated escapement
13 ranged between approximately 3,600 and 180,000 fish
14 from 1974 to 2017. Currently the Toklat River stocks
15 included as part of the Tanana River drainage estimate.
16 The Tanana River fall chum salmon escapement goal is
17 61,000 to 136,000 fish and excluding this year, this
18 escapement goal has been met or exceeded every year
19 since 2001.

20
21 Chum and coho salmon have been
22 documented in the Toklat on Federal public lands of
23 Denali National Park and Preserve that are open to
24 subsistence uses, however, the majority of the fall
25 chum salmon spawn down stream of the Denali National
26 Park and Preserve border.

27
28 The four resident zone communities in
29 Denali National Park are Nikolai, Telida, Lake
30 Minchumnia and Cantwell and these communities tend to
31 take non-salmon fish such as grayling and trout locally
32 but salmon such as chinook and sockeye farther away
33 from their communities.

34
35 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
36 eliminate the closure to subsistence fishing in the
37 Toklat River from August 15th through May 15th. So,
38 again, excluding this year, Yukon River fall chum
39 salmon have met the drainage-wide escapement goal every
40 year since it was developed in 2004. Additionally, the
41 Tanana River escapement goal has been met annually
42 since 2001. Federal public waters of the Toklat River
43 occur up stream of fall chum's primary spawning
44 aggregation and the majority of harvest on these stocks
45 occurs down stream of the Denali National Park
46 boundary. Eliminating this closure will also align
47 Federal and State regulations. And, finally, because
48 of poor access and the closure to all subsistence
49 fishing in the pre-ANILCA portion of Denali National
50

1 Park it is unlikely that Federal subsistence harvest
2 within Federal public waters would have much of an
3 effect on these stocks.

4
5 The Council's options are to recommend
6 that the Board maintain the closure as it is, to modify
7 the closure, or to recommend that the closure be
8 eliminated altogether.

9
10 That concludes my presentation for
11 FCR21-06, and we are prepared to take any questions.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
14 Are there any questions.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question,
17 Madame Chair, this is Don Woodruff.

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

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, I'm curious, how
23 many permits or how is this fishery managed so that we
24 have some idea of the population use, I know it's hard
25 to get to but what -- how is this permit system used
26 and how much fish can be taken, you know, in the Copper
27 River there's some restriction to five. I don't know
28 what they have going here.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. KENNER: Hi, Don, this is Pippa
33 Kenner and I'm working with Cory Graham. And so I'm
34 going to have to check, I do not believe a subsistence
35 permit is required in this area. So that would be --
36 just a minute.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I don't think a
41 permit is required in this area for subsistence
42 fishing. If a State permit was required for
43 subsistence fishing it would also be required under the
44 Federal fishery. And, of course, with sportfish, what
45 we have is the Statewide sportfish survey which gives
46 us good information in aggregate for entire regions but
47 it's not very helpful for drainage-specific estimates
48 of harvest.

49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair, and Mr.
2 Woodruff.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, did you
5 get your answer?

6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, yeah, sort of. I
8 know that the permit system with ADF&G is mostly on the
9 road system but I thought that perhaps the Park Service
10 had their own, you know, regulatory system.

11
12 I would like to make a motion right now
13 that we visit 21-06, FCR21-06.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Don,
16 we'll do that at the end of this whole introduction
17 thing and hearing testimony.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, like we
22 always did it, just go refer to that Page 26, I think
23 it is.

24
25 And okay any other questions of the
26 presenter of this proposal.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
31 next would be report on Board consultations with tribes
32 and ANCSA Corps.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
37 reports from the Board consultation?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm
42 hearing none. Are there any agency comments. ADF&G,
43 Federal or tribal. Starting with ADF&G.

44
45 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
46 from the Department of Fish and Game. We don't have
47 any comments on this closure.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Mark.
3
4 Federal.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Federal
9 comments.
10
11 MS. CRAVER: Madame Chair, this is Amy
12 Craver from Denali National Park and Preserve. And the
13 Denali SRC did not have any comments on this closure.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
18 Amy.
19
20 Any tribal comment.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
25 tribal comments.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
30 Group comments.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amy jumped in
35 there already, thanks Amy. Other Regional Advisory
36 Councils.
37
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
42 imagine -- did any other Advisory Committee Councils
43 take this up?
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Staff, can
48 you address that?
49
50

1 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, this is
2 Cory.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
5 Cory.

6
7 MR. GRAHAM: The YK-Delta RAC deferred
8 to home region at their RAC meeting.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
11 that.

12
13 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair.

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

17
18 MR. MCMANUS: This is Tim McManus. I'm
19 the Co-Chair of the Nenana/Minto AC and we didn't have
20 nothing on this.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, I
23 didn't understand you Tim. The Nenana didn't.....

24
25 MR. MCMANUS: You asked for ACs, I'm on
26 the Nenana/Minto and they didn't have nothing on this.
27 They haven't met for awhile so.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

30
31 MR. MCMANUS: Yep.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So any other
34 Advisory Group comments.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Summary of
39 written public comments.

40
41 Katya, were there any?

42
43 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, this is.....

44
45 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair.....

46
47 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, this is
48 Cory.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Cory.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry, I would like to
4 make a correction. I said the YK-Delta deferred but I
5 misspoke, and I meant the Southcentral RAC deferred.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

8

9 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry about that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
12 should have caught that, no problem.

13

14 Now, Katya.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, thank you.
17 This is Katya, there are no written public comments on
18 FCR21-06.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
23 Is there any public testimony at this time.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling for
28 public testimony on FCR21-06.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no
33 public, now, Donald, I'll entertain a motion.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, I'd like to make a
36 motion that we adopt FCR21-06.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been
39 a motion.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, I'll second it.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill Glanz
44 seconds it.

45

46 Discussion.

47

48 Do you want to speak to the motion Don.

49

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am. From what
2 I've read of this proposal and the Staff analysis, I
3 see no reason why it should remain closed and I would
4 be voting to eliminate the closure.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Don. Is there any other discussion.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
16 was called for, but who spoke?

17
18 MR. BASSICH: Andy.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Andy, go
21 ahead Andy.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think I would
24 agree with the OSM's preliminary conclusion to modify
25 or eliminate the closure. It sounds like escapements
26 are doing okay there and there's relatively small, if
27 any harvest on that particular -- in those particular
28 areas. So to eliminate the closure to subsistence
29 fishing in the Toklat region would allow for Federally-
30 qualified users to take small amounts of fish in the
31 area to meet food security needs in their region.

32
33 That's all I have.

34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy I
38 appreciate that. I'll remind Council members on that
39 Page 26, our discussions should include -- No. 8,
40 discussion and justification and Andy did a good job.
41 Appreciate it. The question was called for.

42
43 Council members do you want to do roll
44 call on these?

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Why not.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, let's
49 do it.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'm fine
6 with consensus. This is Andy. I'm fine with your
7 consensus; if we have opposing votes that's fine. A
8 person can always speak to that after the vote if they
9 oppose, but I'm fine with your consensus, the way
10 you've been doing it.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. On
13 this.....

14
15 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, I'm the same
16 as Andy.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the
19 minute that somebody opposes I think we should go with
20 a roll call. Would you agree all?

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Roger. Roger.

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
27 question has been called for, did I hear anyone else
28 that wanted to say something there because I did hear
29 two voices at once.

30
31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
35 We're going to call for unanimous consent, and if
36 anyone objects please say so now. This is on the
37 closure FCR21-06. Is there any objection to a
38 unanimous consent.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Unanimous for eliminating
41 the closure, correct. This is Katya.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
44 the motion was in the positive. Let me go back or are
45 we getting a little crazy here. Unanimous consent --
46 everybody was yes.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Well, the motion was to
49 adopt WCR21-06.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's keeping
2 us straight guys. But the motion -- wasn't the motion,
3 Andy, who made the motion Andy or Donald -- Donald.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Don.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought he
8 made the motion to go with OSM.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: That was my
11 justification.

12
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How are you doing
14 Naomi. How are you?

15
16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants phone not muted)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody
20 needs to mute their phone.

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants phone not muted)

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Okay, whoever is having a
26 side conversation you need to mute your phone please.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So the motion is
31 to adopt OSM's preliminary conclusion.

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Correct.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Is that correct, Donald?

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: That's clear.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's clear.
44 But I don't know how to state my unanimous consent
45 right now. Do we have unanimous opposition to -- I
46 don't know, the discussion.....

47
48 MS. WESSELS: No, no, Sue, you just
49 need to say that, you know, do we have unanimous

50

1 consent for the motion to adopt OSM preliminary
2 conclusion.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
5 have unanimous consent to adopt OSM's preliminary
6 conclusion.

7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Aye.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
11 opposed speak.

12
13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
17 motion passes unanimously.

18
19 I'm going to say I would like to go
20 until noon if that's okay with the Council members,
21 instead of -- if you have to get up and carry your
22 phone with you, if you can, and we'll continue. Any
23 objection.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next one on
28 the agenda FCR21-07. Introduction.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're not
33 hearing you, Cory, you might be on mute.

34
35 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry about that, Madame
36 Chair. Madame Chair, members of the Council, I'll now
37 present Fisheries Closure Review 21-07 which relates to
38 Nome Creek. This analysis can be found on Page 37 of
39 your Council materials and I'll pause for a second
40 while you find it.

41
42 Nome Creek is a tributary of Beaver
43 Creek which flows into the Yukon River. The main creek
44 drainage is closed to subsistence fishing for grayling
45 year-round. At the beginning of the Federal Program in
46 1992 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted this closure
47 from State regulations and it has not been reviewed or
48 modified since. Nome Creek is in the White Mountains
49 Special Recreation Management Area which is

50

1 administered by the Bureau of Land Management and is
2 about 50 air miles north of Fairbanks.

3
4 Nome Creek is closed to subsistence
5 fishing under State regulations because it's located in
6 the Fairbanks non-subsistence area. Sportfishing is
7 allowed, however, all grayling must be released.
8 Sportfishing is limited to unbaited artificial lures or
9 flies with a single hook from April 1st to May 31st.

10
11 A mark/recapture study performed in
12 2000 estimated abundance at 419 grayling in the upper
13 section of Nome Creek. Abundance in the lower section
14 was estimated to be between 878 and 4,522 grayling.
15 Communities in the vicinity of Nome Creek include
16 Central and Circle.

17
18 One option is to eliminate the
19 subsistence fishing closure for grayling. If the
20 closure is eliminated subsistence fishing for grayling
21 would be permitted and Federally-qualified subsistence
22 users would have a subsistence priority over
23 sportfishers in the area who would continue to be
24 limited to catch and release.

25
26 Another option is to close fishing for
27 grayling to all users. There still wouldn't be a
28 subsistence opportunity for grayling but sport catch
29 and release would also be eliminated.

30
31 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
32 maintain the closure.

33
34 If this closure is maintained Nome
35 Creek will continue to be closed to subsistence fishing
36 for grayling year-round. The only fishing for grayling
37 will continue to be catch and release under State sport
38 regulation.

39
40 The justification for maintaining this
41 closure is that grayling are susceptible to over
42 exploitation. Further, Nome Creek is road accessible
43 allowing for easy access and harvest of fish.
44 Therefore, allowing a subsistence harvest has the
45 potential for local depletion or overharvest of these
46 stocks.

47
48 The Council's options are to recommend
49 that the Board maintain the closure as it is, modify

50

1 the closure or to recommend that the closure be
2 eliminated altogether.

3
4 That concludes my presentation for
5 FCR21-07 and we are prepared to take any questions.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
8 questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
13 none, were there any Board consultations with tribes
14 and ANCSA Corporations.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Board
19 consultations with tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
24 none, agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game.

26
27 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, once again
28 this is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and
29 Game. We have no comment at this time.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
34 Federal comments.

35
36 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, this is
37 Jim Herriges with Bureau of Land Management. Just a
38 brief bit of background, I guess.

39
40 Nome Creek is accessible for most of
41 its length by the Nome Creek Road which was built
42 through Federal funding, coordinated by BLM in the late
43 1990s to provide recreational access to the White
44 Mountains Recreation Area and that is the primary road
45 accessible part of that area with two campgrounds found
46 along it. And BLM cooperated with Fish and Game in
47 doing fishery surveys on Nome Creek and also supported
48 the original catch and release fishing restriction.

49
50

1 And that's all we have.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
4 thank you, Jim.

5
6 If there's any questions of Jim this
7 would be the time.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
12 tribal comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
21 is Advisory Committee groups. Other Regional Advisory
22 Councils.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we know if
27 any other Regional Advisory Councils have taken this
28 up.

29
30 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, this is
31 Cory.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
34 Cory.

35
36 MR. GRAHAM: The YK-Delta deferred.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Concurred
39 [sic] to the home region?

40
41 MR. GRAHAM: Sorry, yes, deferred to
42 home region, excuse me, as did Southcentral from what I
43 believe.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
46 you. Any Fish and Game Advisory Committees take it up.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or SRCs.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, this is
4 Cory. I'm sorry I misspoke again. The Southcentral
5 didn't take this up, I apologize.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was
8 wondering why they had them in our region on that one.

9

10 All right, no problem.

11

12 Summary of written public comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Katya Wessels. There is no written public comments on
20 FCR21-07.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
25 Are there any public testimony.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
30 that signed in and wants to testify or comment on
31 Fisheries Closure Review FCR21-07.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
36 none. Regional Council recommendation, a motion to
37 adopt.

38

39 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff,
40 I'd like to make the motion to adopt 21-07.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As written.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: As written.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
47 you, Donald. Do I hear a second.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz will second.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
2 been moved and seconded to adopt. Further discussion
3 or discussion, Donald.

4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I've got a
6 question for Bill that's in his region. Do the fishing
7 -- it's all catch and release at this time on that
8 creek, is that right?

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: And if we keep it the
13 same then Federal and State fishermen will both be
14 under this closure, correct?

15
16 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, thank you.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 discussion.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so I guess I'm not
30 a fan of catch and release and I'm wondering why catch
31 is even being allowed if there is no retention for
32 Federally-qualified subsistence, which should be given
33 a top priority. So if there's a conservation concern
34 and we know that there is some mortality due to catch
35 and release practices, I'm wondering why catch and
36 release is even allowed if retention is closed. So
37 basically it's putting a sport fisheries, giving it a
38 priority over even a Federally-qualified subsistence
39 fisheries. So my recommendation would be to have this
40 particular creek just closed to fishing for grayling
41 period.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the
44 motion on the floor is to maintain the closure -- the
45 Federal closure.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go

50

1 ahead.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
4 Pippa.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 So currently the Federal closure is to Federally-
11 qualified subsistence users -- actually I'm going to
12 step away from that comment, I'm going to research this
13 a little bit more -- sorry.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, if I'm
16 reading.....

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. On
23 Page 42 under harvest history it says there is no
24 subsistence harvest to report from Nome Creek as it has
25 been closed to Federal and State subsistence fisheries.
26 Sportfishing is allowed but limited to catch and
27 release for Arctic Grayling, however, regional Federal
28 subsistence regulations for Yukon area would apply if
29 the closure is removed, therefore subsistence users
30 would be allowed to harvest Arctic Grayling at any
31 time.

32

33 So it's a little bit confusing.
34 Because it's a closure but then it's saying that the
35 Alaska -- or that the Yukon area would apply if closure
36 is -- oh, I'm sorry, is removed -- I'm sorry, I misread
37 that.

38

39 Though, my comment is I think if
40 they're going to maintain the status quo, maybe we need
41 to amend the motion and have it closed to all fishing
42 and eliminate catch and release. Because catch and
43 release creates mortality and it's been identified
44 there's a very low abundance of grayling in this area,
45 so anything that would contribute to that mortality
46 which is the reason for the closure should be
47 eliminated.

48

49 So basically my argument is that

50

1 currently if catch and release is allowed, that is a
2 more liberal sportfishing opportunity given and
3 subsistence users and Federally-qualified are being
4 restricted to no harvest. So that makes no sense to me
5 whatsoever.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Further
8 discussion.

9
10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't forget
14 to unmute your phone if you want to speak.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: So I guess, Madame Chair
17 -- Andy speaking. If need by, I would like to make an
18 amendment to the motion that all fishing on Nome Creek
19 be eliminated for conservation concerns.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eliminate all
22 fishing.

23
24 (Teleconference interference)

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: I think it's your phone
27 Andy.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Andy your phone is making
30 lots of noise.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Negative. I don't think
33 so.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Somebody is.

36
37 MS. WESSELS: I think it's Andy's phone
38 that's making that noise.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: All right. I'm going to
41 mute and we'll see if that's the problem.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: So we would need a second
46 to my motion.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to mute now.
2
3 (Teleconference interference)
4
5 MS. WESSELS: Well, that didn't help.
6
7 MS. KENNER: Who just came on.
8
9 MS. WESSELS: Andy, your muting didn't
10 help the problem.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
13
14 MS. WESSELS: Well, I don't know, Sue,
15 we might want to ask everyone to hang up and call back
16 in.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that.....
19
20 MS. WESSELS: Do you hear me Sue.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MS. WESSELS: Sue. Okay, everybody
25 please hang up and call back into the call, into the
26 teleconference.
27
28 REPORTER: Okay, stop hanging up,
29 whoever was making that noise disconnected. Nevermind,
30 I'll just disconnect and redial.
31
32 (Off record)
33
34 (On record)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's make
37 sure we have a quorum. Nathan, are you there?
38
39 REPORTER: Yes.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
42 members, who's on line. We've got Donald, I think, and
43 Bill was on.
44
45 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, I'm on.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: Andy's on.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy's on.
50

1 MR. JAGOW: Charlie Jagow's on.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
4 Charlie.
5
6 Charlie Wright.
7
8 MR. WRIGHT: I stayed on.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that?
11
12 MR. WRIGHT: I stayed on.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe I
15 need to make sure we have a quorum that's back.
16
17 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
18 Charlie. I was on, I'm on. Thank you.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.
21
22 Andrew.
23
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew
28 Firmin, did you get back on.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think I
33 heard Tim, right, Tim are you on.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Katya, I
38 do need to have a quorum.
39
40 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we have Don,
41 Andy, you, Bill, and Charlie Jagow, right.
42
43 MR. JAGOW: Yes.
44
45 MS. WESSELS: Charlie, are you on,
46 okay, so we have a quorum, Sue, we have five people on.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
49 we're missing three.
50

1 And I just wanted a point of
2 clarification, we don't -- when he made the motion, we
3 don't need to -- that's sufficient, correct, Staff,
4 because it sounds like it's going into non-qualified
5 Federally-qualified users; am I reading this right?

6
7 MS. KENNER: Sue, this is Pippa.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Pippa,
10 go ahead.

11
12 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I think that was Andy
13 Bassich that made the amendment, is that correct?

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Yes, his interpretation of
20 the current regulation and his amendment are correct.
21 Currently the area is not closed to non-Federally-
22 qualified users. It is closed to Federally-qualified
23 users. His amendment is to close it to all, including
24 non-Federally-qualified users.

25
26 Did that help?

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I was
29 just thinking that he would have to say those words is
30 all. I'm asking you if he has to?

31
32 MS. KENNER: I was able to understand
33 what he said, he said closed to all uses, or to
34 everybody.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, well,
37 that clarifies that. And then in that instance I would
38 need a second to Andy's motion to amend to all users --
39 close to all users.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have not
44 heard a second so the motion to amend would fail.

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Okay, this is Bill Glanz,
47 I'll second that to get it moving along.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

50

1 The motion has been seconded.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Andy here speaking to the amendment.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So Pippa summed it
9 up properly. If the intent of this closure is to
10 protect the population to the possibility of over
11 exploitation then you should not allow non-retention
12 but allow catch and release because it is well
13 documented that catch and release also has the
14 potential for creating mortality which could affect a
15 small population of fish. So the reasoning behind is
16 this is a conservation concern. If the fisheries is
17 going to be closed due to a conservation concern of low
18 abundance, then anything that creates a mortality to
19 that population should be eliminated to achieve that
20 goal.

21

22 That's my justification for this
23 amendment.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
26 discussion.

27

28 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, this is
29 Jim Herriges with BLM.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I think the
34 current fishery as its existed for decades now is a
35 catch and release fishery is not considered a
36 conservation concern. I'm sorry I don't know that
37 there's -- I don't believe there's been follow up
38 monitoring but there has not been reports of lack of
39 fish amongst recreational users. So the -- I don't
40 think you could -- I don't believe there's a
41 conservation concern with the current -- the current
42 fishery. The conservation concern would be having a
43 fishery in which people are allowed to keep fish
44 because, you know, 100 percent direct mortality for
45 those fish and what the effects on the fishery would be
46 from that. If that's of any help.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, as the
49 Chair, I have a question of Bill. Bill, do you know

50

1 this area well.

2
3 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I do. And that's why
4 we really don't put up a fuss about it here at our AC
5 because we have all these creeks around us that are
6 loaded with grayling, Deadwood, Crooked, we have
7 adequate supply of grayling that we fish for around
8 here and I just never even thought about it, that it's
9 totally closed, I know that. And it's inconvenient for
10 us to go over there, you got to go to 57 Mile and all
11 the way back in. So I'm fine with it either way.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what's
14 your feeling, do you know of people that actually
15 utilize catch and release in that area?

16
17 MR. GLANZ: No, I really don't. I know
18 of people that go in there camping but they're not in
19 there to fish, they're really in there to play, that's
20 what I'm -- that's the only ones I talk to, the ones
21 that come in with them motorhomes and so forth and camp
22 person and they ask what it's like back in there and we
23 tell them and they said, well, there's no real good
24 fishing because you can't keep anything. So that's
25 about the extent of it with us.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
28 interesting that you don't.....

29
30 MR. GLANZ: In other words they're not
31 going in there fishing.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
34 I would have a question to Fish and Game is why do we
35 have an only catch and release fishery, it actually
36 doesn't make a lot of sense.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: No, it doesn't.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anybody
41 at Fish and Game know?

42
43 MR. GLANZ: You know, it feels that
44 way, it seems like, why we even have a regulation in
45 there, there's no fishing down there.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And is it in
48 a spawning grounds, because I know where we live in the
49 Little Tok River there's a closure when they're moving

50

1 into their spawning areas and then it opens up after
2 that.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Right.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean it's
7 confusing to me personally.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
12 Andy.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that's why I'm
15 bringing this up and modifying it. It makes no sense
16 the way it reads. And under most of the regulations,
17 you're not supposed to have a sportfishing opportunity
18 when Federally-qualified subsistence is closed. That
19 should take top priority, whether it's harvest or non-
20 harvest.

21
22 And I also want to bring up a cultural
23 issue. I've been involved in these processes for many,
24 many years, over 20 years, and I've heard multiple
25 times from Native entities, Native Nations, that they
26 consider catch and release to be playing with fish and
27 that it's a cultural belief that you should not play
28 with your food source, whether it be game or fish. So
29 it's -- I've often heard testimony saying that that
30 goes against their general beliefs in fish and
31 wildlife.

32
33 So it just doesn't make sense to me is
34 what I'm saying and so why not just close it all the
35 way. And I know that might take a little bit of
36 opportunity for catch and release fishing from a few
37 people but if your objective is to protect a small
38 population then as I stated in my justification then
39 you should not allow anything that could potentially
40 create mortality.

41
42 And I'll close with that, thank you,
43 Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
46 members, is there any discussion on the amendment to
47 close to all user, to all fishing.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, Bill Glanz. I
7 call for the question.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
10 has been called for on the amendment to close fishery
11 to all fishing. Do we understand that this is just an
12 amendment to the first motion.

13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
17 guys want a roll call or do you want it unanimous
18 consent.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Unanimous would work good.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
23 -- I'm going to ask for unanimous consent on the motion
24 to amend to include all users. Anyone opposed.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm opposed.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
29 opposed?

30
31 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I heard
38 you.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, you
43 oppose.

44
45 So let's do a.....

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:roll

50

1 call, Katya, since we have one opposed.

2
3 MS. WESSELS: Sue, this is Katya, would
4 you like me to do the roll call?

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Am I on
7 mute, I just asked that?

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you not
12 hearing me Katya?

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Motion to amend to
15 eliminate fishing of grayling for all users roll call.

16
17 Timothy McManus.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Tim, are you on line.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Tim is not on
26 line.

27
28 Charlie Jagow.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Charlie Jagow, are you on
33 line.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Well, he is not
38 either.

39
40 Bill Glanz.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Do you support, right?

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Yes, support.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

49
50

1 Donald Woodruff.
2
3 MR. WOODRUFF: Negative. I do not
4 support.
5
6 MS. WESSELS: Oppose.
7
8 Andy Bassich.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Support the amendment.
11
12 MS. WESSELS: Robert Wright.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MS. WESSELS: Robert Charlie Wright,
17 are you on line?
18
19 MR. WRIGHT: I support the amendment.
20
21 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
22
23 Andrew Firmin.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: I support the amendment.
26
27 MS. WESSELS: Andrew, you support.
28
29 Okay, Sue Entsminger.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we have two,
34 three, four, five in support and one oppose.
35
36 MR. JAGOW: This is Charlie Jagow, can
37 I interrupt?
38
39 MS. WESSELS: Yes, please.
40
41 MR. JAGOW: Okay, sorry, I was having
42 trouble with my phone. I'm back and I do not support.
43
44 MS. WESSELS: You do not support, okay,
45 oppose.
46
47 Okay, so we have.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How about
50

1 Tim, did Tim join us.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Tim McManus, are you back
4 on line.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I guess he is not.

9

10 Okay, so we have one, two, three, four,
11 five in support and two in opposition. The motion
12 passes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
15 amendment passes, five to two. So the motion on the
16 floor now is the motion as amended.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, the original motion
19 as amended.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. I'd
22 like to call question on the full motion to close
23 fishing on Nome Creek to all fishers.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy, I
26 got it. The question has been called for and I'm going
27 to ask for roll call once again, on the main motion as
28 amended.

29

30 MS. WESSELS: All right.

31

32 Andy Bassich.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Support.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Donald Woodruff.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Oppose.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Timothy McManus.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Not present.

45

46 Charlie Jagow.

47

48 MR. JAGOW: Oppose.

49

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Robert Wright.

2
3 MR. WRIGHT: Can you repeat the
4 question I was.....

5
6 MS. WESSELS: It's the original motion
7 to adopt WCR21-07 as amended.

8
9 MR. WRIGHT: I support.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

12
13 Andrew Firmin.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Andrew. Can you hear us
18 Andrew?

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Could you please repeat
21 the amended motion again now as a whole for me?

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we're voting
24 right now on the original motion to adopt WCR21-07
25 [sic] as amended, to close for all users.

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Andrew support.

30
31 Let's see, who I'm missing here, Bill
32 Glanz.

33
34 MR. GLANZ: I support.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

37
38 Sue Entsminger.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
41 vote no.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right, Tim
44 McManus, are you back on line.

45
46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I guess he's not

50

1 present. So the motion passes with four in support and
2 three in opposition.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Katya.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Does anybody else have a
9 -- I might be wrong, but I had three in support and
10 four against.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: No, it's four in support,
13 Bill Glanz supports, Andy Bassich supports, Charlie
14 Wright supports and Andrew Firmin supports.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Okay, sorry.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Okay. The motion as
19 amended passed.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Four to three
22 and one person absent.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Yes, with one absent.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
27 see the next one on the agenda is the Yukon Drainage
28 northern area Federal also -- oh, this is a crossover
29 for a closure review, Yukon Drainage Northern Area, Jim
30 River, all species, closed all year.

31

32 Do we have time to take this up, if we
33 wanted to -- everybody good, we can take this up?

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Sure.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
38 let's go.

39

40 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair. Members of
41 the Council. I will now present Fisheries Closure
42 Review 21-04 which concerns the Jim River in the Yukon
43 River Drainage in the Western Interior Region. This
44 analysis can be found on Page 44 of your Council
45 materials, and I'll pause for a second while you find
46 it.

47

48 Jim River is a tributary of the Yukon
49 River. Jim River including Prospect and Douglas Creek

50

1 is closed to subsistence fishing for all species year-
2 round under both Federal and State regulations,
3 however, sportfishing is currently allowed under State
4 regulation.

5
6 At the beginning of the Federal Program
7 in 1992, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted this
8 closure from State regulations and it has not been
9 reviewed or modified since. Three miles of Jim River
10 exists within the outer boundary of the Kanuti National
11 Wildlife Refuge and are under the management of U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service. The Dalton Highway crosses
13 and provides access to the Jim River. It's corridor
14 consists of five miles on each side of the highway and
15 is under BLM jurisdiction. The Jim River is closed to
16 subsistence fishing under State regulations, but
17 sportfishing is open.

18
19 Coho, chum and chinook salmon spawn in
20 the Jim River. And while there's no escapement goals
21 for any salmon species within the drainage, aerial
22 surveys were conducted sporadically from 1960 to 2015
23 to count chinook and chum salmon. Over this time
24 period there was an average count of 120 live chinook
25 salmon and 13 carcasses. Summer chum average 278 live
26 fish and 116 carcasses. And fall chum salmon averaged
27 103 live fish and 41 carcasses.

28
29 So I'm focusing on the more recent data
30 that were collected from 2009 to 2012 and in 2015. On
31 average there were 183 chinook salmon and 462 chum
32 salmon counted each year. The predominant non-salmon
33 fish found in the Jim River Drainage include Arctic
34 Grayling, burbot, round whitefish, scopin. Population
35 estimates were conducted for grayling in the Jim River
36 in 1995 and 1997. In 1995 the population estimate came
37 from a 6.2 mile stretch near the Dalton Highway and
38 indicated there were between 5,100 and 5,400 Arctic
39 Grayling. A similar study was conducted in 1997
40 estimating approximately 12,000 Arctic Grayling over a
41 13.2 mile section of the river located near the Dalton
42 Highway.

43
44 Communities in the vicinity of Jim
45 River include Wiseman, Coldfoot, Evansville and
46 Bettles. And people who also live along the Dalton
47 Highway Corridor.

48
49 If this closure is maintained the Jim
50

1 River will continue to be closed to all subsistence
2 fishing for all species year-round but sportfishing by
3 rod and reel will remain open.

4
5 If this closure is eliminated,
6 subsistence fishing would be allowed in Jim River
7 including Prospect and Douglas Creek under the regional
8 Federal subsistence regulations for the Yukon area.
9 Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings,
10 closings and methods would be the same as those issued
11 under State management unless superseded by a Federal
12 special action.

13
14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 modify the closure to allow the use of rod and reel
16 only for subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users.

18
19 Currently this drainage is closed to
20 fishing by Federally-qualified users and remains open
21 to other uses, which does not allow a subsistence
22 priority. There is likely a small amount of harvest
23 under restricted State sportfishing, predominately near
24 the Dalton Highway.

25
26 This system should be open to limited
27 subsistence harvest under rod and reel. OSM recommends
28 that the full closure to subsistence fishing be removed
29 but that subsistence harvest be restricted to rod and
30 reel only in order to protect healthy populations in
31 the system.

32
33 Under OSM's recommendation, subsistence
34 rod and reel harvest limits would be the same as those
35 under State sport regulations.

36
37 That concludes my presentation for
38 FCR21-04 and we're prepared to take any questions.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
43 Andy.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I'd
46 just like to ask a procedural process. If we wanted to
47 defer this to the local RAC for that area, which would
48 be the Western RAC, do we still need to go through the
49 entire process. I guess I would like to make a

50

1 recommendation to our RAC is that we defer this to the
2 Western RAC.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya. Yes, you
5 will need to go through the whole process since this
6 closure review has been presented to you.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you. Keep
9 that in mind members.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Going
12 through the whole process, I need a report from the
13 Board consultation with tribes and ANCSA Corps.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Evidently
18 there were none. Agency comments, ADF&G.

19
20 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
21 from Fish and Game. We have no comments at this time.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Mark. Any Federal agency comments.

27
28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal
32 comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
37 Committees or groups, or other Regional Advisory
38 Councils.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe
43 this is Western Interior, did they take it up?

44
45 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
46 Pippa Kenner. I think we're waiting for Cory to come
47 on, but it was deferred by the YK -- the Yukon
48 Kuskokwim Delta Council and the Western Interior
49 Council is probably taking it up right now.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As we speak,
2 yeah. Okay. Is there any Fish and Game Advisory
3 Committees that took it up.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Subsistence
8 Resource Commissions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any written
13 public comments.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Katya Wessels. There is no written public comments for
17 FCR21-04.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
22 comment.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nobody called
27 in on line for public comment 07, closure review on the
28 Yukon Drainage, Nome Creek -- oh, wait, I'm sorry,
29 Yukon Drainage northern area, Jim River, all species.

30
31 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, it's FCR21-
32 04. This is Pippa.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
35 got a text from Andrew and he's having difficulty also.
36 Our minds are getting used up here. He's at his office
37 and having to wrestle around time. Okay, so we make
38 mistakes, I'm sorry, but thank you Pippa.

39
40 Okay, now, Andy did you have a
41 suggestion.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yes, Madame Chair. I'd
44 like to make a motion that we defer to the Western RAC
45 on this given that it's in their home range and it
46 affects them and really doesn't affect the Eastern RAC
47 communities directly.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it

50

1 probably does affect them on C&Ts, that's why it's on
2 our agenda as a crossover proposal. So anybody else,
3 there's a motion on the floor to defer to the home
4 region.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need a
9 second if we want to take it up, or defer to home
10 region, or do we want to take it up? If I don't hear a
11 second then it would fail.

12
13 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second it. Charlie
14 Wright here.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
17 Charlie, thank you.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
20 I'll reference my earlier comments, Madame Chair. I
21 think it's more appropriate for the Western RAC to make
22 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board in
23 regards to this.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
28 Any other discussion on the motion to defer.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
33 hearing none.....

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Call question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
38 is called for, I will call for unanimous consent to --
39 my brain, I'm kind of tired -- to defer, and if there's
40 anyone opposed to deferring it to home region, can you
41 just speak out now.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
46 the motion passes unanimous.

47
48 All right, Council members, the next
49 group of proposals are Southcentral proposals on the
50

1 Copper River, which does apply to the people here on
2 the road system, on the southern part of Unit 12 so I
3 would like to take them up and you can decide as we go.
4 All of these were taken up at the SRC that I attend.
5 And I did ask Andrew to Chair and I'm wondering Andrew,
6 how do you feel on that, do you want to Chair these
7 next four proposals -- five I guess it is with No. 10.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And he's
12 probably wrestling his job right now.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. I
15 have a question.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm just wondering
20 is it -- I'm not familiar enough with Robert's Rules of
21 Order, is it possible for Katya to take over during
22 that as far as moving us through the process or does it
23 actually have to be a member of the Council, given our
24 extenuating circumstances with the connections?

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
27 Katya. To answer Andy's question, I can take over if
28 Andrew Firmin is not available when we decide to take
29 these proposals.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
32 let's -- can we all agree to maybe have an -- let's
33 see, it's 11:54, come back at 1:00 and I will talk to
34 Andrew on the phone and we'll start up at 1:00.
35 That'll give us a chance to get a break.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing
40 no objection so.....

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie, Madame
43 Chair, I think that would be a great idea.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
46 sounds good, thank you Charlie Wright.

47

48 So hearing no objections we'll just
49 sign out until 1:00.

50

1 We just all call back in, correct?

2

3 REPORTER: Yes.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next one
10 on the agenda there's 11, 12, 13 and 14 and then
11 there's No. 10. I had thought about having No. 10
12 first but I just decided, okay, let's not confuse
13 people, we'll just continue.

14

15 I guess unless there's a Council person
16 that would want to Chair the meeting -- I was going to
17 have Andrew do it and he just says he can't and Katya
18 has volunteered, because these next proposals I'll
19 probably have a lot to contribute. It's quite -- as I
20 said earlier this is near and dear to the people in the
21 lower part of Eastern Interior (indiscernible - cuts
22 out) at Slana.

23

24 So any volunteers to Chair besides
25 Katya.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're not
30 jumping up and down, so Katya if you would want to
31 Chair the meeting for us on these proposals and then I
32 could take it back.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Council members, the next
39 item on the agenda is crossover proposal FP21-11 and
40 you can find it on Page 56. And at this time I will
41 ask Karen Hyer to present this proposal to the Council.

42

43 MS. HYER: Hello, can you hear me?

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can hear you,
46 Karen, go ahead.

47

48 MS. HYER: Okay, great. All right.
49 Council members, Madame Chairman, for the record my

50

1 name is Karen Hyer and I'm a fisheries biologist with
2 the Office of Subsistence Management. And I am going
3 to be presenting to you four proposals. The first one
4 21-11 on Page 56. All four analysis I will be
5 presenting next were submitted by Kirk Wilson of
6 Glennallen and would apply to the Federal subsistence
7 fishery in the Upper Copper River District.

8
9 In the first presentation I will
10 present background information that is pertinent to all
11 four proposals. For brevity on subsequent
12 presentations, the subsequent presentations will be
13 shorter and I ask you to keep the general background
14 information in mind as we go forward.

15
16 Fisheries Proposal 21-11 requests that
17 the Board require that in the upper Copper River
18 district daily harvest of salmon be recorded and
19 reported to the agency issuing the permit within three
20 days of harvest, and that report must be made for any
21 day that fishing gear was in the water.

22
23 The proponent believes that obtaining
24 accurate in-season harvest information would help to
25 protect against the possibility of overharvest. This
26 proposal would apply to waters within and adjacent to
27 the exterior boundaries of the Wrangell-St. Elias
28 National Park and Preserve. The upper Copper River
29 district is made up of two subdistricts, the Glennallen
30 and the Chitina subdistrict.

31
32 Upper Copper River district is in the
33 traditional territory of the Ahtna Athabascans. For
34 contemporary communities with customary and traditional
35 use determination for the Copper River drainage, salmon
36 make up most of the subsistence harvest. Fishwheels
37 are the predominate gear in use and harvest by
38 fishwheel accounts for most of the subsistence harvest
39 for fish by communities in the region.

40
41 The 2020 Copper River salmon runs were
42 weaker than expected resulted in significant
43 restrictions to the commercial gillnet fishing near the
44 mouth of the river and in the Chitina subdistrict
45 personal use fisheries. By the end of the season, both
46 the sockeye and chinook salmon runs likely did not meet
47 the sustainable escapement goals of 24,000 chinook and
48 360,000 sockeye salmon. Since 2010 chinook escapement
49 estimates have ranged from a low of 12,485 in 2016 to a
50

1 high of 42,204 in 2018.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants phone not muted)

5

6 MS. HYER: Excuse me.

7

8 There is currently no in-season
9 reporting requirement in the State subsistence,
10 personal use and Federal subsistence fishery in the
11 Copper River. Under Federal subsistence permits
12 reporting to the National Park is currently required by
13 October 31st by mail, in person, or over the phone. In
14 the State Glennallen subsistence fishery the reporting
15 date is also October 31st by mail, or in person. In the
16 State Chitina personal use fishery reports are required
17 by October 15th and as of 2020 must be submitted on
18 line. It is also worth noting that the wheels must be
19 checked by the operator every 10 hours. For all
20 Federal subsistence permits in the upper Copper River
21 district, fishers must keep accurate daily records of
22 their catch showing the number of fish taken by species
23 location and date. This proposal would not require
24 that new information be collected.

25

26 Next, I'll talk about some potential
27 effects of the proposal.

28

29 Adopting this proposal would place an
30 additional to those fishing under Federal subsistence
31 permits in the upper Copper River district. To report
32 their harvest within three days, if adopted, the
33 reporting timelines for Federal subsistence users would
34 be significantly stricter than for those fishing under
35 State subsistence permits in Glennallen subdistrict or
36 State personal use in the Chitina subdistrict. This
37 proposal would make in-season phone or internet access
38 a precondition for participating in the subsistence
39 harvest in compliance with regulations.

40

41 One alternative that has been
42 recommended is for the three day reporting to be
43 voluntary. In addition, burden would probably not
44 bring the desired conservation benefits as fishing
45 under Federal permits makes up a relatively small
46 portion to the overall harvest of the upper Copper
47 River. The estimated sockeye, chinook and coho salmon
48 subsistence harvest under Federal permits in the upper
49 Copper district was only about eight percent of the

50

1 overall subsistence and personal use harvest between
2 2010 and 2019. This partial information would not be
3 very useful or actionable in the absence of a
4 comprehensive in-season reporting system under State
5 permit. While the recommendation to make reporting
6 voluntary would ease the impact of this proposal on
7 users, it would further limit the utility of the data
8 for management action.

9

10 And OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
11 oppose this proposal.

12

13 And that ends my presentation.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, very much
16 Karen. Council members, at this point do you have any
17 clarifying questions for Karen Hyer.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Hearing none, we will
22 move on with our proposal presentation procedure. Do
23 we have any reports on consultation with tribes or
24 ANCSA Corporation.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria Stickwan.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Okay, we do not. Okay,
29 at this point.....

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

32

33 MS. WESSELS:we're going to.....

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

36

37 MS. WESSELS:ask for agency
38 comments.

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Katya.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Katya.

49

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

2 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Gloria Stickwan's on the
4 line.

5 MS. WESSELS: Hi Gloria, do you have a
6 comment for tribes.

7 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. I just want.....

8 MS. WESSELS: Please go ahead.

9 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that
10 as written I don't support this proposal but I would
11 support it as voluntary. My concern would be for
12 people that may not have access to internet, they would
13 have to go to their tribe, tribal office and ask to use
14 their internet, or some of them don't even have cell
15 phones to call into, they'd have to go to their
16 neighbor's house and ask if they could use a phone to
17 use to call in their harvest. It's just an extra step
18 for them to be required to report within three days. I
19 would say it should be volunteer -- on a volunteer
20 basis. And money should be given to an entity like
21 AITRC to do that if they wish to do that.

22 But as written I don't support the
23 proposal.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Gloria. At
26 this point we will take the agency comments. Agency
27 comments, ADF&G, do you have any comments on FP21-11.

28 MR. BURCH: Hello, Katya, this is Mark
29 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game. We do not
30 have any comments on this proposal at this time.

31 Thank you.

32 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mark. Do we
33 have any comments from any Federal agencies.

34 (No comments)

35 MS. WESSELS: Okay, if we don't, do we

36

1 have any comments from the tribal agencies.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MS. WESSELS: If not, okay, moving on
any comments from the other Regional Advisory Councils.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

MS. WESSELS: OSM Staff, do you know
how Southcentral voted on that proposal?

12

13

MS. HYER: Can you hear me?

14

15

MS. WESSELS: Yes.

16

17

18

19

20

21

MS. HYER: Okay. Southcentral RAC
voted to support and they thought if the Federal
government led they would hope that the State would
follow so then the reporting would be much more
relevant.

22

23

24

25

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Karen.
I don't think any other Regional Councils took that
proposal up, I don't think it's in their region.

26

27

28

29

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I
interrupt, this is Sue. Could Karen repeat that again,
what the Southcentral did. I didn't get it.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MS. HYER: Southcentral voted to
support. And their comment was that they thought if
the Feds led the way with the permitting, that the
State would follow because fewer -- there are fewer
Federal harvesters but -- they have put forth a
proposal before the Board of Fish also.

37

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, and what
was the vote?

40

41

42

43

MS. HYER: I do not know what the vote
is but Dave Sarafin is on the line and he might know
what the vote was.

44

45

46

47

MR. SARAFIN: Yes, Madame Chair. I
believe the vote was seven to two in support of that
one. This is Dave Sarafin.

48

49

50

MS. CELLARIUS: And this is Barbara

1 Cellarius and that's the same number that I have.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, I
4 appreciate that.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Do we have
7 any comments from ADF&G Committees, Advisory Committees
8 or did any SRC's take up that proposal.

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: I have a -- this is
11 Barbara Cellarius and I have a comment from the
12 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Barbara.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: So I'll just say this
17 once. The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
18 Commission, they met last week and the Commission is a
19 Federal Advisory Committee that represents subsistence
20 users of Federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias
21 National Park and Preserve.

22

23 So with regard to FP21-11, the
24 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC opposed a modified version of
25 FP21-11 with a vote of two in support and six opposed.
26 The modification would have made in-season harvest
27 reporting optional.

28

29 The SRC noted that a similar proposal
30 has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for
31 consideration in relation to State managed fisheries
32 which account for the majority of the total salmon
33 harvest in the upper Copper River. Federal subsistence
34 represents a very small portion of the total Copper
35 River salmon harvest and requiring in-season harvest
36 reporting by Federal subsistence users may be a burden
37 to people who don't have phones to call in their
38 harvest reports. There was also general opposition to
39 imposing a restriction that would only apply to
40 subsistence users. The requirement to report even when
41 harvest is unsuccessful is onerous.

42

43 And then with respect to the proposed
44 modification about to have the reporting date optional,
45 there was concern that it wouldn't functionally work
46 and would make the regulations more complicated.

47

48 That concludes their comment.

49

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara.
2 Okay, at this point we're going to go to the summary of
3 written public comments.
4

5 For FP21-11, OSM received five written
6 public comments. Five of them were in support of this
7 proposal and one was in support with modification. So
8 the ones in support were from Ahtna InterTribal
9 Resource Commission. The written comments can be found
10 on Page 72 and 73 of your meeting materials book.
11

12 AITRC supports this proposal based on
13 their ongoing research and participating in the
14 fisheries regulatory management process. They say they
15 feel strongly that there is a need for more timely
16 harvest data in the up river subsistence and personal
17 use fisheries. Moreover, this is a topic about which
18 we have found broad consensus among both tribal and
19 non-tribal Federally-qualified subsistence fishers
20 within the region. As a part of ongoing social science
21 research through a Partner for Fisheries Management
22 Program grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service, AITRC
23 has used participatory ethnographic methods to document
24 management, regulatory and conservation concerns in
25 Copper River fisheries. Concerns about the health of
26 salmon stock has been a common theme emerging from both
27 subsistence fisheries and some biologists who have
28 participated in this research as has anxieties about
29 the future availability for customary and traditional
30 uses. These concerns extenuated by recent events such
31 as historically low sockeye abundance in 2018 and 2020
32 and clear trends of decline in chinook abundances.
33 Although biologists do not know the reason for these
34 declines, many enrollees and AITRC members tribes have
35 expressed strong concern about steadily increasing
36 harvest levels in Copper River subsistence and personal
37 use fisheries. Many of these concerns have been
38 specifically directed towards the State fisheries, but
39 gaining an accurate picture of in-season harvest levels
40 would be best accomplished if in-season reporting were
41 applied universally across all State and Federal
42 subsistence and personal use fisheries.
43

44 Companion proposal submitted to the
45 State Board of Fisheries addresses the State managed
46 fisheries. While this proposal would require more
47 frequent reporting it would not require Federally-
48 qualified subsistence users to report any more data on
49 their harvest than is required currently.
50

1 Federal subsistence users may already
2 track their daily harvest levels by species and report
3 these totals at the end of each season.

4
5 If this reporting were done using an
6 online app it would not require any more effort than is
7 required under the current system. Timely reporting
8 would probably produce better quality data than does
9 end of season reporting. A common problem with the
10 current system is that subsistence fishers often fail
11 to keep their permits up to date, waiting to fill them
12 out until the end of the year when they're due and
13 guessing about their daily catch totals. During years
14 of low abundance these data could provide more granular
15 data of the fishery enabling more adaptive management
16 decisionmaking. They also might help to build trust
17 and consensus between fishers, fisheries management and
18 interested local public.

19
20 And I apologize for just reading this
21 as a whole comment but I thought it was important to
22 read that into the record.

23
24 The second comment in support can be
25 found on Page 76 and it came from Mike Mahoney of
26 Cordova. And he says that basically he's in support of
27 this proposal and that good in-season management
28 requires current data. That's the only way for it to
29 happen is to receive that good data.

30
31 Another comment in support was from
32 Thea Thomas from Cordova. She also strongly supports
33 this proposal and it's important for the Chitina dipnet
34 fishery, accurate timely harvest data.

35
36 Another comment in support was from
37 Bonnie Yazzie of Chistochina, can be found on Page 81.
38 She is from an Ahtna family who depends on Copper River
39 salmon and she thinks that this -- we need to know
40 exactly what's being taken in order to accurately
41 manage the fishery. And she says that there's more
42 than 10,000 people come through the fishery in a year
43 and nobody's monitoring them. This would help keep
44 people more honest and in check, and like on the Kenai
45 Peninsula, she says, there are checkpoints where they
46 check people's permits and see how many clams were dug
47 up and that needs to be required.

48
49 And then there was another comment that
50

1 was support with modification. The comment can be
2 found on Page 77, let's see -- I'm sorry on Page 79 and
3 80. And the comment is from Ahtna Tene Nene', and
4 Gloria already referred to that a little bit. But they
5 support FP21-11 with modification to make it optional
6 for Federally-qualified subsistence users to report
7 their harvest within three days to Federal agency.
8 They do not support making this a mandatory regulation
9 to make Federally-qualified subsistence users report
10 fish harvest to Federal agencies.

11
12 That concludes the summary of the
13 written public comments.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 Okay, and at this point I would like to
18 invite public testimony on FP21-11, if any public is on
19 line this is the time to make your public testimony
20 heard by the Council.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing none, we
25 are going to proceed to the Council recommendation of
26 this proposal and we should start with a motion.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
33 to make a motion to support FP21-11 as written.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff, I
36 second.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,
39 speaking to the motion. There's been a lot of
40 discussion over this group of proposals at the
41 Subsistence Resource Commission. I do appreciate what
42 Gloria's saying about people making it voluntary, but I
43 am hearing a lot of, I called different people during
44 -- before the meeting and asking questions, and I
45 wanted to ask some people on the Yukon River, do you
46 guys have mandatory reporting? You know after being on
47 this Council for almost 20 years, in January, and
48 listening to the Yukon River issues and now seeing a
49 decline in the Copper River, I am concerned and would
50

1 like to make sure we don't get into a big predicament
2 like has happened on the Yukon.

3
4 I don't recall, is it mandatory
5 reporting for you guys?

6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, I can answer that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I'd like
14 to hear.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, go ahead Andy.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so the way it's set
19 up right now on the Yukon River is any community that
20 is road accessible must fill out catch calendars. The
21 remainder of the Yukon River that is not road
22 accessible you do not have to fill out in-season
23 reporting. They do a survey at the end of the year and
24 it's extrapolated from that, which I've been battling
25 for -- or I have been questioning the accuracy of that
26 for a long time.

27
28 So to maybe give you a little bit of my
29 opinion on this, I think I'm going to support this
30 proposal because I think given the population increases
31 and the increases on the resources by users throughout
32 the state in many of the waters around the state, we
33 need to begin to do this sort of monitoring in-season
34 so that overharvest is not happening and managers can
35 respond in time during the season on years where runs
36 are a little bit weaker.

37
38 So I guess maybe to summarize, if
39 you're on the road system on the Yukon River you have
40 to report, if you're not, you don't, and I think that's
41 a problem.

42
43 So I think that this should start, it
44 should start in the Federal Program. I do not believe
45 that it creates hardship. I understand what people are
46 saying but quite frankly almost everybody has
47 telephones and some way or another has access to
48 internet. So I don't see this as a burden.

49
50

1 I hope that helps.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it does,
4 Andy. And if I can continue, Madame Chair.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, please, continue.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
9 speaking to the motion, I am wanting to support it, and
10 I appreciate, again, what Gloria is saying but I think
11 something to push, as what Southcentral did, to have
12 the Feds lead the way for the State to follow, I think
13 it's important to -- and I'm hearing it all up and down
14 the river and -- well, especially, I hate to say this,
15 but I am a commer -- I am a sport/commercial
16 representative on the Council and I do like to hear
17 from commercial and there is a concern that commercial
18 people want to see in-season reporting on the Copper
19 and I'm just going to have to say I don't want to see
20 happen on the Copper decline in fish and I'm going to
21 be in favor of this.

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue.

24
25 Anyone else have any comments or any
26 discussion on FP21-11.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Katya, Andy.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
31 Bill Glanz.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay, go ahead, Bill.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Eastern Interior, we're
36 familiar with reporting stuff and we have had no luck
37 with reporting, Red Sheep, Arctic Village, our area,
38 and stuff like that. It's not really a paper society
39 we're talking about, most of these fishers. And if
40 this don't seem to work -- it may work a little bit on
41 the Yukon, only because enforcement can spot your net
42 and want to see it. So I'm not in favor of this motion
43 at all.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Bill.

48
49 Anyone else of the Council members.

50

1 Andy.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Is that Andy.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. So I'm going
8 to reference my earlier comments to Sue. I also want
9 on the record that the precedent has already been set
10 that any road accessible fisheries on the Yukon River
11 must do in-season -- well, must do reporting catch
12 calendars, it's not actually in-season. But I think
13 in-season reporting would be very beneficial to
14 managers, especially with ocean conditions the way they
15 are and fisheries declining around the state.

16
17 I believe it's time for the State and
18 the Federal Program to pull together to do the best
19 type of harvest management that we can do into the
20 future and that is the responsibility that harvesters
21 must take upon themselves if they are going to harvest
22 resources within the state, both in State and Federal
23 waters for us to be successful in the long-term.

24
25 So I will be -- I believe that there is
26 a conservation concern in many of the waters around the
27 state of Alaska in regards to fisheries and I believe
28 that this is something that needs to be started in more
29 than just the Copper River but I agree with the written
30 comments in support of this and I'll reference all of
31 those, I do believe those to be accurate and truth.
32 And, therefore, I believe that this proposal will be
33 the right step moving and looking long-term into the
34 future of fisheries in Alaska. So I will also be in
35 support of this proposal.

36
37 That's all I have, thank you, Madame
38 Chair.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. Anyone
41 else have anything else to on FP21-11.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don
44 Woodruff.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead Don.

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I'd be in support
49 of this proposal but the Federal subsistence fishers

50

1 are at the headwaters like we are here in Eagle and so
2 a timely response from them will not affect the fishers
3 from the lower river, that's the only confusion I have
4 about this. But I think timely reporting is an
5 important thing. And the management, or actually the
6 Troopers can come and check us any time on the Yukon
7 and we have to have our catch calendars pretty much
8 either in our pocket or in our boat, and they have to
9 be filled out to the date.

10

11

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Don.

12

13

14

Anyone else has any comments, Council
members.

15

16

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.

17

18

19

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Yeah, go ahead,
Sue.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
to add that comment that Don just said, that about
catch calendars, people have to have them on them, you
know, if we are required in the Copper, I can guarantee
it's pretty lax, but it is nice to know that -- if it
isn't done on the Copper it should be.

27

28

29

MR. BASSICH: Katya, Andy.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, go ahead Andy.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, one other thing I
just wanted to add to this to put on the record is that
even though it's not a fisheries requirement, on the
Taylor Highway, successful hunters must report harvest
of caribou within three days. So that's a State
regulation and so there is precedence for this to be
applied to fisheries as well given that, and people
comply with that and that helps managers.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I see no reason why it can't be done
in a fisheries, both Federal and State. There's a lot
of people that come in from around different parts of
the state to fish this, it says in the documentation
that the large majority are subsistence fishermen
throughout the State of Alaska, so the argument of not
having cell phones or internet service would not apply
to them, obviously 99 percent of all people have cell
phones and internet access.

1 So I just wanted to add that on the
2 record, thank you.
3
4 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy.
5
6 Does anyone else have any additional
7 comments.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call for the
14 question.
15
16 MS. WESSELS: Hearing none, at this
17 point we have a motion on the floor to support FP21-11.
18 Do you want to do a roll call since people expressed
19 different opinions.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yes, roll call.
24
25 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I'm going to do the
26 roll call.
27
28 Timothy McManus.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MS. WESSELS: Tim, are you on the
33 phone?
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MS. WESSELS: Okay, so maybe he dropped
38 off.
39
40 Bill Glanz.
41
42 MR. GLANZ: I'm opposed.
43
44 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.
45
46 Charlie Jagow.
47
48 MR. JAGOW: Support.
49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Support.
2
3 Donald Woodruff.
4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: Support.
6
7 MS. WESSELS: Support.
8
9 Andy Bassich.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: Support.
12
13 MS. WESSELS: Support.
14
15 Charlie Wright.
16
17 MR. WRIGHT: Support.
18
19 MS. WESSELS: Support.
20
21 Andrew Firmin.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MS. WESSELS: Andrew, are you on line.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, I'm trying to listen.
28
29 MS. WESSELS: Okay, are you in support
30 or in opposition to FP21-11, I don't know how much of
31 the conversation you've had a chance to listen to.
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: I'm in support.
34
35 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Andrew.
36
37 Sue Entsminger.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Support.
40
41 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Motion passes with
42 six for it and one in opposition and one absent.
43
44 MR. MCMANUS: I'm here, Katerina.
45
46 MS. WESSELS: Oh, are you back.
47
48 MR. MCMANUS: I was here, I just
49 couldn't hit the button, I didn't know which button to
50

1 hit, I heard all the conversations, I support that.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Okay, motion passes with
4 seven people in support and one in opposition.

5

6 Thank you, everyone.

7

8 Okay, the next item on our agenda is
9 FP21-12 and the materials for this proposal can be
10 found on Page 83 of your meeting materials book, and
11 Karen Hyer will be presenting the summary of this
12 proposal. Are you on line, Karen?

13

14 MS. HYER: Yes. Hello, Madame Chair and
15 Council members. Can you hear me?

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can hear you.

18

19 MS. HYER: Great, thank you. This
20 proposal and the next two proposals are interconnected.
21 The first two deal with dipnetting technology and
22 practices and the last deals with fish finders, which
23 used in combination with boats and dipnets. All are
24 specific to Federal subsistence regulations in upper
25 Copper River.

26

27 Fisheries Proposal 21-12 requests the
28 Board prohibit the use of monofilament and
29 multifilament mesh dipnets before August 15th in the
30 upper Copper River district. Before this time dipnet
31 rigging would be limited to braided and inelastic mesh.
32 The proponent raises concerns about the use of dipnets
33 with monofilament and multifilament mesh in terms of
34 effect on survival rates of chinook salmon that are
35 entangled and then released.

36

37 Please keep in mind the background
38 information I presented in the previous proposal.

39

40 In subsistence study interviews
41 conducted in 2013, residents of the rural Copper River
42 Basin communities shared their observations based on
43 local knowledge that chinook salmon runs have declined
44 in comparison to long-term baselines. Some residents
45 have a practice of catching chinook when possible and
46 voluntarily returning chinook from fishwheel boxes if
47 the fish have a chance of survival. Fishwheels are the
48 predominant gear used by Federally-qualified
49 subsistence users in the upper Copper River district.

50

1 Those who would have to adhere to this change in
2 regulation would be mainly the fishwheel users.
3 Harvest by fishwheel accounts for most of the
4 communities. For example in 2013 Gulkana residents
5 took 91 percent of their salmon harvest by fishwheels.
6 In Tazlina, residents took 88 percent of their salmon
7 harvest by fishwheels.

8
9 Of note, a similar proposal as this one
10 has been previously considered by the State Board of
11 Fisheries. This proposal would have applied to the
12 State Glennallen subsistence fishery and the State
13 Chitina personal use fishery. In 2017 the Board of
14 Fisheries rejected a proposal submitted by the
15 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
16 Commission that would have prohibited the use of
17 monofilament and gillnet net in dipnets in the State
18 subsistence and personal use fisheries for the upper
19 Copper River district. The rationale for the proposal
20 was to reduce mortality of chinooks caught in dipnets
21 then released. The proposal was rejected because the
22 Board did not find that banning the mesh would
23 contribute to an increased survival of chinook salmon
24 because it would reduce fishing efficiency, create a
25 hardship for replacement and because it would create an
26 exception in the statewide regulation.

27
28 This proposal would place additional
29 burden on the Federally-qualified subsistence user who
30 would likely have to replace their dipnet mesh or net,
31 the gear specification would make Federal subsistence
32 regulations pertain to dipnet use more restrictive than
33 the State and personal use regulations for the upper
34 Copper River district. There is also the question of
35 whether this proposal would have the intended
36 conservation effects. Effects of catch and release on
37 chinook salmon mortality in a system like this are of
38 concern to local users and are not fully documented and
39 do warrant further investigation. However, regardless
40 of those effects, this proposal would likely not have a
41 large conservation effect primarily because of the
42 small percent of the dipnet fishery being conducted
43 under Federal subsistence regulations. Fishwheels are
44 the predominant gear used by communities with C&T for
45 salmon in this area. Dipnet under Federal permit makes
46 up a small percentage of the overall dipnetting. For
47 example in Chitina subdistrict Federally-qualified
48 subsistence users account for just one percent of all
49 permits between 2010 and 2019. Furthermore, there's
50

1 Federally-qualified users who do use dipnets with
2 monofilament material could continue to do so under
3 State regulations in the Glennallen subsistence and
4 Chitina personal use fisheries. This proposal would
5 bring Federal regulations for the area into step with
6 conservation practices and perspective of some
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but the burden
8 on all Federally-qualified users would be high and the
9 conservation benefits would likely be very limited.

10
11 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
12 oppose.

13
14 This ends my presentation.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, very much,
17 Karen. Council members, do you have any questions for
18 Karen Hyer in regards to this proposal.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Okay, do we have any
23 report on the consultations with the tribe and ANCSA
24 Corporations.

25
26 MS. STICKWAN: This is.....

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing.....

29
30 MS. STICKWAN:Gloria.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Gloria. Go ahead Gloria.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I support limiting the
35 use of monofilament because I've heard at Board of Fish
36 meetings on both sides that it does do damage. I also
37 have heard on other sides it doesn't do damage. But I
38 think anything we can do to try and protect the
39 fisheries, once fisheries are weakened by being
40 damaged, they don't -- some of them may not reach the
41 spawning grounds. So with the low run this year,
42 management objective of sockeye run was met, but it was
43 just above the lower end of the management objective
44 and we don't know about chinook and it may not meet
45 chinook escapement runs this year so anything we can do
46 to help.

47
48 I support this proposal.

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Gloria.

2 Do we have any comments from ADF&G.

3 (No comments)

4 MS. WESSELS: Okay, do we have any
5 comments from Federal agencies.

6 (No comments)

7 MS. WESSELS: Okay, does OSM Staff know
8 how did Southcentral Council vote on this proposal, do
9 you have a comment from them.

10 MS. HYER: Yes, Madame Chair, can you
11 hear me?

12 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

13 MS. HYER: Southcentral Council did not
14 support this, they opposed it.

15 MS. WESSELS: Do you have their
16 justification for that?

17 MS. HYER: I do not. And, again, Dave
18 or Barbara might have more -- better notes than I do.

19 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Did any Fish and
20 Game Advisory Committee take this proposal up.

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, this
22 is Sue.

23 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have
25 information that the vote was opposed three to six from
26 the Southcentral RAC, it was given to me by Barbara
27 Cellarius.

28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Barbara, do
29 you have any notes on the justification for
30 Southcentral.

31 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, I do and I'm
32 actually -- I will email Karen something I got from
33 OSM.

34 50

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

2
3 MS. CELLARIUS: So I mean I could read
4 that or I could just send it to Karen.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: It's fine if you just
7 read it because we know that comes from Southcentral
8 Council.

9
10 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, it's kind -- it's
11 a document from OSM but it's consistent with my memory.

12
13 The Council expressed concern over
14 enforcement and misalignment between State and Federal
15 which would be confusing. Several Council members
16 stated that entanglement is much more affected by mesh
17 size and time out of the water than net material. One
18 Council member stated that while he has observed first
19 hand that monofilament lines do cause entanglement,
20 monofilament nets are easier to catch fish because they
21 are lighter and have less drag. There was the opinion
22 expressed that the regulation should not just be put on
23 Federal users.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara. So
26 this was from the Southcentral Council, their comment.
27 Do we have any comments from Advisory Committees.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we have any
32 comments from SRCs. Barbara, did Wrangell-St. Elias
33 SRC take that proposal up.

34
35 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, sorry about that. I
36 was trying to multitask.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: That's okay, no problem.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: And my tea water is
41 whistling. The SRC opposed 21-12 with a vote of one in
42 support and seven opposed.

43
44 In the experience of SRC members, net
45 material doesn't make -- it doesn't -- net material
46 doesn't make a difference in whether fish become
47 entangled in a net. One member commercial fished one
48 summer, for example, and salmon were often gilled in an
49 inelastic braided net. Mesh size, in their experience,
50

1 is a much bigger factor. Another concern is the lack
2 of the availability of dipnets made from alternate
3 material.

4
5 The person who supported the proposal
6 cited testimony on both sides with some saying that the
7 monofilament nets cause damage and expressed concern
8 that avoiding any potential negative impacts to the
9 fishery.

10
11 And that concludes the comments.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara. So
14 at this point written public comments.

15
16 OSM received five written public
17 comments on FP21-12. The all were in support.

18
19 So first comment can be found on Page
20 102, 103 and came from Ahtna InterTribal Resource
21 Commission. And they say while chinook salmon run
22 sizes have fluctuated they have shown a clear trend of
23 declining during the past 20 years. Biologists are
24 investigating the reasons for this decline. Even so
25 simple in-river conservation measures would help to
26 maximize the survival rates of chinook salmon during
27 spawning migrations while still maintaining in-river
28 harvest opportunities. Both dipnets constructed with
29 inelastic seine style mesh as a traditional Ahtna style
30 made with inelastic mesh are effective in catching
31 salmon. Inelastic seine style nets are widely
32 available and are no more expensive than monofilament
33 type nets. This proposal would not reduce opportunity
34 and would have no effect on the number of chinook
35 salmon Federally-qualified dipnet fishers would be
36 allowed to retain each year.

37
38 This proposal would promote greater
39 survival rates among chinook salmon caught in nets and
40 then released back into the river. These releases
41 occur frequently with chinook salmon both with dipnet
42 fishers have exceeded their seasonal limits -- when
43 fishers voluntarily release chinook due to conservation
44 concerns. Salmon are far more likely to become
45 severely entangled in monofilament, multifilament nets
46 than in nets with inelastic. As the same kind of mesh
47 material used in gillnets, monofilament nets are
48 designed to catch fish on the jaws, gill-plates, fins
49 and other protruding areas of the fish as well as to

50

1 stretch and become tightly girdled around their
2 abdomens. These entanglements can cause direct
3 injuries to the salmon, and at the very least it can
4 make untangling salmon from these nets a far longer and
5 more difficult process -- untangling salmon from these
6 nets a far longer and more difficult process especially
7 for inexperienced fishers. Longer time out of the
8 water leads to increased stress and greater likelihood
9 of mortality. Inelastic type dipnets, on the other
10 hand, are far more likely to merely enclose the salmon
11 without causing excessive entanglement or injury.

12
13 One slight modification to this
14 resolution should be considered, as it is currently
15 worded, this resolution could be interpreted as
16 prohibiting the rigid dipnets that are customary
17 traditional to Ahtna fishers. Because of their
18 rigidity, these traditional type nets do not cause
19 entanglement. Accordingly, the resolution should
20 contain language specifically allowing these, such as
21 by removing the words, braided from the proposed
22 regulation.

23
24 So the other written comments in
25 support were received from Michael Mahoney of Cordova
26 and it can be found on Page 134. He thinks that these
27 changes would be helpful in protecting king salmon.

28
29 Another comment in support was from
30 Thea Thomas of Cordova. She is also in support,
31 important in the Chitina dipnet fishery and to acquire
32 timely data on the harvest.

33
34 Another comment in support was received
35 from Ahtna Tene Nene' and it can be found on Page
36 108/109. They say they support this proposal. Use of
37 dipnets that is rigged with monofilament or
38 multifilament mesh before August 15th, the chinook that
39 are released this type of dipnets, it causes undue harm
40 or death to chinooks. Chinook may not reach spawning
41 grounds if they are harmed or weakened by these
42 dipnets. Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported
43 that management objectives for chinook and sockeye may
44 not be met in fiscal year 2020. Chinook is on the
45 decline in the Copper River district, we need to do
46 what can be done to protect them so king salmon may
47 reach spawning grounds.

48
49 And the last comment in support was
50

1 received from Bonnie Yazzie and can be found on Page
2 110. She's also in support to ban monofilament dipnets
3 during king season.

4
5 So that concludes the written public
6 comments and now we go into Regional Council
7 recommendations and start with a motion.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, this
10 is Sue.

11
12 MS. WESSELS: Yes, go ahead Sue.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might ask
15 if there's any other public comment on this, that was
16 the only thing missed.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Oh, yes, I'm sorry I
19 overlooked that. I apologize for that. Are there any
20 public on line that would like to make an oral public
21 comment, you can do it at this time.

22
23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing none, we'll
27 proceed to Regional Council recommendation.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Katya,
30 Sue.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I make a
35 motion to support FP21-12 as written.

36
37 MR. MCMANUS: Katerina, this is Tim
38 McManus, I second that.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Tim,
41 thank you Sue.

42
43 Motion has been made by Sue and
44 seconded by Tim.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to
47 the motion.....

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Let's proceed over to
50

1 discussion.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, this is
4 Sue speaking to the motion.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I'm
9 going to oppose this. At the Wrangell SRC meeting we
10 heard a lot of opposition to this and you've heard the
11 vote was one to seven.

12

13 And then there would -- this would make
14 subsistence more restrictive than the other dipnetters
15 on the river, and it needs to start there, I believe.
16 So for those reasons -- oh, and at the SRC meeting
17 there was talk about how difficult it would be to get
18 other material so I am going to speak against the
19 motion.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue. Anyone
22 else would like to make a comment on FP21-12, Council
23 members.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy
26 Bassich.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Andy.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. You
31 know there's a lot of discussion about monofilament
32 versus other braided net materials, most of those in
33 the research done was done in setnet fisheries or drift
34 fisheries where it does -- there is a difference, but
35 given the relatively short amount of time that fish are
36 in dipnets and the conservation that dipnets provide, I
37 will be opposed to this.

38

39 I think a better track to do this long-
40 term would be educating people on how to remove king
41 salmon quickly and safely from dipnets.

42

43 But I will not be in support of this
44 proposal.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. Any
49 other Council members would like to make a comment.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don
2 Woodruff. I've fished with monofilament, braided line
3 and multifilament line and I can't say that they all
4 catch remarkably differently but I would say for
5 whitefish and pike and stuff the monofilament works
6 much better in the Yukon and the side rivers because
7 they can't see it.

8
9 And I think I'm going to be opposed to
10 this proposal. It's just onerous to change all your
11 gear.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Don. Anyone
14 else.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So.....

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is.....

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Yes, who is that?

23
24 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie, Madame
25 Chair.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Charlie, go ahead.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: I'm opposed to this also
30 because of the hardship it causes to change the mesh.
31 I seen a lot of hardship on the Yukon because of all
32 the changes in the mesh so I oppose this, it causes
33 hardship. People are having a hard enough time
34 already.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Charlie.
39 Anyone else would like to make a comment.

40
41 MR. MCMANUS: Yes, this is Tim McManus.
42 I oppose this also.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Tim. Any
45 other comments.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

50

1 Question has been called, so do you just want to have
2 unanimous vote, opposing FP21-12, and if anybody is --
3 in support of FP21-12, they should speak at this time,
4 would you like to do that?

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Okay, so the motion on
9 the floor to support FP21-12 as written, we have a
10 unanimous vote to oppose FP21-12, anyone in support say
11 aye at this time.

12
13 (No aye votes)

14
15 MS. WESSELS: What was that -- did
16 somebody.....

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: No, it's somebody out
19 there in the world.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it
22 was backfeed.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Okay, so the
25 motion to support FP21-12 failed on a unanimous vote.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 If you can hold on a second I just need
30 to record that.

31
32 (Pause)

33
34 MS. WESSELS: All right. So the next
35 item on the agenda is Fisheries Proposal 21-13 and the
36 materials for this proposal can be found on Page 112 of
37 your meeting materials book and Karen Hyer will be
38 presenting an overview of this proposal. Are you on
39 line Karen?

40
41 MS. HYER: Madame Chair and Council
42 members, can you hear me?

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

47
48 MS. HYER: All right. All right, next
49 I'll be presenting Proposal 21-13 which requests that

50

1 the Federal Subsistence Board prohibit fishing with
2 dipnets from a boat or craft floating the river in the
3 upper Copper River district.

4
5 The proponent believes that the
6 increased popularity of dipnetting from boats --
7 believes that the popularity has increased from
8 dipnetting from boats since 2010 and combined with the
9 high numbers of fish each subsistence dipnetter can
10 harvest could be contributing to the completion of some
11 salmon stocks.

12
13 First, I'd like to present some
14 background and local traditional knowledge. Dipnet for
15 sockeye salmon and to a lesser extent chinook salmon
16 traditionally took place from platforms built over the
17 river. Access to fishing sites was limited by
18 territorial jurisdiction, part of a traditional
19 management system. Ahtna Elder Katie John reported the
20 loss of several stocks of Copper River salmon in her
21 lifetime which she called missing fish. In Katie
22 John's testimony motorized boats and the noise and
23 pollution they bring are in and of themselves
24 disturbing to fish. Today fishwheels are the
25 predominate gear used by Federally-qualified
26 subsistence users in the Copper River district those
27 who would have to adhere to this change in regulation.
28 As noted in my previous presentation, harvest by
29 fishwheel accounts for most of the subsistence harvest
30 of fish by communities in the region.

31
32 In 2017 the Board of Fish rejected a
33 proposal submitted by the Ahtna Customary and
34 Traditional Use Committee that would have prohibited
35 dipnetting from boats in State subsistence and personal
36 use fisheries in the Glennallen subdistrict. The
37 Board's rationale for rejecting this proposal was there
38 was not a conservation concern for salmon and this
39 regulation would have had a limited impact.

40
41 This proposal would make Federal
42 subsistence regulations pertaining to dipnet more
43 restrictive than State subsistence and personal use
44 regulations for the upper Copper River district.

45
46 The majority of salmon taken by
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the upper
48 Copper River district are taken by fishwheel rather
49 than from boat. Because boats are not widely used to

1 fish for salmon under Federal subsistence permits on
2 the upper Copper River district, adopting this proposal
3 would have little effect on the practice of concern and
4 little conservation effect in practice. Users could
5 continue to dipnet from boats under State regulations
6 in the Galena subdistrict and the Chitina personal use
7 fisheries. The State subsistence and personal use
8 fishery would provide the most effective regulatory
9 context for this proposal.

10
11 And because it's more restrictive to
12 Federal subsistence users, OSM's preliminary conclusion
13 is to oppose.

14
15 That ends my presentation.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Karen.
18 Council members, do you have any questions to Karen
19 about FP21-13.

20
21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Okay, if no one has any
25 clarifying questions we're going to proceed with report
26 on consultations with tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Gloria.

31
32 MS. STICKWAN: I support Proposal 21-
33 13. There isn't any -- hardly any enforcement on the
34 Copper River due to the Sturgeon Case. There's State
35 people that are enforcement but they can't be
36 everywhere on the river at the same time. We don't
37 know how many fish are being taken. Fishing from a
38 boat allows people to go out with their dipnets and
39 fish in areas where fish may hold up in eddies and able
40 to get a lot of fish, sockeyes or king salmon. A good
41 way to get a lot of fish in a quick amount of time.

42
43 I just think that we need to protect
44 the fisheries as much as we can and so I'm opposed -- I
45 mean I support this proposal.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Gloria.
48 Any other -- well, no report of tribes or ANCSA
49 Corporations, we will move to agency comments. ADF&G,
50

1 do you have any comments on 21-13.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MS. WESSELS: Any Federal comments on

6

21-13.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

MS. WESSELS: Any agency, Federal.

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

MS. WESSELS: Any other tribal comments

15

on 21-13.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Advisory Councils, Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, do we have this information how they voted on FP21-13.

20

21

22

23

MS. HYER: The Regional Advisory Council voted one to eight to oppose. And they thought it unnecessarily restricted Federally-qualified subsistence users because some do rely on this method of fishing and if the restriction should happen, it should happen under State regulations, not Federal regulations.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Karen.

32

33

Okay, I don't think there are any other Regional Advisory Councils took that proposal.

34

35

Do we have comments from Fish and Game

36

Advisory Committees.

37

38

(No comments)

39

40

MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we have any

41

comments from SRCs.

42

43

MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, I have a comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission, this is Barbara Cellarius.

44

45

46

47

MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Barbara.

48

49

MS. CELLARIUS: Opposed FP21-13 with a

50

1 vote of one in support and seven opposed.

2
3 Commission members were generally not
4 concerned about the practice of dipnetting from boats
5 by Federally-qualified subsistence users, although
6 concern was expressed about the increasing occurrence
7 of dipnetting from boats by participants in State
8 managed fisheries in the upper Copper River. The
9 number of Federally-qualified subsistence users fishing
10 from boats is limited. Some SRC members noted,
11 however, that people dipnetting from boats should be
12 restricted before fishwheel users in times of low
13 salmon numbers.

14
15 The Commission noted a need for
16 information about harvest by gear types. That would
17 have been important information to include in the
18 proposal analysis.

19
20 And that concludes their comment.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara. So
23 now we're going to move on to written public comments
24 and OSM received five written public comments. The
25 first comment can be found on Page 132 of your meeting
26 material books and that comment is from Ahtna
27 InterTribal Resource Commission.

28
29 They are in support of this proposal.
30 And they say we feel that the dramatic increase in this
31 methods popularity poses significant conservation
32 concerns. Salmon often delay their up river migration
33 during high water events, rest in deep parts of the
34 river and/or areas such as eddies where the current is
35 less intense. During this times, catch per unit effort
36 for fishwheels and onshore dipnetters tends to be quite
37 low. However, dipnetters in the boats are able to move
38 throughout the river and target these resting areas.
39 In the middle Copper River subsistence fishers have
40 observed that when the water begins to recede, large
41 pulses of fish have often followed bringing very good
42 fishing during the following days. During the past
43 several years, local/traditional knowledge observations
44 suggest that these pulses of fish have not been
45 occurring in the same way. Although research into this
46 topic is warranted, a very likely explanation for this
47 change is that boat based dipnetter are catching much
48 of the fish that are resting in these deep pockets.

49
50

1 Dipnetting salmon from boats is not
2 customary or traditional use of the resource. In
3 traditional times Ahtna fishers dipnetted from shore,
4 or from platforms that extended into the river but did
5 not dipnet from boats floating in the river. Even
6 among non-Native settlers dipnetting from boats does
7 not have a long enough history to be considered a
8 customary and traditional use of the resources. Rather
9 this is a practice that has only become widespread
10 during the past one or two decades. Although this is
11 not specifically a difference in the equipment used to
12 harvest salmon, it represents a dramatic change in the
13 way in which the fishery is prosecuted. Boats can
14 confer a competitive advantage of fishers who fish from
15 shore, as noted above, but they are expensive to own
16 and operate and thus not available to many Federally-
17 qualified subsistence fishers.

18
19 The next comment in support can be
20 found on Page 134 and it came from Mike Mahoney of
21 Cordova. And he says that these changes would be
22 helpful in protecting our king salmon and he supports
23 them.

24
25 The next comment can be found on Page
26 136 and it's from Thea Thomas of Cordova. She's also
27 in support and says, you know, it's important for the
28 Chitina dipnet fishery.

29
30 The next comment is from Ahtna Tene
31 Nene' and can be found on Page 137/138. And they say
32 that we support FP21-13 to fish from shore, from
33 islands in the river, or from stationary objects
34 connected to shore. Fishing from a boat or other craft
35 floating in the Copper River has an advantage over
36 dipnetting from shoreline. Fishing from a boat that is
37 moving down river is essentially trolling for fish.
38 More salmon could be harvested in the Copper River
39 using this technique to fish. Fishing in areas where
40 salmon hold up to rest also enables fishermen to
41 harvest an abundance of salmon at one time.

42
43 Enforcement officers cannot be out on
44 the Copper River patrolling at all hours to watch
45 dipnetters who fish from a boat or other craft. More
46 salmon could be harvested than are reported.

47
48 Historically Ahtna people dipnetted
49 from a platform to harvest salmon, it worked for us and
50

1 it will work for other people to harvest salmon from
2 shore too.

3
4 And the fifth comment was received from
5 Bonnie Yazzie, she's from Chitina and she's in support.
6 She's saying that dipnetting from a boat is a not a
7 customary and traditional way of getting salmon. And
8 repeating basically the same thing was Tene Nene' said,
9 it's not the dipnetting, it's trolling. And that she
10 heard from the dipnetters on boats that limited out
11 this year while many of us with fishwheels are
12 struggling.

13
14 So that concludes the summary of
15 written public comments.

16
17 And at this point I would like to
18 invite any oral public testimony for anyone that is on
19 line.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Is there anyone on line
24 who would like to make a public testimony.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Hearing none, we are
29 going to move to the Regional Council recommendation
30 starting with a motion.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, this
33 is Sue.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
38 to make a motion to support FP21-13 as written to
39 request the Board to prohibit fishing with dipnets from
40 boats or crafts floating in the river in the upper
41 Copper River district. And when I get a second I'll
42 speak why I'm opposed to the motion.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff,
45 I'll second.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy, I second.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, go ahead, Sue.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to
4 the motion. This is an example of the last proposal
5 where it's restricting subsistence much further than
6 the State season for subsistence in the river. There
7 has been a bunch of testimony saying that that is
8 increasing in the Copper and there is also talk of
9 people might be, you know, paying somebody to use --
10 you know, like you would go out sportfishing, you're
11 paying somebody to take you out fishing, to use dipnets
12 under the State regs. And if I was opposed to
13 anything, I would be opposed to that. That you hire
14 somebody to go dipnetting under State regulations.

15
16 So this is a State proposal and it's
17 limited, the people testified why they want to still
18 use a boat with their dipnetting at our SRC meeting and
19 I noticed also that Southcentral opposed it one to
20 eight. I see where they're coming from, they're wanting
21 to make changes and I understand that, but at the same
22 time I would not like to see subsistence more
23 restrictive than State.

24
25 So that is why I would be opposed to
26 that. But I would like to mention, it's not on our
27 agenda but at the SRC meeting we took up a bunch of
28 fish proposals and there is one before the State to do
29 this and I would -- I'm wondering if we would want to
30 do that after we vote on this. But at this time I
31 cannot support this proposal as written.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue. Council
34 members, do you have any comments, any discussion on
35 FP21-13.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don
38 Woodruff. I had one.....

39
40 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy.....

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, who.....

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Go ahead, Don.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Okay, go ahead Don.

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. It seems to
49 me that some of these proposals are actually very

50

1 beneficial for the fisheries but yet the State and the
2 Feds don't seem to coalesce. And so sometimes I would
3 be supportive of a proposal like this but yet it
4 restricts Federal subsistence fishers too much and it
5 puts me in a total quandary why the State doesn't
6 respect its fisheries more and try to work together to
7 have sort of coalesce regulations in fisheries
8 support.

9

10 That's my comment.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Anyone else has
15 any other comments, discussion.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead Andy.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. So I
22 understand the point that you're making Sue and Don, I
23 think one of the points that we're kind of missing
24 here, though, is this is getting a lot of support from
25 Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen and that's
26 because this fishing from boats, and the very next
27 proposal that we're going to be looking at, both are a
28 change in the way the fishing is happening, and what
29 that's doing is it's becoming an increasingly
30 competitive and advantage over the traditional Federal
31 customary ways of doing it, which is dipnet from shore
32 and fishwheels. So it's a typical situation in a
33 fisheries where people have discovered a new method of
34 fishing and once it becomes popular because of its
35 success, and its advantages, it will overturn long-
36 term established fisheries practices.

37

38 I see this as opening up Pandora's Box.
39 I see this as a way for a large percentage of people to
40 begin to have the next issues that we'll be dealing
41 with, will be too many boats on the river and the
42 dangers of people, and the conflicts that go with too
43 many boats trying to do this at the same time.

44

45 So I am going to be in support of this
46 proposal. I think it is looking ahead to potential
47 problems that are going to happen and I think it is
48 addressing some of the issues that Federally-qualified
49 people are coming up against and they don't know how to

50

1 deal with it because there's nothing stopping people
2 from dipnetting from boats.

3
4 So I think we're looking at it the
5 wrong way. I disagree with the conclusions of OSM.
6 Yes, it is making it more restrictive but if we can get
7 this passed through the State regulations and then
8 there is not that conflict then that takes care of that
9 issue. So I think the Federal Subsistence Board should
10 take the lead on this, recognizing that it's affecting
11 Federal subsistence fishermen, and we should use that
12 leverage to try and get this passed through the State
13 as well.

14
15 But I think we're kind of missing the
16 point, we're putting too much onus on it making the
17 Federal regulations more restrictive short-term and
18 missing the point of the long-term effects of this
19 change in the fishery techniques on the Copper River,
20 which is affecting dramatically the traditional means
21 of fishing. And it's allowing people to have an unfair
22 advantage and it's not giving the fish any place to
23 hide and that's part of the problem in long fisheries
24 migration. The fish have to have places where they can
25 go rest without being interrupted or captured.

26
27 So I am going to be very much in
28 support of this proposal.

29
30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. Anyone
33 else would like to comment on FP21-13, Council members.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue,
36 I would like to address the comment.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Okay, go ahead, Sue.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
41 you, Katya. And thank you for that Andy.

42
43 This one is where there's a lot of
44 Board of Fish proposals that are out there that would
45 take care of a lot of the problems that we see. It was
46 just brought to my attention, from Barbara, she's
47 sending me a quick text, there is a Board of Fish
48 proposal to limit guides in the State proposals, for
49 dipnetting from boats, hiring a guide. And these are

50

1 the kinds of things that happen when this -- this kind
2 of thing does increase and there's more boats, and
3 these are the kinds of things, I think, that need to be
4 done first before you limit the people that do
5 subsistence dipnetting. And I know people that use
6 boats on the Copper and we had testimony at our
7 Subsistence Resource Commission about people using
8 boats, local people, local rural residents that use
9 boats and they've been doing it for a long time, I'd
10 say since ANILCA or before, that would have been the
11 area they'd been using these boats.

12
13 So I don't -- and they're the smaller
14 number, the bigger number is the problem and it has to
15 be done by the State first. And there is these joint
16 proposals for this on in particular, to the Board of
17 Fisheries and there's like four other proposals
18 relating to boats at the Board of Fisheries level, and
19 I would say that that's where it has to start.
20 Unfortunately these aren't on our agenda, these Board
21 of Fisheries proposals, and I feel like I was in remiss
22 as your Chair not making sure -- I don't know if Katya
23 asked us if we wanted to take up Board of Fish
24 proposals but at the SRC meeting we were given both
25 Board of Fisheries and Game to take up at our meeting,
26 and this particular proposal, I have to vote against it
27 for those reasons, that this is not where you start.

28
29 I appreciate that sometimes, yeah, you
30 have to start there, it's a limited amount of people
31 that it probably affects and they're not happy about
32 losing their right to use a dipnet on a boat, the
33 restrictions need to start at the State level in my
34 opinion.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Sue, I'm just trying to
37 clarify something. I am looking at Board of Fisheries
38 website right now for the upcoming session, the
39 comments were due September 30th. I do not know the
40 specific proposals she's talking about, if they will be
41 taken by the Board of Fisheries during their next
42 meeting.

43
44 I think.....

45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: Katya, this is Barbara.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Barbara.

49
50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: I think they've
2 postponed the Prince William Sound Board of Fish
3 meeting until a later date. I think they're actually
4 meeting maybe tomorrow or the next day to come up with
5 a decision. So the meeting's been postponed in terms
6 of when the comments are due. I think there's time to
7 send in comments, if that's the question.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I don't know if
10 these specific proposals that Sue is talking about will
11 be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of
12 Fisheries.

13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
15 Pappas, I can provide some insight.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, George, go
18 ahead.

19
20 MR. PAPPAS: Sorry for interrupting.
21 I'm going back and forth with the Western Interior.

22
23 Yes, the Board of Fish meets tomorrow
24 and that's one of their primary reasons to meet
25 tomorrow is to discuss how they're going to delay the
26 process. The deadlines for comments were to be
27 determined, and they have not -- solid comments are
28 February 18th for the hatchery committee comment
29 deadline, so tomorrow they'll make the decision of how
30 they're going to do it, are they going to have it in
31 person, are they going to have a teleconference, are
32 they going to punt until next year. So we'll have
33 something for you -- I'll work through the coordinators
34 to ensure it's distributed to you, specifically on the
35 deadlines and what the conclusions will be. But I
36 won't have that information until Friday.

37
38 And for the purposes of discussion on
39 these proposals to the Board of Fish that parallel to
40 the Federal subsistence proposals, if you want to make
41 an individual comment on these proposals we can work
42 with you on that. My personal and professional
43 opinion, we're not probably going to have a Board of
44 Fish meeting until April, or something, I think they
45 might delay -- I don't know, I don't have solid
46 information, maybe Mark Burch does, but the Board has
47 not made the decision.

48
49 But my point is if you, as a Council,
50

1 have a general set of comments about -- like you were
2 indicating earlier, your personal opinion that the
3 place for the first set of restrictions would be the
4 State regulatory process before the Federal subsistence
5 users are restricted, some type of note that folks
6 agree with, I can carry that message to the Board of
7 Fisheries at the proper meeting.

8
9 Tomorrow's not the time for that,
10 tomorrow's for ACRs and discussion on schedule.

11
12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Sue, this is Katya.
17 I just also looked at the 2020/21 proposal book and the
18 upper Copper River personal use and subsistence
19 proposals are here as well as Copper River salmon
20 management policy proposals are in that book. So if we
21 can hear from George tomorrow, what is the decision on
22 the deadline for comments, if the Council would like to
23 take some State proposals, we maybe can do them
24 tomorrow.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

27
28 MR. PAPPAS: Okay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I guess
31 what I'd like to just add in our comments as I heard
32 George, and he can help me out if I misunderstood him.

33
34 I'm still going to vote opposed to this
35 and my comments would be that I would take -- that it's
36 the State Board of Fish where we need to change
37 regulations first. And if we don't have time to
38 comment on them as a Council then that would be my
39 justification to say why it starts at the State first.
40 Otherwise it could be up at our next meeting if it's in
41 April.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is the
46 Board of Fish meeting.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So the suggestion
49 is, with regards to the Board of Fish proposals, or
50

1 discuss them tomorrow or if it's not until April we can
2 discuss during our winter 2021 meeting.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: When people have more
7 time to actually read the State proposals and formulate
8 their opinion.

9
10 Okay, Council members, we're discussing
11 Seward Fisheries Proposal 21-13 and a lot of you spoke
12 about this proposal, does anyone have any other
13 comments or any points of discussion to make.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call for the
18 question.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Question has been
21 called. Should we do a roll call or should we do a
22 unanimous vote.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roll call.

25
26 MS. WESSELS:what do you suggest?
27 What did you say?

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roll call.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Roll call.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay, roll call. All
34 right, Donald Woodruff, we are voting on FP21-13 to
35 support as written, motion to support as written.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, I support.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Charlie Jagow, do
40 you support FP21-13.

41
42 MR. JAGOW: Support.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: So you understand that
45 when you say support you are supporting prohibiting
46 fishing with dipnets from boats or crafts floating in
47 the river -- I should have read the whole motion.

48
49 MR. JAGOW: Correct.

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
2
3 Bill Glanz.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: I oppose.
6
7 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
8
9 Timothy McManus.
10
11 MR. MCMANUS: I support.
12
13 MS. WESSELS: Okay, support, thank you.
14
15 Andy Bassich.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Support.
18
19 MS. WESSELS: Charlie Wright.
20
21 MR. WRIGHT: Support.
22
23 MS. WESSELS: Andrew Firmin.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: I oppose.
26
27 MS. WESSELS: Sue Entsminger.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oppose.
30
31 MS. WESSELS: You said opposed?
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is
34 correct. I think some people may not have understood.
35
36 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we need to
37 clarify.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
40 you do. The motion was in support to prohibit fishing
41 from boats with dipnets.
42
43 MS. WESSELS: Yes.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you have
46 to have the motion in the positive so you either agree
47 with it or you disagree with it, so if anybody has a --
48 voted wrong they should say so.
49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, if anyone
2 misunderstood the motion to support prohibiting fishing
3 with dipnets from boats or crafts floating in the
4 river, only allow dipnet use from banks in the upper
5 Copper River for salmon.

6
7 If anyone.....

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Point of
14 clarification. The motion was to support the
15 prohibition of fishing with dipnets from boats.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Council members,
18 if anyone have -- or you want to change your vote, if
19 you misunderstood now's the time to do that.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: Yes, this is Bill Glanz,
22 yes, I totally have to agree, I was totally voting the
23 opposite way, so I support prohibiting the fishing from
24 the boat.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: You support prohibiting
27 fishing.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: I support prohibiting the
30 use of dipnets in boats, yes.

31
32 I'm voting to prohibit, I guess.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right, so at
35 this time if no one else is changing it, we have two in
36 opposition and we have five in support -- no, I'm
37 sorry, six in support.

38
39 So the motion passed. Motion on FP21-
40 13 to support prohibiting fishing with dipnets from
41 boats or crafts floating in the river passed.

42
43 Okay.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 Okay, so I'm going to ask the Council,
48 do you need five minutes bio break at this moment or do
49 you want to continue.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Continue.

2
3 MR. GLANZ: I agree.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Continue, okay.

6
7 Okay.

8
9 So the next item on the agenda is
10 Proposal FP21-14, prohibiting use of on board device
11 that indicates bathymetry and/or fish location, fish
12 finders while fishing from boat or other watercraft in
13 the upper Copper River for all fish, and the material
14 for this proposal can be found on Page 141 of your
15 meeting material book. And Karen Hyer with OSM will
16 present an overview of this proposal.

17
18 Are you on line, Karen?

19
20 MS. HYER: Yes, Madame Chair, Council
21 members, can you hear me?

22
23 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can, thank you,
24 go ahead.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

27
28 MS. HYER: Okay. Next I'll present
29 Fisheries Proposal 21-14 which requests that the
30 Federal Subsistence Board prohibit the use of onboard
31 devices that indicate bathymetry and fish location also
32 known as fish finders while fishing from boats and
33 other watercraft in the upper Copper River.

34
35 The proponent states that the use of
36 electronic devices enables fishers to locate and target
37 specific holding areas for sensitive salmon stock.
38 Fish finders are usually used in combination with boats
39 and dipnets. As I have discussed for the earlier
40 proposal dipnetting under Federal permit, including
41 dipnetting from boats makes up a small percentage of
42 the overall dipnetting. In the Chitina subdistrict
43 Federally-qualified users account for just one percent
44 of all permits between 2010 and 2019.

45
46 So I'll talk about the effects of the
47 proposal.

48
49 If this proposal is adopted Federal
50

1 subsistence regulation pertaining to use of gear would
2 be more restrictive than State subsistence or personal
3 use regulations for the upper Copper River district.
4 This would bring Federal regulations into line with
5 some Federally-qualified subsistence users fishing
6 practices and conservation ethics, however, adopting
7 this proposal would not lead to the proponent's desire
8 for a conservation outcome because fishing under
9 Federal subsistence permit in the upper Copper River is
10 dominated by fishwheels. Fishing from boats is less
11 common. Federally-qualified subsistence users are the
12 ones that would have to adhere to this regulation, yet
13 they're not a majority of the dipnetters and thus are
14 not the majority of fish finder users, and they don't
15 make up a significant number of the harvesters.

16
17 Furthermore, Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users could continue to use fish finders on
19 boats under State regulations in both Glennallen
20 subsistence and Chitina personal use fisheries.

21
22 That concludes my presentation.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Karen.
25 Council members, do you have any clarifying questions
26 for Karen Hyer in regards to FP21-14.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing none we're
31 going to move on to a report on consultation with
32 tribes of ANCSA Corporations.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Okay, we're going to move
37 on to agency comments. ADF&G do you have any comments
38 on FP21-14.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Are any Federal
43 agencies have any comments on 21-14.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do we have the
48 vote results of the Southcentral Council FP21-14.

49
50

1 MS. HYER: Yes, the Council opposed it,
2 three to six. They did not think that the proposal
3 would do much for conservation and they didn't think
4 that Federal subsistence users were really using the
5 fish finders anyway. The Council recognized that fish
6 finders were effective but they cost up to \$10,000, and
7 some of them come with many boats that are wired in
8 that would be difficult to remove, and so they
9 expressed concern over that. And they also expressed
10 over how the regulation would be enforced.

11
12 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Karen.

13
14 Did any ADF&G ACs take these proposals
15 up and have comments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Did Wrangell-St.
20 Elias SRC take up the proposal, Barbara.

21
22 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, I have the
23 comments from the SRC.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Okay, go ahead.

26
27 MS. CELLARIUS: The Commission
28 supported the FP21-14 with a vote of five in support
29 and three opposed.

30
31 The justification for supporting the
32 proposal included an increase in fishing from boats
33 which some characterized is a new fishery and with it,
34 an increase in the number of people using fish finders.
35 Using fish finders allow people to target areas such as
36 eddies where fish are resting and catch more fish,
37 although one member who opposed the proposal questioned
38 the effectiveness of fish finders of locating many fish
39 in the Copper -- in the silty waters of the Copper
40 River.

41
42 That concludes the comment.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara.

45
46 Okay, so we're going to move to the
47 written public comments. And just like with other
48 proposals in this line, we received five public
49 comments, and, again, all of them were in support.

50

1 They came from the entities and people who were
2 commenting on the previous ones.

3
4 One was from Ahtna InterTribal Resource
5 Commission, their comment can be found on Page 150.
6 They're saying that they support this proposal which
7 would ban fish finders from boats on the Copper River.
8 They're also saying it's obviously that if the previous
9 proposal that you voted on 21-13 is approved, this
10 proposal will not be necessary, however, if 21-13 is
11 voted down the Board should at least use of devices
12 that enable boat based fishers to target schools of
13 fish. This targeting contributes to the likely
14 overfishing of salmon during high water events as
15 mentioned above.

16
17 Fish finders are a technology that is
18 in no way customary or traditional to any of the
19 fisheries on the upper Copper River. This proposed
20 regulatory change would be unlikely to have negative
21 impacts on many Federally-qualified subsistence users
22 as most experienced locals already know where to find
23 schools of fish anyway. Restricting fish finders would
24 merely encourage inexperienced fishers to develop the
25 knowledge and experience that are requisite for fishing
26 on a swift dangerous river such as the Copper.

27
28 Along these lines, we have previously
29 heard the objection to banning fish finders, that they
30 are needed to watch for rocks and sandbars on the
31 Copper River. We are somewhat skeptical of this
32 explanation, as the Copper is a swiftly flowing river
33 and most fish finders are not reliable for spotting
34 rocks or other objects in time to avoid them. Learning
35 to read river conditions is by far the safest and most
36 reliable way of avoiding these hazardous. Again,
37 fishers who depend on fish finders to avoid running
38 aground may lack the necessary experience to safely
39 fish on a dangerous river like the Copper. Rather than
40 increasing safety for these inexperienced fishers, over
41 reliance on these devices diverts their attention away
42 from actually observing the river.

43
44 The next comment was from Mike Mahoney
45 of Cordova. He is also in support of this proposal.
46 And it will be helpful in protecting king salmon he
47 thinks.

48
49 Thea Thomas of Cordova also strongly
50

1 supports this proposal.

2
3 Ahtna Tene Nene' comments can be found
4 on Page 164/165. They say fish finders may work to
5 indicate or show where sockeyes and chinooks are in the
6 Copper River. Fishing with a fish finder may or may
7 not enable fishermen to harvest an abundance of fish in
8 the Copper River. Allowing use of fish finders may
9 encourage fishermen to find ideal spots in the Copper
10 River to overharvest salmon in the Copper River or
11 near its tributaries.

12
13 In the past summer there was a low
14 sockeye and king salmon run, timing and strength, fish
15 finders should not be allowed to harvest salmon in the
16 Copper River district. Everyone should be concerned
17 about this fisheries and do what we all can do to
18 protect fisheries in the Copper River.

19
20 And the last comment in support came
21 from Bonnie Yazzie. And she says in the past boaters
22 with fish finders have used excuse that they need the
23 fish finders to navigate the river channel, these
24 fishers need to learn the river channel. Using fish
25 finders to find salmon is taking an unfair advantage.

26
27 This concludes the written public
28 comments summary.

29
30 And at this point I would like to
31 invite public testimony if anyone is on the
32 teleconference who would like to provide it.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Okay, hearing none, we'd
37 move to Council recommendations and start with a
38 motion.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, this
41 is Sue.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Sue, are you there?

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Yeah,
46 can you hear me?

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I can hear you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I make
2 a motion to support 21-14 disallowing fish finders on
3 boats on the upper Copper River.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Okay, do I hear a second.

6
7 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, I'll second it.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Bill.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to
12 the motion.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So -- go ahead,
15 Sue.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I support
18 this even though it probably doesn't make a hill of
19 beans a difference but based on the discussion with the
20 people at the SRC and the people that are -- I
21 definitely will support this motion and I do think it's
22 probably true that maybe it doesn't do much to find
23 fish in a silty river, but it is something that I still
24 can support.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you. Other
27 Council members, do you have any discussion points.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Comments.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. WESSELS: I encourage you to have a
36 little bit of discussion since we will need to come up
37 with justification for your vote on this proposal.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: This is Andrew.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead,
44 Andrew.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Andrew.

47
48 MR. FIRMIN: Well, the last couple of
49 proposals I did oppose because it's putting needless
50

1 restrictions on the subsistence user but if you're just
2 in a river and you're in a boat you can pretty much go
3 anywhere you want and I don't see any need to add to it
4 with fish finder looking for fish. I mean I have
5 always fished my whole life without one although
6 they're handy to have, but for that reason I would
7 support this proposal.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andrew.
10 Anyone else.

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
13 Charlie Wright.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Charlie.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: With conservation in mind
18 I support this also. The fish is not doing good in the
19 river and we've got to think about future generations
20 and so that's why I support it, conservation minded.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

23
24 MR. MCMANUS: Madame Chair, Tim
25 McManus.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Tim.

28
29 MR. MCMANUS: I'll support this for
30 conservation.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Tim.
33 Anyone else has any discussion points.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don
36 Woodruff, I have one point to make. The public comment
37 about navigability of these watercraft using fish
38 finders, well, there's a thing, GPS, and they can rely
39 on those and turn their fish finders off as far as I'm
40 concerned.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So they can use
43 just for navigability and turn the fish finders off.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Is that what you said,
48 Don?

49
50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

2
3 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

4
5 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Anyone else have anything
8 else.

9
10 MR. GLANZ: The only time I use
11 electronic gear is a depth finder if I'm running a
12 strange river and I don't know my way, I watch if I
13 come into three different branches and I might sweep
14 around to get the deepest branch if that's the one I
15 can go the furthest up on for. And that's the only
16 thing I ever used, I never used a fish finder, but a
17 depth finder I definitely run them all the time with my
18 boat. And when you're going 35, 40 miles an hour you
19 need a depth finder so you don't run into trouble.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Okay. All right, do you
22 want to have a unanimous vote or do you want to have a
23 roll call?

24
25 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz again. It
26 sounds like unanimous might work well on this one.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we have a
29 motion on the floor to support FP21-14 as written to
30 prohibit use of on board devices that indicate
31 bathymetry and/or fish location while fishing from
32 boats or other watercraft in the upper Copper River for
33 all fish.

34
35 We're going to have a unanimous vote,
36 if anyone has any opposition to this motion please say
37 so.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So everyone is in
42 support of FP21-14 motion to support this proposal
43 passes on the unanimous vote.

44
45 Okay. So it's 3:00 p.m., right now,
46 3:03, do you want to continue going or take a little
47 break. I know that Andrew, you wanted to finish by
48 4:00.

49
50

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants phone not muted)

3
4 MS. WESSELS: What did you say Andrew?

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, I probably should be
7 gone by 4:00 but I'm waiting for somebody to come meet
8 with me here shortly and then I'll probably have to
9 leave as soon as he gets here.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Since people have
12 been on the phone now for two hours I'm going to call
13 for a five minute break, right now it's 3:04, so let's,
14 you know, have a break until 3:10 and then we can
15 reconvene at that moment. You don't need to hang up,
16 you can stay on line, but if you need to get up and
17 walk around.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Hey, Katya, are we going
20 to be covering FP21-10 next?

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we are.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Okay, so it's 3:11 right
31 now and we are at the point of our agenda on the item
32 FP21-10. So FP21-10, this proposal was submitted to
33 create new dipnet fishery for sockeye salmon in the
34 lower Copper River, and the materials for this proposal
35 can be found on Page 168 of your Council meeting
36 materials. This proposal is not a crossover proposal
37 with Southcentral region. But several people expressed
38 an interest on having this proposal on the Eastern
39 Interior Council agenda, that is why we have this
40 proposal in front of us. And Milo Burcham with Forest
41 Service is going to present a summary of this proposal.
42 Are you on line Milo?

43
44 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, I am.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. This is Milo
49 Burcham of the Chugach National Forest based in Cordova
50

1 and I'll be presenting the analysis for FP21-10.

2
3 Proposal FP21-10 was submitted by Jesse
4 Carter and Robert Jewel of Cordova and requests the
5 Federal Subsistence Board implement a salmon fishery in
6 the lower Copper River adjacent to the Copper River
7 Highway with a harvest limit of 15 salmon for the first
8 two people in your household and 10 salmon for each
9 additional household member, with not more than five
10 chinook salmon per household, using a dipnet, rod and
11 reel, spear or gaff.

12
13 There is no existing fishery on the
14 lower Copper so there are no applying existing Federal
15 regulations.

16
17 The proposed Federal regulation is to
18 implement a dipnet fishery on the lower Copper. It's
19 relatively modest by design, it's looking at an area
20 one-half mile above and below the Copper River Highway
21 corridor between Mile 27 and 38 of the Copper River
22 Highway, and that's sort of in contrast to the special
23 action request that we saw earlier this summer to a
24 dipnet fishery that was a proposed dipnet fishery that
25 was Covid related that opened up the area basically
26 from Miles Lake down stream to the Copper River Highway
27 which varies from 10 to almost 20 miles of river. So
28 this is looking for an area just a half mile above and
29 below the highway, basically to accommodate shore-based
30 dipnetters.

31
32 And as I said the proposed harvest
33 limit is 15 fish, 15 salmon other than pink salmon for
34 the first two members of a household, and 10 salmon for
35 additional household members with a limit of five
36 chinook per household. And this limit is intended to
37 be additive to existing limits in the area. There's
38 currently a State subsistence gillnet fishery on the
39 Copper River Flats and a fresh water fishery on small
40 streams on the Copper River Delta with the same limits
41 and you would not be able to add limits, you would be
42 able to get these -- this number of fish through one
43 fishery or the other or a combination of fishery but
44 could not add these limits together.

45
46 For reference residents of the Prince
47 William Sound area have a customary and traditional use
48 determination for salmon in the remainder of the Prince
49 William Sound area. What this means is that all

50

1 residents of the Prince William Sound area which
2 includes the Prince William Sound and the entire Copper
3 River drainage, even up river, would qualify for this
4 fishery but functionally because of restrictions and
5 access and with the limitations in ferry service,
6 functionally it would probably be just rural residents
7 of Cordova that would participate in this fishery.
8 Cordova has a year-round population of around maybe a
9 little bit more than 2,000 people.

10

11 As I said earlier, there was a special
12 action request FSA20-04 submitted to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board this spring. It was rejected by the
14 Board but it generated a lot of interest and input from
15 the public and what that proposal did was looked for
16 the establishment of a Federal subsistence fishery in
17 the lower Copper to offset, you know, the inability to
18 harvest fish because of Covid, like joining into
19 multiple households joining in boats to participate in
20 existing gillnet fishery on the Flats. As I said it
21 was controversial and it led to a -- generated a lot of
22 public comment and several issues that were common in
23 many of these comments.

24

25 One of the common issues was that the
26 establishment of a Federal subsistence fishery would
27 lead to the development of a State personal use fishery
28 resulting in crowding and overharvest in the lower
29 Copper. This concern is an unrelated event and could
30 occur with or without the adoption of this proposal.

31

32 Public comments from the commercial
33 fishing community and user groups up river on the
34 Copper also expressed concern that salmon harvested in
35 the lower Copper River area would be taken prior to
36 being counted at Miles Lake Sonar site resulting in
37 misinformed management decisions due to unaccounted
38 harvest. Currently two salmon fisheries already take
39 place below the Miles Lake Sonar, the Copper River
40 district commercial drift gillnet fishery and the State
41 subsistence gillnet fishery, so there's already a
42 couple of fisheries taking place below the sonar,
43 including the commercial fishery, which takes by far
44 the largest percent of fish. Also this concern could
45 be addressed with a modification to the proposed
46 regulation, adding a reporting requirement for all
47 salmon harvested in the lower Copper River area within
48 48 hours of harvest.

49

50

1 Some of the biological background and
2 harvest history.

3
4 Salmon fisheries in the Copper River
5 primarily harvest chinook, sockeye and coho salmon.
6 These salmon stocks are harvested in multiple
7 fisheries, including commercial and State subsistence
8 gillnet fisheries in marine waters near the mouth of
9 the Copper River, a personal use dipnet fishery in the
10 Chitina subdistrict of the upper Copper River district,
11 subsistence fisheries in the Glennallen subdistrict of
12 the upper Copper River district, and sportfisheries
13 that occur in various tributaries.

14
15 State subsistence fishing for the
16 Copper River stocks is restricted to four areas. The
17 Copper River district; the Glennallen subdistrict
18 within the upper Copper River district; the Batzulnetas
19 area -- of the -- and the Batzulnetas area. Of the
20 three State subsistence areas the upper Copper River
21 district has the highest use and harvest.

22
23 Federal subsistence fishing is
24 restricted to the upper Copper River district, both
25 Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts and the Batzulnetas
26 area.

27
28 The Board of Fish has established
29 management plans designed to provide harvest
30 opportunities while ensuring suitable numbers of Copper
31 River salmon reach their spawning grounds to provide
32 for sustained populations. These management plans
33 allocate harvest amongst different fisheries targeting
34 these stocks. During years of weak salmon runs, salmon
35 returns, the escapement goals are met by implementing
36 in-season management actions designed to limit harvest
37 in specific fisheries.

38
39 The State's upper Copper River
40 sustainable escapement goal, at 360,000 to 750,00 wild
41 sockeye salmon and the Copper River Delta sustainable
42 escapement goal has been set at 55,000 to 130,000
43 sockeye salmon. Since 1998 the Alaska Department of
44 Fish and Game has successfully met or exceeded the
45 minimum harvest threshold of the sustainable escapement
46 goals range for sockeye salmon in the Copper River
47 annually. And I will note that this 10 year average
48 that we're talking about is 2010 to 2019 and does not
49 include just this past year, which we know was a
50

1 catastrophic run for sockeye salmon.

2

3 The recent 10 year average, again 2010
4 to 2019 Copper River sockeye salmon total run is
5 2.415.582 million salmon and around 41,000 king salmon.
6 That's the running 10 year average between 2010 and
7 2019.

8

9 So currently residents of Cordova have
10 limited access to Copper River salmon. There is no
11 Federal fishery in the lower Copper River despite, you
12 know, living at the mouth of the Copper, Cordova
13 residents don't have a Federal subsistence or a State
14 personal use fishery in the Copper. Sportfishing is
15 open but because of the turbidity of the water it's not
16 an effective means and very few to no people attempt
17 that.

18

19 So here I'll summarize the
20 opportunities that Cordova residents do have to harvest
21 Copper River salmon.

22

23 The main method of people getting
24 Copper River salmon is home-pack, which commercial
25 fishermen may do. They're allowed to keep a portion of
26 their commercial harvest and use it for home use. And
27 secondly there's a State subsistence gillnet fishery on
28 the Copper River Flats at the mouth of the Copper
29 River, both of these fisheries require boats, you know,
30 obviously the commercial fishery, it all takes place
31 from boats but the State subsistence gillnet fishery
32 ocean going boats are required, some people use some
33 duck skiffs but have to battle weather, and also in the
34 State subsistence gillnet fishery, it's open just three
35 days a week, and two of those three days, anglers in
36 their boats have to compete with the commercial
37 fishermen that are fishing at the same time. Just a
38 few years ago Saturdays were added to this, to the
39 openers and they now can fish Saturdays without
40 commercial openers taking place.

41

42 There is also a Federal subsistence
43 fishery on fresh waters of the Copper River Delta that
44 do not include the Copper River. There's several small
45 fresh water streams on the Copper River Delta and from
46 these Federal subsistence fisheries, on average, 400
47 coho are harvested a year and about 87 sockeye. And as
48 I said these are relatively small and relatively
49 fragile and heavily used fisheries, especially for

50

1 coho, and there are sportfishing opportunities for
2 coho, you know, under State regulations, for coho, in
3 the same area.

4
5 With that, I want to point to the -- so
6 this proposal would provide access and methods for
7 rural residents without boats to participate in the
8 harvest of chinook salmon and sockeye salmon on the
9 Copper River. And I'm not sure -- I'm not certain what
10 page in your proposal book this appears on, I think it
11 might be Page 190, Figure 2, can someone verify if
12 that's correct.

13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

15
16 MR. BURCHAM: Anyway I just wanted to
17 bring your attention to that graph because it's
18 probably the most compelling part of this analysis.

19
20 This is a comparison of the 10- year
21 average run size, escapement and harvest of sockeye
22 salmon on the Copper River by user group. And if we go
23 to the first dark bar, which is the commercial harvest,
24 so the commercial fleet at the mouth of the Copper
25 River takes, over the 10 year average, 2010 to 2019
26 takes about 1.3 million sockeye. The next higher user
27 group, you know, harvest by user group is the State
28 upper Copper River personal use sport and subsistence
29 all lumped together, and those fisheries combined take
30 around 225,000. The next bar is Federal subsistence in
31 the upper Copper and they harvest around 21,000. And
32 the next two bars are kind of interesting because you
33 basically can't see them. I have to stretch this graph
34 the full height of the page for those bars to even show
35 up and they are the harvest from the State subsistence
36 gillnet fishery. That's these boats that are allowed
37 to go out three days a week. On average, they harvest
38 3,100 sockeye per year. And the last bar, which you
39 don't see unless you stretch it the height of the page
40 is the projected harvest, if this proposal was passed.
41 And I made a couple assumptions in the generation of
42 that number of 2,000 salmon and that is that a smaller
43 user pool of people could participate in this fishery
44 whereas the State subsistence gillnet fishery, all
45 State residents can participate in and whereas, you
46 know, because of the access to Cordova being limited,
47 it's the pool of people that are in Cordova in the
48 summertime, but it includes a large part of the
49 commercial fleet that don't live in Cordova year-round

50

1 and namely that's the Russian component of the fleet,
2 they're allowed to participate in the State subsistence
3 fishery say when there is no commercial fishery open.

4
5 So it would only be year-round Cordova
6 residents that could participate in this fishery. And
7 also I assumed that the dipnetting, mostly from the
8 bank would be less effective than these boats using
9 gillnets, so that's where I arrived at roughly 2,000
10 fish would be projected as harvested from this fishery,
11 which as you can see, is, you know, a very, very minor
12 amount in comparison to other fisheries on the river
13 and then total estimated run size and spawning
14 escapement.

15
16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants phone not muted)

18
19 MR. BURCHAM: The OSM preliminary
20 conclusion is to support FP21-10 with modification to
21 include a requirement to report the take of salmon to
22 area managers within 48 hours.

23
24 The justification.

25
26 Harvest and escapement information
27 indicate that sufficient salmon are present to allow a
28 Federal subsistence fishery in the lower Copper River
29 without creating a biological concern. The proposal
30 provides an opportunity for Federally-qualified
31 subsistence users of Cordova that do not have access to
32 salt water capable boats and drift gillnet gear to
33 sockeye salmon and chinook salmon in the lower Copper
34 River. Projected harvest is anticipated to be very
35 small in comparison with other user groups and concern
36 of harvest occurring prior to salmon being counted at
37 Miles Lake Sonar can be addressed with the proposed
38 modification of a reporting requirement to area
39 managers within 48 hours of harvest. The historic use
40 of dipnets in the harvest of salmon in the proposed
41 area is well documented.

42
43 That concludes my presentation of the
44 analysis, and I'm available for questions right now or
45 at any point during the deliberation.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Milo. At this
48 point I would like to ask Council members if they have
49 any clarifying questions for Milo in regards to FP21-

50

1 10.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.

4

5

MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

8

Milo, I have a few questions.

9

10

11

First of all, would the people that
dipnet (indiscernible - breaking up).....

12

13

MR. BURCHAM: I'm not able to hear you.

14

15

MS. WESSELS: Sue, you're breaking up.

16

17

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm breaking
up. I'm asking a question, would the people that are
allowed to dipnet.....

20

21

22

MS. WESSELS: Sue, you might want to
call back, you are echoing on every word.

23

24

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'll
call back. Actually that noise quit, is it any better
now?

27

28

29

MR. BURCHAM: It sounds better right
now.

30

31

32

MS. WESSELS: Yes.

33

34

MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

35

36

37

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
think someone needed to mute to tell you the truth.

38

39

40

41

Okay, my question is, on this new
dipnet fishery that's being proposed, would those
people be allowed to use and drift with a dipnet like
they do on the upper Copper River?

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. BURCHAM: Yes, they would. The
boats are not prohibited in the proposed regulation,
but the use of them is quite restricted, in that, the
proponent is proposing just opening up the area a half
mile above and below the bridge, or the Copper River
Highway. So the area that is being opened is quite
restricted. And his intention was to limit the access

1 of the area by boats, by comparison, you know, an early
2 proposal opened up 10 to 20 miles of river depending on
3 where you took the measurement from the bridges of the
4 Copper River Highway all the way up to Miles Lake.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you -- I
7 thought you just said the area was a half a mile above
8 the bridge and a half a mile below the bridge, that is
9 the area.

10
11 MR. BURCHAM: That's what's being
12 proposed. And there is room to use boats in there but
13 it's a relatively restricted area in size because of
14 that half mile above and below.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The half
17 mile, is there access on the road now because at one
18 time when I was down there that was the last place you
19 could drive.

20
21 MR. BURCHAM: The road is now washed
22 out at 36 Mile so there's a gap in the road between 36
23 and 38 Mile, but there are -- on the lower Copper
24 between 27 and 38 mile it's a series of channels and
25 islands and many different bridges, so there are
26 several channels, you know, that have bridges over them
27 and fishing would take place in those areas, mostly
28 from the bank, but there is opportunity to launch boats
29 in those same areas and to fish within a half mile of
30 the highway.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But to get
33 above the bridge they need a boat, is that correct, or
34 all of this area they need a boat to get to it because
35 of the road being washed out?

36
37 MR. BURCHAM: Well, most of the area
38 could be fished from the bank and that's the intention
39 of the proponent is to offer an opportunity to people
40 who don't own boats, who can't participate in the State
41 gillnet fishery, who have to have -- you know, you have
42 to have boats to participate in that fishery. So the
43 intention of the proposal is to accommodate bank
44 dipnetting, you know, from these channels and bridges
45 that I just described. Boats are not prohibited in the
46 proposal as it's written, but there's a limited ability
47 to use them, you know, a relatively small amount of
48 water above and below the bridge.

49
50

1 Does that make sense?

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I know
4 what the purpose -- the person's intention was on the
5 proposal but I just have some further questions.
6

7 Now, you had said that currently the
8 people in Cordova do not have access to Copper River
9 salmon, I think that's how you said it?
10

11 MR. BURCHAM: Well, I tried to clarify
12 it. They do through a few different ways.
13

14 Commercial fishermen can keep home-
15 pack. There is a State subsistence gillnet fishery but
16 it requires the use of a boat to harvest those fish, to
17 participate in that fishery and it's only open three
18 days a week and two of those days you have to compete
19 with the commercial fishermen. And that's it -- there
20 is a sportfishery on the Copper River but it's not
21 effective, you know, because of the turbidity and the
22 size of the water, there is no practical sportfishing.
23 So people without boats don't have access to Copper
24 River salmon.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
27 Are you saying that the people that do have boats do
28 not share Copper River salmon with other people in the
29 community?
30

31 MR. BURCHAM: No, there is sharing.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's
34 possible that there is that?
35

36 MR. BURCHAM: Well, for sure there is.
37 But -- yes.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay,
40 thank you, that's all.
41

42 MS. WESSELS: Okay, anybody else has
43 any other clarifying questions to Milo.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 MS. WESSELS: Okay, if none, we are
48 going to move to the report from the consultations with
49 tribes or ANCSA Corporations.
50

1 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.

2
3 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Gloria.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: I want to say that I
6 oppose this proposal with the modification OSM to allow
7 a fishery to occur on the lower Copper River with 48
8 hour reporting.

9
10 Our fishery in the Copper River this
11 year was low. The management objective was met at the
12 lower end of the management objective. It was met, but
13 it was met at the lower end for sockeyes. For the
14 chinook my understanding is we may not meet the chinook
15 escapement goal next year, it looks to be that way.

16
17 I also heard that the Gulkana Hatchery
18 where they count spawning fish, less than half of the
19 brood stock went up to the Gulkana Hatchery to hatch to
20 spawn, which means that there's going to be another
21 conservation concern this year. The State of Alaska
22 was emailing the Ahtna people and the upper Copper
23 River people almost weekly the whole summer about his
24 concern about the conservation of sockeyes. There was
25 a closure on sportfishery. There was a closure on June
26 22, I think, of personal fishery because of the low
27 run. Chinook for personal use was closed because of
28 the low runs of chinook and sockeyes. And it looks
29 like that way again next sure for sure because there
30 hasn't been enough sockeyes, or fish returning to the
31 hatchery in Gulkana, which means we're not going to
32 have enough spawning fish next year.

33
34 I want to say this proposal was
35 submitted last year to the Southcentral RAC and then
36 the day of the -- it was withdrawn by the proponent
37 because that person got a lot of flack from -- the
38 meeting was held in Cordova and they just stressed to
39 that person that he needed to withdraw that proposal.
40 The community got together and they voted against it
41 and so he withdrew that proposal. And then, again,
42 this spring they did it -- they submitted another
43 proposal through the Covid for a new fishery and the
44 Federal Subsistence Board voted against it. The Native
45 Village of Eyak opposed this. The Cordova community
46 opposed that new fishery, this spring in May. And then
47 now it was written again.

48
49 I just want to say that the comments
50

1 that were written, there was a deadline for comments
2 and Ahtna was told it was May 14th to have written
3 comments put in and all these other comments that were
4 submitted were submitted way after the deadline, after
5 comments were supposed to be sent. So it's like
6 discriminatory to me that we have to put our comments
7 in on time but other people, oh, no, no, no.

8
9 I'm opposed to this proposal because of
10 conservation concern right now for chinook, for
11 sockeyes. I do know that the Native Village of Eyak,
12 I've heard them say they share fish with people. They
13 take people out on their fishing boats, they give them
14 fish from their commercial, they get home-pack, they're
15 able to fish on Ibeck and those three creek, Alaganik
16 Slough and Eyak River. And where are they going to
17 propose to fish, where -- or rather on this baited
18 Copper River fisheries -- on the Copper River, those
19 are easy spots to catch a fish in a braided river if
20 you know what a braided river is, it's like your hair
21 that's braided, I mean it's just easy to get in there
22 and get a fish.

23
24 Those early wild stocks important to
25 the Board of Fish. They look at that wild stock that
26 reaches Tanada and they have a weir up there and they
27 make their decisions partly based on that Tanada weir,
28 how many wild stock are reaching the weir and how many
29 wild stock is there. It's a good indicator for how the
30 run's going to be throughout the whole summer. And if
31 you have one more added fishery to take away from
32 getting good -- it's just taking away more fish, and
33 the Board of Fish may not be able to make good
34 decisions because of that. It's going to affect us up
35 river.

36
37 This summer I heard a lot of people
38 tell me they were getting like five or -- anywhere from
39 two to five fish, it was rare to get 10 fish in a day.
40 A lot of people told me that, that it was a poor year
41 for fish, and it's going to be the same next year,
42 we're going to have a conservation next year.

43
44 The only way we can get sockeyes and
45 king salmon is on the Copper River. There is no other
46 river that we can go other than to travel 200 miles,
47 400 miles to Kenai or go to Valdez and hire a boat to
48 -- a commercial fishery to fish and we can't afford to
49 do that. So this is really going to affect us on the
50

1 upper Copper River., you know, we probably may not have
2 our subsistence needs met next year.

3
4 So this really concerns me, and so I am
5 opposed to this proposal. Now is not the right time to
6 be putting in a new fishery proposal, it's just not a
7 good time.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Gloria. Do we
12 have any comments from ADF&G on FP21-10.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Do we have any comments
17 from any Federal or tribal agencies.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Do we have the result of
22 the Southcentral Council discussion and their vote on
23 FP21-10.

24
25 MR. BURCHAM: Is there anybody prepared
26 to speak to that?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. BURCHAM: I could just give the
31 quick synopsis of the vote. It was supported by the
32 Southcentral Council by a vote of six to three.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So they voted in
35 support of establishing the fishery?

36
37 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Okay. And you don't have
40 the justification, correct?

41
42 MR. BURCHAM: No, I don't.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Okay. The next is Fish
45 and Game Advisory Committees.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. WESSELS: And I have one comment
50

1 from the Copper River Prince William Sound Advisory
2 Committee. I received it as a written comment and so I
3 will read this into the record.

4
5 The Copper River Prince William Sound
6 Advisory Committee is unanimously opposed to Proposal
7 FP21-10.

8
9 First we would like to make a few
10 comments regarding timing of the comment deadline.
11 July 2nd seems quite early and in the middle of the
12 busiest part of the year for most Alaskans. This
13 deadline will undoubtedly lead to far fewer comments
14 from the users in the Copper River, Prince William
15 Sound area which may not show the true disdain for the
16 passage of such a regulatory change.

17
18 Secondly, having to provide comments
19 before the Federal Staff has had a chance to provide
20 the public with its analysis will lead to less
21 understanding of the InterAgency Staff position. Even
22 though similar proposals have been sent, two prior
23 times the past 10 years, and that there was similar
24 proposals -- oh, and that there was -- sorry. And then
25 there was an emergency action request sent to the
26 Federal Board in March 2020, there has been a complete
27 analysis that has been completed several times and this
28 should have been included prior to the comment deadline
29 to fully apprise the public of the Staff position.

30
31 As for Proposal FP21-10 and as we have
32 stated about this proposal is not a new idea. This has
33 come before the Southcentral RAC twice, both times
34 being withdrawn prior to the RAC deliberation because
35 of a lack of support from the users in the area. Many
36 groups in Cordova have debated this many times, most
37 recently with this AC, Native Village Eyak, City of
38 Cordova and many individuals position against the
39 emergency action this spring. Having spent 10 years on
40 this Advisory Committee, one of the lessons that was
41 learned along the way was the goal for the Federal
42 Subsistence Program has been for communities and users
43 to have buy-in into the Program from a bottom up
44 process. For users to feel this they need to have an
45 understanding that their voices are being heard. Given
46 some context to this discussion for Board members and
47 RAC members that I knew, when the Federal fish
48 regulations were adopted for the lower Copper River,
49 Prince William Sound region it was stated and made

50

1 clear by local users that all subsistence fisheries in
2 the Copper River Delta were to completely exclude all
3 tributaries of the mainstem of the Copper River. This
4 is why current rules provide for opportunity that
5 exists currently in only -- include Eyak River, Ibeck
6 Creek and Alaganik Slough. All these systems provide
7 opportunity for multiple species, harvest methods and
8 access is easily accessible for maintained roads or
9 highways, or easily navigated on the river corridors.

10
11 We hope to provide further comments
12 this fall at the Southcentral RAC meeting if travel
13 allows and would hope the Council and the Board do not
14 adopt FP21-10 which will change the traditional
15 subsistence in this area forever.

16
17 Current Federal regulations provide
18 access and opportunity.

19
20 So that was the written comments for AC
21 from the Copper River, Prince William Sound Advisory
22 Committee.

23
24 Do we have any comments from the SRC,
25 Barbara.

26
27 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, we have a comment
28 from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
29 Commission.

30
31 The Commission unanimously opposed
32 FP21-10. Creation of a new fishery on the Copper River
33 will have the potential to affect upper Copper River
34 fisheries. This was a low year for both chinook and
35 sockeye salmon runs and the SRC members have heard
36 reports about people not getting enough salmon.
37 Residents of Cordova have other opportunities to
38 harvest salmon whereas up river residents rely solely
39 on the upper Copper River fishery.

40
41 The written public comments included in
42 the proposal analysis indicate opposition from several
43 long-term residents, along with the Native Village of
44 Eyak, with no comments from Cordova in support of the
45 proposal. In the absence of local support, there is no
46 reason for the SRC to support the proposal.

47
48 And that concludes the comment.
49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Barbara. So
2 next is summary of written public comments. And I
3 would like to say that OSM received 11 public comments
4 on FP21-10 and all of them were overwhelming in
5 opposition of this proposal.

6
7 And Gloria Stickwan already summarized,
8 actually very well, most of the comments and most of
9 the sentiments that goes along with this proposal.

10
11 You know the Ahtna Tene Nene' were
12 opposed to this proposal. Their comments can be found
13 on Page 189.

14
15 The next comment in opposition was
16 received from Cordova District Fishermen United and
17 they said that the Copper River is a system that is
18 partly utilized by a number of user groups
19 participating in both State and Federal fisheries.
20 Federal subsistence, commercial, sport, personal use,
21 and State subsistence. Copper River escapement is
22 managed through the use of sonar at the Miles Lake
23 Sonar site and management for both upper river and down
24 river fisheries is dependent on accurate escapement
25 counts at this site. Because the sonar site is so
26 critical for management of all fisheries on the Copper
27 River, a fishery that takes place below the sonar site
28 but after the well documented commercial fishery may
29 impact escapement and run size data without an adequate
30 way to record harvest occurring down stream of the
31 sonar. Cordova District Fishermen United is concerned
32 this may impact skew escapement data without a system
33 in place for timely reporting.

34
35 Additionally, significant harvest
36 opportunity currently exists within the Copper River
37 Delta region for subsistence users. Located closer to
38 the city center, subsistence dipnet fisheries on Ibeck,
39 Eyak and Alaganik are more accessible for local
40 residents and are all less dangerous river systems than
41 the lower Copper River. All three of these fisheries
42 can be accessed by foot from the road system, and do
43 not require the use of a boat in order to participate.
44 Furthermore, subsistence gillnet harvest opportunity is
45 provided during the salmon season concurrently with
46 commercial gillnet openers, as well as when the
47 commercial fishery is closed. Beginning with the 2018
48 season, users were afforded an additional Saturday
49 subsistence opener which amounted to an increase of
50

1 approximately 33 percent more time and subsistence
2 opportunity than previous years.

3
4 Cordova District Fishermen United has
5 concerns that the proposal as written does not specify
6 whether a user in this subsistence fishery is allowed
7 to dipnet from a boat, or whether that act is
8 prohibited. The proposal also fails to mention any
9 limitation on dipnetting from shore or a boat.

10
11 Further, the proposal as written does
12 not specify what, if any, requirement for timely
13 reporting exists. In-season reporting is critical to
14 subsistence [sic] management and the benefit of all
15 fisheries on the Copper River and enables fishery
16 managers to make the best possible decisions for all
17 user groups in all regions of the Copper River. It is
18 our concern that without adequate reporting for all
19 user groups, the overall sustainability of the run may
20 be compromised long-term.

21
22 Recently, both our local tribal
23 government, the Native Village of Eyak and Cordova City
24 Council passed resolutions to oppose this new fishery
25 with these same concerns in mind.

26
27 So the other written public comments
28 received in opposition were from Steven Gildness and
29 it's on Page 201. He says that he grew up fishing the
30 Copper River with his family, and that he drift
31 gillnetted since 1990. He's a third generation
32 fisherman and he wants to pass this lifestyle to his
33 son and many young Alaskans. And he says, I've been
34 fortunate and cursed to witness the change in our
35 fisheries since the 1990s. An increase in pinniped's,
36 subsistence users, personal use, sport and State
37 subsistence has made a dramatic impact on the way ADF&G
38 can properly manage our omega-3 rich marketed famous
39 Copper River salmon. With the barrier island inside
40 king closures in effect our fleet has had to upgrade
41 our fishing vessels to extremely expensive twin engine
42 jet vessels because of the volatile ocean conditions
43 the Gulf of Alaska may produce during commercial
44 fishing openers. With this added expense we have
45 received less time fishing in the recent years. Up
46 river escapement data is difficult or impossible to
47 hear -- sonar counts at the Miles Lake and commercial
48 catch reports are currently the only recognized data
49 I'm aware of.

50

1 An additional dipnet subsistence
2 fishery here is unnecessary and I fear could lead to
3 further data loss, additional patrols for an ill funded
4 understaffed local State Trooper force. We currently
5 have ample time and area to provide our local
6 subsistence needs.

7
8 So the other comments in opposition
9 were received from Todd Ladd. He feels it will
10 negatively impact the Copper River fishery.

11
12 From Brandon Maxwell, who is a resident
13 of Cordova, Alaska for 25 years.

14
15 Another comment in opposition was
16 received from Michael Mahoney of Cordova. He feels it
17 will, in fact, negatively impact the kings and the
18 Cordova residents have other ample opportunities to
19 harvest salmon in the area.

20
21 Another comment in opposition was
22 received from the Eyak Traditional Tribal Council.
23 They unanimously voted to oppose Proposal 21-10 --
24 FP21-10. There comment can be found on Page 204.

25
26 Another comment in opposition was
27 received from Thea Thomas also resident of Cordova.

28
29 And another resident of Cordova Ray
30 Renner, 34 year resident is also in opposition to this
31 proposal.

32
33 Another comment in opposition received
34 from Jack Stevenson. He's also 29 year resident of
35 Cordova. He feels that the Copper River salmon
36 currently faces too much pressure as it is. The
37 commercial fleet has been managed so strictly with such
38 few openers with our small salmon runs, while the
39 personal use fishery continues on depleting the salmon
40 up river.

41
42 So that concludes the summary of
43 written public comments received by OSM.

44
45 And at this point I would like to
46 invite any public testimony from anyone who might be on
47 our teleconference line.

48
49 MR. BURCHAM: And I have written public
50

1 testimony that was submitted before the Regional
2 Council meeting last week I could summarize for you.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Okay, is that you Milo?

5
6 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, this is Milo.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: You could take public
11 testimony first if there is some and then I could
12 summarize this.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Well, if this was a
15 written public comment why don't you go ahead and do it
16 right now.

17
18 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. Before the
19 Regional Council meeting last week we received 160
20 letters of support from residents of Cordova. They
21 include approximately 150 signatures to a form letter
22 and I could read that for the record right now.

23
24 I am writing this to express my support
25 for FP21-10, a proposal to allow a Federal subsistence
26 dipnet season on the lower Copper River. Currently
27 opportunities to harvest Copper River salmon for
28 subsistence are limited to escaped subsistence gillnet
29 fishery on the Copper River Flats, which requires a
30 boat to access the fishery and is only opened three
31 periods per week and typically requires competing with
32 the commercial gillnet fleet on two of those three open
33 periods. This would allow an opportunity to harvest
34 the healthiest and most nutritious salmon available in
35 our area by the rural residents that depend on natural
36 resources the most.

37
38 Like I said there was 150 of these
39 letters received.

40
41 And then there were, I think seven
42 individual letters by residents of Cordova and I'll
43 just summarize those quickly.

44
45 The first one's a three page letter
46 from resident Lance Westing. And he says that there
47 are Cordova residents that do not have the opportunity
48 to participate in the State subsistence gillnet
49 fishery. The existing dipnet fisheries on smaller

50

1 streams like Alaganik and Eyak are inappropriate for
2 such small rivers. And he says it does not seem
3 plausible that the proposal would open the door to a
4 State personal use fishery like you see in Chitina or
5 on the Kenai because of access to Cordova being so
6 restricted because of ferry service.

7
8 Anyway that's a quick summary of his
9 letter. He's a 32 year resident of Alaska and has
10 resided here in Cordova for the past seven years.

11
12 There was also a letter from Aaron
13 Bauman, a Cordova resident expressing his support to be
14 open -- for the lower Copper River to be opened for
15 subsistence. He saw benefits in the form of food
16 security, access to the resource would provide a
17 positive way for local residents with lesser means to
18 directly help their families and provide for their
19 community. This is an important of an individual's
20 self-worth and the ability for a community to stay
21 connected to the land and its cultural heritage. Less
22 dipnetting pressure on smaller local sockeye runs that
23 use Eyak and Alaganik Slough, by opening up the Copper
24 River area residents who are increasingly interested in
25 dipnetting their subsistence fish will not be as
26 concentrated on the smaller sockeye runs that
27 currently are permitted for subsistence harvest.

28
29 There was another letter from Kristy
30 Jerica, a Cordova resident. It says living in Cordova
31 it is not easy and safe to participate in the State
32 subsistence fishery and not an option for many.
33 Besides having to have a boat and a net to fish, the
34 Copper River Flats is an area where weather and mud
35 flat characteristics make it a difficult and dangerous
36 place to fish especially in an open skiff and hand
37 hauling a net. There are also negative interactions
38 with commercial fishermen. I support creating a
39 subsistence dipnet fishery in the lower Copper River
40 for rural residents only, residents need more
41 opportunities to have access to a resource many of us
42 depend on. There is a large percentage of Cordovans
43 that do not have equal access to the resource and are
44 not informed on the public process to comment and such
45 due to language and cultural barriers. I implore the
46 Southcentral Regional Council to approve this proposal.

47
48 Kevin Kimber, a resident of 30 years
49 wrote a letter of support, again, referencing limited
50

1 opportunity to harvest sockeye or king salmon for
2 subsistence unless they own an adequate boat.

3
4 Nick Daukin, Cordova resident wrote
5 this letter and he wanted to express support for the
6 proposal. Managers have shown that the fishery can
7 handle the potential extra take that this harvest --
8 that this proposal would cause. And although there was
9 opposition from up river subsistence users and from
10 commercial permit holders, I feel the small extra
11 harvest will have no impact on other users and that
12 Cordova subsistence users have their right to this
13 small piece of the Cordova pie.

14
15 Another letter by Lucas Borer, a
16 Cordova resident. He's a Native and was born and
17 raised in Cordova. Copper River salmon has been an
18 important food source of protein in his diet all his
19 life. In April he applied -- he's the one who
20 submitted the emergency special action this spring,
21 that application was denied, and not being able to get
22 my subsistence Copper River chinook salmon I was
23 supplied with Copper River sockeye salmon that was
24 purchased by the Native Village of Eyak. I assume the
25 money could have been used for another purpose had it
26 not been for the denial of the Federal Subsistence
27 Board to my application for the emergency special
28 action. There is no Fisheries Proposal FP21-10 up for
29 consideration. My April emergency special action
30 request was intended to be limited only to the time the
31 epidemic was affecting the area. After seeing that
32 literally all of the activity was against Federal
33 subsistence dipnetting in the lower Copper and
34 originating out of Cordova -- all directly or
35 indirectly for commercial fishing, I now believe that a
36 Federal subsistence dipnetting in the Copper River
37 should be allowed to happen with or without a pandemic.
38 In Alaska, subsistence is supposed to be the first
39 priority in the consumption of fish and game. So he
40 supports FP21-10.

41
42 And then one more letter here from
43 Daniel Smelzer of Cordova. He's just writing in
44 support of this proposal. Due to weather conditions
45 and springtime work schedules, finding a gillnet
46 partner is not always possible. This new opportunity
47 would allow me to access the same fish in a safer way
48 when by himself.

49
50

1 And then since the RAC meeting a few
2 more letters trickled in, five more letters of support
3 and one letter in opposition.
4

5 Anyway, that summarizes the written
6 public testimony that was received before the RAC
7 meeting.
8

9 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Milo. I
10 have a question, these comments were received by the
11 Forest Service or did OSM receive these?
12

13 MR. BURCHAM: They were collected by
14 the proponent and given to me and I turned them into
15 DeAnna Perry and she summarized them for the
16 Southcentral Regional Advisory Committee.
17

18 MS. WESSELS: So you gave them to
19 DeAnna Perry at the Southcentral meeting?
20

21 MR. BURCHAM: Yes -- prior to the
22 meeting, yes.
23

24 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you. I think
25 some of the Council members might have a few questions
26 for you so if anyone has any questions for Milo, please
27 ask.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue,
30 I have a question.
31

32 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.
33

34 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Sue, can you speak
35 up a little bit, I can barely hear you.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you hear
38 me now?
39

40 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.
41

42 MS. WESSELS: Yes, it's a little bit
43 better.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'll
46 take it off speaker if you aren't hearing me good.
47 How's this?
48

49 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, that's better.
50

1 MR. BURCHAM: Good.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Milo,
4 first of all she asked the question that I had, how
5 were these comments brought to the -- we have a
6 procedure and it's supposed to go through our
7 Coordinator and, you know, can you expound on that, and
8 then I -- and two other questions. One, was that a
9 petition and how many signatures were on the petition,
10 and, two, how many other comments were you reading?
11

12 MR. BURCHAM: The proponent collected
13 all of these letters. And like I said there was just
14 about 150 of them. They were a letter with the same
15 text at the top, they were all individual letters and
16 had signatures from various individuals on them. He
17 collected these letters and turned them to me and then
18 I gave them -- had them scanned and submitted them to
19 DeAnna before the meeting.
20

21 And I'm sorry if I don't remember all
22 your questions.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, on that
25 note, then you forgot about our RAC, I guess.
26

27 MR. BURCHAM: Well, it was primarily
28 intended for this -- yeah, I'm sorry I guess I didn't
29 know if that would happen through the OSM, you know,
30 Council Coordinator or myself. I had these standing by
31 just in case DeAnna did not pass it to Katya for this
32 meeting but, yeah, it fell through the cracks I guess.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, my
35 other question was, one of those that -- you said 140
36 or whatever the numbers were, was that a petition?
37

38 MR. BURCHAM: It was -- they were
39 individual letters with the same text at the top and
40 individual signers at the bottom of each letter.
41 That's where -- that was how 150 of these letters
42 looked and I read the text that was on that letter.
43 And then there was seven separate letters that were
44 individual, custom letters of support, and then I told
45 you I received a few more afterwards.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that
48 answers my question, thank you.
49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Okay, does anyone else
2 have any questions for Milo in regards to the written
3 public comments that were handed to the Council
4 Coordinator at the time of the Southcentral RAC
5 meeting?

6
7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you. So at
11 this point if no one has questions for Milo, I would
12 like to invite any public oral testimony by anyone who
13 would be on the teleconference.

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if I
16 could ask a question, this is Gloria.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Gloria, yes,
19 sure.

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering why we
22 have a deadline for letters, what's the point of having
23 a deadline for letters -- the general public has to
24 have a dea -- they say there's a deadline for letters,
25 what's the point of having a deadline and then later on
26 you could just.....

27
28 (Teleconference interference - Western
29 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

30
31 MS. STICKWAN:the whole process,
32 by getting a bunch of signatures at the last minute in
33 opposition or support of a proposal, while other people
34 had to meet the deadline. I mean what is the deadline,
35 what's that.....

36
37 (Teleconference interference - Western
38 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Gloria, is that question
41 to OSM or are you asking the Council?

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: OSM, anybody, I mean why
44 do we have a deadline and if people don't meet it and
45 can railroad at the last minute, they don't have to
46 meet the deadline but other people do.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Katya, this is Pippa, do
49 you want me to take that?

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Sure, Pippa, go ahead.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Well, a couple of comment
4 periods that occurs at the beginning of the wildlife
5 cycle, that -- those comments actually go into the
6 book, they go into your book and they'll go into the
7 Board book and they follow the proposals wherever it
8 goes.

9

10 These letters from -- that Milo just
11 read into the records, I'm not quite sure why he did
12 that, that -- those letters were testimonies, or public
13 testimony given at the Southcentral meeting. And
14 generally the way to.....

15

16 (Teleconference interference - Western
17 Interior Council - participants phone not muted)

18

19 MS. KENNER:access that testimony
20 is to go to the transcript of the Southcentral meeting.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry, whoever has
23 their phone on the speaker phone, please mute your
24 phone because we can hear background discussion.

25

26 (Teleconference interference - various
27 conversations - participants phone not muted)

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Please, many participants
30 mute your phone.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Gloria, I will second
35 Pippa what she says. The written public comments that
36 were received, they are included in the proposal
37 analysis, that is in the Eastern Book meeting materials
38 book. Only the written public comments that were
39 received by the deadline will be included in the Board
40 book once the Board takes that proposal during their
41 next regulatory meeting. The other public comments
42 that were received by the Southcentral and that Milo
43 just presented, the only record of them will be what's
44 in the transcript of the Southcentral meeting and the
45 Eastern Interior meeting. That's the only place where
46 these public testimonies was because the written
47 comments were not received by the Federal Subsistence
48 Management Program by the deadline that was
49 established.

50

1 They still, you know, if these comments
2 were by the public and they were read into the record,
3 they could have considered them an oral testimony in a
4 way and like I said, they're not going to be included
5 specifically as an attachment or enclosure to the
6 proposal analysis.

7
8 Does that answer your question, Gloria?
9

10 MS. STICKWAN: Well, it kind of
11 contradicts -- well, to me it was a form letter written
12 into the record, it wasn't public testimony. Why was
13 it allowed at our Southcentral Regional Advisory
14 Council meeting?
15

16 MS. WESSELS: Well, I did not listen to
17 the Southcentral meeting so I don't really know how
18 things went there. But, you know, also, Milo not be
19 familiar with that but I should have been one of the
20 Council Coordinators who should have received this
21 written public comments that were received after the
22 deadline and it would be up to me to decide if they're
23 presented at the meeting or not.
24

25 MS. KENNER: Katya, I'd like to support
26 you on that, this is Pippa. It could be -- it could be
27 at the Southcentral meeting because of people's
28 difficulty traveling and teleconferencing, that these
29 were collected in written form, but that's odd.
30 Generally that wouldn't happen but it could be just
31 making allowances for people having a hard time to
32 access the meeting. For instance, to know exactly when
33 this proposal was coming up, that sort of thing.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Pippa.
38

39 Do we have any other public oral
40 testimony.....
41

42 MS. LINNELL: Yes.
43

44 MS. WESSELS:anyone who is on
45 teleconference would like to say something.
46

47 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Ma'am. This is
48 Karen Linnell.
49
50

1 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Karen.

2
3 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 For the record my name is Karen Linnell, L-I-N-N-E-L-L.
5 I am the Executive Director of the Ahtna InterTribal
6 Resource Commission.

7
8 We are in opposition of this proposal
9 for a couple of reasons.

10
11 We experienced a decline this year, in
12 the last few years, but this year for the month of June
13 through mid-late July, I got 66 sockeye and I'm on the
14 north end of the river, and 16 kings, and because the
15 run was so poor I shut my fishwheel down. So I don't
16 -- personally, I don't agree to the start of a new
17 fishery. But I also don't agree to this fishery at
18 this time as the Native Village of Eyak, the Cordova
19 Fishermen United, the CDFU down there is also in
20 disagreement with this. We're working together with
21 ADF&G, Native Village of Eyak and the Commfish Division
22 on trying to see what's going on with our river to
23 gather more information so that we can better
24 understand why we're having these declines and we don't
25 think that this is a good time to start a new fishery.

26
27 Once this proposal goes in, the State
28 will get one as well. Again, we have heavy declines.

29
30 And the other part is that it's not a
31 traditional method of fishing for this, Cordova folks.

32
33 The other thing that I have a lot of
34 heartburn with is that I was contacted by agency Staff
35 soliciting and asking me to change our opinion and our
36 comments on this proposal specific prior to the
37 Southcentral RAC meeting.

38
39 I don't agree with that.

40
41 I've never been contacted by agency
42 Staff in regards to a proposal except for to explain it
43 to us so that we can deliberate it on our own, and --
44 but our comments had already been submitted prior to
45 the deadline and then turn around and get this
46 solicitation to please change your comment and support
47 this, to provide for subsistence uses, et cetera, et
48 cetera. And I think that's totally wrong.

49
50

1 I think that agency Staff saw the
2 proposal book and saw that there was opposition and
3 actively recruited folks to write in support of this.

4
5 And then for them to -- written
6 comments to be taken as public testimony after the fact
7 also bothers me. Especially those form letters. You
8 know this happened -- when I served on the Board of
9 Game that happened quite often, you get the form
10 letters sent out and sign your name and because there's
11 a lot of them, you count them the same or count them as
12 the same as somebody who actually put some time and
13 effort into participating in the process. I don't
14 agree with the after the fact business, I don't think
15 that that's fair, to the rest of the folks that
16 participate in this process.

17
18 You have our written comments before
19 you. You can see those as well. But this piece and
20 having folks say this is written comments received
21 after publication deadlines, it's not publication
22 deadline, it's written comments received after the
23 deadline, period. And that needs to be addressed.
24 Folks can provide comments and go through the process
25 correctly sending it to the OSM, that contact
26 information that's given in the proposal books and
27 things like that in regards to this not -- not via a
28 specific person that's doing the soliciting and getting
29 those submitted in through a back door. I don't agree
30 with that at all.

31
32 I've spoken with some agency Staff
33 since the Southcentral RAC meeting, they're pretty
34 upset to hear that Staff were soliciting comments and I
35 just don't agree with that process.

36
37 It's circumventing the public process
38 and how it's meant, and it's got to be fair and above
39 board, if you bend the rules for one you're going to
40 end up bending them for other folks and that can skew
41 the process, and potentially lead to lawsuits. That's
42 the same with HR, or personnel policies, anything like
43 that, when you're dealing with it you got to follow the
44 policies and if you don't follow the policies then you
45 change the policies.

46
47 Don't circumvent them, that leads to
48 potential lawsuits, and I think that's what's
49 happening.

50

1 Anyway, that's my comments, Madame
2 Chair.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Karen. I have
5 a question, you said that you submitted the comments,
6 you know, on 21-10, so was it the Ahtna InterTribal
7 Resource Commission that submitted these comments?

8
9 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Ma'am.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Or are you talking about
12 Ahtna Tene Nene' comments?

13
14 MS. LINNELL: Ahtna InterTribal
15 Resource Commission comments.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, because I don't see
18 them in the analysis for this proposal, I don't see
19 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission comments on 21-
20 10.

21
22 MS. LINNELL: They were included in the
23 analysis and when I went to the Southcentral RAC Barb
24 said they were there, so I don't know why you don't
25 have them. And also at the Southcentral -- or the
26 Wrangell-St. Elias, they reviewed these, they had the
27 written comments, so they were submitted on time.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I believe you. I'm
30 just saying that I don't see them in the analysis in
31 the Eastern Interior book.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm
34 wondering, there's a letter signed by Karen for AITRC
35 -- are you able to hear me, I'm sorry, this is Sue?

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we can hear you
38 Sue.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
41 looking at the letter, the previous proposal, and it
42 goes through 11, 12, 13 and 14, and I don't see it on
43 10, Karen, I'm sorry but I don't see it on 10 in your
44 previous -- on the previous proposal there's an AITRC
45 letter.

46
47 MS. LINNELL: Uh-huh.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I don't
50

1 see that it includes 21-10.

2
3 MS. LINNELL: I don't have it in front
4 of me but I do want to say, though, you know we are
5 opposed to this and I don't agree with the process
6 that's happening and how it's changing.

7
8 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair, this
9 is Pippa Kenner.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Yes, go ahead, Pippa.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Yes, we do have comments
16 from Ahtna. Not specifically AITRC, but we do have
17 comments from Ahtna on Proposal 21-10.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I don't see any
20 from AITRC, that's the only reason why I said that.
21 Well, thank you, Karen.

22
23 Does anyone else who's on line have a
24 public oral testimony to make on 21-10.

25
26 MS. LINNELL: If I might add one thing,
27 Madame Chair. Is that AITRC represents eight tribes,
28 seven who live and survive on those Copper River salmon
29 that you're talking about so, thank you, Madame Chair.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Well, if
32 there is no more public testimony we're going to move
33 on to Regional Council recommendations.

34
35 And so we'll start with a motion.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Madame
38 Chair, this is Sue.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I make
43 a motion to support Proposal 21-10 that requests the
44 Federal Subsistence Board to implement a salmon
45 subsistence fishery in the lower Copper River adjacent
46 to Copper River Highway with a harvest limit of 15
47 salmon, other than pink salmon, with not more than five
48 chinook salmon per household using a dipnet, rod and
49 reel, spear or gaff only.

50

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Sue. Do I
2 hear a second.

3
4 MR. BURCHAM: Could I make a
5 clarification, the proposal as written in the summary
6 statement says a limit of 15 salmon, the actual limit
7 in the proposal is 15 salmon for the first two people
8 of the household and 10 for additional household
9 members. And there's also a modification proposed by
10 OSM with the 48 hour reporting requirement, so you
11 might want to be clear if you're looking for action
12 with the modification.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, if I
15 may, that is my motion as written.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So Sue you are
18 just sticking by the motion the way you said it, right?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Correct.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Do I hear a
23 second.

24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Bill Glanz, I'll
26 second the motion.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Bill.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Council members, do you
33 have any comments, discussion.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Sue
36 here.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Sue.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm putting
41 it forth as written because first of all I'm opposed to
42 it and I just feel like I'd like to bring out some
43 things that I learned in the process of getting
44 information on the proposal.

45
46 I understand the discussion that from
47 the community that there is a little bit of a division,
48 but I also learned that on the State fishery there has
49 been people that are illegally selling their

50

1 subsistence fish because of the high sought out use of
2 the Copper River fishery. And then I want to maintain
3 that there are red salmon available on three other
4 rivers for dipnetting on the Copper. And then
5 primarily the fish that would be targeted would be king
6 salmon because they have the ability to get Copper fish
7 -- or red salmon in the other rivers. And there is a
8 concern in my area, these Copper River fish end up
9 coming all the way up to Mentasta Lake, and they've
10 been trying to protect the king salmon for a long time
11 and I think this is -- probably they will target king
12 salmon in that fishery and I think that this could be
13 abused, especially since it includes rod and reel,
14 spear, or gaff. And I have to support the people in my
15 area that this does create a new fishery and like I
16 said they do have a lot of opportunity already.

17
18 I am going to be opposed to this
19 proposal as written.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you Sue.
22 Anyone else have any comments or discussion.

23
24 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Katya, Andy.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Charlie.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: I agree with Sue. There's
31 already a hardship going on, not only in the Copper
32 River but a lot of our rivers are losing our king
33 salmon, very important for future generations and
34 people along that river to have fish so I oppose.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Charlie.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Katya, Andy.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Andy, go ahead.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I am
45 going to be opposed to this. The reasons are I do
46 believe it can create a conservation concern for people
47 dependent on those resources farther up the Copper
48 River which is a substantial group of people.

49
50

1 I also feel that people in the Cordova
2 area have access to multiple places to locate other
3 salmon species and especially have the ability to catch
4 other non-salmon species for subsistence. So I don't
5 believe that they have to catch a salmon to make a
6 living or to -- or I'm sorry, not to make a living, but
7 to survive there. They have many other resources, a
8 scenario similar to what we have on the Yukon River
9 where up river communities only have one or two species
10 of fish, king salmon and fall chum, whereas the lower
11 river has multiple species that they can harvest on
12 years when salmon runs are poor. It's a very similar
13 scenario.

14
15 So I am going to be opposed to this
16 because I think it potentially could create a
17 conservation concern. Runs have not been good and
18 they're not trending in a good direction and I agree
19 that it is not time to open up a new fishery.

20
21 And the final comment I have is I would
22 like the comments from Karen, from Ahtna to be
23 highlighted in the records because I find it very
24 disturbing that any OSM Staff or anyone would contact
25 making a comment asking them to change their comment.
26 I find that very disturbing. And it needs to be looked
27 into and it needs to have an end put to that because
28 that is not the process that we should be fostering
29 throughout this RAC process. I find that extremely
30 disturbing.

31
32 And I guess my final comment is when
33 things like that happen it really makes me lose my
34 faith in a process and I have a lot of faith in this
35 process right now but if I hear that there's more of
36 that kind of behavior going on, it undermines the
37 entire Federal process. So please look into that,
38 please make sure that never happens again, and those
39 are my comments.

40
41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. Anyone
44 else.

45
46 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
47 is Tim McManus.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Tim.

50

1 MR. MCMANUS: Yeah, I oppose this also.
2 You know a lot of fish people are having a hard time
3 everywhere, that's just, you know, the way it's been
4 going for the last couple of years. The more that we
5 could try to protect, you know, our food source and for
6 our future generations, every day you got to look it
7 like that.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Okay, are you finished
10 Tim?

11
12 MR. MCMANUS: Yes, thank you.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Anyone else.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. GLANZ: Is it too early to call the
19 question, this is Bill Glanz.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Well, if no one else has
22 anything else to add to the discussion.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: I was just wondering when
25 nothing was going on there for awhile.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm ready
28 Bill.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Bill.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think Bill
35 called for the question, I'm just agreeing with him.

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Bill, you're
38 calling the question.

39
40 MR. GLANZ: Well, if somebody has
41 disagreement go right ahead, I waive the floor.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MS. WESSELS: I don't think anyone
46 disagrees. Okay, so Bill called the question so we are
47 going to vote on FP21-10 and Sue, would you care to
48 repeat your motion, what we're voting on.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. We're
2 voting on to support or not to support Proposal 21-10,
3 request the Federal Subsistence Board implement a
4 salmon subsistence fishery in the lower Copper River
5 adjacent to Copper River Highway with a harvest limit
6 of 15 salmon, other than pink salmon, with not more
7 than five chinook salmon per household using a dipnet,
8 rod and reel, spear or gaff only.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Sue. So
11 this is a motion to support, the Council is voting on
12 this motion, do you want to do a roll call.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Okay. We'll start with
17 Tim McManus.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Tim, do you support or
22 oppose.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Tim, are you still there?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Okay, maybe he stepped
31 out.

32
33 Okay, Bill Glanz.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: I'll support Sue's thing,
36 yes.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: No, you support the
39 proposal or are you opposing?

40
41 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I oppose the proposal.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: What Bill?

44
45 MR. GLANZ: I oppose the proposal.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Okay, you're opposing the
48 proposal, okay.

49
50

1 Charlie Jagow, are you supporting or
2 opposing?
3
4 MR. JAGOW: I'm opposing.
5
6 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
7
8 Donald Woodruff.
9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm opposed to a new
11 fishery.
12
13 MS. WESSELS: Andy Bassich.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Opposed.
16
17 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, what'd you say?
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Andy Bassich opposed.
20
21 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.
22
23 Charlie Wright.
24
25 MR. WRIGHT: I oppose.
26
27 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.
28
29 Andrew Firmin, are you back on line?
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MS. WESSELS: Okay, Andrew is absent.
34
35 Sue Entsminger.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Opposed.
38
39 MS. WESSELS: Okay, let's see if Tim is
40 back, Tim are you back on line?
41
42 MR. MCMANUS: That's a yes. I'm having
43 problems with my phone here, I could hear you guys, and
44 I had my mute button off but I guess you didn't hear
45 me.
46
47 I oppose this.
48
49 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Tim.
50

1 So we have seven votes in opposition
2 and one absent.

3
4 The proposal to support FP210-10 fails.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 And at this moment, I would like to
9 pass the gavel back to Sue Entsminger, the Chair of the
10 Eastern Interior RAC.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
13 you very much. Katya, you did a great job, I really
14 appreciate that.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next on the
19 agenda is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

20
21 Pippa.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you, Madame
24 Chair. Are we taking that up right now?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

27
28 MS. KENNER: Okay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the next
31 thing on the agenda.

32
33 MS. KENNER: I thought maybe we'd wait
34 until tomorrow and you'd break for the evening.

35
36 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it's up
41 to the Council members, do you want to break for the
42 evening. Because the next thing we'll do in the
43 morning is we're going to have Jeff Gross on and then
44 we'll go into that. Does that work for all of you?

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'd be interested in
49 talking to Jeff in the morning. This is Bill Glanz

50

1 talking again. But, yeah, I'm ready to call it a
2 night. The telephone's growing to my ear.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, guys,
5 I'm sorry. I'm anxious to get it all over with too,
6 so, yeah, let's step down until the morning at 9:00,
7 same number to call in and passcode.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: Okay, thank you.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
12 Katya.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
15 Katya.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I just wanted to
18 remind the Council members that after FRMP we're going
19 to discuss the topics for the annual report for this
20 year, so, please think about the topics that you would
21 like to include in the FY20 annual report ahead of
22 time, for the sake of saving time during the meeting.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: And, Madame Chair, I'd also
27 like to tell you that I have to be out of here by about
28 1:30 tomorrow to go into Fairbanks, to get over the
29 hill top before the State plow trucks go home.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
32 we're all going to be done with our brain on the
33 telephone by 1:30.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: That sounds like a plan
36 there.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, I
39 believe it will happen because we shortened our reports
40 at the end of the meeting and I'm hoping it can happen
41 and I understand Bill, and safe travels to you when you
42 do go.

43
44 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
47 Anyone else.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Talk to everybody at 9:00
50

1 o'clock.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4

5

(Off record)

6

7

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the
15 14th day of October 2020;
16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;
22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.
25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th
27 day of October 2020.
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50