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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE  
October 14, 2021  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair  
Andrew Bassich  
Linda Evans  
William Glanz  
Nicolas Henry  
Charles Jagow  
Donald Woodruff  
Robert Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews (Acting)

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

2

3 (Teleconference - 10/14/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on now  
8 and ask Charlie to do the invocation.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Sue, just wait a second.  
11 I would like to ask everyone who is on the phone lines  
12 please press star button and six button to mute  
13 yourself. Please mute yourself, we cannot start the  
14 meeting without you muting yourself. Only have  
15 yourself off of mute when you are speaking.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being  
19 broadcasted)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Someone is  
22 speaking in the background, I would appreciate if you  
23 would push star, six and mute yourself. I'm still  
24 hearing someone talking in the background. Is there  
25 any way to identify that.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I thought it was  
28 Pippa, at least that's what I can hear, is her voice.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's  
31 speaking on the other teleconference for Southcentral  
32 right now.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I think it's the  
35 Western Interior there.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, well,  
38 how do you want to proceed?

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Well, I'm hoping that  
41 they will stop, I sent a message.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this is  
44 a prime example of why we got to meet in person.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that too.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

49

50

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1 MR. WRIGHT: I'll third that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We can  
4 go to the grocery store, we can go anywhere else. Can  
5 anybody walk in her office or is everybody remote?

6

7 MS. WESSELS: We are not, we are all  
8 sitting at home.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this is  
11 really annoying, I'm sorry.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Nathan, can you isolate  
14 that call.

15

16 REPORTER: Give me a minute and I'll  
17 get the operator to do it.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 REPORTER: Hey, Sue, give me two  
22 minutes and I'll try to get that number isolated.  
23 Don't try to start because I won't be able to hear you  
24 guys.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 REPORTER: Okay, you should be good to  
29 go Sue.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
32 thanks, Nathan, appreciate it. Okay. Now, starting  
33 all over we call the Eastern Interior RAC meeting into  
34 session and I would ask Charlie to give the ocation --  
35 invocation -- boy, I can't speak today I guess I'm  
36 pretty excited.

37

38 Charlie, go ahead.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Can you hear me Sue.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roger.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

45

46 (Invocation)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you so  
49 much. Appreciate it very much. Okay, the first thing

50

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1 is to celebrate Andrew Firmin. Vince. Then we'll go  
2 from there.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I need to confirm  
5 that Kara'lissa, Joesia and his sister are online, they  
6 were earlier.

7

8 KARA'LISSA: Yes, we're online, this is  
9 Kara'lissa.

10

11 JOESIA: (Indiscernible)

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Joesia. Okay,  
14 we're going to be recognizing your father and I want to  
15 read into the record because he cast a big shadow.

16

17 The Eastern Interior Subsistence  
18 Regional Advisory Council honors the memory and life of  
19 Andrew Firmin on the Eastern Interior Advisory Council  
20 Vice Chair who suffered an untimely death last spring.

21

22 For those that may be tracking along in  
23 the book, this is a modified one, an updated one, so if  
24 you're looking at Page 4 you can track along until the  
25 addition.

26

27 During his 14 years on the Eastern  
28 Interior Regional Advisory Council, Member Firmin  
29 served as a dedicated representative and an outspoken  
30 advocate for Federally-qualified subsistence users of  
31 Fort Yukon and other Yukon Flat communities, the  
32 Gwich'in people, and the subsistence way of life.  
33 Member Firmin was a leader on his Council, serving as  
34 both Secretary and as Vice Chair. He was known for  
35 supporting fellow Council members by valuing and  
36 respecting their knowledge and opinions. He had an in-  
37 depth practical knowledge of subsistence fish and  
38 wildlife resources and their uses in the Eastern  
39 Interior region and beyond. He was a strong voice for  
40 sustainable use of these resources while providing for  
41 subsistence needs.

42

43 This next paragraph hopefully captures  
44 all that he served on, all the different committees.  
45 If I failed on one, please, let me know.

46

47 Member Firmin's leadership in  
48 protecting vital natural resources for the Yukon Flats  
49 villages was not limited to his service on the Council.

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1 He was the past Natural Resource Director for the  
2 Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal government, additionally  
3 he was a member of the Yukon River Panel, the Yukon  
4 River InterTribal Fish Commission, the Yukon River  
5 Drainage Fisheries Association, the Tanana Chiefs  
6 Waterfowl Management Body for the Alaska Migratory Bird  
7 Co-Management Council, and the Yukon Flats Cooperative  
8 Moose Management Committee. Member Firm represented  
9 Fort Yukon on the Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory  
10 Committee. As a leader in his community, Member Firm  
11 served as City Manager for the City of Fort Yukon.

12  
13 Member Firmin was proud when in 2016  
14 the Council decided to hold its meeting in his home  
15 community of Fort Yukon and provided his son's picture  
16 for the meeting materials cover. He was respected by  
17 all and a friend to many. He was a great man, known  
18 for his hard work, humor and friendliness. Member  
19 Firmin's service on the Eastern Interior Council will  
20 be remembered with gratitude and he will be sorely  
21 missed.

22  
23 And Sue and I have talked many times,  
24 he is always present with us and he's present now. So  
25 that is -- others need to share.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
28 you Vince for that. And, welcome family of -- I don't  
29 know all your names, but welcome and I'm glad you're  
30 listening in. Council members, do you have anything  
31 you want to add.

32  
33 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36  
37 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

40  
41 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. This is Councilman  
42 Charlie Wright. I just wanted to say that it was a  
43 pleasure to work with Andrew. He kind of was a leader  
44 for me also when I got on and showed me the ropes and  
45 he will be sorely missed by me, myself.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

50

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1 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda Pitka,  
2 can you hear me?

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Rhonda,  
5 go ahead.

6  
7 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm Rhonda Pitka, I'm  
8 Chief of the Village of Beaver and I'm a Federal  
9 Subsistence Board Public Member.

10  
11 Andrew -- when I first got on to the  
12 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, was one of  
13 the people that helped me grow as a leader. He  
14 challenged me in a lot of different ways and a  
15 challenged a lot of the ways that I was thinking. And  
16 I appreciate all of his leadership for his community  
17 and I'm sorry that, you know, because of Covid, we  
18 couldn't be there to honor him in person. And I'd like  
19 to express my condolences, you know, for his family.

20  
21 Thank you all for this time.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
24 Rhonda. Would anyone else like to speak, I know this  
25 is really hard and I have a few words I'd like to say  
26 but I want to give everyone else a chance.

27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Donald  
29 Woodruff.....

30  
31 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
32 Katya.

33  
34 MR. WOODRUFF: .....I'd like to say  
35 something.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear two  
38 people. One was Katya and.....

39  
40 MS. WESSELS: I will let Don go first.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Was  
43 that you, Don.

44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am, thank you.  
46 I want to say that Andrew had a unique perspective on  
47 the fish and wildlife resources in the Yukon Flats and  
48 actually inspired me to participate in a more sort of  
49 holistic fashion up and down the river so that  
50

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1 everyone's voice is heard.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Don.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
10 Andy.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. So I've known  
13 Andrew for a long time. I began working with him when  
14 he was on the Yukon River Panel at the turn of this  
15 decade and worked with him a lot with YRDFA, a lot of  
16 the fisheries issues. I've always highly respected  
17 Andrew's perspective and points of view. He was always  
18 a person who took a very broad view of things and was  
19 very good at supporting subsistence needs in the Fort  
20 Yukon region. But what I remember most about Andrew,  
21 he was always in a good mood, even if he disagreed with  
22 you or had a contrary view on a subject, he was always  
23 very respectful and he always stated his views with a  
24 sense of humor. He always had this kind of nice chuckle  
25 that I think lightened the feel of the meetings. I  
26 highly respect him and I think it's a great loss to the  
27 people of Fort Yukon. He was definitely a very strong  
28 leader and a good leader. And my condolences to the  
29 family and he will be very sorely missed in all of  
30 these different entities when it comes to subsistence  
31 resources and management of those resources for the  
32 long-time future.

33

34 So, yeah, that's all, and thank you  
35 very much for a chance to say something about Andrew  
36 because he was a pretty special Council member in my  
37 view.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I agree.  
42 Anyone else.

43

44 MR. STEVENS: Sue, this is Ben  
45 Stevens.....

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Sue.....

48

49 MR. STEVENS: .....I'm not a Council

50

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1 member but.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Who's  
4 the voice?

5

6 MR. STEVENS: Well, this is Ben Stevens.  
7 I'm not a Council member but I do have a brief thought  
8 on Mr. Andrew Firmin if I may.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I'm sure  
11 that'd be fine.

12

13 MR. STEVENS: Well, okay, I will be  
14 brief, and thank you very kindly Madame Chair. Mr.  
15 Andrew Firmin is such a great loss to Alaska Natives  
16 peoples understanding of the hunting and fishing  
17 regulations. You know, Madame Chair, that some of the  
18 work that we do involves teaching Alaska Native people  
19 how to speak the language of regulations. And Mr.  
20 Andrew Firmin was damn good at that and he taught me a  
21 lot of things. And I just wanted to say that he is --  
22 yeah, he's leaving a great big gap in our lives. And I  
23 agree with Andy here, his -- Mr. Firmin's chuckle was  
24 something.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. STEVENS: .....that would give me a  
29 laugh. And so to his family, condolences does not even  
30 start to convey what we feel and so we wish you well  
31 and blessings for his family.

32

33 So that's it, and I'm out.

34

35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you're  
38 sure welcome. My head is just nodding yes, yes, yes.  
39 Yeah, Katya, did you want to add something.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame  
42 Chair. This is Katya Wessels. I'm with the Office of  
43 Subsistence Management. I started my work at the  
44 Office of Subsistence Management as the coordinator for  
45 the Eastern Interior RAC and I met Andrew for the first  
46 time at the All Council meeting in 2016 and he  
47 immediately made me feel very welcome and I realized  
48 that I will be able to work greatly with this Council.  
49 And then later we became good friends and he always

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1 helped me with my work. And he really wanted the  
2 Council to come Fort Yukon, which we did, in 2017, we  
3 had a meeting in Fort Yukon and Andrew made sure the  
4 meeting was a great success, the community welcomed us  
5 with open hands and the, you know, showed us around, we  
6 had a tour of the community and Andrew helped us every  
7 step of the way. He brought a large piece of moose for  
8 the stew that we all cooked together, we had a potluck,  
9 and all the Council members, all the meeting  
10 participants, and people from the community got all  
11 together and I will always be thankful to Andrew for  
12 all the work he's done on this Council and all the work  
13 he's done for the people in his community and the  
14 people of the Yukon Flats. He was a great person with  
15 a big heart. And as the two previous speakers said, I  
16 will always hear his chuckle in my head and I will miss  
17 him on the Eastern Interior Council. And, you know,  
18 I'm very sorry, Kara'lissa, Jessie and Joesia and  
19 Orville and the rest of Andrews family for your loss,  
20 and we will remember Andrew.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 And that's all I have to say.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
27 Katya. Yeah, is there any other Council members that  
28 would like to say anything.

29

30 MR. JAGOW: Sue, this is Charlie.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
33 Charlie, or Charles.

34

35 MR. JAGOW: Charles, sorry. I feel  
36 very fortunate that I was able to get to know Andrew  
37 over the last couple years, he's a very important  
38 member of this Council, not only for his knowledge and  
39 speaking abilities but also for his sense of humor.  
40 Always with a sense of humor and you would begin to  
41 hear his interpretation of local events. My thoughts  
42 and prayers go out to Andrew's family and to those in  
43 Fort Yukon. On top of all the other hardships of this  
44 past summer, I know that Andrew's passing was  
45 especially hard for Fort Yukon. Fort Yukon lost a very  
46 important member and leader. Fortunately, Andrew is  
47 also a great mentor and a great role model to the lives  
48 that he touched. Andrew is still with us and will be  
49 there for years to come.

50

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1                   Thanks.

2

3                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
4 you, Charlie. I'm going to call you Charlie Jagow,  
5 it's too hard to say Charles for me.

6

7                   Anyone else.

8

9

10                  (No comments)

11

12                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I would  
13 like to say a few words too. I was just looking at my  
14 text messages before the last meeting. Andrew, he was  
15 just totally awesome to be working with as the Chair  
16 and Vice Chair. We ended up talking the day before he  
17 went into the hospital and I hear his voice constantly,  
18 I hear it right now talking to me like he's hear. It's  
19 just hard to believe that he's not with us. I know  
20 he's with us in spirit, I truly believe that. My heart  
21 goes out to you guys for this great loss. I mean it's  
22 like, oh, my gosh, he's just -- he has been the best  
23 leader for your community and he -- he's the best dad  
24 for you two kids and great for his wife and his sister  
25 there. I remember communicating with you guys after --  
26 it just breaks my heart that you guys are going through  
27 this and that we have lost this wonderful community  
28 member and I send all of my love and heart and I wish I  
29 could hug you all right now because it's a very  
30 difficult time and thank you for coming on.

31

32                  So if there isn't anyone else, if  
33 anyone would like to say anything from the family.

34

35                  KARA'LISSA: Hi, this is Kara'lissa  
36 here.

37

38                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
39 Kara'lissa.

40

41                  KARA'LISSA: I'd just like to say thank  
42 you for everyone for saying nice things about Andrew,  
43 he's really missed every day but I know he's smiling  
44 and he'd want us to keep fighting for what's right and  
45 keep going on. Thank you.

46

47                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I'm sure  
48 he does, yes. God Bless you guys.

49

50

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1 MS. BRIDGES: This is Jamie Bridges,  
2 Andrew's sister. I also just wanted to say thank you.  
3 Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts, your words  
4 mean so much to us and we are incredibly proud of  
5 Andrew and all the work that he did and all the  
6 friendships that he nourished. I know that you will  
7 keep fighting for what he believed in and we're just so  
8 incredibly grateful for your work and your passion and  
9 your commitment to something that he felt so  
10 passionate about himself. Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And we  
13 really appreciate you guys and wish we could see you  
14 but, again, I say God Bless you all and we really are  
15 hurting for you guys so.

16

17 Hey, Charlie -- Charlie Wright, you did  
18 such a good at the invocation, could you just end us  
19 with a little short prayer.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You'll have  
24 to get yourself off mute.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie.

27

28 (Prayer)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
31 very much Charlie. Okay, I did call the meeting to  
32 order but this is the call, and we need a roll call and  
33 the Secretary is now Donald Woodruff, and on Page 5,  
34 Donald, would you do the roll call, please.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 I'll start at the top. Sue Entsminger.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans.

42

43 MS. EVANS: Here.

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

46

47 Nicolas Henry.

48

49 MR. HENRY: Here.

50

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1 MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Here.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Present.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

14

15 MR. JAGOW: Here.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Don Woodruff's here.

18

19 Timothy McManus.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Timothy McManus, are you  
24 there?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Donald, he has family  
27 commitments and is not available the next two days.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Vince.  
30 Madame Chair, there's eight people present and that  
31 establishes a quorum. Thank you.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I need to  
34 cover some housekeeping items if that's okay at this  
35 time.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Hello.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: I wonder if she dropped  
42 off, Vince.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't know.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm  
47 back. This is Sue, I got dropped off.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Okay, that's what we

50

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1     figured.

2

3                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   Can you hear  
4     me?

5

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

7

8                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   Okay.

9

10                  MR. MATHEWS:   Thank you.

11

12                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   So I assume  
13     that the roll call was complete and we have.....

14

15                  MR. MATHEWS:   Yes, Madame Chair.

16

17                  MR. WOODRUFF:   Madame Chair.

18

19                  MR. MATHEWS:   8 of 9 are present --

20     sorry.

21

22                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   I believe it  
23     was eight.   Did you say nine Vince?

24

25                  MR. MATHEWS:   No, I walked over Donald.  
26     I'll let Donald give the count so I don't walk over  
27     again.

28

29                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   Okay, go  
30     ahead, Donald.

31

32                  MR. WOODRUFF:   Okay, Madame Chair, this  
33     is Don.   There's eight people present, Timothy McManus  
34     is not with us today.   Thank you.

35

36                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   Okay.   So  
37     Nicolas Henry and Linda, the two new members, I'm going  
38     to welcome you both again.   So okay now we're going to  
39     do the welcome and introductions and I'm going to start  
40     with OSM.   I'm going to try to keep this by agency so  
41     we can not talk over each other.   Is one person going  
42     to do OSM or are we just going to speak out.

43

44                  MR. MATHEWS:   It will be each speaking  
45     out, Madame Chair.

46

47                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:   Okay.   OSM is  
48     first.

49

50

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1 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Madame  
2 Chair, I'll go first. This is Katya Wessels. I'm the  
3 Council Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM.  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
7 from OSM online.

8  
9 MR. PLANK: Good morning. This is Tom  
10 Plank, Wildlife Biologist in OSM.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning.

13  
14 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Sue. George  
15 Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, OSM. Good to hear  
16 your voice.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You too  
19 George. Go ahead. Anyone else.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this is Vince  
22 Mathews, Acting Coordinator for Eastern Interior  
23 Regional Advisory Council as well as Kodiak/Aleutians.  
24 Just to get it on the record, thank you.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No one  
27 else from OSM online right now.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: NPS, National  
32 Park Service.

33  
34 MR. RASIC: Hi, this is Jeff Rasic, the  
35 Chief of Resources in Fairbanks for Yukon-Charley.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning.

38  
39 MR. RASIC: Good morning.

40  
41 MR. SARAFIN: And this is Dave Sarafin,  
42 the Fisheries Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National  
43 Park and Preserve.

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

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, good

50

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1 morning, anyone.....

2

3 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This  
4 is.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....else.

7

8 MS. JOCHUM: .....Kim Jochum, Regional  
9 Subsistence Program for the National Park Service.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is that  
12 again?

13

14 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Sue. This  
15 is Kim Jochum, Regional Office.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18

19 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is  
20 Marcy Okada with Yukon-Charley Rivers National  
21 Preserve.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,  
24 Marcy. Anyone else.

25

26 MS. PITKA: Good morning. This is  
27 Rhonda Pitka, Federal Subsistence Board Public Member.  
28 I was calling in briefly just to speak about Andrew.  
29 Thank you all for your time today, have a good meeting.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
32 Rhonda, and your time in Eastern Interior. We have two  
33 meetings going on that some of the National Park  
34 Service Staff are attending at Southcentral and it  
35 could be that they'd be on later I was told. So the  
36 next agency would be Fish and Wildlife Service, anyone  
37 online.

38

39 MR. HAWKALUK: Good morning, Madame  
40 Chair. Members of the Council. This is Nathan  
41 Hawkaluk with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning.

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann.....

46

47 MR. FOX: Good morning.....

48

49 MR. MASCHMANN: .....U.S. Fish and

50

0016

1 Wildlife Service, Fairbanks.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, there  
4 was two there. Mushgrove is one, right?

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Maschmann.

7

8 MR. FOX: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
9 Gerald.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we got  
12 that.....

13

14 MR. FOX: .....Maschmann there. Good  
15 morning, Madame Chair. Council members. Jimmy Fox,  
16 Yukon Flats Refuge.

17

18 MR. BERTRAM: Good morning, Madame  
19 Chair. Mark Bertram, Wildlife Biologist with Yukon  
20 Flats.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
23 from.....

24

25 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this is.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead.

28

29 MS. KLEIN: Hi, Sue. This is Jill  
30 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator with  
31 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now and I'm joining the  
32 call.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
35 else.

36

37 MR. JAMISON: Yeah, good morning, Madame  
38 Chair. Brent Jamison, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

39

40 MR. BAYLESS: Good morning, Madame  
41 Chair. Shawn Bayless, Tetlin Refuge.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
44 else from Fish and Wildlife Service.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: BLM. Anyone  
49 from.....

50



0017

1 MR. HERRIGES: Good morning, this.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....BLM.

4

5 MR. HERRIGES: .....is Jim Herriges.

6 Good morning. This is Jim Herriges, Wildlife Biologist

7 with the Eastern Interior Field Office.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, anyone

10 else from BLM.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: ADF&G.

15 Anyone on.

16

17 MR. SCOTT: Good morning, Madame Chair.

18 Ryan Scott with ADF&G, can you hear me?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can.

21

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

23 Yeah, my name.....

24

25 MS. : Good morning, this is.....

26

27 MR. SCOTT: .....os Ryan Scott -- I'm

28 sorry.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. SCOTT: Good morning, Madame Chair.

33 Members of the Council. My name is Ryan Scott with the

34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game based down in

35 Juneau. We have several of the Division of Wildlife

36 Conservation on this morning to help with questions and

37 proposal deliberations. Myself, Mark Burch and Ben

38 Mulligan, the Deputy Commissioner, are bouncing back

39 and forth between a couple different RAC meetings. We

40 have Darren Bruning, the Region 3 Regional Supervisor

41 based out of Fairbanks. We have Tony Hollis, the

42 Fairbanks Area Biologist. We have Sara Logstin, the

43 Assistant AB for the Galena area. Ryan Klimstra out of

44 Fairbanks, the Regional Wildlife Biologist for Region

45 3. And Jeff Gross will be joining us here shortly to

46 be available for questions out in Unit 20E.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of

49 the Council.

50

0018

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. SCOTT: Oh, I forgot one. Jason  
4 Caikoski, the Assistant AB out of Northeast Arctic is  
5 also on, my apologies.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank  
8 you for that. All right.

9

10 MS. JALLEN: Good morning, Madame  
11 Chair. This is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department  
12 of Fish and Game, can you hear me?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
15 ahead.

16

17 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, so I'm with the  
18 Division of Commercial Fisheries and also kind of  
19 online between this meeting and the Western Interior  
20 RAC is Christy Gleason, she's the Yukon River Fall  
21 Season Manager. I'm Deena Jallen, the Summer Season  
22 Manager for the Yukon River. We've also got Bonnie  
23 Borba, she's the Fall Season Research Biologist and Sam  
24 Decker is the Summer Season Assistant Biologist. And  
25 we're covering both the Eastern Interior and Western  
26 Interior RAC meetings today.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
29 you.

30

31 MS. STUBE: Good morning, everyone.  
32 Lisa Stube, Division of Sportfish. I'm the Yukon Area  
33 Management Biologist.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Madame  
38 Chair and Council members. This is Brooke McDavid with  
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
40 Subsistence.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
43 you all. Anyone else.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Native  
48 organizations.

49

50

0019

1 MR. IRVINE: Hi, Sue. This is Bruce  
2 Irvine with Tanana Chiefs Conference, Tribal Resources  
3 Stewardship Program.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, good  
6 morning.

7  
8 MR. STEVENS: And Ben Stevens.....

9  
10 MR. THOMAS: Good morning, Madame Chair  
11 and Council members.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. THOMAS: It's Bruce Thomas with  
16 CATG.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, good  
19 morning.

20  
21 MR. THOMAS: Good morning.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

24  
25 MS. FITKA: Good morning. This is  
26 Serena Fitka, Executive Director of the Yukon River  
27 Drainage Fisheries Association. And, I, too, will be  
28 jumping back and forth between the Eastern and Western  
29 Interior RAC.

30  
31 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, good morning. This  
32 is Catherine Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage  
33 Fisheries Association. And also I'll be trying to  
34 report at both meetings today. Looking forward to  
35 hearing your meeting.

36  
37 MR. SIMON: Good morning, Sue and  
38 Council members. This is Jim Simon with the Tanana  
39 Chiefs Conference Tribal Resources Stewardship Program  
40 and Ahtna InterTribal Resource Program. And I will  
41 also be jumping between three RAC meetings today.  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, anyone  
45 else.

46  
47 MS. WOODS: Good morning. This is  
48 Brooke Woods with the Yukon River InterTribal Fish  
49 Commission. I will also be jumping in between the two  
50

0020

1 RAC meetings. And, hopefully, in the future that can  
2 be changed, both of the RACs, Western and Interior, are  
3 important to our organization.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
10 public members that would like to identify themselves.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15 Got.....

16  
17 MR. SORUM: I'll just introduce myself  
18 real quick, I'm Matt Sorum with the Yukon-Charley  
19 National -- National Preserve.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did I  
22 miss anyone.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving  
27 on, next thing on the agenda is to review and adopt the  
28 agenda. And, Council members, you were sent the  
29 updated agenda and I'm going to identify the three  
30 additions to what's in the book.

31  
32 One is there's a new item under old  
33 business after the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage  
34 Association, a request from Yukon Kuskokwim RAC for a  
35 joint letter to the National [sic] Pacific Marine  
36 Council to reduce chinook/chum bycatch. And then under  
37 the same, old business, we added F, and F is the hunter  
38 ethics update, which was mailed to us. And the third  
39 item is we're moving 36 in front of 1 and 2 to make  
40 things flow a little better.

41  
42 And then on the -- I'm going to ask  
43 everyone to look at the Board of Game proposals. I  
44 sent you guys a list of ones that I would like to take  
45 up and there would be two motions to take up like a  
46 group, so it's 225, and if I'm going too fast tell me  
47 so, 67, 135 to 139, 161 and 198. And I'm doing this  
48 now for Fish and Game so they know that these are the  
49 ones I'm interested in bringing up. And you guys have  
50

0021

1 the options of looking at those and seeing if there's  
2 anything that you want to bring up yourself to add when  
3 we come to that point in the agenda.

4

5 And the fourth new item is under future  
6 meetings, to talk about the joint teleconference  
7 meeting with Southcentral and that Fisheries Proposal  
8 21-10.

9

10 So I'm just identifying those things.  
11 Council members, do you have anything else.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just  
16 remember we're doing this muting thing so often times  
17 we'll forget to unmute ourselves. So Council members,  
18 does anyone have any additions or corrections -- or  
19 additions to the agenda.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

24 Then.....

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
27 Katya. Can you please repeat which Board of Game  
28 proposals you were going to add to the agenda.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
31 Proposal No. 225, 67, 135 to 139, 161, and 198.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if there  
36 are no other topics or -- I need a motion.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll make a motion, Sue,  
39 to adopt the agenda with the changes we just discussed.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz, I'll  
42 second that.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Motion  
45 by Donald and second by Bill.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Yes, William Glanz.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

50

0022

1 discussion.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I hear  
you call the question.

7

8

9

MR. WRIGHT: I'll call the question,  
this is Charlie Wright.

10

11

12

13

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
going to ask for unanimous consent, is there any  
objection.

14

15

(No objections)

16

17

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
none. Now we need to review and approve the minutes.

20

21

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and those are on  
Page 6 in your book.

22

23

(Pause)

24

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
members, do you have any corrections to the minutes.

27

28

29

30

MR. GLANZ: Make a motion we vote on  
the minutes -- anyway, I make a motion we accept the  
minutes as written, read. This is Bill Glanz.

31

32

33

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill  
has made a motion to accept the minutes.

34

35

36

MR. WRIGHT: I'll second that. This is  
Charlie.

37

38

39

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

40

41

42

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
Charlie. Any other discussion.

43

44

(No comments)

45

46

47

48

49

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm  
going to ask for unanimous consent, the motion was to  
accept the minutes as written moved by Bill and  
seconded by Charlie. Any objections.

50

0023

1 (No objections)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
4 none. The next is our Council reports. Council  
5 members, and just for helping the new members I'll  
6 start with people that are very familiar about giving  
7 their Council reports and we'll start with you Donald.

8

9

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
10 Well, I don't know where to start with teleconferences.  
11 But I guess in May we had teleconference with the Park  
12 Service for our subsistence working group and one of  
13 the profound things that I heard was that we have super  
14 habitat for rearing salmon, you know, salmon that are  
15 headed towards the ocean but are spending time in  
16 freshwater. The other thing is that we had really good  
17 success rates with twinning moose calves and I'll let  
18 the wildlife biologist, Matt Sorum speak about that.

19

I participated in three out of the five  
20 teleconferences with YRDFA, mostly speaking about the  
21 North Pacific Management Council.  
22

23

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And I just want to say it's a pleasure  
to work with all the other Council members.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next,  
Bill.

0024

1 MR. GLANZ: Okay. We up here in  
2 Central, we finally got a chance to have our AC meeting  
3 after 18 months of not having them. We had in person.  
4 And we also -- our community got together with Fish and  
5 Wildlife -- or, sorry, the State, they wanted to take  
6 20-some caribou out of the herd, they were young ones,  
7 for their research and biology stuff. And so they  
8 dropped 20 caribou off in Central here and about six or  
9 eight of us, we jumped on them and started distributing  
10 them out to the elderly and anybody that needed caribou  
11 meat. So most of us didn't even go caribou hunting, we  
12 missed that, so we were all happy about that, the State  
13 brought them to us. But they weren't in little white  
14 packages, we had to put them in little white packages  
15 -- anyway, just a joke.

16  
17 Let's see, not a whole lot of moose  
18 were harvested around our area here in Central. I  
19 think we had three to four taken right around in the  
20 vicinity of our homes. And I went out for moose, went  
21 up 20 miles up the Yukon 40 (ph) miles up the Yukon  
22 River and me and my hunting partner, we seen about a 70  
23 inch moose came into our camp, I was calling cow calls,  
24 and we both looked at each other and I said I'm 78  
25 years old and he said I'm 60 bye-bye moose, we just  
26 waved at him, go away.

27  
28 But other than that that's about all  
29 we've had up here going on, and we still have this  
30 tremendous hunting pressure from the caribou as  
31 everybody knows. Other than that we had a pretty good  
32 season.

33  
34 Unfortunately no fish, everybody's been  
35 whining about that. So I'll sign off on that and let  
36 the next person testify.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Bill.

41  
42 Charlie Jagow.

43  
44 MR. JAGOW: Yeah. I had a pretty good  
45 season. I guess the highlight of my report would be  
46 that it was a super dry year. We had a really dry  
47 winter with very little snow last year and that  
48 resulted in a very mild break up and then that drying  
49 condition kind of stayed throughout the summer. At one  
50



0025

1 point I heard there were folks in Fort Yukon that were  
2 able to literally walk across the Porcupine down there  
3 close to the mouth and I know up where we are, it was  
4 the second lowest I've ever seen in it in July which is  
5 definitely eye opening. But luckily we didn't have  
6 much of a fire season, we just didn't have a lot of  
7 thunderstorms or anything that started a fire. But I  
8 was definitely concerned about that, you know, any time  
9 you walked in the woods it was really apparent that it  
10 wouldn't take much at all to start a fire.

11  
12 But luckily it rained in August right  
13 before hunting season and water levels kind of returned  
14 to normal.

15  
16 I know there was definitely concern for  
17 folks with no fishing opportunity in Fort Yukon and  
18 Circle, hunting season was especially important this  
19 year. It would have been very difficult had the water  
20 stayed so low.

21  
22 We had a pretty mild fall. It quickly  
23 got pretty cold after about the 18th of September, the  
24 river -- the Porcupine started running slow on the 30th  
25 and it's remained kind of cold although it warmed up a  
26 bit and it's now just running a little bit of slush.

27  
28 The only other thing I have of note  
29 here is I did some pre-season scouting and in the last  
30 report I mentioned there's very few martin last winter,  
31 we got some early snow and so I was able to get back on  
32 the martin line and kind of do a little bit of the  
33 survey and it was pretty concerning that there's even  
34 less -- appears to be even less than last year despite  
35 there being a lot of mice and more grouse than I've  
36 ever seen so I'm a little anxious to see what this  
37 winter actually shows when we get real snowfall.

38  
39 That's my report.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks  
42 Charlie Jagow. Charlie Wright.

43  
44 MR. WRIGHT: Could you hear me Sue.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep, go  
47 ahead.

48  
49 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Well, to start with  
50

0026

1 our fishing season, it was a disaster as we all know.  
2 I think we're at a point with the king salmon where the  
3 small females are having a hard time to keep the runs  
4 at a sustainable level so must keep and stay in  
5 conservation mode to help the fish grow in size and  
6 numbers. There are many obstacles in the way of the  
7 king salmon survival at this time, climate, predation,  
8 ocean conditions and a lot more. So we must be careful  
9 in the future to ensure the king salmon survival in our  
10 rivers in Alaska. I know that's very hard on the people  
11 who rely on the salmon for winter's food.

12  
13 he chums are also struggling. I would  
14 like to stress that the North Pacific Fisheries Council  
15 help with genetic sampling to help with the  
16 understanding of what's going on with the chum salmon  
17 that are bound for the western rivers of Alaska.

18  
19 This moose season this fall was hard on  
20 the people in my area, same as last fall, very few  
21 moose killed. I hunted from Rampart all the way to the  
22 Nowitna River, hunted along the way for many days, the  
23 moose numbers are low, no tracks where there are  
24 normally many. I have not seen the count report for  
25 last year but I'm very worried about the moose counts  
26 along the Yukon. Without salmon and moose the people  
27 along the rivers are struggling to eat well through the  
28 long winters. The people's subsistence needs have not  
29 been met for this year and for many years now. It's  
30 very hard. I don't know if the moose are not moving  
31 because it's warm. While in the Nowitna River we heard  
32 no cows bellowing. When we got close to moose they  
33 wouldn't come to call so the moose counts are important  
34 for us to have so we know if we need to adjust hunting  
35 timing or conserve areas with low numbers. And in the  
36 Nowitna there were very tracks where there normally is  
37 a lot of tracks, when they start moving they're just  
38 crisscrossed all over the river. I didn't see that  
39 this year so that gives me concern.

40  
41 The people in the villages are  
42 struggling. If they don't have income from a job, it  
43 makes it real hard for them. They can't just go to  
44 Costco or Fred Meyer or nowhere so I think we need to  
45 do better to serve them. They don't have the luxury of  
46 going to Costco like I said.

47  
48 I'm also seeing a little bit more  
49 rabbits this year in the area.

50

0027

1 I hear the caribou are on the road near  
2 Livengood and out towards the highway towards the  
3 Yukon River bridge. I just wanted to report that to the  
4 people up towards Circle, that they -- I don't know how  
5 many numbers -- how many there are, I just heard this  
6 story. I just wanted to say that they're a little  
7 further west than normal maybe.

8  
9 And I think that's about all I have  
10 today. Thank you.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank  
13 you, Charlie. Andy.

14  
15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, can you hear me  
16 Madame Chair.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can, go  
19 ahead.

20  
21 MR. BASSICH: Great. It's confusing  
22 sometimes when there's nothing to indicate you're  
23 muted. So, yeah, thank you, Don, for a good update for  
24 the Eagle region, I'd like to add a couple things.

25  
26 In our AC meetings a large topic of  
27 discussion was obviously king salmon and fall chum.  
28 Fall chum, as you all know is incredibly important to  
29 subsistence users in the Eagle area, we're a pretty big  
30 dog community, one of the bigger ones other than  
31 Tanana. So the loss of fall chum has been a huge  
32 economic impact to anybody trying to maintain a dog  
33 team. It's unbelievable how expensive it is to try and  
34 maintain a dog team out in the Bush with having to go  
35 buy food, cook food, transport food, so that's a huge  
36 impact economically against people around here.

37  
38 The king salmon, I think Charlie summed  
39 it up really well. It's having a tremendous impact on  
40 people but I'm encouraged to hear that maybe there'll  
41 be more discussion about conservation and turning  
42 towards alternative resources and trying to get king  
43 salmon to -- just give them a break, that's what they  
44 need, they need a break so that they can grow  
45 genetically, hopefully we can begin to focus on  
46 rebuilding the seven year old component, which is, I  
47 think, a key aspect of rebuilding the king salmon.

48  
49 My local observations. Still a lot of  
50

0028

1 beavers out in this country. And I'm noticing a lot of  
2 black bears, a lot more than I've seen in the past.  
3 And on trips down into the Preserve this year I saw  
4 nothing but grizzly bear tracks, almost no black bear  
5 tracks down there on the shorelines but a tremendous  
6 amount of grizzly bear activity all around this area on  
7 the Yukon corridor which I've never seen to that  
8 extent.

9

10 So also been witnessing a lot of cow  
11 moose, a lot with twins, however, this fall most of the  
12 twins are down to one, and I'm not sure if that's from  
13 black bears or grizzlies or the wolves. Wolf activity  
14 in this area around me anyway is still relatively high,  
15 higher than I've seen for many years.

16

17 And I guess the only other thing I'd  
18 like to speak to is caribou, all subsistence research  
19 shows that Eagle residents rely on king salmon, fall  
20 chum and caribou, and with the lack of king salmon and  
21 fall chum in the diet here, caribou becomes incredibly  
22 important and I do have some concerns about the way  
23 ADF&G is trying to reduce the herd. I'm very concerned  
24 that we're going to have some long-term impacts on  
25 that. I understand their reasoning but I think we need  
26 to be a little bit more careful about thinning the herd  
27 down. The caribou were just starting to move over the  
28 last two or three years, just beginning to winter a lot  
29 more in this area and then moving over into their  
30 ancient ranges over in the Ogilves and over across the  
31 border into Canada, I saw that as a good sign for  
32 expansion of the herd and I'm concerned that if we  
33 reduce the numbers too low that we'll lose that  
34 expansion of the herd. So just a concern that I have  
35 there.

36

37 I think that's about all I have.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 And, Madame Chair, if we could, when  
42 the new members get on, if they could describe who they  
43 are, where they're from, there's some new members on  
44 the Council that I'm not familiar with and I'd like to  
45 learn a little bit more about who they are and where  
46 they're representing or what communities they live in.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you,  
49 Council members.

50

0029

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank  
2 you, Andy. And next is the new members and I'm going  
3 to call on Nicolas Henry. Nicolas if you could tell us  
4 where you're from, a little bit about yourself and a  
5 little bit about your area that would be great.

6  
7 MR. HENRY: Good morning, this is  
8 Nicolas from Chalkyitsik. I'm kind of new to the Board  
9 and I'm kind of just taking notes from everybody's  
10 speeches and glad to be on the Board.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, welcome.  
13 Did you have anything else you wanted to add Nicolas.

14  
15 MR. HENRY: Not at this time.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And  
18 next is Linda.

19  
20 MS. EVANS: Yes, this is Linda Evans.  
21 I'm originally from Tanana, I was raised in Manley Hot  
22 Springs and moved to Rampart in the '70s. Lived most  
23 of my life by subsistence, fishing and wildlife. Grew  
24 up kind of old style with dog team going hunting and  
25 trapping with my father and mother and fishing every  
26 summer and fall at the mouth of Manley Hot Springs  
27 Slough on the Tanana River. In the '70s moved to  
28 Rampart and raised my family there. They're all grown  
29 now so mostly go back to Rampart in the spring and  
30 summer months but live between my families, I guess.  
31 My one son lives out in Albuquerque so we go out there  
32 and visit and then my other daughter lives here in  
33 North Pole. So until I get a new house in Rampart I  
34 guess I won't be in Rampart during the winter.

35  
36 I was on the Yukon River -- Yukon River  
37 Canada Advisory Board years ago, we were talking about  
38 the chinook salmon then and making sure we get enough  
39 escapement up to the Canadian border.

40  
41 I'm pretty sad about the lack of  
42 subsistence resources we have in our area and it's been  
43 like that for awhile, I mean even moose, fish, rabbits.  
44 Like Charlie said, I see rabbits coming back. I haven't  
45 seen any grouse or anything like that.

46  
47 But I'm very happy to be on the Board  
48 and thank you for your support.

49  
50

0030

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
5 Linda. And welcome Linda and Nicolas. I hope the Good  
6 Lord that we get to meet in person at our next  
7 scheduled meeting. It would be great to meet both of  
8 you. Okay, and now it's the Chair's report.

8

9 I, as most of you know sheep hunting is  
10 in my blood, it's something that's part of me and it's  
11 just awesome that I get to go every year at my age and  
12 I will continue to go every year that my body allows  
13 me. I got to go this year again in the Wrangells and  
14 we noticed that there's just more and more and more  
15 bears. We have to use surface transportation so we were  
16 using a raft and when we got to the raft the bears had  
17 bit holes in it, multiple holes, luckily we had a patch  
18 kit so we could limp ourselves out.

19

20 And I went out caribou hunting with my  
21 husband on the Fortymile and I got a caribou and it was  
22 very, very fat. And so I kind of ditto a little bit of  
23 the concerns that Andy expressed about -- it's hard for  
24 me to see a feast and famine type of biology where  
25 you're really protecting and then you go and start over  
26 -- major harvest differences, this is hard for me to  
27 understand and it might have ramifications in the  
28 future. And then while we were hunting the caribou up  
29 north we learned about some new -- a bunch more  
30 airplanes and air taxi -- I don't know if it's air taxi  
31 or guides or what, just really harassing some of the  
32 other hunters from the air taxi -- the local air taxi.  
33 So there seems to be some problems brewing in that  
34 department.

35

36 And another thing is the sheep in the  
37 Alaska Range. It seems like they've taken a dive in  
38 the last couple years, something that I think we need  
39 to get more of a handle on, and I don't believe it's  
40 all weather, and it's certainly not hunting, because  
41 the Tok Management Area is limited on permits. They're  
42 going from -- I think it was 120 down to 10 for next  
43 season, that's a concern.

44

45 And then I just want to go through a  
46 few things. As you know I'm on the Subsistence  
47 Resource Commission for the Wrangell Park, and I just  
48 feel there's so many things that are falling through  
49 the cracks. I was called on a Friday to do -- and the

50

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1 RAC -- was to send an email about an educational  
2 cultural permit for the Gateway School District, and  
3 that Friday I was asked to get online as the Chair for  
4 the RAC for this permit and I had zero information.  
5 And I found out later that the Native Community --  
6 Ahtna was provided the information and they had not any  
7 information. I find it very disturbing. Once I did get  
8 the information -- because I was supposed to be -- I  
9 was notified Friday to be on the meeting on Monday, and  
10 to me that's not acceptable to be up to speed to be  
11 able to speak to something. So I did some phone  
12 calling around and found out -- because the Gateway  
13 School District's in my hometown, 34 miles up north of  
14 me, Tok, and I found out that the difference in this --  
15 they had a five year grant that they had been working  
16 on and they had put the fishwheel in and was supposed  
17 to be in Slana the year before and they were just  
18 asking for the cultural permit so it would be under --  
19 not under a person's name, which it was the first year,  
20 and go under the Gateway School District Culture and  
21 Education Program. It's a very good program. They  
22 were doing really great things with the school and the  
23 kids. And then there was -- a red flag went up and  
24 they had to pull the permit because they wouldn't have  
25 time to deal with all of the things that was going on.  
26 So that, to me, was something that never should have  
27 happened. And the only change was it was in a person's  
28 name and then it was going into a request for a permit.

29  
30 And then the hunter education thing,  
31 there's just a lot of stuff that I feel has fallen  
32 through the cracks for me, as the Chair. I was invited  
33 by Staff of the Refuge to -- they'd take me up to  
34 Arctic Village and start meeting with people and talk  
35 about different things, just all in a working group and  
36 maybe it's Covid, maybe we have excuses, but it just  
37 seems like so much good that could happen falls through  
38 the cracks.

39  
40 And then on these proposal books for  
41 this meeting. I get a call from Vince, who is now our  
42 Acting Coordinator, about getting the agenda put  
43 together, and I had not gotten the book, the proposal  
44 book so I had no idea what was in it and it was after  
45 the deadline of comments. So I wasn't able to let  
46 people know. It just becomes very frustrating that  
47 these kinds of things fall through the cracks. And  
48 even our meeting books were late getting to us and I'm  
49 not going to dwell on that one, there was a printing  
50

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1 problem.

2

3 And then this Southcentral and Eastern  
4 Interior Joint Meeting we were to have this meeting, I  
5 feel like I was the last one to learn about it, I found  
6 out about it by a person I know on the Southcentral RAC  
7 that it wasn't going to occur.

8

9 So it's really frustrating for me and  
10 I'm just wanting to share these kinds of things that I  
11 have to go through.

12

13 And then another thing came up, there's  
14 some very sensitive proposals that have been put in and  
15 since I wasn't able to alert my -- anyone I knew that  
16 would be interested in some of these proposals, the  
17 public lost the 19th deadline for getting their  
18 comments in and now they're being told that they have  
19 to do it -- call into these meetings, or send an email  
20 to the address that they have to do it after the  
21 meeting starts, it just gets too complicated and it  
22 should not be that. This should be opened to the  
23 public. I'm very concerned about these kinds of  
24 things. I think it's time for streamlining government,  
25 me, personally, after all that I've dealt with here on  
26 all of this.

27

28 I do want to bring up that I was  
29 talking to Andrew before the last meeting and he is  
30 very explicit about reports being, you know, brief and  
31 not taking up a lot of our time for the RAC meeting  
32 because it's our meeting and I'm going to reiterate  
33 that that's something Andrew was adamant about, and the  
34 other one was in-person meetings. We should be in  
35 person meeting. I'm just going to reiterate it because  
36 I feel he would want me to do that.

37

38 That's all I have for my report.

39

40 And now I'm a little bit embarrassed  
41 that the next thing is a service award.

42

43 Katya.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Sue.  
46 Just one second, let me adjust my microphone here so  
47 you can hear me okay. All right, thank you.

48

49 Chair Entsminger, it's a great pleasure

50



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1 for me to present you with a 20 year service award  
2 today. Today we recognize you for your 20 years of  
3 service and I would like everyone to know that Chair  
4 Sue Entsminger of Mentasta Pass has served on the  
5 Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council since  
6 2001 as a commercial sports user group representative.  
7 However, over the years she has been a strong voice for  
8 all people in her region. And she invested in  
9 supporting of subsistence way of life of rural  
10 residents in the Eastern Interior of Alaska. As the  
11 long-term Chair, Mrs. Entsminger has provided  
12 consistent and passionate leadership to the Council  
13 during complex discussions and challenging times.

14  
15 For 14 years Chair Entsminger has been  
16 a strong voice for the Council at the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board meetings representing Council  
18 positions on various subsistence issues and presenting  
19 Council recommendations.

20  
21 Chair Entsminger has been an Alaska  
22 resident since 1973 and has lived in Mentasta Pass  
23 situated in the Alaska Range since 1977.

24  
25 The Council benefits from her extensive  
26 on the ground knowledge of resource issues and uses in  
27 the Upper Tanana and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
28 and Preserve area. In addition, Chair Entsminger is  
29 actively involved with other advisory groups including  
30 serving as Vice Chair of the Wrangell-St. Elias  
31 Subsistence Resource Commission and as a past member of  
32 the Alaska Board of Game and the Tok Cut-Off Nabesna  
33 Road Fish and Game Advisory Committee. She also  
34 participates in the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and  
35 Game Advisory Committee meetings. Chair Entsminger  
36 knows the importance of working with others and making  
37 sure everyone's voice is heard. She's an active public  
38 member of wildlife planning efforts and initiatives  
39 involving local, State, Federal and other interests.  
40 Her involvement with these planning efforts is a  
41 manifestation of her care for important subsistence  
42 resources. She reminds all that everyone plays an  
43 important part in the stewardship of lands and waters  
44 that provides for subsistence needs and other uses.

45  
46 Chair Entsminger is also actively  
47 involved and extremely passionate about the outdoor and  
48 Alaska wilderness, education of youth in her area.  
49 She's an outstanding ambassador of young women,  
50

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1 particularly Alaska Native women, educating them on  
2 ethical hunting and wildlife conservation.

3  
4 The Federal Subsistence Management  
5 Program and the Eastern Interior Alaska Regional  
6 Advisory Council thanks Chair Entsminger for her  
7 dedicated 20 years of service and look forward to her  
8 continued and valuable service on the Council.

9  
10 And I personally would like to thank  
11 Chair Entsminger for her service for 20 years of  
12 service on the Eastern Interior Council. I worked with  
13 Chair Entsminger for five years when I was a Council  
14 Coordinator for the Eastern Interior, those were great  
15 years as she taught me a lot and, you know, thank you  
16 very much, I really enjoy working with you Sue, and I  
17 will enjoy continuing working with you.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 And at this point I would like to ask  
22 if anybody else would like to talk about Sue and  
23 working with her on the Eastern Interior Council.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, this is Charlie  
28 Wright, can you hear me?

29  
30 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we can hear you  
31 Charlie.

32  
33 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to thank the  
34 Chair also for her continued leadership. She has a  
35 stern type of leadership and it's really needed in a  
36 lot of venues. I just appreciate your leadership and  
37 I've learned a lot from you. I look forward to many  
38 more years of service with you, if allowed. Thank you  
39 for all you do.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

42  
43 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

44  
45 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz, I'd  
46 like to make a comment on Susan also. Sue is the  
47 backbone of the Eastern Interior, and I'll tell you  
48 that. I just think her dedication is what binds all of  
49 together, the dedication of people like her. It's been  
50

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1 wonderful working with her and she's a go-getter,  
2 that's all I can say. I appreciate Sue being on the  
3 Board, and I appreciate being on the Board with you and  
4 thanks for your guidance a lot of times.

5  
6 That's all.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

9  
10 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Bill.

11  
12 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy.

13  
14 MS. WESSELS: And Andy, go ahead.

15  
16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Hey,  
17 Sue, I can remember the first time I met you at an  
18 Eastern RAC meeting held in Beaver. Small little  
19 community. And that was the first time I had ever met  
20 you. And since that point in time I'd like to say I've  
21 always recognized your strong leadership. I think you  
22 do a great job of Chairing meetings. I've always been  
23 awed at your ability to recognize people and remember  
24 their names, a shortcoming of mine, but I've always  
25 been awed by how many people you know around the state  
26 and how much interaction you've had with them, both  
27 through your time on the Board of Game, Eastern RAC and  
28 also the SRC. So it's not just the Eastern RAC, you're  
29 one of these people in this part of the Alaska region  
30 that's well known, well respected and extremely  
31 knowledgeable.

32  
33 So thank you for your service. I look  
34 forward to having you as the Chair for many years. I  
35 know it's a tough job being the Chair, it's a lot of  
36 work behind the scenes and a lot of people don't  
37 realize how much time goes into that to do a good job  
38 but you're very dedicated to that and it shows in our  
39 meetings.

40  
41 Thank you, Sue.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. I have  
46 worked with Sue since 1995, before that I worked with  
47 her husband, Frank, and it's always been a pleasure and  
48 a challenge working with her. She taught me well, the  
49 KISS motive, motivation, whatever you want to call it.

50

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1 And I also want her to share with Frank, that I really  
2 appreciate how much time we take away from Frank, all  
3 that you do. It's tremendous. And anyways I just want  
4 to thank you for the 15 years, and then this little  
5 brief time of being back with you, so thank you.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I  
8 wish you were all in the same room with me right now  
9 and watched my face as you all spoke. I mean every one  
10 of you guys I feel exactly the same as what you're  
11 saying to me, you all bring so much and I deeply  
12 appreciate everybody on this RAC and all the input you  
13 all give, I mean it's awesome. I'm humbled by your  
14 words, thank you so much.

15  
16 So if there is nothing else we'll move  
17 on, and thanks again, I got to go thanks, thanks,  
18 thanks, right now I'd be hand butting you or something  
19 because it means a lot to me, thanks so much.

20  
21 Okay, so moving on. The public and  
22 tribal comments on non-agenda items. We must do this  
23 every morning, so I have to ask, is there any public or  
24 tribal comments on non-agenda items.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, this may be  
27 an appropriate time that I have to do some housekeeping  
28 if that's okay.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What'd we do,  
31 miss that?

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: No, no -- well, we did,  
34 but we had all the phones going all over in different  
35 directions.

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

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: But basically I just need  
41 to repeat.....

42  
43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted - on hold)

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-oh, did we lose  
47 somebody -- well, we might have. Okay, anyways, to  
48 mute, it's star, six. We discovered at another  
49 Regional Council that people need to realize that the  
50

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1 star is in the lower left-hand corner, you press that  
2 and then you press the number 6 to be muted and then if  
3 you want to unmute, press, star, six. Gerald mentioned  
4 about if you have a mute button on your phone to use  
5 that. Also everyone needs not to put their phone on  
6 hold, we don't need the local radio station listening  
7 to their music.

8  
9 And then it's already been mentioned  
10 but I need to read it into the record about written  
11 public comments.

12  
13 So the Council meetings provide an  
14 opportunity for the public and tribes to provide oral  
15 and written testimony and comments. There are several  
16 opportunities for these throughout the meeting.

17  
18 So, one, you just did. So, A, at the  
19 beginning of each meeting there'll be an opportunity to  
20 provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Chair will  
21 announce these opportunities, and Sue has done that at  
22 every meeting.

23  
24 The next is there's an opportunity to  
25 provide oral comments on wildlife proposals and closure  
26 reviews during or after an analyst presents proposal  
27 analysis. The order of receiving the comments is  
28 outlined in your book and the Chair will call for this  
29 public oral testimony.

30  
31 For the new members, it's in there, I  
32 can't 'remember the page, but when we get to proposals  
33 we'll point it out. The Chair and others will walk  
34 through each of those steps so it's the best record.

35  
36 Okay, the next opportunity, there's  
37 also an opportunity to submit written public comments  
38 on proposals. If you have a written comment please  
39 email it to subsistence@fws.gov, Please clearly  
40 indicate the number of the proposal or closure review  
41 you are commenting on in the title of the email.  
42 Comments need to be emailed prior to the proposal you  
43 are commenting on is presented to the Council. If you  
44 emailed your written comments to your Council  
45 Coordinator prior to the meeting please resubmit to  
46 subsistence@fws.gov now. If there's less than 10  
47 written comments we will read them into the record, if  
48 more than 10 written comments are received they will be  
49 tallied and the result will be presented to the Council  
50

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1 prior to deliberation.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair, that's the  
4 housekeeping items that I need to cover each morning.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
9 welcome Vince. Any questions.

10

11 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14

15 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell and  
16 I was calling in for public comments on non-agenda  
17 items and it sounds like I might have just missed it.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on it  
20 right now, Karen, go ahead.

21

22 MS. LINNELL: Okay. First off, I want  
23 to thank him for his clarifications on the process. I  
24 do have some concerns regarding some of our more remote  
25 villages and the ability to email as agenda items are  
26 coming up. While we like to think that technology is  
27 up and running in all our communities, equitably, at  
28 the same speeds that we have in some of the cities it's  
29 not so in some of our other communities. So I'd like  
30 that consideration as far as requests to comment and  
31 that type of thing.

32

33 The other is I would like to thank the  
34 Eastern Interior RAC for their support and their  
35 inclusion of the Copper River salmon and the concerns  
36 around the population and the stability of the chinook  
37 and sockeye on the Copper River in your letter from  
38 your last meeting, I appreciate that very much. This  
39 year was sketchy and, you know, barely met its  
40 objectives and now the Department is looking to reduce  
41 their management objective for chinook from 24,000 to a  
42 minimum of 21,000 when fisheries were restricted, both  
43 subsistence and personal use and commercial fisheries  
44 were restricted, some this year and I think it was  
45 reported yesterday at the Southcentral RAC that there  
46 was only a 36 hour opener in that early part of the  
47 season for commercial fishermen in Cordova.

48

49 And then I would ask that you recommend

50

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1 to the Federal Subsistence Board that a working group  
2 be formed to address the opening of a new fishery, the  
3 one that you were supposed to have "reach a compromise"  
4 on. I think that that's the way it should have been  
5 handled, that a working group be formed and address  
6 this rather than putting this on the Eastern Interior  
7 and Southcentral RACs as they both have jurisdiction  
8 over fisheries on the Copper River.

9  
10 And I don't see that we're on the  
11 agenda but we do have comments regarding Wildlife  
12 Proposals 22-36, 22-01 and 22-02. So if you could make  
13 note of that now, I'm letting you know that we will  
14 have something to say then. And that we're not -- and  
15 since we're not on the agenda, you know, we have some  
16 updates as well as far as projects are going and what's  
17 happening with our community harvest hunt and that type  
18 of thing. So if you could make time for us I wouldn't  
19 mind reporting that to you all.

20  
21 Again, thank you so much for your time,  
22 appreciate it.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank  
25 you, Karen. I appreciate it. At the SRC meeting I  
26 think I brought up your idea that you just brought out  
27 about a working group and I just want to reiterate to  
28 the group here that it occurred to me at the SRC  
29 meeting when our coordinator, Barbara Cellarius, wrote  
30 -- she said well, let's go through this and see if we  
31 can come up with some type of thing to start with, and  
32 then that's when I realized, you know, it'd be a lot  
33 better if the user groups were getting together and a  
34 working group created and I appreciate your support on  
35 that Karen, very much. Council members, would you have  
36 any questions of Karen.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, to  
41 address your report on the community hunt, since we  
42 have several proposals coming up before that I might  
43 ask the Council members if you would like to hear that  
44 report prior to us taking up the proposals or have her  
45 take it up under public testimony. Could I get some  
46 input on that.

47  
48 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright.

49  
50

0040

1 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
4 ahead, Charlie.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair. I think it  
7 would mean more to hear it before.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And  
10 was that you Linda.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I heard a female voice,  
15 did you have input Linda.

16

17 MS. EVANS: No, I didn't.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

20

21 MS. EVANS: I agree with Charlie,  
22 though, maybe we could hear the report.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
25 If there's no objection to that we'll hear the report  
26 prior to those community harvest proposals.

27

28 MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you, Madame  
29 Chair. And I'm bouncing back and forth between here  
30 and the Southcentral RAC today so if you could text me,  
31 I will be happy to jump in.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I will  
34 have Vince -- myself or Vince will do that for you.

35

36 MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you so much.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is  
39 Don.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, go  
42 ahead.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I'd like to  
45 respond to Karen's comment. I think that that's a good  
46 idea. The Federal Subsistence Board will fund a  
47 subcommittee, not a working group, like we found out  
48 when we tried to work with the Arctic Village Sheep  
49 Management Program. And I think that there is some

50



0041

1 room for compromise it's just a matter of finding out  
2 what will work for the lower Copper River. I think  
3 that ultimately we're going to have to start talking  
4 about fisheries allocation, which I know it's a bad  
5 word, but I think in the proposal I think they said  
6 they were going to use -- or harvest 2,000 fish, maybe  
7 I'm wrong on that but I think that was in the original  
8 proposal.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Don, we  
13 won't get into the details of it this.....

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll just  
18 talk about that when this comes up because I think at  
19 the end of our -- in our agenda, we need to discuss  
20 this because.....

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
23 Katya Wessels.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh, yes,  
26 Katya.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I just want to  
29 comment that I strongly advise against forming a  
30 subcommittee for this issue because subcommittee will  
31 need to get approval -- this is a very complicated  
32 process and the Board specifically said that they want  
33 the two Councils to get together and find a compromise  
34 and the Board is going to address this issue at the  
35 April 2022 meeting. I feel like there is no time to  
36 ask Board to approve a subcommittee. And a  
37 subcommittee, you know, it's like having another  
38 Council, that will require quite a bit of additional  
39 work. We currently don't have a permanent Council  
40 Coordinator for Eastern Interior so it will be really  
41 complicated. So if two Councils form a working group,  
42 that will need to be only Council member  
43 representatives on that working group but they can  
44 invite subject matter specialists to talk to them, they  
45 can, you know, listen to the people from the  
46 communities and you definitely are going to have the  
47 joint meeting with Southcentral next spring, you  
48 definitely can invite to testify at this meeting from  
49 the communities. But, you know, I will advise you to  
50

0042

1 form -- if it is decided by Southcentral and Eastern  
2 Interior to form a working group, I will advise you to  
3 form a working group, not a subcommittee.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, who's  
10 that.

11  
12 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell  
13 again.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
16 Karen.

17  
18 MS. LINNELL: I'm really disappointed  
19 in the support that we're getting from OSM in making  
20 this such a bureaucratic mess that work can't get done.  
21 And so while their folks -- sticking to the rules, or  
22 whatever you're going to call this working group, or  
23 subcommittee or something, it's not getting the user  
24 groups together to agree on something and we've had  
25 townhall meetings and things like this at the Board of  
26 Game where we addressed issues such as sheep, et  
27 cetera, and were able to find a place for common ground  
28 and consensus and allow for a better process when  
29 things got brought forward to the Board of Game on  
30 agenda. Again, this type of consensus building and/or  
31 finding ground is a good tool in moving things forward.

32  
33 Again, I am disappointed in OSM, rather  
34 than looking at how can this be done, they're always  
35 telling us how it can't be done, and it's frustrating.  
36 As a lay person here and, you know, as an advocate for  
37 protecting the resources it's so frustrating that this  
38 is -- you know, the process that we have to navigate to  
39 protect the subsistence resources for rural and  
40 Federally-qualified rural users.

41  
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay,  
45 Vince mentioned what I like to do is the KISS, keep it  
46 simple silly, there was another word instead of silly  
47 but I won't use it. We have on our agenda about the  
48 joint teleconference.

49  
50

0043

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted - Western Interior/Southcentral  
3 meeting being broadcasted)

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think  
6 this probably comes under something that the Council  
7 needs to discuss with Staff. And I don't like  
8 roadblocks either, Karen, I understand you. Right now  
9 I think what she defined is the most fast to do it, a  
10 working group, and that is something I want to discuss  
11 and I feel like the only place that we can discuss that  
12 is on the agenda right now at the end of the meeting  
13 under future meetings.

14  
15 So Council members unless I'm driving  
16 you in the wrong direction, would you help me out here,  
17 I think that's the place to take this up.

18  
19 (Teleconference interference -  
20 participants not muted)

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I  
23 appreciate the comment from Karen. You know right now  
24 we're under public tribal comment and non-agenda items  
25 -- actually this joint meeting is probably an agenda  
26 item now so we should take it up.....

27  
28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. We  
32 need to make sure we're on mute, someone said my sewing  
33 bag. Whoever said my sewing bag they need to -- put  
34 your phone on mute please.

35  
36 Now, did I hear a voice that wanted to  
37 say something, Council members.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is  
42 Council members right now.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
47 moving on, if there's no more public or tribal non-  
48 agenda items then we'll move on to old.....

49  
50

0044

1 MR. IRVINE: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was that?

4

5 MR. IRVINE: Madame Chair. Sue. This  
6 is Bruce.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Bruce  
9 -- we got two Bruce's don't we.

10

11 MR. IRVINE: Bruce Irvine.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair  
16 Sue and the Eastern Interior RAC Council Members Linda,  
17 Nicolas, William, Andy, Charlie, Charles, Don, Timothy  
18 and the late Andrew for this opportunity to provide my  
19 public and tribal comment.

20

21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted - on hold)

23

24 MR. IRVINE: My name is Bruce Irvine,  
25 Upper Tanana Dene' living in Tok.

26

27 Sorry, go ahead.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, you go  
30 ahead, there's some kind of interference going on but  
31 go ahead.

32

33 MR. IRVINE: Okay. I work for the  
34 Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Resources Stewardship  
35 Program, which includes the Hunting/Fishing Task Force  
36 and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission.

37

38 I'd like to start off by mentioning the  
39 poor Kuskokwim and Yukon chinook and chum runs and the  
40 harvest needs not being met. We need more information  
41 on the salmon bycatch issue in the Area M and Bering  
42 Sea fisheries. We have been working diligently with  
43 the State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board  
44 Office of Subsistence Management, which is much  
45 appreciated, but we need more help with this situation.

46

47 We listened to the Yukon River  
48 Drainage Fisheries Association meetings this summer.  
49 It was so hard and unbelievable how much our Alaskans

50

0045

1 sacrificed this year with zero chance of salmon, food  
2 security.

3  
4 If our Alaskans along the Yukon and  
5 Kuskokwim Rivers have to live with zero then it is only  
6 right that bycatch live with zero. I can't imagine  
7 being the person to tell our elders that they cannot  
8 practice their ways of life and pass on their knowledge  
9 because they are not allowed to harvest salmon.

10  
11 It is also heartbreaking to acknowledge  
12 the single mothers who had to tell their children that  
13 they will not be harvesting salmon this year because  
14 they are protecting the salmon for future generations.

15  
16 Thousands of freezers along the Yukon  
17 and Kuskokwim Rivers are missing a major sustainable  
18 and natural resource.

19  
20 Not only are the salmon runs poor this  
21 year but the moose hunting season harvest is poor as  
22 well. After hearing from a lot of rural tribal members  
23 that they didn't harvest a moose, it is apparent that  
24 there is something out of balance. We have talked to  
25 tribal from Upper Tanana at their culture camp this  
26 summer and they mentioned that last year hardly anyone  
27 harvested a moose. They also mentioned that the moose  
28 season is changing. With climate change the remaining  
29 moose are starting to move later in the season. We  
30 would like to start planning for next year and propose  
31 some type of change and action and maybe we can create  
32 a sustainable State and Federal extended moose season  
33 to help those tribal members who live along the  
34 Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers.

35  
36 Council members and Chair, we need  
37 action now because if the salmon season next year is  
38 like the poor season this year we need alternate ways  
39 for food security and the ability to practice and  
40 protect our ways of life.

41  
42 Thank you, again, for giving me this  
43 chance to share.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're so  
46 welcome Bruce. Any questions.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50

0046

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
2 members.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Bruce,  
7 I'm not.....

8  
9 MR. STEVENS: Madame Chair.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
12 ahead, who is this.

13  
14 MR. STEVENS: This is Ben Stevens here.  
15 I would like to make a brief comment to the Council.  
16 As many of you know I am from the Yukon River between  
17 Stevens Village and Beaver is our family fish camp and  
18 that's kind of what I do in the summertime.

19  
20 As you know there was no fish this  
21 year, or no harvesting this year and I just want the  
22 Council to know that right now a handful of families  
23 that normally harvest from our little eddy there don't  
24 have anything. Many of those folks didn't get moose  
25 this year. And so this is an extraordinary time for  
26 the people that I know on the Yukon, and I can imagine  
27 it is the same all the way up and down the river, not  
28 forgetting the other major rivers in the state. You  
29 know, the Kusko down there is having a hell of a time,  
30 and, of course, further north.

31  
32 So, you know, I just wanted to let the  
33 Council members know, kind of like what Karen was  
34 referencing earlier a lot of our needs, a lot of what  
35 makes sense to us, it's hard to get a grip on that  
36 stuff because we're confined by bureaucracy, we're  
37 confined by the regulations, we're confined by  
38 statutes. Some of us on this call have spent a little  
39 bit of last week and a little bit of this week on the  
40 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting.  
41 There our needs are illuminated. They see the dire  
42 situation that we're in. They may not necessarily know  
43 it and understand it but they see it. And it just  
44 seemed like every time we would raise a need or an  
45 issue or a possible alternative they were that quick of  
46 why we can't do it. Well, we can't do this because of  
47 this regulation, we can't do this because of that  
48 regulation and all the while our people are still  
49 hungry and there are no solutions on the horizon.  
50

0047

1                   And so I really wish I had some answers  
2 and some solutions to provide you to help us but, you  
3 know, it's just a quagmire and I want you to know that,  
4 we, as fishermen and women out on the river, we stand  
5 ready to think of creative solutions and help you  
6 design and implement those. I think a lot of the  
7 programs that are coming out these days have the  
8 greatest intention but what you need is a little bit of  
9 local involvement there, with planning and design.  
10 These are great ideas but without a little bit of local  
11 knowledge sometimes it can struggle so when we  
12 prioritize our research and monitoring projects,  
13 getting tribal organizations, tribal councils, fisher  
14 people from the river I think is a great idea.

15

16                   So I want to thank you for all your  
17 efforts, the new members thank you very much for  
18 stepping up, we definitely need more indigenous voices  
19 in resource management. And I thank you for struggling  
20 through this technological challenge of  
21 teleconferencing and Zoom and all that other stuff. I  
22 understand, clearly I understand how messed up  
23 communication is when you get further from the city.  
24 Being from Stevens Village there were a lot of times  
25 where even the phone did not work and so tuning into a  
26 meeting to talk about the food that you rely on has got  
27 to be stressful.

28

29                   So I want to thank you all and I wish  
30 you the best. Hopefully we can step out of this  
31 creative void that we seem to be circling in and find  
32 some creative solutions that we can at least try, even  
33 if they don't sound like they're going to work.

34

35                   So with that, Madame Chair, I do  
36 appreciate the moment that you've given me. Thank you  
37 very kindly.

38

39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're very  
40 welcome, Ben. I do need to ask Council members, are  
41 there any questions of the two presenters here.

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
46 Hearing none, is there any other public or tribal non-  
47 agenda items.

48

49                   MR. WRIGHT: Well, Madame Chair, this

50

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1 is Charlie.....

2

3 MR. THOMAS: Madame Chair, this is  
4 Bruce.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: .....Wright.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Charlie  
9 Wright go ahead and then Bruce, you're next.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: I'd just like to thank Ben  
12 and Bruce for their comments. It's real important to  
13 hear from the tribal people. I wish we could hear more.  
14 most of the time we don't hear anybody at this time and  
15 it's good to hear people and their concerns. Thank you  
16 for your time today. That's all, Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

19

20 MR. THOMAS: Madame Chair, this is  
21 Bruce Thomas with CATG in the Yukon Flats, can you hear  
22 me?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
25 ahead. I can go ahead.

26

27 MR. THOMAS: Well, I'm the Natural  
28 Resource Director for the consortium here of the Yukon  
29 Flats. And the Yukon Flats residents are very  
30 concerned, like everybody is about the low salmon runs.  
31 That's our main subsistence fish that we eat and all  
32 our freezers are empty.

33

34 On another note, our moose population  
35 is very low. Hardly anybody harvested a moose here and  
36 I'm very concerned because there's a guide working out  
37 of our airport down here and they were -- actually they  
38 were chartering caravan loads of moose meat out of the  
39 Flats here to Fairbanks, and I've seen it myself, there  
40 was like three -- every day there was like three or  
41 four big bull moose and I never seen no law enforcement  
42 there checking these people. I'm not saying they're  
43 doing anything wrong but it just didn't look good that,  
44 you know, while the residents are not getting no moose,  
45 these non-residents were carrying plane loads of moose  
46 out of here. I just wanted the Council to be aware of  
47 that.

48

49 And also we have a very high wolf

50



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1 population on the Yukon Flats. They're decimating the  
2 moose in the winter, killing them off, and I just  
3 wanted to share that with you, the Council.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
8 very much, Bruce. Yeah, I personally wouldn't mind  
9 talking to you later about what you're seeing there.  
10 There's a lot of -- the -- just for all the presenters  
11 there, the Native communities, we, the Eastern  
12 Interior, we're working on solutions by some hunter  
13 education and ethics and it hasn't -- well, it's been  
14 delayed but I think that's an area where we can do a  
15 lot of work, to work on some of these issues,  
16 especially what you brought up, Bruce Thomas, about the  
17 moose. And I'll ask Council members if there's  
18 anything else they want to say.

19

20 MS. MCDONALD: Madame Chair, this is  
21 Patricia McDonald with the Healy Lake Village Council.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
24 ahead, who is that again, you're hard to hear.

25

26 MS. MCDONALD: This is Patricia  
27 McDonald with the Healy Lake Village Council.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

30

31 MS. MCDONALD: I am just wondering and  
32 perhaps this has already the case, but what about  
33 tribes coming together and lobbying for our rights for  
34 fishing. Because, you know, the commercial fishermen  
35 seem to have all of the rights, what do we have to do  
36 to come together to lobby, to go to Juneau, to go to  
37 the government and say this isn't working?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Patricia,  
40 this is Sue. I don't think I can answer that question  
41 for you and I don't know if Staff can either.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

44

45 MS. MCDONALD: I guess what I'm  
46 wondering is there's got to be a forum to discuss it  
47 and maybe nobody has an answer for it, but this does  
48 seem like the perfect forum to talk about it. We need  
49 to not just talk about the low number of salmon but we

50

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1 also need to talk about the fact that commercial  
2 fishermen are still filling their nets and filling  
3 their wallets and their bank accounts while Alaska  
4 Native indigenous people to this land are having zero  
5 access to fish.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There was  
8 another voice when Patricia started again.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy. Can you hear  
11 me?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go  
14 ahead.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd just like to  
17 address that. You know, I'm not sure if she's  
18 referring to the marine environment but there has been  
19 no commercial fishing on the Yukon River for fall chum  
20 or -- there hasn't been any for chinook salmon for -- a  
21 significant amount for quite a few years. So the issue  
22 is super low abundance, it's not about it being over  
23 fished by a commercial entity. And I know that there's  
24 work being done on bycatch but quite frankly I think a  
25 lot of this is climate change and my gut feeling's are  
26 hatchery production is contributing to this, I'm not  
27 saying it's the cause. But I think the difficult thing  
28 that all people have to realize is that there are a lot  
29 of changes taking place, there's no one thing that's  
30 going to fix it, but the ultimate thing for people on  
31 the Yukon River to understand is that you can't fish a  
32 resource when it's not there. It's just not possible  
33 to do that if you are concerned about the future of  
34 that resource and that doesn't matter whether it's  
35 moose or salmon or whatever.

36

37 So this is a time -- I think everybody  
38 recognizes that people in the Bush need these  
39 resources, but this isn't the first time in history  
40 that the resources have disappeared and subsistence  
41 activities had to shift to other things to feed people  
42 during those low times. And I think the positive thing  
43 to do is to begin to address what may be causing these  
44 things, many of them may be out of our control, so what  
45 are the best things we can do for the people to help  
46 them find other resources while the resources they're  
47 after is in low abundance. But in my mind it boils  
48 down to conservation and it boils down to everyone  
49 working together and doing what's right for that

50

0051

1 resource so that it's there long-term.

2

3

4 We have a very bad tendency in  
5 management, and I'm not criticizing managers, this is  
6 just the way we tend to think of things, on a yearly  
7 basis, and the analogy I would work at is is a stock  
8 market, if you're going to -- if you want something to  
9 last for a long time, well into the future, you can't  
10 take more than what you're putting back in and we have  
11 a tendency in management to manage on a yearly basis  
12 instead of a decadal or a life cycle basis and that's  
13 probably one of the contributors as well.

13

14

15 I just wanted to bring that up because  
16 I don't think there's any commercial fishing going on  
17 on the Yukon River that's having a dramatic effect on  
18 these salmon returns and I don't think that it's all  
19 bycatch either out in the Bering Sea. They've done a  
20 good job of reducing that. Certainly we need more work  
21 on that but we just need to work on conservation and  
22 other methods and educating people about those options.

22

23

24 Thank you. That was kind of long-  
25 winded, I apologize, but this is a really important  
26 topic to me that I've been working on for a lot of  
27 years and I think what's happening now is highlighting  
28 the need for us to work together instead of throwing  
29 stones at each other. We'll never fix the problem if  
30 we keep throwing stones and blaming other people.  
31 Anybody that takes a salmon from the Yukon River is  
32 contributing to what we're seeing right now so we got  
33 to come together and figure out ways to work  
34 positively, not through mud at each other.

34

35

36

37

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50

50

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. MCDONALD: Madame Chair, this is  
Patricia McDonald again from Healy Lake if I could.  
I'd like to follow-up on what was just addressed. As  
the daughter of Al Woods from Rampart who has fished  
the Yukon for many, many, many, many years as his  
parents did before him and then before him, I'd just  
like to say that I am aware that there is no commercial  
fishing on the Yukon. What I emphatically disagree  
with is the comment with regard to the bycatch. The  
bycatch, there is not enough being done, there is  
absolutely not enough being done. And, you know, as an  
80 year old man to go to fish camp and to not be able  
to catch not one salmon, it's life altering for a man

0052

1 who has fished those waters his entire life since he  
2 was knee high to a grasshopper. The bycatch fishing is  
3 a huge problem and it has not -- it has not been  
4 handled.

5  
6 As of August 21st there were 22,600  
7 reported trawl bycatch of king salmon in Alaska. That  
8 is not acceptable. And as the daughter of a man who  
9 has fished those waters for years and years and years  
10 on the Yukon River, I would like to see more done. The  
11 Bering Sea trawl fleet is over its allocation in three  
12 categories this year and they're still fishing,  
13 catching and dumping.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
18 you, Patricia. This is something that is coming up, a  
19 letter, Patricia, on our agenda to send a letter to the  
20 North Pacific Management Council so I don't know if you  
21 heard early on the meeting but it's been requested that  
22 we take this up because the Yukon Kuskokwim RAC is  
23 doing a joint letter and they're asking the other RACs  
24 on the Yukon to do the same so, yes, I do -- I think  
25 it's time we all work together. And I don't know if  
26 any -- if there was anything else that we could help  
27 you with but we will be taking this up and I will agree  
28 with Andy in working together is the ultimate for  
29 hopefully getting things done.

30  
31 20 years I've been on this Council and  
32 20 years the Yukon River has not rebounded and it's  
33 just mind boggling to me, I just can't understand it to  
34 tell you the truth.

35  
36 But thank you, all of you, on non-  
37 agenda items. I would like to ask if there's anyone  
38 else.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public and  
43 tribal comments on non-agenda items.

44  
45 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Madame  
46 Chair.....

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,  
49 then.....

50

0053

1 MR. SIMON: .....this is Jim Simon.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay,  
4 Jim, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Madame Chair and  
7 members of the Council. I just want to share some  
8 information that is still in development but we'll be  
9 able to present at future meetings from Tanana Chiefs  
10 Conference and the Yukon River InterTribal Fish  
11 Commission. So just because of the nature of the  
12 testimonies you've just heard wanted to just share some  
13 of the subsistence harvest information for the Eastern  
14 Interior portion.

15

16 So in like the average household  
17 harvest of chinook salmon in 1990 to 1994 was 16.3  
18 chinook salmon in the Eastern Interior region. And  
19 then by the 2010 to 2014 average, harvest was only 4.8  
20 chinook salmon per household. And since 2014, of  
21 course, it has only gotten much worse. So I think by  
22 able to look at some of these -- and this Eastern  
23 Interior information I'm sharing with you right now  
24 excludes the Fairbanks North Star Borough so it's  
25 really just focusing on the Federally-qualified  
26 communities along the Yukon River. And it really --  
27 the data really seemed to indicate that the Eastern  
28 Interior is really suffering more so than other  
29 portions of the river and I think that that's probably  
30 not news to any of you who are on the Council but I  
31 just wanted to provide the scale of the declines and  
32 how it is affecting Federally-qualified rural residents  
33 subsistence opportunities for chinook salmon.

34

35 And chum salmon data are also available  
36 and it is, you know, similar in recent years, declining  
37 and then the past two years have been so dramatic.

38

39 Thank you, very much.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
42 you.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
45 Katya.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Again.....

48

49 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry, can I find out

50

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1 who was just speaking and providing these numbers. I  
2 missed that, thank you.

3

4 MR. SIMON: Yes, Jim Simon. My name is  
5 Jim Simon, I'm a consultant with the Tanana Chiefs  
6 Conference.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Public  
9 and tribal comments on non-agenda items, are there any  
10 others.

11

12 MR. SHEWFELT: Yes, may I speak, my  
13 name is Paul Shewfelt, Fort Yukon.

14

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

17

18 MR. SHEWFELT: Yeah.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Non-agenda  
21 items.

22

23 MR. SHEWFELT: Non-agenda, yeah. I  
24 would just like to say that I missed the tribute to  
25 Andrew. Actually I'm sitting in his seat here at the  
26 City Manager's office, and I'm still playing catch up  
27 with the great work that he's done for the community  
28 here and also with the -- all the Boards and Committees  
29 that he has served on, I've had the opportunity to  
30 participate in trying to formulate the strategies to  
31 keep the subsistence ways alive. And I'm just glad  
32 that you guys are all there doing your job, hopefully  
33 we can find out what's going on in the oceans. Maybe  
34 the Bristol Bay fish are eating all the food up and the  
35 rest of the salmon are suffering, who knows.

36

37 But, anyways, thank you guys for all  
38 your service and all your work. I've got business to  
39 attend to, and, Victor, if you're listening give me a  
40 call.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. SHEWFELT: Okay, thank you very  
45 much.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Paul.  
48 Hey, thank you so much for that. I really -- we all,  
49 deeply appreciate that, and we wish you the best and I

50

0055

1 bet you can feel Andrew around you all the time.

2

3 MR. SHEWFELT: Yep, life goes on.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know.

6 Yeah, I know. Okay. Would there be any other public  
7 or tribal comment on non-agenda items.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, moving  
12 on. Old business. We have a report, Yukon River  
13 Subsistence Fisheries post-season, Page 14, Joint  
14 Federal/State manager's presentation.

15

16 I want to know if the Council is good  
17 to go until noon and take a break because if we take a  
18 break -- is that okay, if I hear no objection we'll  
19 move on.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Madame Chair, we  
22 need to confirm that Holly Carroll and the other Fish  
23 and Game management Staff are online. They're also  
24 working the Western Interior meeting so.....

25

26 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, we're on.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: .....we need to confirm  
29 that they're online -- okay, Gerald's on, is Fish and  
30 Game Staff on?

31

32 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, there's --  
33 they're going back and forth, too, but one of them's  
34 on.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
39 you guys for that.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you feel  
44 comfortable going forward.

45

46 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald, I'm  
47 comfortable.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, go

50

0056

1 ahead then.

2

3

4 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Madame  
5 Chair. Council. My name is Gerald Maschmann. I'm the  
6 Assistant Yukon River Federal Subsistence Fisheries  
7 Manager. As many of you know Holly Carroll has taken  
8 over Fred Bue's role of Federal Manager. She's  
9 listening in on Western Interior right now.  
10 Additionally we have a new member of the Federal Team,  
11 Keith Harren Ivy. Keith has family ties to the  
12 Kuskokwim River Bethel area. I believe he was an ANSEP  
13 student who then started working for Fish and Wildlife  
14 as a directorate fellowship in that program, and he's  
15 been hired -- officially been hired as one of the  
16 assistant managers. He is working on his Master's  
17 Degree so he's working for us part-time this winter and  
18 his Master's is focused on indigenouizing fisheries  
19 management and he'll be working with us full-time again  
20 next summer. So we're excited to have Keith on the  
21 team.

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I will be briefly summarizing the 2021  
Yukon River salmon season. A more detailed report  
through August 9th is in your book on Page 14. It's  
through August 9th because that was the deadline to get  
it in the book.

The fall season is essentially coming  
to an end but there's still some escapement assessment  
that is ongoing therefore you'll receive a final fall  
season summary at your winter meeting.

Like in past years, a colored pre-  
season salmon outlook was mailed to Yukon River fishing  
households prior to the season. The pre-season outlook  
was discussed at various meetings that included the  
Yukon River Panel, Yukon River InterTribal Fish  
Commission, the YRDFA Board meeting as well as the  
annual YRDFA pre-season fishermens meeting. As part of  
the Service's commitment to government to government  
consultation the Federal Manager, Holly Carroll,  
emailed Yukon River tribal governments to introduce  
herself, distribute the outlook flier and seek tribal  
consultation and feedback on the upcoming season.  
Additionally, Keith Ivy made follow-up calls to tribal  
governments to inform them how to find the latest  
fishing information, who to call if they have  
management questions, and to update our tribal  
governments contact list. Outreach continued into the



0057

1 season via the YRDFA teleconferences.

2

3

4 I don't have to tell everyone that it  
5 was a miserable season. The chinook salmon run was  
6 forecasted to be approximately 102,000 to 189,000 fish  
7 and summer chum salmon was for a run of approximately  
8 1.2 million fish. Based on the poor chinook salmon  
9 outlook, and the pre-season management strategy,  
10 subsistence salmon fishing was closed in the lower  
11 Yukon just as early chinook salmon arrived.  
12 Tributaries in the coastal district were also closed to  
13 salmon fishing. Overall Pilot Station sonar passage  
14 estimates indicated the drainage-wide chinook salmon  
15 run was near the lower end of the pre-season outlook  
16 and summer chum salmon abundance was unexpectedly very  
17 poor at all lower river assessment with none of the  
18 typically large pulses normally seen. It was clear  
19 early in the season that there was no harvestable  
20 surplus available for subsistence fishing for summer  
21 chum, nor chinook salmon, therefore, subsistence salmon  
22 fishing remained closed to salmon fishing throughout  
23 the drainage for the entire summer management season.

23

24

25 Unfortunately fall season management  
26 didn't fare any better. There is a relationship  
27 between the summer chum salmon return and the fall chum  
28 salmon return, and with the poor abundance of summer  
29 chum salmon managers forecasted a fall chum salmon run  
30 of less than 300,000 fish. A run size this poor  
31 requires a complete fall chum salmon fishery closure.

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1 incidental harvest of salmon while still providing some  
2 opportunity to harvest non-salmon.

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4

5 If you'd like to turn to Page 20 and  
6 refer to the graphs, preliminary passage estimates of  
7 chinook salmon past the Pilot Station sonar was 125,000  
8 chinook salmon. This is the fourth lowest since '95,  
9 that's Figure 1. Chinook salmon escapement goals were  
10 not met and all escapements were below average. Final  
11 Eagle sonar chinook salmon passage estimate was  
12 approximately 31,600 fish, well, below the management  
13 escapement goal of 42,500 to 55,000 fish. That's  
14 Figure 3. The preliminary summer chum salmon passage  
15 estimates past the Pilot Station sonar were 153,000  
16 fish, this was the lowest on record and well below the  
17 500,000 to 1.2 million drainage-wide escapement goal,  
18 and you can look at that in Figure 2. No summer season  
19 escapement goals were met and all escapements were well  
20 below average. Preliminary passage estimates of fall  
21 chum salmon past the Pilot Station sonar was 146,000  
22 fall chum, the lowest on record. Considering the use  
23 of genetic mixed stock analysis on samples collected  
24 from the sonar, during the fall season, it was  
25 estimated that fall chum salmon accounted for  
26 approximately 102,000 of those fish. Fall season  
27 assessment is not yet complete but at this time no  
28 escapements have been or expected to be met. Fishing  
29 Branch Weir up in the Porcupine River headwaters is  
30 still counting fall chum salmon and ADF&G will be doing  
31 boat, foot and aerial surveys in the Tanana drainage  
32 for fall chum and coho salmon through October and  
33 November. Assessment at the Eagle sonar ended on  
34 October 6th and estimates have been expanded to October  
35 18th. At this time approximately 23,000 fall chum have  
36 been estimated passing into Canada. The interim  
37 management escapement goal of 70,000 to 104,000 fall  
38 chum was not met. Preliminary passage estimates of  
39 coho salmon past the sonar were 37,000 fish, also one  
40 of the lowest on record.

41

42 And while it can be disheartening that  
43 the runs were so weak and escapement goals were not met  
44 throughout the drainage, we are reminded about the  
45 resilience of salmon.

46

47 As an example, we saw a similar chinook  
48 and chum salmon crash with very poor returns in 2000  
49 and 2001, however within two to four years chum and  
50 chinook salmon runs were able to bounce back,

51

0059

1 particularly the chum runs and the chum runs provided  
2 years with some of the highest returns we've seen. Of  
3 course that's not -- it's not a guarantee but it is  
4 what we've seen historically.

5

6 The managers would like to acknowledge  
7 the very serious hardships this season has caused Yukon  
8 River families. We would like to thank Yukon River  
9 fishermen for their cooperation during this difficult  
10 year and commend those tribes and communities that took  
11 steps to share fishing gear, providing freezers for  
12 their community members and to come up with creative  
13 solutions to harvest other species to compensate for  
14 the lack of salmon. We appreciate their engagement  
15 with the fisheries managers and it's important that  
16 their efforts to allow every salmon to get to the  
17 spawning grounds by foregoing harvest will hopefully  
18 benefit the entire Yukon in the future.

19

20 This winter the Service -- U.S. Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service Management Team will be looking to  
22 collaborate with other agency experts on finding  
23 answers and research solutions for the low abundance  
24 and we hope to plan an InterAgency meeting in  
25 coordination with YRDFA. And we are also going to be  
26 writing to tribal governments this fall to offer post-  
27 season government to government consultation  
28 teleconferences. And, as always, please do contact the  
29 managers directly. If you have any questions or  
30 concerns about management we'd like to hear from you.

31

32 And, lastly, I appreciate Council  
33 Member Woodruff's comments about how his success, or  
34 how he did with the four inch gear and I would like to  
35 know how other people -- their harvest of non-salmon  
36 species, if they harvested non-salmon species and how  
37 that went for them. That would be information that the  
38 managers would appreciate.

39

40 Thank you, Chair. I'm done unless you  
41 have any questions.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
44 questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
49 members are there any questions.

50

0060

1 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a question.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

6 Andy -- Andy first and then somebody else also.....

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame

9 Chair. So thank you for that report. I really

10 appreciate that managers took a hard stand and closed

11 down the fisheries. I know it was difficult for them

12 and I know it was very difficult for everyone on the

13 Yukon River but that was the right thing to do and I'm

14 really glad to see that people on the Yukon River

15 headed those closures for future stocks to hopefully

16 make it up here and thinking long-term again.

17

18 One thing I do want to point out,

19 though, you know, whenever we have these projections of

20 low years, managers always state that they're going to

21 fish very conservatively and then wait to see how the

22 run develops and I think they do that to the bet of

23 their ability, one of the problems that we have on this

24 river is, of course, it's such a long river, but the

25 other one is we just don't know the effects of

26 ichthyophonous, we just don't know what in-season

27 harvest is on years when there are openings. In the

28 past we've tried to do what we called surgical openings

29 to allow small amounts of fisheries to take place to

30 meet needs of subsistence users and I supported that

31 and applauded that. But what I'm beginning to realize

32 is that without those two key data points, in-season

33 harvest, as it's happening, and also some kind of a

34 system to track whether ichthyophonous has been present

35 that particular year. Those are two huge data points

36 that make these surgical openings often times fail.

37 And the reason I would point that out is on Page 52,

38 you look at the escapements of communities and origin

39 fish and that would be, I assume, Eagle, six out of 12

40 year we didn't meet escapement and other than, I

41 believe, it was this year, and 2013 they had no

42 openings, but basically a lot of those years where

43 we're trying to do surgical openings. So I just want

44 to point that out that I know we're all doing the best

45 we can. I know managers are trying to get fish to

46 people, but we really have some data points that aren't

47 needed to be able to achieve the goals that we're

48 hoping for consistently. And so I think that's

49 something that management needs to look at and try and

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0061

1 address. And it's going to cost money and it's -- the  
2 biggest thing it's going to cost is participation by  
3 local fishermen all up and down the river to accurately  
4 report what they harvest in-season and I think that  
5 would go a long way to allowing managers feeling a  
6 little bit more confident about allowing fisheries to  
7 happen and yet still meet escapement goals. Because I  
8 think every year we don't meet escapement goals is  
9 another nail in the coffin of these chinook salmon.

10  
11 Thank you, Madame Chair. And I know  
12 that was more of a comment than a question, but I think  
13 it's an important thing to impart to people listening  
14 in on this teleconference and also managers and  
15 hopefully we can develop better strategies into the  
16 future.

17  
18 Thank you, Madame Chair for the time.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
21 you, Andy. I did hear another voice behind Andy, was it  
22 a Council member.

23  
24 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, go  
27 ahead.

28  
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
30 This is Don Woodruff in Eagle. I have a question for  
31 Gerald. 2017 chinook year was quite good, over 250,000  
32 and that would be the parent year for this year's four  
33 year olds and I'm wondering about how is it that we  
34 could have such a powerful parent year and, yet, this  
35 year and perhaps next year will be so poor?

36  
37 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. Council  
38 Member Don, yeah, that's a good question. If you're  
39 looking at that -- are you looking at -- I'm sorry.....

40  
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Figure 1.

42  
43 MR. MASCHMANN: .....Figure 1.

44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.

46  
47 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I mean if you  
48 look at that figure we have good years and some good  
49 years don't produce a lot of returning fish and yet  
50

0062

1 some years we have poor returns that produce a lot of  
2 fish. So, you know, what they're doing I don't know  
3 but it's a common -- I think it's a common phenomena we  
4 see particularly with chinook salmon that some good  
5 years don't produce big returns and then some poor  
6 years produce big returns. So I'd like to maybe hear  
7 what Council members think is the -- have any theories  
8 on that. I know some folks will, you know, use the  
9 term overescapement where there's so many fish on the  
10 spawning grounds that they're building reds over on top  
11 of each other or a lot of fish are having to build reds  
12 in places that aren't optimal and so they're not really  
13 producing or maybe there's lots of little ones that are  
14 out -- they're competing with each other so maybe  
15 they're not healthy but, yeah, I think there's a lot  
16 that goes on that we don't know about, why some returns  
17 produce a lot of fish, and some returns don't.

18  
19 So I guess I can't answer your  
20 question, Don, I'm sorry.

21  
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Gerald. I  
23 understand where you're.....

24  
25 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright,  
26 Madame Chair.

27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: .....you're -- I  
29 understand where you're coming from and I hear that  
30 more and more with Fish and Game, they don't know. And  
31 my conclusion from talking to other fisheries  
32 biologists is that it's the stakeholders, the fishermen  
33 and the YRDFA and the other activists that are on the  
34 river for subsistence that will actually solve this  
35 problem and we can't depend on ADF&G or U.S. Fish and  
36 Wildlife Service to solve this problem. And I'm really  
37 interested to hear some creative solutions to this but  
38 I have to go back to what was discussed earlier, and in  
39 the North Pacific Management's Council's update on the  
40 YRDFA teleconferences this past September, 500,000  
41 chinook salmon into bycatch and so I think there's room  
42 for improvement all around but in particular there.

43  
44 MR. MASCHMANN: Did we lose Don.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know,  
47 we may have. Don, did we lose you, all that static  
48 must have been on his line.

49  
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0063

1 MR. MASCHMANN: So Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He'll have to  
4 call back in.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald again.  
7 You know what happens to a fish once it pops out of the  
8 gravel, heads down river for a year or two, then out in  
9 the ocean for three or four or five years, then comes  
10 back, yep, it's a big -- we don't know. You know we're  
11 not the only -- you know Fish and Game and Fish and  
12 Wildlife, we're not the only ones doing research  
13 there's other groups like the universities, the AYKSSI  
14 group. They just put out -- just approved 1.2 million  
15 worth of proposals, there's other people, smart people  
16 looking into like what's going on in the Bering Sea.  
17 Fish and Game has the -- and NOAA, NMFS, they're doing  
18 a trawl survey out in the Bering Sea there. We've got  
19 some exciting data. We're still not quite sure how to  
20 -- what to make of it yet but there are other people,  
21 other researchers, and other, you know, funding pots  
22 that are trying to get at some of these questions.

23

24 So I don't think we're going to figure  
25 it out this winter but there are people working on it.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Hi, this is Charlie,  
30 Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Charlie,  
33 go ahead.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: I was paying attention  
36 back in the '90s to water level and I see low numbers  
37 in the '90s and up into the early 2000s. There was  
38 years when I seen kings and chums, because of very low  
39 water, at the mouth of the creeks, being so shallow  
40 that the water's running under the ground and you could  
41 see salmon both species bumping up against the clear  
42 water, against the gravel trying to get into these  
43 spawning grounds where they normally lay their eggs and  
44 not being able to because of shallow water. So what  
45 Gerald said about fish, good years, parent years,  
46 piling eggs on top of each other, that is true because  
47 they have limited habitat to spawn. So maybe some of  
48 those parent years where there was good returns did  
49 have low water years at the same time. There's many

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0064

1 different factors. But I do agree with Gerald, that's  
2 one reason why those good parent years don't give a  
3 good return because the water level, the climate.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair, that's all I  
6 have to say.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
11 Charlie. Andy go ahead.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. So I  
14 really would like to offer my support for what Don said  
15 as far as I think this problem long-term, it has to be  
16 solved by the people on the river coming together, and  
17 working together and coming up with better solutions.  
18 I think managers are doing the best they can and I  
19 think for the most part they're doing a pretty darn  
20 good job, unfortunately we're in a regime now where  
21 climate change is having a lot of impacts that we have  
22 no idea what those impacts are. I just want to remind  
23 the Council, Virgil, for 15 to 20 years talked about  
24 hatchery production which has continued to increase and  
25 certainly has to be affecting wild stocks in both the  
26 Gulf and the Bering Sea. So, you know, nobody seems to  
27 be able to address that and it's my understanding we  
28 can't address that through OSM after having read the  
29 letters. So I think that's kind of disappointing  
30 because I think, personally, that has a larger impact  
31 than a lot of people realized.

32

33 One thing I do want to point out, I  
34 looked into a lot of research about overescapement and  
35 it's very true that overescapement can happen with fall  
36 chum, or chum salmon because of their need for specific  
37 habitat, upwellings and, you know, the amount of  
38 upwellings in systems that are suitable for them but  
39 it's much less true for the Canadian component of the  
40 chinook stocks because the Canadian component is spread  
41 out over a much larger area, those fish don't need as a  
42 specific type of an area to spawn in so overescapement,  
43 and some of the studies had looked into that -- some of  
44 the overescapement theories on chinook salmon for  
45 Canadian origin stocks don't necessarily hold up. I'm  
46 not saying that it's not a factor but it's not the --  
47 it's not the golden sword of why we're having these  
48 problems.

49

50



0065

1                   So fortunately I think the biggest,  
2 best tool we have right now in our fisheries is the  
3 juvenile research being done by Katie Howard and Jim  
4 Murphy out in the Bering Sea, that's giving us really  
5 good information on juvenile survival out there and I  
6 think that's showing to be very accurate and that's  
7 something we need to pay attention to but in the  
8 meantime, you know, all of us on the Yukon River have  
9 to come together and figure out how we're going to get  
10 through this for the long-term future.

11  
12                   Thank you.

13  
14                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
15 thank you. Any other questions.

16  
17                   (No comments)

18  
19                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is  
20 there any other report from Fish and Game on this.

21  
22                   MS. JALLEN: Hello, Madame Chair, can  
23 you hear me.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
26 ahead.

27  
28                   MS. JALLEN: Hi, this is Deena Jallen  
29 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the  
30 Yukon River Summer Season Manager. A lot of you may  
31 know that this is my first season as the summer season  
32 manager now that Holly has moved over to the U.S. Fish  
33 and Wildlife Service. We also have a new Assistant  
34 Summer Season Manager and that's Sam Decker. We both  
35 have a pretty long history -- lifelong Alaskan  
36 residents and long histories going back to the Bristol  
37 Bay and along the Yukon River doing research and now  
38 new roles in management.

39  
40                   I want to really thank Gerald for his  
41 season summary and also thank all the fishermen and  
42 echo what he said, you know, especially it was -- you  
43 know it was great to hear all the words for Andrew  
44 Firmin and his family and we miss his presence at the  
45 meetings as well, and we definitely miss getting to see  
46 all of you in person, it's been hard due to Covid --  
47 you know, due to Covid and also due to not fishing, to  
48 not be able to get out to fish camps and not be able to  
49 see people in meetings and get together over the summer  
50

0066

1 and see each other in the fall.

2

3

4 As part of my new position as the  
5 Summer Season Manager, now both the summer and fall  
6 season managers are in the Fairbanks office and Christy  
7 can chime in a little bit later but I definitely  
8 encourage folks to contact us in-season if you've got  
9 questions or suggestions about management or the things  
10 that we're doing. It was definitely a really tough  
11 season and we also really appreciate the words of  
12 support, you know, that we do hear.

12

13

14 And our season summary, we'll be  
15 publishing that soon. We're waiting for another final  
16 batch of chinook salmon genetics and we should get that  
17 later this week and then be publishing that.  
18 Subsistence surveys and permit returns are ongoing as  
19 people turn in that data in the fall, we know that  
20 those surveys are kind of rough on our surveyors to  
21 hear from folks that, you know, we do want to ask about  
22 fishing and we know that there wasn't salmon fishing  
23 but it is really important to collect the information  
24 that we are getting on non-salmon harvest this year.

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1 extreme hardships that subsistence fishermen went  
2 through this year and the last two years with the fall  
3 season. We understand the heavy reliance, especially  
4 on fall chum salmon in District 5 where folks only see  
5 king salmon and fall chum salmon in that area. If you  
6 have any questions about the season or have any  
7 comments or suggestions or, yeah, any ideas for the  
8 future feel free to give me a call in the Fairbanks  
9 office. I can be reached at (907) 459-7240.

10  
11 And just letting fishermen know that if  
12 you have any suggestions for changing the State fishing  
13 regulations in the Yukon or outside of the Yukon, you  
14 can submit proposals until April 11th, and you can feel  
15 free to reach Deena or myself and we can talk to you  
16 about what the current regulations are and help you  
17 draft proposals if you're interested in seeing a  
18 change.

19  
20 And I appreciate Gerald's thorough  
21 report. I do want to reiterate that while we don't  
22 know what's driving these low fall chum salmon and coho  
23 salmon runs, the parent years that made up these last  
24 two years of poor runs did meet or exceed all of the  
25 escapement goals in the Yukon River drainage, but we're  
26 not seeing these adults return from the ocean and we do  
27 want to let fishermen know that during the fall season  
28 for these parent years the river water temperatures and  
29 the water levels were near normal during the fall  
30 migration and spawning and so that is something that  
31 we've looked into. And given that the chum salmon in  
32 other areas, such as Kuskokwim and Norton Sound and all  
33 across the North Pacific for the last two years have  
34 been seeing low runs. Because of this large geographic  
35 scale and the low runs now occurring across multiple  
36 species of chum salmon and now coho salmon this year,  
37 we think that marine factors are likely contributing to  
38 these declines. And if you have any questions about  
39 what research is being done, again, feel free to reach  
40 out to us.

41  
42 I'll standby with any questions.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, any  
45 other questions.

46  
47 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair, this is  
48 Gerald with Fish and Wildlife again.

49  
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0068

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Gerald,  
2 go ahead.

3  
4 MR. MASCHMANN: I just want to let Andy  
5 know that Holly Carroll and Randy Brown have been  
6 working on an ichthyophonous proposal for next summer so  
7 we're anticipating some kind of ichthyophonous sampling  
8 for next year but I'm not quite sure of the status of  
9 that yet but we're working on it.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
14 Gerald. Anything else.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
19 It is just after noon and Council members do you want  
20 to take a 30 minute break and then resume the meeting  
21 at 12:30, 12:32 let's say.

22  
23 MR. BASSICH: Roger. Roger.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We  
26 will take a lunch break.....

27  
28 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good to me.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....and  
31 potty break. At any rate, yes, we'll come back at  
32 12:30.

33  
34 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And just to  
37 let Catherine know she's up first on the agenda.

38  
39 (Off record)

40  
41 (On record)

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going  
44 on to the next thing on the agenda which is the Yukon  
45 River Drainage Fisheries Association, fall 2021 report.  
46 Catherine, are you on -- Page 23.

47  
48 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, Madame Chair, this  
49 is Catherine Moncrieff, can you hear me?  
50

0069

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can, go  
2 ahead.

3  
4 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Actually I'd  
5 like to.....

6  
7 MS. FITKA: Serena Fitka.....

8  
9 MS. MONCRIEFF: .....let Serena Fitka  
10 begin our report if that's all right.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
13 ahead.

14  
15 MS. FITKA: Good afternoon, this is  
16 Serena Fitka, Executive Director of the Yukon River  
17 Drainage Fisheries Association. Thank you, Madame  
18 Chair and Council members for giving us the opportunity  
19 to provide you with an update. Just to bring your  
20 attention to our report in your meeting booklet on Page  
21 23 and in your supplemental material.

22  
23 We'd like to provide you with updates  
24 on our activities and key accomplishments since we last  
25 met with you.

26  
27 First I'd like to provide a correction  
28 in our report for our vacancies on the Board. We  
29 currently have three seats vacant and that's Y1,  
30 Alternate 2, and District Y2, Alternate 1, and District  
31 Y2, Alternate 2. Any recommendations for these seats  
32 can be sent to Catherine or myself.

33  
34 Our Board met in April of 2021 in  
35 Fairbanks where we began our meeting with our first  
36 annual river blessing. We felt the need to incorporate  
37 our traditional values into our meeting setting. We  
38 also had a moment of silence for Andrew Firmin from  
39 Fort Yukon who served on the YRDFA Board for the past  
40 10 years. Andrew's family joined us and we presented  
41 Andrew's award of service to them. Andrew will greatly  
42 be missed on our Board and we send our condolences to  
43 the family. We also presented awards to our Board  
44 members who've served on our Board for five plus years,  
45 10 plus years and 15 plus years.

46  
47 The YRDFA Board passed six resolutions,  
48 which are highlighted in your booklet.

49  
50

0070

1                   We will be having the eBoard meeting  
2   October 26th and 27th in Anchorage. At this meeting we  
3   will be discussing Area M and ACR that was submitted by  
4   Gail Vik and Virgil Umphenour requesting a test fishery  
5   in Area M to assess the genetic origins of king, chum,  
6   coho, and pink in False Pass. Since their ACR did not  
7   make the work session that will be held later on this  
8   month, the issue is on the Board of Fisheries radar and  
9   we are submitting support letters to the Board of  
10   Fisheries. YRDFA submitted a letter to Board of  
11   Fisheries for their support. And our eBoard will also  
12   begin the process of developing Board of Fish proposals  
13   for the Yukon River that are due in April of 2022.

14  
15                   Our Yukon River salmon summer preseason  
16   presentation meeting was held a bit differently due to  
17   Covid19 and the inability to gather in large masses.  
18   Prior to the meeting we held district meetings to  
19   provide more opportunities for fishers to voice their  
20   concerns and provide input to the managers for the  
21   upcoming season. For the 2022 preseason meeting we are  
22   planning to host an in-person meeting in Anchorage  
23   preferably in March. We have begun the planning  
24   process and, again, we will be doing things a little  
25   bit differently so keep an eye out for our  
26   announcement.

27  
28                   Our Yukon River advocacy series in  
29   partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference focused on  
30   the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Board  
31   of Fish processes, and this is also in your  
32   supplemental report. We held a very successful series  
33   and prepared for testimony to the Council on the 6th of  
34   October. We had between 25 to 35 participants during  
35   each session. We had Legislative Staff from Senator  
36   Sullivan's office and Lisa Murkowski's office  
37   participating along with other organization  
38   representatives from the Alaska Federation of Natives,  
39   First Alaskans Institute and Doyon Limited. We will be  
40   looking to apply for adequate funding to make this a  
41   year long project and highlighting other areas of  
42   management areas such as Board of Fisheries, ADF&G,  
43   U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon River Panel, the  
44   Pacific Salmon Commission, the Yukon River Salmon  
45   Agreement, and et cetera. We received a lot of  
46   positive feedback on this series and YRDFA did submit a  
47   letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
48   requesting the following:

49  
50

0071

1                   We requested zero bycatch in the Bering  
2 Sea, to provide a letter to the National Marine  
3 Fisheries Service supporting funding for disaster  
4 declarations and to ensure Alaska Native Tribes have a  
5 meaningful voice in management.

6

7                   I personally gave testimony to the  
8 Council on October 6th which is available on our  
9 website and Facebook page. I will be giving more  
10 testimony tomorrow on Friday, October 15th.

11

12                   Fisheries disaster updates for 2020 and  
13 2021.

14

15                   (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted)

17

18                   MS. FITKA: The U.S. Department of  
19 Commerce received letters from the Governor requesting  
20 a fishing disaster for the Yukon River for 2020 and  
21 2021 fishing season. We have now turned our focus on  
22 urging the Secretary of Commerce to approve these  
23 disasters. I received an update from Sullivan and  
24 Murkowski's offices that they, too, are urging the  
25 Secretary to move forward with the disaster  
26 declarations. I will be traveling to D.C., next week  
27 with the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association  
28 to meet with the U.S. Delegation and other offices to  
29 discuss the Yukon River issues.

30

31                   I will now turn it over to Catherine to  
32 give the remainder of the report and I will stay on for  
33 any questions afterwards.

34

35                   Thank you.

36

37                   MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, good afternoon,  
38 Madame Chair and Council members. Can you hear me  
39 okay?

40

41                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

42

43                   MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Thank you for  
44 the opportunity to update you on our projects. For the  
45 record, my name is Catherine Moncrieff and I am YRDFA's  
46 Staff Anthropologist. I'm going to provide an update  
47 on four of our projects and the first two are funded by  
48 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

49

50

0072

1 But before I report, this is a good  
2 place for me to share my condolences to his family and  
3 everyone affected by the passing of Andrew Firmin.  
4 Andrew was a surveyor for over 10 years and contributed  
5 so much to this program and other YRDFA projects. He  
6 is missed.

7  
8 So going on to the in-season  
9 subsistence salmon survey. This project hires a local  
10 person in 10 communities along the Yukon River from  
11 Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers for six weeks about  
12 their observations, experiences and harvest during the  
13 chinook salmon season. The surveyors report the  
14 results weekly and also share them on the YRDFA in-  
15 season teleconferences.

16  
17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being  
19 broadcasted)

20  
21 MS. MONCRIEFF: A post-season summary  
22 of this program was included in your supplemental  
23 materials. Some highlights from this report include  
24 that we were able to safely hold an in-person training  
25 this year for our surveyors as opposed.....

26  
27 MS. WESSELS: Catherine, stop for a  
28 second.

29  
30 MS. MONCRIEFF: .....to the virtual one  
31 required.....

32  
33 MS. WESSELS: Catherine. Catherine  
34 stop for a second.

35  
36 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay.

37  
38 MS. WESSELS: There is a lot of  
39 background noise. I would like to ask everyone please  
40 press star, six to mute themselves. It is very  
41 difficult for Council members to understand the report  
42 and you are not muted and we have the background noise.  
43 Nate, can we isolate that person, you know, who is not  
44 having us on mute -- maybe they finally put themselves  
45 on mute.

46  
47 REPORTER: It sounds like they're on  
48 mute now.

49  
50



0073

1 MS. WESSELS: Go ahead, Catherine.

2

3 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Sounds quiet  
4 now. Okay, continuing, I think I was saying that a  
5 post-season summary of the program was included in your  
6 supplemental materials. And some highlights from this  
7 report include that we were able to hold -- to safely  
8 hold an in-person training for our surveyors as opposed  
9 to the virtual one we were required to have in 2020.  
10 And we were also able to fully hire for all 10  
11 positions with all 10 local hires being rehired for 100  
12 percent retention. Challenges this year included  
13 surveyors reporting greater than usual difficulty  
14 surveying fishers with was understandable with our  
15 current conditions and restricted fishing required.  
16 Eight of the 10 surveyors were able to conduct their  
17 final -- sorry my -- I just lost my -- I apologize --  
18 oh, sorry about that -- okay -- eight of the 10  
19 surveyors were able to conduct their interview survey  
20 which included a series of questions aimed at  
21 summarizing the season. Through these final interviews  
22 we learned that none of the fishers in the  
23 participating communities reported meeting their needs  
24 and most reported that fishing was worse in 2021 than  
25 2020. Some fishers were very appreciative of the  
26 managers efforts to protect the salmon run and some  
27 fishers reportedly did not have the allowable gear, a  
28 four inch net, for fishing this year. Concerns  
29 included food security for people, dog food for this  
30 winter and a general concern for the fishery. Finally,  
31 an evaluation was conducted with both the surveyors and  
32 the managers which helps us to see what we do well and  
33 areas we can improve.

34

35 The next project, local and traditional  
36 knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon Flats with an  
37 emphasis on the Draanjik drainage. In this project  
38 YRDFA has been partnering with the communities of  
39 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie and the Tanana  
40 Chiefs Conference to update the anadromous waters  
41 catalog through a combination of traditional knowledge,  
42 eDNA, minnow trapping and on the ground observations.  
43 As an update, TCC, with support from the Alaska  
44 Department of Fish and Game conducted biological field  
45 work this past summer in four tributaries of the  
46 Draanjik drainage seeking information about spawning  
47 adults and rearing juvenile chinook and coho salmon.  
48 Juvenile chinook were found in two locations and coho  
49 was found in one. They have some additional coho field  
50

0074

1 work planned for later this month and once completed,  
2 we'll be finalizing our results, sharing them with the  
3 communities and making nominations to the anadromous  
4 waters catalog. This project will be wrapping up in  
5 early 2022.

6  
7 And then two other projects that would  
8 be of interest to you guys are the local and  
9 traditional knowledge of anadromous fish in select  
10 drainages of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers 2021/2022.  
11 This project is funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon  
12 Fund and is a partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska  
13 Department of Fish and Game. Our role in this project  
14 is to lead the local and traditional knowledge  
15 interviews in Tanana, Manley Hot Springs and Nenana.  
16 And during the lull in the pandemic this summer, I was  
17 able to safely travel to all three study communities  
18 with an Alaska Department of Fish and Game partner to  
19 conduct the interviews. We learned a lot through the  
20 20 interviews we conducted and we will be using this  
21 information in preparation for the biological on the  
22 ground field work scheduled for next summer. We  
23 appreciate the welcome we received in each community  
24 and their assistance in collecting this important  
25 information.

26  
27 And then, finally, our project, They  
28 Told Us There'd Come a Time, Conserving Fish,  
29 Preserving Tradition on the Yukon River, a catalog of  
30 elders warnings. This project's funded by the North  
31 Pacific Research Board also made some progress this  
32 summer. Our research team, made up of myself and some  
33 rock stars from the TCC Emerging Leaders Program met at  
34 the UAF-Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and  
35 Archives Library and began our work digging through the  
36 already documented interviews and recordings of Yukon  
37 River elders. We will continue this archival work  
38 through the rest of this year and into next year. In  
39 2022 we will move to interviewing today's elders to  
40 learn more from them about their knowledge and  
41 observations of salmon.

42  
43 Updates on other YRDFA projects and  
44 programs are included in your materials and we would be  
45 happy to answer any questions about our report or  
46 projects. Thank you for the opportunity to provide  
47 this report.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
50

0075

1 Catherine. Council members, are there any questions.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -

4 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being

5 broadcasted)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council

8 members, are there any questions -- or any questions to

9 either of the presenters on these two reports.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, I have a question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go

14 ahead, Don.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I'm

17 wondering why the BIA is not involved more with our

18 Council but also with YRDFA because, hey, YRDFA's

19 founding statement is it's all one voice so where are

20 they in the picture?

21

22 MS. FITKA: This is Serena, for the

23 record, through the Chair. We've partnered with the

24 Bering InterTribal Commission which does a lot of work

25 with ECECs and a lot of -- tied with fishery meetings

26 so we really try to attend both and we are

27 participating with the Bering Sea InterTribal

28 Commission that has been recently formed.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

31 Are there any other questions.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -

34 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being

35 broadcasted)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do believe

38 we have some background noise, someone needs to mute.

39 Any other questions, Council members.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank

44 you very much Holly and Catherine -- or did I get that

45 right, thank you very much.

46

47 MS. FITKA: Serena.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Serena.

50

0076

1 MS. EVANS: Hello.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I hear  
4 someone want.....

5

6 MS. EVANS: This is Linda, I have a  
7 question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Linda,  
10 go ahead.

11

12 MS. EVANS: Are they doing any  
13 education in the schools along the river?

14

15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being  
17 broadcasted)

18

19 MS. FITKA: This is Serena, through the  
20 Chair. We haven't been doing any educational  
21 presentations in the schools as part of YRDFA but that  
22 is definitely we are wanting to do. There are some  
23 projects that are in development that we need to find  
24 funding for and youth education would be a part of  
25 that.

26

27 (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being  
29 broadcasted)

30

31 MS. EVANS: Yeah, thank you. This is  
32 Linda. I work in the education system and I noticed  
33 that when there was education going on in the schools  
34 people attended -- or parents attended or kids brought  
35 the information home to the parents and it kind of --  
36 it was a good way to keep them parents informed about  
37 what was going on.

38

39 REPORTER: Hey, real quick, this is  
40 Nathan. Whoever's listening to the Western Interior  
41 meeting, can you please mute your phone. Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
44 Nathan.

45

46 MS. FITKA: This is Serena again,  
47 through the Chair. Yes, I understand, I, too, myself  
48 when I worked with my tribe closely with the school  
49 district and implementing the 4H fisheries in our

50

0077

1 schools so I completely understand the importance of  
2 having fishery education in our school system.

3

4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted - Western Interior meeting being  
6 broadcasted)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we  
9 still have, it sounds like, what Nathan identified is  
10 someone who is not on mute that's listening in or  
11 speaking at the Western Interior. It's really hard to  
12 have this conversation -- so Linda, does that help.

13

14 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm glad to hear  
15 they're seeking funding for that, that's good. If  
16 there's any way I can help in that I'd be happy to.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.  
19 Thanks, Linda. And, Council members, are there any  
20 other questions to presenters.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So hearing  
25 none we will move along. And if for some reason we  
26 didn't hear you just speak up, we'll take it again  
27 there. And thanks to.....

28

29 MS. MCDONALD: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yes, go  
32 ahead. Who's that.

33

34 MS. MCDONALD: I believe -- this is  
35 Patricia. I believe the host of the call can mute  
36 everyone.

37

38 REPORTER: Yes, I can but that just  
39 causes a lot of problems.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: This is correct, they can  
42 mute everyone but then the people who are in this  
43 teleconference will have to unmute themselves by  
44 pressing star, six, and even if they have an unmute  
45 button then it sometimes doesn't work and you have to  
46 star, six again so Nate.....

47

48 REPORTER: Hang on, so my suggestion is  
49 to stop talking -- everyone is going to have to stop

50

0078

1 talking right now because when I go to talk to the  
2 operator I can't record your meeting so everybody's  
3 going to have to wait for a couple of minutes so I can  
4 get that Western Interior line cut. Yes, I can mute  
5 everybody's line but it causes a lot of problems for  
6 people to figure out how to unmute themselves and get  
7 back into the call. Hold on, I'm going to call the  
8 operator.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 REPORTER: Okay, it sounds like you  
13 guys are good to go.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you so  
16 much, Nathan. Okay, the next thing on the agenda is  
17 the new item, requesting a letter from our RAC to the  
18 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and Vince  
19 that's for you, go ahead.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, can you guys hear  
22 me, because my phone's all screwed up so I need to know  
23 you can hear me.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can hear  
26 you. I think everyone else can, I'm pretty sure.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Okay. All right,  
29 thank you. It is pretty obvious that Murphy's Law is  
30 really working today. On this new item it's a request  
31 from the Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council from their  
32 last meeting to have a joint letter to the North  
33 Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce chinook  
34 and chum bycatch and also forward that letter to the  
35 Federal Subsistence Board to elevate it to the  
36 Secretary of Interior and Commerce.

37

38 At this point there is no draft letter.  
39 I've been communicating with Yukon/Kuskokwim Staff. So  
40 I think at this point it would be to -- I don't know  
41 which is the right term, table until later in the  
42 meeting that we have some kind of idea of key points  
43 they want in this and then how the process would be to  
44 draft a letter and that.

45

46 So that's the advice I can give at this  
47 point, that hopefully we will get some kind of outline  
48 of a letter and then the process of how each Council  
49 will participate in that letter.

50

0079

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
2 Council members I think by the end of the meeting we  
3 should have a copy of their ideas and then at that  
4 point we can do, like we always do, if we have to,  
5 appoint several people to approve of the letter. But I  
6 don't think there's any problem with this Council  
7 supporting something like that because we've written  
8 letters to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
9 before.

10

11 Any input Council members.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and hopefully we  
14 will have that and then your suggestion on process  
15 sounds reasonable so cross your fingers that it'll be  
16 forthcoming.

17

18 And then I need to confirm, is Nicolas  
19 online.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I just needed to  
24 confirm, I've been trying to reach him by email but  
25 sometimes the phones, as was mentioned earlier by Karen  
26 Linnell, can be difficult in these remote villages.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
29 Charlie Wright.

30

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

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: I'm sorry, I was cut off  
35 for about five to 10 minutes so I just came back on a  
36 couple of minutes ago, the phone just went dead and I  
37 tried to call back a few times with a busy signal and  
38 then I got back through.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: So I missed a little bit  
43 of what happened last, so I just wanted to let you know  
44 that. Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie, what  
47 was the last thing you heard?

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

50

0080

1 MR. WRIGHT: The last thing I heard was  
2 Moncrieff was doing her report.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, then  
5 you missed the discussion about the Yukon/Kuskokwim RAC  
6 wanting a joint letter to the National Fisheries --  
7 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to include  
8 chinook/chum bycatch.

9  
10 MR. WRIGHT: I heard -- that's when I  
11 came back on, right when that started.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.  
14 Well, did you have any questions of the two presenters  
15 on that last one?

16  
17 MR. WRIGHT: I just agree to table it  
18 until the end of the meeting, is that what you're  
19 talking about -- I don't have no questions on  
20 Moncrieff's report, it's always good.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're  
23 on board now.

24  
25 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then I  
28 heard, was it Bill?

29  
30 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair, this is  
31 Bill. I just finally got back on too, they dropped me  
32 and I couldn't even dial out for about 10 minutes.

33  
34 MR. WRIGHT: Same with me.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my  
37 goodness. Who was that?

38  
39 MR. WRIGHT: That was I, Charlie.

40  
41 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie and  
44 Bill, okay. Anyone else have any trouble?

45  
46 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my  
49 goodness.

50



0081

1 MR. GLANZ: No, I've been following the  
2 meeting.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andy,  
5 did you have trouble too?

6  
7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, it seemed to happen  
8 right when you guys muted everyone in the meeting. I  
9 think that's when everybody had their problem, I was  
10 able to get back on pretty quick. But that's what I  
11 kind of took away from it when the operator muted  
12 everybody, it disconnected some people.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yes,  
15 gosh. This is a tough one, let me tell you, oh, my  
16 gosh. And thanks guys, and thanks for your patience.  
17 Any time you feel like you missed something and want to  
18 say something just speak out, okay. All right, we're  
19 going to bring this letter up when we get more  
20 information, FYI, to each of you and we'll bring it up  
21 then.

22  
23 Next on the agenda is the response to  
24 the Copper River moose population survey request with  
25 ADF&G being the presenter.

26  
27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have  
31 ADF&G online for this one.

32  
33 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Madame  
34 Chairman, this is Darren Bruning with Alaska Department  
35 of Fish and Game. I'm the Regional Supervisor for the  
36 Division of Wildlife Conservation for Region 3, which  
37 is the Interior and Eastern Arctic region. Also,  
38 hello, to members of the Council.

39  
40 I thought we would start with me  
41 introducing some of our area biological Staff and they  
42 will inform you of the recent history of moose surveys  
43 in 25 -- in Units 25B, 25C, 25D and 20E and with a  
44 brief summary of the status of the moose populations in  
45 those units. And then we would leave it up to you for  
46 questions and we could provide information about those  
47 units and our survey efforts over time and going into  
48 the future.

49  
50

0082

1                   So with that I will check to see if  
2 Area Biologist Jeff Gross is on the phone, Jeff, are  
3 you there.

4  
5                   (No comments)

6  
7                   MR. BRUNING: Okay. I'm going to turn  
8 it over to.....

9  
10                  MR. GROSS: I am.

11  
12                  MR. BRUNING: .....Jeff -- thank you,  
13 Jeff -- so, Madame Chairman, if it's okay with you then  
14 I'll turn this over to Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross  
15 and he will provide information on Unit 20E.

16  
17                  MR. GROSS: Hello, Madame Chair, this  
18 is Jeff Gross, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
19 Biologist in Tok. And I guess I didn't -- our normal  
20 moose biologist is Jeff Wells but I'm trying to fill in  
21 today. And other than -- I guess as part of the  
22 request that I had seen for information, the Department  
23 doesn't do moose surveys in the northern part of Unit  
24 20E, the southern part of 20E is the only area we do  
25 moose surveys and I believe the concern was mostly in  
26 Northern Unit 20E, but if there's any specific  
27 questions I'd be happy to address them.

28  
29                  MR. BRUNING: Madame Chairman, this is  
30 Darren Bruning again. Jeff, you may indicate that we  
31 do have plans to survey part of 20E this season, is  
32 that correct?

33  
34                  MR. GROSS: Through the Chair, that's  
35 correct. It'll again, though, be Southern 20E from  
36 about Chicken south and, again, I think the area of  
37 concern for the RAC was up along the Yukon River which  
38 is -- there is some surveys there but they're done by  
39 the Park Service.

40  
41                  MR. BRUNING: Okay. Madame Chairman,  
42 I'll just continue then with -- for the other areas and  
43 any time that there are questions we'll take those as  
44 well but I'll just continue through the areas and I  
45 will now ask Area Biologist Jason Caikoski, for our  
46 Northeast Alaska area to provide information about Unit  
47 25B and 25D.

48  
49                  MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair. Members  
50

0083

1 of the Council. This is Jason Caikoski, how do you  
2 guys hear me?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We hear you  
5 fine.

6

7 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay. Good afternoon.  
8 Yeah, so as Darren mentioned I'm responsible for the  
9 moose monitoring that occurs in Unit 25B as in Bravo,  
10 and 25D Delta, and I'll make a note that U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service also contributes to survey work in  
12 25Delta.

13

14 I'll start off with 25Bravo, the  
15 State's never done a moose survey in that subunit.  
16 Moose harvest is generally fairly low, moose densities  
17 are fairly low and uniform across the subunit and our  
18 current monitoring strategy is to track, essentially  
19 harvest over time, and with the assumption that if  
20 success rates and harvest are relatively stable then it  
21 may be unnecessary to, you know, conduct moose surveys  
22 in that unit due to the low hunting pressure and low  
23 harvest.

24

25 For 25D, that subunit is split in half,  
26 the eastern section and the western section. The  
27 eastern section is an area that Fish and Game surveyed  
28 on a regular basis from the late 1990s up until 2015.  
29 2015 was the last year we conducted a survey there.  
30 The moose density was 0.34 moose per square mile. Over  
31 this 25 year history moose surveys -- or moose  
32 densities in 25D east have essentially remained  
33 relatively stable fluctuating from .25 to .5 moose per  
34 square mile. After 2015 we went to a survey strategy  
35 of attempting to do a moose survey every three years.  
36 Since then survey funding has not allowed for a moose  
37 survey.

38

39 The survey in the west of 25D is  
40 conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I  
41 certainly have the report but it may be best if they  
42 present the results from their data and if they're not  
43 around I can certainly shed some light on like at least  
44 some of the basic info there.

45

46 MR. BERTRAM: Madame Chair, this is  
47 Mark Bertram from Fish and Wildlife Service, can you  
48 hear me?

49

50

0084

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: yes.

2

3 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah, good afternoon. I  
4 can give you a quick summary on 25Delta that Jason was  
5 just referring to. That survey was last conducted in  
6 2018. The population in this area is growing at a low  
7 density, approximately four to five moose every 10  
8 square miles. The area has relatively low harvest and  
9 the predators are also lightly harvested in this area.  
10 The survey we conducted in 2018 indicated pretty good  
11 bull/cow ratios at 58 bulls to every 100 cows. Fairly  
12 good calf/cow ratios, 58 calves per 100 cows. And the  
13 yearling bull to cow ratio was also fairly high at 13  
14 yearling bulls per 100 cows. The population estimate  
15 was among the highest we've had in the Western Yukon  
16 Flats. The history has been the population is at a  
17 high level in 1999, that decreased over the next 10 to  
18 12 years and since 2015 the population has been  
19 increasing.

20

21 We are scheduled to do a moose survey  
22 whenever we can get out there. Covid restrictions have  
23 paused our ability to do field work in the Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service right now. We had intended to do a  
25 survey this year and we certainly intend to do a survey  
26 in 2022 when, hopefully, Covid, will allow us to get  
27 out on the landscape.

28

29 So that's a summary of what's going on  
30 with 25Delta. Happy to take any questions when Jason  
31 finishes up or right now.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
34 you.

35

36 MR. CAIKOSKI: And this is Jason,  
37 again, that's all for me as well, Madame Chair and  
38 Council, but I can take any questions you guys might  
39 have.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
44 questions.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
49 Andy.

50

0085

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I was just  
2 wondering given that Yukon-Charley does surveys in 25E  
3 and 20E along the Yukon corridor, in our vicinity here  
4 in Eagle are we going to get an update from them or  
5 would this be an appropriate time to get a brief  
6 briefing on moose populations in our area.  
7

8 MR. SORUM: Yeah, hi, this is Matt Sorum  
9 with the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. We will --  
10 our plan is for next year, next fall conducting our  
11 moose survey. We do it every three years and that'll  
12 be on target. In the previous survey we were -- we  
13 found that we're still above the 20 year average.  
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
16 Anything else. Any Council members.  
17

18 (No comments)  
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
21 Then.....  
22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.  
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, go  
26 ahead.  
27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I think  
29 Yukon-Charley was cut-off or maybe they are done.  
30

31 MR. SORUM: So was the committee able  
32 to hear me, this is Matt Sorum.  
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is this  
35 again.  
36

37 MR. SORUM: Yeah, this is Matt Sorum  
38 with Yukon-Charley National Preserve.  
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. I  
41 didn't think you were cut-off, were you?  
42

43 MR. SORUM: Yeah, I guess it's just a  
44 question to you.  
45

46 MR. BASSICH: Sue, this is Andy. I  
47 missed him too. I think he cut-out for some people or  
48 some people's lines dropped. But I guess what I'm  
49 asking is -- I realize, or at least I'm hearing that  
50

0086

1 there's a survey scheduled but what I'm wondering is  
2 there any information on the current, since the last  
3 survey, what the moose populations are. You heard a  
4 number -- three RAC members here that are in this  
5 region stating that local harvest was at a minimum this  
6 year and so that concerns us given that there is no  
7 food in the Yukon River from king salmon or chum  
8 salmon, moose and caribou are going to be pretty vital  
9 to people in our region so any information we have on  
10 moose and caribou will be greatly appreciated by people  
11 in Circle, Central and Eagle.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
16 Charlie Wright.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Charlie.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: I know for a fact that I  
21 gave interest in moose counts in 21B and 20F last year  
22 and I mentioned it again in my report, that there --  
23 again, this year like last year, poor harvest for moose  
24 between Rampart and the Nowitna Wildlife Refuge. So  
25 I'm very interested in last year's counts in those  
26 areas and if they're going to continue because of the  
27 low harvest reports.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. BRUNING: Madame Chair, this is  
32 Darren Bruning with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
33 and members of the Council. We will conclude our moose  
34 survey report with hearing from Fairbanks Area  
35 Biologist Tony Hollis and Tony will be able to provide  
36 some comment also about 20F in relation to that last  
37 question. So I will turn this over to Area Biologist  
38 Tony Hollis to provide information about 25C and any  
39 information that he could provide at this point about  
40 20F, and if needed we could bring information back to  
41 you at a later time about some of the other units.  
42 I'll turn it over to Tony, thank you Tony.

43

44 MR. HOLLIS: Hi, Madame Chair, this is  
45 Tony Hollis with the Fairbanks area. Can you hear me?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

48

49 MR. HOLLIS: Yeah, just to touch a

50

0087

1 little bit on Unit 25C and then I'll talk a little bit  
2 about 20F to answer Charlie's question. But Unit 25C  
3 has not been surveyed in its entirety ever. We did do  
4 a survey back in 2007 kind of on the southern two-  
5 thirds of the unit but that's old data. But Unit 25C  
6 generally has a low density population much like what  
7 other biologists talked about with the other portions  
8 of 25 and does have maybe a slightly higher harvest  
9 than these other units only because it has the road  
10 system through it. But, in general, has a fairly low  
11 harvest of moose in it compared to other units around  
12 Fairbanks.

13  
14 A little bit to answer Charlie's  
15 question. Unit 20F also a low density moose  
16 population. We have not conducted surveys in Unit 20F  
17 and -- at this time, and don't have anything -- we  
18 mainly monitor the Unit 20F population based on harvest  
19 from hunters in the area.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
24 Tony.

25  
26 MR. SORUM: This is Matt Sorum with  
27 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and I can  
28 provide additional information on moose population and  
29 it sounds like maybe I was cut-off so I can reprovide  
30 some of that info.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

33  
34 MR. SORUM: Our last moose survey was  
35 in 2019. The population had about a 20 percent  
36 decrease from the previous survey from 2015. In the  
37 2019 survey we estimated the moose population to be .28  
38 moose per square mile so still fairly low moose density  
39 area. But that still is above the long-term average in  
40 Yukon-Charley. And in addition we have been conducting  
41 a moose collaring study to evaluate calving success in  
42 the Preserve. And so the last two years we've had that  
43 going on, we've collared 32 individuals. Of the calves  
44 in the 2020 that survived the summer -- all survived  
45 the winter, so our overwinter survival was 100 percent.  
46 But this spring calving was much lower than last year,  
47 our calving rates for the collared individuals was only  
48 66 percent and the previous year we had 95 percent  
49 calving rates. And interestingly the timing of calving  
50

0088

1 was similar to that of last year in that the calving  
2 date was only one date later.

3

4 So that's all the information we have.  
5 But we plan on doing another -- or continue the calving  
6 surveys for two to three more years and our next  
7 population survey will be next fall in the fall of  
8 2022.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
13 Charlie Wright again.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Charlie  
18 first and then Andy.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: So my question -- I have a  
21 question for the ADF&G, how do I find numbers and count  
22 numbers for Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge 21B (ph).

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. BRUNING: Madame Chairman and  
27 members of the Council. This is Darren Bruning from  
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We will compile  
29 that information for that request and we will submit  
30 that through the Council so that you have that  
31 information. We'll work on that after this meeting has  
32 concluded.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

35

36 MR. BRUNING: You are welcome.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, yeah, thank  
41 you. Just a quick follow-up question. Those surveys  
42 being done in Yukon-Charley, are they along the Yukon  
43 corridor or are they more back in the backcountry of  
44 Yukon-Charley say like up the Charley or whatever.  
45 Because it's kind of important to know because I think  
46 the main pressure for moose hunting in the Yukon-  
47 Charley Preserve is along the Yukon River corridor so  
48 if we're getting information that's not in that area  
49 it's not really relevant to where the highest hunting  
50



0089

1 pressure is and where locals in this area would be  
2 hunting. So just want to maybe get an update on where  
3 those surveys are done, thank you. Briefly.

4

5 MR. SORUM: Yeah, this is Matt Sorum  
6 with Yukon-Charley Rivers. Yeah, the survey overlaps  
7 the main Yukon corridor including the lower Charley,  
8 the lower Nation and the lower Canvik and so most areas  
9 that are most accessible and used by hunters off the  
10 river. So I'm happy to share -- we have a report I'm  
11 happy to share with anyone who would like it and that  
12 includes the study area.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. If that could  
15 be forwarded to Vince, our Coordinator, then he could  
16 get that out to us I think some of us in this area  
17 would appreciate that. Thank you. Thank you, Madame  
18 Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you  
21 all. Anything else from the Council members, any  
22 questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you to  
27 Fish and Game. Is there anything else.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
32 assuming that the Department is finished with their  
33 report.

34

35 MR. BRUNING: Madame Chairman, this is  
36 Darren Bruning from Fish and Game and, yes, we are  
37 concluded with our report and you are welcome.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
40 you again. All right, next on the agenda is the  
41 .805(c) report, Page 32. Vince.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. And  
44 for the new Council members, this is a requirement that  
45 the Federal Subsistence Board needs to respond to  
46 Regional Council recommendations as to why they reject  
47 their recommendation but the Board has also  
48 incorporated where they've agreed. So it's kind of a  
49 report card on the recommendations of your Council and  
50

0090

1 how the Board addressed them.

2

3

4 So basically on Page 32 is just a cover  
5 letter. I just highlighted, which you're going to be  
6 discussing at the end of your meeting, but basically  
7 the Board deferred its decision on Fishery Proposal 21-  
8 10 until the next fishery cycle to allow conflicting  
9 user groups to meet and attempt to reach a compromise.  
10 So that's the key thing out of there.

10

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And then you had several fishery  
closures. For the new Council members, these are  
closures that were put into effect for either -- well,  
for conservation reasons in general, and they're  
reviewed periodically, like every three years to see if  
they're still necessary.

So the Board, on its consensus agenda,  
one fishery closure review which was Fishery Closure  
Review 21-06, which affected your region and the Board  
deferred to your Council with the recommendation as  
follows: The Board adopted eliminating the closure to  
the harvest of all fish in the Toklat River drainage by  
Federally-qualified users from August 15th to May 15th.

And then the other fishery closure that  
came up they deferred to your Council recommendation on  
Fishery Proposal 21-12 and rejected prohibiting the  
uses of monofilaments and multi-filament mesh dipnets  
before August 15th in the upper Copper River.

The Board also deferred recommendation  
on Fishery Proposal 21-14 to prohibit the use of  
onboard devices that indicate fish locations while  
fishing from boats and other watercrafts.

So that's basically an overview of  
that. If you turn to the next pages that actually  
breaks down each proposal or fishery closure that you  
addressed. So I'll focus on -- well, I'll wait and see  
if the people can look at Page 34 and 35 and I can  
point out what I think are important ones and not  
covering all of them so I'll wait for direction.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council

0091

1 members.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I will try to  
7 focus on the ones where they rejected and other ones  
8 but mainly the Board rejected your recommendation to  
9 support, which also Southcentral supported, that daily  
10 harvest of salmon be recorded and reported to the  
11 agency issuing the permit within three days of harvest  
12 in the upper Copper River district. Again, there's  
13 three things that the Board has to look at so you'll  
14 see that in the response when they decide not to go  
15 with your recommendation.

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The Board's opposition is consistent  
with the recommendations of the Wrangell-St. Elias  
Commission and the Office of Subsistence Management.  
The key point of the Board's action is later in the  
paragraph, that there is no evidence that mandatory  
three day harvest reporting requirement is the best way  
to collect such information and there is no substantial  
evidence that requiring this burden of the subsistence  
users would be worthwhile in terms of information  
gathered. The Board recognized that rural users are  
frequently not connected online. The proposed  
mandatory requirement tied to every Federal subsistence  
fishing permit is burdensome and will likely result in  
the high degree of non-compliance. And for Linda,  
remember in the training this was pointed out that  
detrimental to subsistence is one of the factors that  
the Board can use to reject a Council recommendation so  
that is captured in these words.

36

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MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Vince, this is  
Andy. Madame Chair, may I speak for a minute.

MR. MATHEWS: Sure, it's your meeting.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I just  
wanted to briefly, since you were on that topic. You

0092

1 know I think this is something that I find a little bit  
2 objectionable. We have two RACs that are commenting on  
3 a region on a proposal and both RACs are supporting it,  
4 I often question if the Federal Subsistence Board goes  
5 against what the recommendations of multiple RACs are  
6 saying. I realize they have the right to do that but I  
7 question what's the point of the RACs even weighing in,  
8 these are the user groups that it's affecting, if  
9 they're both on board, I think it's incumbent upon the  
10 Federal Subsistence Board to heed that, recognize that.  
11 I think in fisheries, as we see with the Yukon River in  
12 the future, if we don't start getting more in-season  
13 reporting then it makes it extremely difficult for  
14 managers to manage a resource for Federally-qualified  
15 or non-Federally-qualified people when the resource is  
16 limited. That's a key element for managers to have at  
17 their disposal, that in-season, on time fishing report.  
18 And I would also disagree with the fact that most  
19 people aren't online. I think most everybody, no matter  
20 where they live in Alaska has a cell phone and almost  
21 every village has the ability to set up a reporting  
22 system that they could turn that information over. So I  
23 think it's incumbent upon the people who uses on the  
24 river to start taking responsibility for what they  
25 harvest and reporting that and I don't feel it's a  
26 burden. It may be an inconvenience but given the  
27 decline of all the resources that we're talking about  
28 at this meeting, both fish and game, things have to  
29 begin to change and that means that the people who are  
30 harvesting have to take responsibility in their harvest  
31 to make sure that it's reported in a timely manner.

32

33 That's all I have to say, thank you.  
34 And I hope that makes it into the records.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm capturing.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do  
41 appreciate -- Andy, I do appreciate what you're saying  
42 but I do want you to know even where I live there's no  
43 cell service. So I'm sure there's other ways but just  
44 to make a note on that, not everybody has cell service.  
45 But point noted. I think most of the Council agrees  
46 that it's important to have the data sooner than later.  
47 Vince, did you have anything else, or Council members  
48 did you guys have anything.

49

50

0093

1 MR. MATHEWS: No, Madame Chair, I  
2 didn't have anything else on that proposal.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do  
5 Council members have questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, any  
10 other Council members have anything on this agenda.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
15 hearing none we'll move on to D, Board fiscal year 2020  
16 annual report reply, and that's on Page 39.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And just for the  
19 record then the Council members don't have any  
20 questions about the .805(c) letter that was provided in  
21 the book.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. As noted the  
26 annual report reply letter starts on Page 39 and I'll  
27 just give a moment or so for people to get there and  
28 start looking at, you know, what you submitted in your  
29 annual report and then how the Board's responded.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
34 Vince.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. As you know your  
37 first one is food security and subsistence needs  
38 satisfaction. I think you all know that has been  
39 brought up in multiple meetings and again today about  
40 it, and this is focusing on poor salmon returns and the  
41 -- it just brings up all the different points in your  
42 request, you know, that -- well, all that you discussed  
43 earlier during the Yukon in-season, you know, coverage.  
44 And that you, the Council, raised the alarm that  
45 depletion of wild salmon stocks creates a very serious  
46 situation making traditional food unavailable to users.  
47 The Council requests the Board to -- request that the  
48 Board direct Federal management to step up and develop  
49 measures to mitigate the situation before it is too

50

0094

1 late. So if you look at Page 41 that is the Board's  
2 response. And, of course, the Board recognizes your  
3 concerns and that it does pose a challenge to food  
4 security. Federal managers must manage for both  
5 conservation and continuation of subsistence uses; for  
6 subsistence priority over other uses, you already knew  
7 that. And the Council is correct that comprehensive  
8 surveys would help to illustrate subsistence uses and  
9 changes in harvest over time and, of course, YRDFA gave  
10 you an update on some of their activities to capture  
11 some of that data as well as other actions.

12  
13 So the third paragraph, the Board  
14 understands the need for more frequent comprehensive  
15 surveys and those are generally conducted by the Alaska  
16 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence,  
17 but that they can be supported by funding through the  
18 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and other  
19 resources.

20  
21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: So I just noted that that  
25 was a funding request question there that maybe others  
26 on OSM Staff can share the status of requests for  
27 funding by Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department  
28 of Fish and Game. And that's something that I would  
29 call on other Staff.....

30  
31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

34  
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Vince. I don't  
36 mean to interrupt you, sorry, I thought you were done.  
37 The final paragraph, second sentence, when species  
38 become less abundant due to climate change, closures on  
39 non-Federally-qualified users where ANILCA .804  
40 prioritization among Federally-qualified subsistence  
41 users may become necessary, could someone very, very  
42 briefly inform the Council how that would transpire,  
43 how that would take place, what would initiate what  
44 that process would be if .804 prioritization was to be  
45 instituted. And I don't need a long thing, just  
46 something really briefly on what are the mechanics of  
47 initiating an .804 prioritization, someone from OSM.

48  
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
50

0095

1 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. The key  
2 person to answer that would be your anthropologist,  
3 which would be Pippa and she's involved with the  
4 Western or Southcentral meeting right at this moment.  
5 So we could bring that up later when she is online.  
6 There are steps in that but, Andy, I'm not going to --  
7 the .804, in general, for fisheries is something a lot  
8 of thoughts would have to be put together. But Pippa  
9 could give you the outline on it, the steps that lead  
10 up to .804 and how possibly an .804 could be  
11 implemented. But I think you've been around long  
12 enough, Andy, to know that it would be a large  
13 challenge to figure out how to do that on the 1,200  
14 mile river with -- I've lost count how many villages --  
15 so we could -- I can leave a note when Pippa comes on  
16 if you'd like.

17  
18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame  
19 Chair. I think for my purposes, I think even if that  
20 was information that was gotten to us after this  
21 meeting, recognizing the difficulties with three or two  
22 RAC meetings happening at the last time consuming OSM  
23 Staff on the same day so at a later date that would be  
24 good but I think that's something important for our  
25 Council to understand and people along the Yukon River  
26 and in our region to understand for both wildlife and  
27 fisheries.

28  
29 Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you,  
30 Vince.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And I made a note  
33 of that and there's other people online that are making  
34 note of that as well. Yeah, Pippa just -- she's up  
35 speaking right now at Southcentral, I just got a  
36 message. I'm kind of struggling here how you want me  
37 to proceed with each of these responses. I don't want  
38 to take up your time because it is there in front of  
39 you but I'll wait for some direction on the next one,  
40 impacts of hatchery production on Alaska wild  
41 fisheries.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well.....

44  
45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, this is  
46 Andy. I had another question on that one as well.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
49 Andy, go ahead.

50

0096

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. On Page  
2 43 the second paragraph it's basically saying that  
3 eight private non-profit hatcheries are operating total  
4 of 26 hatcheries throughout Southeast Alaska and then  
5 farther down in there it goes to the point we were  
6 bringing up and Virgil's been bringing up for over a  
7 decade and that was that salmon production went from 4  
8 million juvenile salmon release annually in 1980 to 1.4  
9 to 1.8 billion juvenile salmon release annually between  
10 1990 and present. So this issue of hatchery  
11 production, I know we're limited in the resources with  
12 OSM but I'm speaking to all the people who are on the  
13 Yukon River that are listening to this, this is  
14 something that's impacting the marine environment in a  
15 very huge way that's not understood by very many  
16 people. That's the point of why we put this on the  
17 annual report and I still am a little confounded that  
18 OSM can't direct resources to that if it's something  
19 that's affecting in-river subsistence harvest or  
20 opportunity to harvest. So I don't know where we go  
21 from this but the main point I want to bring up is  
22 everybody's throwing and pointing fingers at the  
23 bycatch out in the Bering Sea and it's certainly  
24 important for us to stay on top of that but I strongly  
25 believe that the hatchery production is having a much  
26 greater affect given the climate changes that are  
27 happening out in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

28  
29 So if you really want to put some  
30 effort into trying to find out what's happening to our  
31 fall chum and our king salmon out in the marine  
32 environment, those are studies that really need to take  
33 place in the future to understand the impacts of  
34 hatchery production going up 10-fold or 12-fold in a  
35 decade.

36  
37 That's all I have for that, thank you.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,  
40 Andy.....

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I do want  
43 to point out and I think Andy also sees it there that  
44 the last paragraph there on that, and I will ask other  
45 Staff to chime in on this because I don't know the  
46 process on when you review your priority information  
47 needs but the Board encourages your Council to  
48 recommend the priority information need directed  
49 towards that funding Fisheries Resource Monitoring to  
50



0097

1 prompt perspective investigators to research the  
2 possible genetic contributions of hatchery fish in the  
3 Yukon. I realize Andy that's not directly related to  
4 what you brought up but it is a mechanism to have some  
5 focus on hatchery fish. So I'll wait to see if there's  
6 other Staff online but I know later on you're going to  
7 be provided an update on the Fisheries Resource  
8 Monitoring Program but I apologize I don't know when  
9 you can start looking at your PINS, your priority  
10 information needs and possibly consider adding this  
11 genetic contribution of hatchery fish in the Yukon. I  
12 don't know, our Fisheries Staff is kind of spread  
13 between meetings also.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Before we go  
16 down that road I would like to bring something up to  
17 Andy about these hatchery fish. Boy, losing Andrew  
18 like we did.....

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, my phone has  
21 dropped off again, I apologize I have to call back in.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's so  
24 weird that we can hear you and you can't hear us.

25  
26 Andy, do you hear me?

27  
28 MR. BASSICH: Yes, Ma'am.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is not  
31 just -- this is for the entire RAC members, at our last  
32 meeting we did not take up Board of Fisheries  
33 proposals, and it's been brought to my attention from a  
34 prior member and I know this wouldn't have fallen  
35 through the cracks at the last meeting if Andrew were  
36 there, that there are two proposals addressing hatchery  
37 fish in the Board of Fish meetings that occur in  
38 December and I've been told by Katya that we have to  
39 take up all our action items first but that is  
40 something we could do at the end of the meeting. So I  
41 just wanted to give you a head's up and I think it's  
42 Board of Fisheries Proposals 54 and 55 and I'm going to  
43 ask Staff if they could send an email to all of us and  
44 then we can talk about if we want to take that up to  
45 the end of the meeting. If that is okay with all of  
46 you.

47  
48 MR. BASSICH: I think it's very.....

49  
50

0098

1 MR. WRIGHT: It's okay, this is Charlie  
2 Wright.

3  
4 MR. BASSICH: .....important to  
5 keep.....

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead  
8 Charlie.

9  
10 MR. WRIGHT: I agree.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gotcha.  
13 Okay, well, we'll just let it go at that then. And,  
14 Council members, on this letter that Vince is going  
15 over, would you like him to address each of those  
16 issues. We have hunter ethics next and then Copper  
17 River sockeye and chinook as the last two topics on  
18 there. How would you like to proceed? Oh, we have  
19 climate change, impacts on moose. Did you all read it,  
20 do you want more information in-depth?

21  
22 MR. BASSICH: Sue, this is Andy. I'm  
23 fine with people just commenting on them and up to  
24 date. And the only other point that I wanted to bring  
25 up during this discussion was I was a part of the  
26 meeting where we were supposed to, on the Yukon River,  
27 go to the Fisheries Monitoring Program and select or  
28 recommend for funding and what I was told at that  
29 meeting was that no funds can be directed towards  
30 anything in the marine environment, that's why I'm  
31 bringing this up.

32  
33 No OSM funds can be used, at least I  
34 was told at that meeting when I was trying to set this  
35 as a high priority for Yukon River chinook and fall  
36 chum, that no resources can be going to the marine  
37 environment, it has to be within the boundaries and I  
38 had questioned that because what about the people in  
39 Southeast Alaska, that their entire subsistence is  
40 driven from the marine environment and I didn't get a  
41 satisfactory answer to that. But anyway that was the  
42 point I was trying to bring up.

43  
44 So when it says for us to identify  
45 things for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,  
46 OSM will reject anything that has to do with the marine  
47 environment and hatchery production out in that  
48 environment is what I've been told.

49  
50

0099

1                   That's all I had for this topic, thank  
2 you, Madame Chair.

3  
4                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
5 Andy. Interesting. Council members, regarding this  
6 letter, do you want Vince to continue in that light or  
7 do you have any comments on any of these responses from  
8 the Federal Subsistence Board.

9  
10                   (No comments)

11  
12                   MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, if there  
13 isn't there's just a couple of things that I think the  
14 next Coordinator needs to know where you're going with  
15 because there's directions from the Federal Board  
16 within your hunter ethics and outreach that the next  
17 Coordinator needs to know, you know, do you have to  
18 resubmit a formal request for an Arctic Village Sheep  
19 Management Area for a, we'll call it a working group or  
20 a subcommittee, that is contained in the Board response  
21 so I don't know. It's on the bottom of Page 46, so  
22 that might be someone else can chime in but I think you  
23 need to know, do you have to resubmit.

24  
25                   And then in the future on these  
26 responses, and I know it's -- there's been Staffing  
27 shortages so it's just something for the future  
28 Coordinator. But the Board recommends the Council  
29 reach out to the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional  
30 Subsistence Coordinator Jill Klein, who may be online,  
31 and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Steve  
32 Berendzen, but it also should indicate the Refuge  
33 Subsistence Coordinator because that Coordinator for  
34 that Refuge and that needs to be in the loop on that so  
35 it is -- it needs to be tracked on that so they're not  
36 out of the picture. But, again, it was probably  
37 written this way because of all the slots open in Fish  
38 and Game.

39  
40                   So I don't know, if someone else can  
41 answer, do you need to resubmit, and that's just what  
42 I'm flagging here.

43  
44                   And then if I could move on, again,  
45 this is not the way to do this because all you guys can  
46 read the full discussions and that's the best way to go  
47 so I'm cherry-picking but the ones that require action  
48 from you guys, or potential actions.

49  
50

0100

1                   So the Copper River sockeye, chinook  
2 salmon, it's talking about the 2022 priority  
3 information needs for Southcentral region and you can  
4 read that in there, you know, reliable estimates et  
5 cetera, et cetera for the Copper River, does the  
6 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council want to add  
7 that to their priority information needs when they have  
8 opportunity to do that. So that's something that I just  
9 flag.

10

11                   And I believe that's all the key points  
12 that I found in there that needed some, you know,  
13 direction on how to handle.

14

15                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want  
16 to remind the Council members, as your Chair, we're all  
17 volunteers and we're only as good as our Coordinator  
18 and we've been going through some pretty tough times  
19 here. I think we've been three or four of them here in  
20 the last five years. Vince, I appreciate you doing  
21 that and it's important to us that you continue to flag  
22 the things that you see for us and pass it on.

23

24                   MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I think out  
25 of respect to other Staff, because they're spread out,  
26 you know, I did share these same kind of questions with  
27 them and there wasn't opportunity to get back. So I  
28 just -- you know, when the Board gives you directions,  
29 I'm flagging those so you're aware of them and I'm sure  
30 Staff will get back on these items.

31

32                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm sure  
33 they will, and I'm sure you sent a text to each them,  
34 and tomorrow I don't think there's any conflicting  
35 Council -- we are the only ones meeting tomorrow is my  
36 understanding.

37

38                   MR. MATHEWS: Right. You will be the  
39 sole Regional Advisory Council on Friday unless they  
40 run over, which I doubt.

41

42                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
43 I trust that the information is going to get passed and  
44 we will hear more tomorrow and we will -- as long as  
45 the Council members are happy we will allow those  
46 reports -- that information to come before us then.

47

48                   MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

49

50

0101

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2 Council members.....

3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I have one  
5 comment.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: I got off easy on that  
8 then.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was that.  
11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have  
13 something to respond to the .805.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
16 Don.

17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. In response  
19 to what Andy said, the Federal Subsistence Board says  
20 that they have no jurisdiction outside of Federal  
21 waters, so wherever they might be, and in our area the  
22 Yukon River is navigable and it's deemed State waters  
23 so an .804 in our area would only work, I believe, on  
24 the Nation River because that has been determined  
25 navigable. Now on other parts of the Yukon, of course,  
26 it's a patchwork of Federal waters and State waters.

27  
28 And on the hatchery issue, you know,  
29 it's not just Alaska, it's Russia and Japan and that's  
30 going to take some real serious coordination with the  
31 State Department and, you know, it's not just Alaska's  
32 dumping hatchery fish, it's every nation participating  
33 in that and we have no way of getting that information  
34 from Japan or Russia or if they would even consider it.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to belabor  
43 this but it needs to be for all Council members to  
44 remember that it's waters adjoining to Federal public  
45 lands. And for those who were on the Council a few  
46 years ago remember there was an allowance of driftnet  
47 fishing in 4B/4C, which is near the Nowitna National  
48 Wildlife Refuge and so it was allowed to use driftnets  
49 there because they were adjoining waters. So this is  
50

0102

1 part of the complexity with an .805 determination that,  
2 as Don brought up very well, it applies to Federal  
3 waters, but Federal waters include the waters adjacent  
4 to conservation units, in this case it would have been  
5 Refuge and Yukon-Charley it would be National Park  
6 Conservation Units. So that's part of the complexity  
7 of the situation. So I just want to get that on the  
8 record.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I just  
13 want to get on the record that Shawn Bayless, the  
14 Refuge Manager at the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge just text  
15 me and said the Nation River is navigable so I guess we  
16 need to know that for sure.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and there is -- I  
19 don't have it in front of me but I think there's also a  
20 map on all this, Federal waters. But at this point,  
21 once, if we do approach an .804 all this will come  
22 forward so.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I  
25 believe so. Council members, do you guys have anything  
26 else on this one, the .805 report.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy. Just a point  
29 of clarification.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so the point that  
34 I'm trying to make isn't that the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board should take action because they can only take  
36 action on Federal waters or whatever as far as setting  
37 regulations or whatever, but the point I'm trying to  
38 make is that they're not even allowing research to be  
39 done in that environment that impacts people in-river  
40 on the mainland, and I think that's the differentiation  
41 I'm making. I realize that they don't maybe have  
42 jurisdiction to set regulation in certain waters in the  
43 marine environment but they certainly should allow to  
44 be able to contribute to funding. Most funding  
45 nowadays happens through multiple partnership because  
46 of the expense. So that's the point I'm trying to make  
47 with my comments.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank

50

0103

1 you, Andy. Anything else Council members.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
6 think I'm getting lost here. Is the next thing, help  
7 me out, Vice Chair, annual report reply process  
8 revision discussion. Katya.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Katya, will be  
11 covering that and it's Page 56 and I apologize my phone  
12 is still screwing up so I'll keep going in and out.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Madame  
17 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record my name  
18 is Katya Wessels and I am the Subsistence Council  
19 Coordination Division Supervisor for OSM.

20

21 You just heard a synopsis from Vince of  
22 the Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply. So  
23 the Board replied to the report that you submitted to  
24 them this year. So this discussion is going to be  
25 about the reply, a revision process, and as Vince said  
26 you can find the materials on Page 56 of your meeting  
27 book.

28

29 The document that you find there is  
30 titled annual report reply process revision. And I  
31 just want to also let you know that this is not an  
32 action item. Originally it was envisioned as a big  
33 discussion, now it's going to be discussion during your  
34 winter meeting so this is more of a briefing right now.  
35 So while I recognize that this item is new business for  
36 the Council, we choose to address it here in old  
37 business following your review of the annual report  
38 replies from the Board. This way the annual report  
39 reply process is fresh in your minds as I present the  
40 briefing.

41

42 During the Federal Subsistence Board's  
43 August 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff  
44 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply  
45 process and possible revisions to improve workload  
46 efficiency and response to Regional Advisory Council  
47 concerns. The Board reviewed and discussed the report  
48 reply process and agreed to forward this topic to the  
49 Councils for your input on the suggested revisions,

50

0104

1 including possible ideas of your own.

2

3

4 As you're aware, ANILCA, Section  
5 .805(c) authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual  
6 report containing information related to important  
7 subsistence resource issues within their region. These  
8 reports are invaluable as they provide the Board with a  
9 broad holistic picture of local resource conditions and  
10 the subsistence issues facing communities across rural  
11 Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can make  
12 informed decisions.

12

13

14 Historically the Board has strived to  
15 provide responses to every topic listed in annual  
16 reports regardless of its ability to address the issues  
17 raised. And it is unclear if Board responses on all  
18 annual report topics are helpful to the Council, while  
19 taking considerable Staff time to complete. The  
20 InterAgency Staff Committee has suggested process  
21 revisions to consider annual reports serve solely as a  
22 mechanism for informing the Board of local conditions  
23 and needs and proposed writing letters as a means of  
24 requesting Board responses to topics of concern. Under  
25 this scenario, Councils could ask their coordinator to  
26 write a letter to the Board if there are annual report  
27 topics to which they're specifically requesting a  
28 response.

28

29

30 These suggested revisions are not  
31 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to  
32 report to the Board and Councils will still receive  
33 responses from the Board when requested, from the  
34 Board. And these are only suggestions. You, the  
35 Council, may have other ideas about a more efficient  
36 and responsive annual report and reply process.

36

37

38 To that end, we are asking you to think  
39 about what you want from the Board in terms of replies  
40 as you develop and confirm your fiscal year 2021 annual  
41 report between the fall and winter meetings.

41

42

43 We will take this up again, as I said  
44 earlier, when we meet during the winter 2022.

44

45

46 Once again this is not an action item,  
47 not until your winter meeting. We'll have to have some  
48 action at your winter meeting. Thank you, Madame  
49 Chair. Members of the Council. And I am ready for  
50 your questions.

50



0105

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
2 questions.

3

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I am  
8 hearing none. So moving rapidly along the next thing  
9 on the agenda is the hunter ethics education outreach  
10 update.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, I'll  
13 be covering that. And for those that are more internet  
14 savvy this same report is on the Federal Subsistence  
15 Program website underneath your region and within  
16 meeting materials and it's titled 2021 hunter liaison  
17 report. For the Council members, you received a --  
18 hopefully you received a copy of it in the mail, and  
19 this was written by Amanda Pope living in Circle City,  
20 Alaska. And please note on the bottom that this -- she  
21 made a note that her hours were cut in half compared to  
22 the first two years so this was a summary of, you know,  
23 the reduced amount for that.

24

25 Anyways, you can see in there -- and  
26 the key points I want to point out and this is  
27 something that, you know, Andy and Sue and whoever else  
28 I'm forgetting is one of the reasons why you were  
29 heavily invested and supportive of this hunter ethics  
30 program and then the particular project, the hunter  
31 liaison. In the second paragraph of her report she  
32 actually got appointed by the tribal council to  
33 represent them at Fish and Game Commissioner [sic] for  
34 the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee. This shows exactly  
35 what you were talking about as the hunter liaison  
36 develops this relationship either that they are already  
37 part of the community or become more integrated into  
38 the community that they become an avenue between these  
39 advisory groups. And as some of you know the Yukon  
40 Flats Advisory Committee is a very large committee and  
41 because of its size it's difficult for them to meet and  
42 Andrew Firmin was one of the leaders of that committee.

43

44 It also pointed out that it was an  
45 avenue, which she points out there, while working in  
46 her position as a hunter liaison she passed on  
47 information to people of how her family prevents meat  
48 spoilage and try to catch people before they head into  
49 the field so she can get these tips on transporting the

50

0106

1 harvested animal. So the other thing I want to point  
2 out there is that she really enjoys that position,  
3 remember she's greeting hunters at the boat launch at  
4 Circle City, and, you know, it's just amazing she's  
5 really made a bridge there with the hunters because  
6 they're all busy, they want to get their boats launched  
7 or they want to get the boat on the trailer and get  
8 into town. But, anyways, she enjoys working it, she's  
9 learned a lot about the hunting regulations. Another  
10 objective of your liaison program was to be a source  
11 for people to say, well, what is the hunting season,  
12 where do I go for this season and et cetera. So she  
13 ended up passing out regulations and she got a lot of  
14 positive feedback about the program from hunters as  
15 they came through Circle. She had a few people that  
16 declined, that's to be expected, people are, you know,  
17 they want to get going but, you know, it's few of them  
18 and some worried about the program's sole purpose and  
19 she definitely developed a good relationship with them.

20  
21 So then if you look at the next page,  
22 there's no numbers on these pages, but you'll see  
23 graphs and, et cetera, that she provided. I think I'll  
24 leave it up to you guys to look at that but for the  
25 record she noted that during the total number of  
26 people, she interviewed 243 people from August 11th  
27 through September 17th, 181 were in-state Alaska  
28 hunters, not including locals, 58 non-resident hunters  
29 and none of them declined to be part of it. And then  
30 four locals and so you can look at her breakdown as she  
31 breaks down where people were going and that. I won't  
32 cover that but for those that would like to know that,  
33 you can go to the website or I can mail you this. So  
34 that is Amanda Pope's report.

35  
36 And as you note, or need to note, the  
37 hunter liaison for Fort Yukon was not funded this year,  
38 so there is no report from Fort Yukon on the hunter  
39 liaison program. So I'm open for any questions on  
40 this.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then.....

45  
46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Vince, Andy.

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Andy.

49  
50

0107

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I just wanted to  
2 make a couple quick comments and a quick question.  
3 First of all, this exemplifies what it is we were  
4 trying to do with the hunter ethics program, one of the  
5 aspects of it. And I really commend her for doing such  
6 an excellent job, certainly this is what I kind of  
7 envisioned when we were talking about the hunter  
8 liaison and how effective it could be. I also wanted  
9 to just inform the Council that our AC has been talking  
10 about this somewhat too and we're very interested in  
11 trying to establish something at the beginning of the  
12 Taylor Highway for hunters coming in during the hunting  
13 season for both caribou and moose, I think it would be  
14 very effective. So if we could partner with the school  
15 district in Tok, or volunteers or whatever from Tok,  
16 that would be another great addition. And I would also  
17 recommend that something like this be attempted to be  
18 started somewhere at the start of the Steese Highway  
19 given all of the difficulties that we've heard about  
20 hunting along the Steese Highway when the caribou are  
21 thick.

22  
23 So those are just some suggestions I'd  
24 like to make for expanding on this but this shows that  
25 this kind of pilot program is very effective.

26  
27 And then I guess the big question on  
28 this programs is who's going to fund it, how's it going  
29 to get funded and so that's something that needs to be  
30 brought up and brainstormed to try and find consistent,  
31 reliable funding if we're going to begin to increase a  
32 program like this to other aspects of our Interior  
33 region.

34  
35 That's all I had, thank you, Madame  
36 Chair. Thank you, Vince.

37  
38 Thank you, Katya, because I know you  
39 were a big part of this too.

40  
41 MR. JAGOW: Madame Chair.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I can --  
44 sorry.

45  
46 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie  
47 jagow. I just wanted to make a quick comment. You  
48 know I'm in and out of Circle quite a bit during the  
49 hunting season and I got to watch Amanda's interaction  
50

0108

1 with hunters and I just wanted to make the comment that  
2 she does an effective job and there's always good  
3 dialogue, or at least the dialogue that I got to  
4 witness so I'd have to commend her on that.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright,  
9 Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
12 ahead, Charlie Wright.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: I would also like to  
15 commend Amanda on great work, it looks really good, I'm  
16 happy and I'd like to see more. Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, anyone  
19 else.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that you  
24 Vince?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is, I'm sorry my  
27 phone is so screwed up. I'm hoping Bruce Thomas is  
28 online to hear this because he supervises Amanda. I  
29 will pass it along on that on the compliments. And on  
30 the funding thing, I do need to cover that a little  
31 bit. And basically I did dialogue with the Refuge  
32 Manager for Yukon Flats recently on this funding, which  
33 there was not enough funding for the Fort Yukon liaison  
34 so I'll share with you what he shared with me, but  
35 basically the Yukon Flats Refuge was spending a  
36 significant portion of its budget allowance on the  
37 engagement of hunters that were hunting in Arctic  
38 Refuge, about 100 percent of the contacts at Fort Yukon  
39 or Yukon-Charley National Park and Preserve, about 50  
40 percent of the contacts at the boat ramp, or BLM lands  
41 along the Steese highway. So the Refuge redirected the  
42 Fort Yukon hunter liaison funds to the Eyes in the Bush  
43 project with the Council of Athabaskan Tribal  
44 Governments. So next year 2022, Arctic Refuge will  
45 fund a hunter liaison for Fort Yukon, and at this time  
46 it appears the National Park Service will contribute to  
47 the Circle hunter liaison position. So this kind of  
48 relates to Andy's AC and Andy requesting for additional  
49 ones, and he tapped it correctly is finding funding,

50

0109

1 but your positive comments are being heard by many that  
2 maybe -- well, your support and positive comments on  
3 this will possibly provide adequate funding for this  
4 and then also it might be wise when those go forward,  
5 work with Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments,  
6 since Amanda's doing such a good job, as well as Paul,  
7 if Paul is the one doing it in the future, that they  
8 would help these other hunter liaisons if they are  
9 established as Andy requested.

10

11 So that's that unless there's questions  
12 or someone else wants to add, that's the report from  
13 Circle City done by Hunter Liaison Amanda Pope.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
16 Vince.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, a  
19 quick.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
22 members is there any.....

23

24 MR. BASSICH: .....quick comment.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, sorry, Andy.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
31 Andy.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Thank  
34 you for that Vince. I appreciate the update on the  
35 funding aspects and I would hope that TCC is still  
36 onboard and listening through their hunter liaison  
37 program. i'm not sure how much it's costing to fund  
38 these liaison but this is boots on the ground and very  
39 effective and it should be -- they should consider  
40 contributing to the partnership of funding these  
41 liaisons especially into the regions where their Native  
42 or First Nations People are being impacted. So just  
43 kind of a I hope they're listening in and maybe can  
44 think about trying to partner in.

45

46 Thank you, Vince. Thank you, Madame  
47 Chair.

48

49 MR. IRVINE: Hello, Chair, this is

50

0110

1 Bruce. Sorry for interrupting.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No problem,  
4 Bruce, go ahead.

5

6 MR. IRVINE: Sorry, we're currently  
7 giving our TCC report on the Western Interior RAC right  
8 now, just finishing up. And I got dropped up a couple  
9 of times and I heard Bruce and I heard Tok, and then  
10 jumping on here just trying to get caught up. Could  
11 you, please, Chair, share some concerns for TCC.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think  
14 it was -- Vince do you want to -- or Andy, could you  
15 reiterate for Bruce.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, this is Andy  
18 Bassich. So Bruce what we're talking about is, as you  
19 were present at some of our meetings there in Eagle,  
20 you know, trying to develop the hunter liaison at the  
21 beginning of the Taylor Highway to contact people who  
22 are moose and caribou hunting which impacts locals,  
23 Eagle Village, also people along the Steese Highway,  
24 Native communities are impacted by this heavy hunting  
25 pressure. So what I'm hoping that you'll hear is that  
26 maybe TCC and the liaison -- I'm sorry, the TCC hunter  
27 program be able to partner and maybe help fund some  
28 more of these liaisons, it seems to be working very  
29 well, it seems to be very effective and what we really  
30 need is some reliable funding into the future to try  
31 and establish more of these programs around the Eastern  
32 Interior region. So that's what we were talking about,  
33 I hope that helps you. And if you have any questions,  
34 I think myself or Sue or Vince or Katya could help  
35 answer those if you guys are interested in being  
36 involved in funding these programs or a liaison.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. IRVINE: Okay. That.....

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
43 Charlie Wright.

44

45 MR. IRVINE: .....oh, go ahead.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.....

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Well, Bruce this is a good

50

0111

1 form of data collection if you'll look into it. Amanda  
2 did a great job with some numbers and I think more of  
3 this would help give us some more data and knowing how  
4 to manage better our areas.

5

6 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz here.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was there  
11 somebody else that spoke when Charlie Wright did.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz here.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
16 Bill.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: It's working out well in  
19 Circle there. I didn't hear too many people raising  
20 hell about it, everybody seemed to go participate,  
21 there was a bunch of them that didn't. But it  
22 surprised me to see that there was so much hunting  
23 pressure in 20B and 25C up there along the river, there  
24 was no place to park hardly in Circle parking lots  
25 there was so many people up on the Yukon River and down  
26 the Yukon River and there's a lot of hunting pressure  
27 there. And that's why we were so interested in getting  
28 a moose survey in 25C up there along the river, that's  
29 where all the hunting pressure, it's not enough that  
30 they killed 1,200 caribou in our area this fall, but  
31 now you can't hardly find the moose on the Yukon River  
32 it's so heavily hunted up in that area. They won that,  
33 what do you call it, the Supreme Court case, the poor  
34 guy that filed the case, he don't have a place to hunt  
35 anymore because they've overrun his hunting area with  
36 canoes, airboats and so forth, jet boats, which is  
37 legal but -- I mean Amanda has a good handle on the  
38 pressure and where it's at so I'm really in favor of  
39 that liaison option anywhere long the river like that.

40

41 So, thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Bill.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Am I cut off again -- okay.  
46 Okay, all right.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we got  
49 you.

50

0112

1 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Bill.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

8

9 MR. IRVINE: Hi, this is Bruce again  
10 with TCC. You know I'm really interested and I'd like  
11 to learn more about it and I'm pretty sure my  
12 colleagues Ben and Brooke and Deborah, they'll be  
13 really happy to do whatever we can for our tribes in  
14 the Interior and, you know, anything that helps us out,  
15 you know, helps us to keep practicing our ways of life  
16 I think is really important. Just living here in Tok,  
17 I -- you know I totally understand how Andy feels and,  
18 you know, he's been experiencing this for a very long  
19 time and, you know, I seen it, just thousands of  
20 hunters going up the Taylor Highway every year and then  
21 they're going up the Steese as well. You know as I  
22 thought about this year, you know, during the moose and  
23 caribou season, you know, how many hides are up there,  
24 how many hides are just laying on the ground. You  
25 know, there's a lot more I want to say but I don't want  
26 to say stuff right now just because of the sake of time  
27 and I don't want to take up too much time. But there's  
28 a lot of things that can happen, so I'm willing to  
29 discuss this further with Andy and whoever else wants  
30 to try to figure out some way to do this.

31

32 So thank you, I appreciate the  
33 opportunity and looking forward to working something  
34 out, so, thanks.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Bruce.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, if I  
43 can follow-up -- can I follow.....

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....up with  
48 him. Yeah, Bruce, I hear you loud and clear and I just  
49 want to say all my years of working in this whole thing

50



0113

1 to bring people together, I feel like we need a program  
2 that -- in this hunter ed and we were hoping that this  
3 could all happen through this hunter ed program that we  
4 got started in the Eastern Interior but government  
5 works in very slow ways. But I would like to see  
6 something that -- that comes to me, is the fact that  
7 people -- other hunters from urban areas or wherever  
8 might not bring out the same things as the Native  
9 cultures do and, to me, it's a sharing of the -- like  
10 the hide like you mentioned or the stomach or the  
11 tongue, I'm a firm believer of the head meat and the  
12 tongue of any animal and if there's a way for this  
13 program to come up with ways that people know they're  
14 going through a village and they can share things that  
15 they can bring out, I think that's the kind of things  
16 me, I, personally would like to see to bring people  
17 together. I just wanted to mention that to you, it's  
18 something that has come to my brain. I haven't figured  
19 out how to deal with it other than the kinds of things  
20 that are being done now like Amanda, what she did in  
21 there. If that could be added to the program about  
22 sharing. But, yeah, I just wanted to add that to the  
23 comment.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Bruce, either Katya or I  
30 or both will give you a lot of background materials on  
31 the Eastern Interior hunter ethics program as well as  
32 the others and if -- if you don't have it already.  
33 But, again, there's a strong foundation as you heard  
34 from all the Council members on making these  
35 connections. So I have it in my notes to get you those  
36 materials and I'm also signaling Katya in case I forget  
37 to get you those materials.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Chair -- Sue.  
42 And, you know, I truly appreciate any help that we can  
43 get and, you know, it would be great to -- you know,  
44 just from my own culture, you know, the first thing we  
45 eat is the stomach and then we go to the heart and the  
46 kidney, and the liver and, you know, after that we move  
47 on to the head and make some of the best soup you can  
48 ever eat. And, you know, sometimes things like that,  
49 in different cultures they're just thrown away as

50

0114

1 trash. And so just adding on too that, we're under so  
2 much pressure on the Taylor Highway from, you know,  
3 everybody wants to hunt, everybody wants to try to get  
4 a moose or a caribou but, you know, right now we're  
5 facing a threat from, you know, part of the land being  
6 put for sale, you know, it's in the works of, you know,  
7 taking away a part of our cultural and traditional use  
8 areas right now. That's something else that we're  
9 working on, too, and I just wanted to mention that  
10 because, you know, we pick berries in that area, we  
11 hunt in that area, you know, some people gather wood,  
12 fire wood in the area, some people use Porcupine Ridge  
13 Road to travel all the way down to the Tanana River,  
14 so, you know, it gets frustrating sometimes that we're  
15 getting hit from all angles and it's getting very hard  
16 just to, you know, go out there and practice our  
17 identity, it's getting hard for us to keep our culture  
18 going and so any help that we can get it would be  
19 greatly appreciated.

20

21 So, thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank  
24 you, Bruce. We'll have to get together ourselves here  
25 after the meeting. Anything else anyone, hunter  
26 ethics.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, do you  
31 want to move on everyone, are we free to get our own  
32 breaks or do we need a break -- we're going to move  
33 into wildlife proposals next.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
38 opposed to not taking a break.

39

40 (No opposition)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
43 next proposal -- or next thing on the agenda is new  
44 business, Wildlife Proposals starting with WP22-51,  
45 remove moose registration hunt. Tom, are you ready.

46

47 MR. PLANK: Hello, Madame Chair, this  
48 is Thomas Plank, I'm ready.

49

50

0115

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, go  
2 right ahead.

3  
4 MR. PLANK: Can you hear me?

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, yes, I  
7 hear you, can you hear me,

8  
9 MR. PLANK: Okay. Yes, Ma'am. All  
10 right. Hello, Madame Chair. Members of the Council.  
11 My name is Tom Plank and I am a Wildlife Biologist in  
12 the Office of Subsistence Management and I will be  
13 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife  
14 Proposal WP22-51 submitted by BLM requesting the  
15 elimination of the Minto Flats management area  
16 registration hunt for moose in Unit 20B from Federal  
17 regulations starting on Page 58 of your meeting books.

18  
19 Since 1990 when the moose hunt in Minto  
20 Flats was established most of the Federal lands within  
21 Minto Flats has been conveyed to the State of Alaska.  
22 The remaining Federal lands are encumbered by Native  
23 selection and therefore are not open to hunting under  
24 Federal subsistence harvest regulations. Elimination  
25 of this hunt would reduce user conflict -- user  
26 confusion since the Federal lands to which it would  
27 apply do not exist. Federal regulations in Minto Flats  
28 has not changed since 1990 and if this proposal is  
29 adopted the Federal subsistence moose hunt within Minto  
30 Flats in Unit 20B would be eliminated.

31  
32 Federal public lands open to Federal  
33 subsistence hunting no longer exists in the Minto Flats  
34 hunt area, a Federal hunt is not needed. This change  
35 is not expected to have any impact on the moose  
36 population since no Federal hunts can occur in this  
37 area because all Federal public lands have either been  
38 conveyed or been encumbered. It would also reduce  
39 confusion among Federally-qualified subsistence users  
40 and simply regulations since the Federal lands to which  
41 it applies do not exist.

42  
43 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
44 support Proposal WP22-51.

45  
46 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of  
47 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
50

0116

1 Tom. Council members do you have any questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
6 you for the presentation. Next is a report on  
7 consultation with the tribes.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, there was  
10 no questions or information requests related to this  
11 proposal on tribal consultation.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
14 Vince. Agency comments. ADF&G.

15

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
17 This is Ryan Scott with the Division of Wildlife  
18 Conservation.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, go  
21 ahead.

22

23 MR. SCOTT: Can you hear me -- okay,  
24 sorry.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
27 ahead.

28

29 MR. SCOTT: Very brief. The  
30 Department's recommendation is to support this proposal  
31 because it eliminates confusion since the Federal land  
32 hunt cannot exist without it being on Federal public  
33 lands. In conclusion, a very brief conclusion, we do  
34 support the proposal.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
37 very much. Any questions. Are there any Federal  
38 agency comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal  
43 comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
48 Hearing non Federal or tribal comments I will move on  
49 to advisory group comments. Other Regional Advisory

50

0117

1 Councils.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, let me just  
4 look really quickly, Western Interior might have had it  
5 on their.....

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I'm looking  
8 at their list now and they made no comments on WP22-51.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: They didn't take it up.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: They -- Western Interior  
15 didn't even have that, yeah.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: So there is no other  
20 comments from the other Regional Advisory Councils.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: and I doubt  
23 that there are any Fish and Game Advisory or SRCs.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, not  
28 hearing any. Is there a summary of written public  
29 comments.

30

31 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
32 Tom Plank. There were no written public comments.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
35 public testimony at this time.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
40 Katya Wessels. We did not receive any new written  
41 public comments since the closing date -- I mean today,  
42 during the meeting.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
45 you. Alrighty. Now is the time for a motion to adopt.  
46 We always keep our motions in the positive so if you  
47 are against it you would be voting against it so all  
48 motions are in the positive.

49

50

0118

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I'll make  
2 a motion to adopt WP51.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was you  
5 Donald.

6  
7 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, I'll second  
8 that.

9  
10 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
13 motion has been made by Donald and seconded by Bill to  
14 adopt Proposal 22-51. Okay.

15  
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I can  
17 speak to the motion.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20  
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Since this is a  
22 housekeeping issue and there are no Federal lands  
23 associated with this hunt, I think that it's a no-  
24 brainer that the Council approves.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I  
27 totally agree.

28  
29 MR. GLANZ: Question. Do we have a  
30 question.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The  
33 question's been called for by Bill -- okay, the  
34 question's been called for and I'm going to go by  
35 unanimous consent to -- so a yes on this motion. Is  
36 there any opposition to the motion, 22-52 [sic].

37  
38 (No opposition)

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,  
41 the motion passes unanimously. The next would be 22-52  
42 on Page 62. Go ahead, Tom.

43  
44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom  
46 Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of  
47 Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
48 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-52  
49 submitted by Heimo Korth of Fort Yukon requesting that  
50

0119

1 the closing date of the moose season in Unit 25A be  
2 extended to December 20th starting on Page 62 of your  
3 meeting books.

4  
5 The proponent states that the proposed  
6 changes would increase opportunity to harvest a moose.  
7 In some years moose do not come along the Coleen River  
8 due to a lack of snow and thin ice. Traveling inland  
9 for the proponent is difficult due to tussocks and the  
10 proponent also states extending the season in Unit 25A  
11 would align with the winter season in Unit 25B  
12 Remainder simplifying the paperwork involved.

13  
14 The Board established the current  
15 hunting regulations for moose in Unit 25A when the  
16 Federal Program was established in 1990 and then Unit  
17 25A was divided into two hunt areas beginning the  
18 regulatory year of 2002/2003, Unit 25A within the  
19 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area was called  
20 Dalton Highway and Unit 25A Remainder.

21  
22 Periodic surveys suggest that the moose  
23 numbers in Unit 25A declined from the late 1980s  
24 through the early 2000s. Surveys along the Sheenjek  
25 and Coleen Rivers within Unit 25A have been done  
26 sporadically since 1977. The last survey done for the  
27 Coleen River was done in 2012 and at that time the  
28 observed bull/cow ratio was 109 bulls to 100 cows.  
29 Moose densities to the north of the Brooks Range, Yukon  
30 Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Yukon-Charley Rivers  
31 National Preserve have shown recent increases. Surveys  
32 done around the Kongakut watershed, the region north of  
33 the Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers in the northeast portion  
34 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge increased from  
35 94 observed moose in 2018 to 143 observed moose in  
36 2019. Studies in adjacent units suggest that 60  
37 percent of bull moose have lost antlers by December  
38 15th and the remaining bulls with antlers would be  
39 mostly one to three year olds as well as a few injured  
40 bulls that are sick and may not have dropped antlers  
41 until much later than the normal period for their age  
42 class.

43  
44 Harvest is low due to the remoteness of  
45 the area and the time, distance and expense of success  
46 in hunting grounds. Winter hunt participation in Unit  
47 25A is historically low. There are very few Federally-  
48 qualified subsistence hunters living in Unit 25A during  
49 the winter and the only village is Arctic Village. As  
50

0120

1 shown in Figure 1 on Page 67 the average annual  
2 reported moose harvest in Unit 25A during the 10 year  
3 period of 2010 to 2019 was 45 moose. The total number  
4 of hunters averaged 111 per year and annual success  
5 rate averaged 39 percent. Annual harvest and number of  
6 hunters and success rates have remained relatively  
7 stable from 2003 to 2019. Of note, from 2015 to 2019  
8 there has been a slight increase in those parameters.

9  
10 If the proposal is adopted Federally-  
11 qualified subsistence users will be able to harvest one  
12 antlered bull moose in Unit 25A until December 20th  
13 providing an additional 10 days of harvest opportunity  
14 to secure a winter moose. Very few people live in Unit  
15 25A in winter and the only village in Unit 25A is  
16 Arctic Village and the next closest villages are in  
17 Unit 25B. More than half of the bulls generally have  
18 dropped antlers prior to December 15th, therefore, a  
19 winter season extension would likely result in minimal  
20 increases in harvest if any. Historically high  
21 bull/cow ratios, recent density increases in adjacent  
22 areas and historically low late winter harvest mitigate  
23 possible conservation concerns of a season extension.  
24 The extended winter season would give Federally-  
25 qualified subsistence users increased opportunity to  
26 harvest a moose they need if they were not successful  
27 during the fall hunt.

28  
29 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
30 support Proposal WP22-52.

31  
32 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of  
33 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
36 you, Tom. Council members are there any questions.

37  
38 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
39 Charlie Wright.

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

43  
44 MR. WRIGHT: So if I understand the  
45 report there, this is only for Federally-qualified  
46 users in that area, not non-residents?

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Correct.  
49  
50



0121

1 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
2 Tom Plank. That is correct, Sir.

3  
4 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you for letting me  
5 know that. I support then.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, Charlie,  
8 we're on just Federal proposals and they're qualified  
9 subsistence users only in these proposals -- yeah, any  
10 other questions.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15  
16 MR. GLANZ: Was that a proposal to pass  
17 this?

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
20 question again.

21  
22 MR. GLANZ: I say was that a motion?

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, no, we're  
25 not done with the process so hang on.

26  
27 MR. GLANZ: Did Charlie make a motion.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Bill,  
30 hang on, we got to go through the whole process.

31  
32 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay, go ahead, yeah.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got to go  
35 through this process on Page 57. I should have reminded  
36 all of you and the new members especially. On Page 57  
37 of our book is the procedure that we have to go through  
38 for these proposals, for the Federal proposals, the  
39 information that you can -- you can look at and see  
40 what I have to go down this line of procedure here.

41  
42 So the next thing -- if there's no  
43 questions of the presenter we'll go to -- was there any  
44 report for the tribal consultation.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, there was  
47 -- the recent tribal consultation, there was no  
48 questions or discussions about this proposal.

49  
50

0122

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
2 Vince. Agency comments, ADF&G.

3  
4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair and  
5 Council members. This is Ryan Scott with the  
6 Department of Fish and Game. The Department recommends  
7 a modification to this proposal to only extend the  
8 moose season to December 20th in the Coleen, Firth and  
9 Old Crow River drainages. Because the proposal  
10 references the Coleen River area in 22-52, we feel a  
11 more prudent approach would be to extend the season  
12 within the three drainages mentioned above in 25A and  
13 maintain the current season in the remainder of the  
14 unit. Moose densities and bull to cow ratios are  
15 highest in these drainages compared to other drainages  
16 in the unit and based on high bull to cow ratios in the  
17 Coleen, Firth and Old Crow Rivers and the likelihood  
18 that extending the season would result in minimal  
19 additional harvest there would not be a biological  
20 concern to extend the season in the Federal subsistence  
21 regulations.

22  
23 Thank you, Madame Chair and I'm  
24 available for questions and we also have area office  
25 Staff available for questions.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Council  
28 members. Did everyone hear him okay, I had a little  
29 bit of trouble myself.

30  
31 MS. EVANS: No, I had trouble hearing  
32 him.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did,  
35 okay. Council, what I heard was a modification, ADF&G  
36 was recommending. Somehow or another, you're going to  
37 have to get your voice next to the speaker because  
38 you're coming in a little muffled so if you could.....

39  
40 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie, Madame  
41 Chair, I didn't hear it either, the end of it was  
42 muffled.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it was  
45 pretty muffled for me.

46  
47 MR. SCOTT: How am I coming in now?

48  
49 MR. GLANZ: A lot better.

50

0123

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's  
2 better. How about the RAC members, is it better?

3  
4 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I can hear him better  
5 now.

6  
7 MS. EVANS: I could hear him good.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go  
10 ahead, Ryan.

11  
12 MR. SCOTT: Okay, thank you guys.  
13 Sorry about that. Technology sometimes.

14  
15 The Department recommends the  
16 modification of this proposal to only extend the moose  
17 season to December 20th in the Coleen, Firth and Old  
18 Crow River drainages. Because the proposal references  
19 the Coleen River area, we feel a more prudent approach  
20 would be to extend the season within the three  
21 drainages mentioned above and maintain the current  
22 season in the remainder of the unit. Moose densities  
23 and bull to cow ratios are highest in these drainages  
24 compared to other drainages in the Unit 25A. Based on  
25 high bull to cow ratios in the Coleen, Firth and Old  
26 Crow Rivers and the likelihood that extended season  
27 would result in minimal additional harvest there  
28 wouldn't be a biological concern to extend the season  
29 in the Federal subsistence regulations.

30  
31 Hopefully I came through loud and clear  
32 and I'm here for questions as well as area Staff.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, that was  
35 much better, thank you, Ryan. I heard you and I'm  
36 pretty sure everybody else did because it was muffled  
37 earlier. Any questions regarding his comments.

38  
39 MS. EVANS: This is Linda. Is that a  
40 clarification, just in one area they want to keep the  
41 season the same, in the Coleen area?

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and  
44 Game.

45  
46 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. The  
47 three drainages we recommend extending the season in  
48 would be the Coleen, Firth and Old Crow Rivers. The  
49 remainder of Unit 25A would stay the same as it is.

50

0124

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
4 other questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.

9 Can you just explain for us so we totally understand  
10 what you're suggesting. Two rivers, how does it differ  
11 what you're asking, because I'm looking at this -- I  
12 don't know the area, but the proposal and what you're  
13 saying, tell us the difference.

14

15 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

16 And I think we're starting to drill down into unit-  
17 specific information involving these three drainages  
18 and I'm going to ask our area biologist Jason Caikoski  
19 to weigh in on this as well.

20

21 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hello, Madame Chair.

22 Council Members, how do you hear me?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're hearing  
25 you good, I believe.

26

27 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay. So Unit 25A  
28 extends from, as many of you guys know the U.S./Canada  
29 border over to almost or including the Dalton Highway  
30 so the major drainages in that unit include the Coleen  
31 River, the Sheenjek River drainage, the EastFork  
32 Chandalar, the MiddleFork Chandalar and the NorthFork.  
33 It's an extremely large unit. Our suggested  
34 modification would be to allow a season extension as  
35 proposed by the proposal but only for the Coleen River,  
36 the Firth and the Old Crow, which is that eastern  
37 portion of the unit and the area identified as  
38 problematic for getting a moose by the proponent being  
39 Heimo Korth there from Fort Yukon and who lives  
40 seasonally up in that Coleen, Old Crow, Firth area.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the  
43 difference in the two proposals -- in what you're  
44 suggesting is it eliminates which area again.

45

46 MR. CAIKOSKI: So eliminates, I guess,  
47 the current season that's on the books right now, that  
48 would remain the same everywhere but the Coleen, the  
49 Old Crow and the Firth. The season extension would

50

0125

1 occur in the Coleen, the Old Crow and the Firth. And  
2 the rationale from our standpoint, from a biological  
3 standpoint is that moose densities are greater in the  
4 eastern portion of the unit, in that Coleen area  
5 compared to the central and eastern portion of the  
6 unit. And, again, the proponent was requesting, you  
7 know, a moose extension in that Coleen, and so our  
8 rationale is baby steps, if you will, it may be more  
9 prudent to extend the season in that portion of the  
10 unit rather than the entire unit all at once.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
13 appreciate that. Any questions, other Council members.

14  
15 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
16 Charlie Wright.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

19  
20 MR. WRIGHT: So you're just talking  
21 about the eastern half, obviously, and I like that. So  
22 like the EastFork Chandalar would kind of be the line  
23 of your -- of what you're saying, kind of the eastern  
24 half Coleen River side. I understand, thank you.  
25 Thank you, that's all I have to say.

26  
27 MR. CAIKOSKI: And just to clarify, the  
28 boundary we're suggesting is the Coleen River drainage  
29 so it would not include the Sheenjek River or the  
30 EastFork so it'd be basically that eastern -- I'll call  
31 it one-third, maybe one-quarter -- eastern third or  
32 quarter of Unit 25A, which addresses the proponent or  
33 the author of the proponent's issue.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
36 really helpful. The Coleen River drainage. I mean we  
37 have in front of us our regulation books and we can see  
38 that so we have it in front of us. Any other  
39 questions.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, since this is within  
46 the Refuge I'm putting on my other hat. The difference  
47 is in the December season, do we have any data of the  
48 amount of effort during that winter, you know, the  
49 difference between December 10th and 20th, how many  
50

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1 people would actually take advantage of that. I'm  
2 basically asking Fish and Game as well as other Staff.  
3 My understanding is there's very few people out there  
4 during that winter period.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Vince,  
9 there is no season there now from the 10th to the 20th,  
10 I guess we'd be more interested in knowing what's going  
11 on December 1st through the 10th which is already on  
12 the books.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, correct. But this  
15 proposal extends it to the 20th -- anyways, my  
16 understanding there's very few people out there during  
17 that winter period, the extended winter period.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
20 have any answer to that.

21

22 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, this is Ryan  
23 with Fish and Game.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is it  
26 again?

27

28 MR. SCOTT: Ryan Scott with Fish and  
29 Game.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go  
32 ahead, Ryan.

33

34 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Ma'am. Through  
35 the Chair, at least respond to Mr. Mathews' comment.  
36 Again, as you already pointed out there isn't a season  
37 right now that goes out to December 20th. Our, at  
38 least, preliminary analysis suggests that it'll be a  
39 very low additional harvest. This would likely  
40 translate into low participation. I certainly will  
41 defer to Mr. Caikoski for the details on that. But I  
42 think that, again, the rationale for ADF&G's approach  
43 for this proposal is to look into those drainages that  
44 have what we think is, you know, some opportunity still  
45 available that we can increase and using baby steps in  
46 a sense to see how it works out and just to ensure we  
47 don't get a significant increase in harvest in those  
48 places. But, again, you know, for specific effort data  
49 I'd ask Jason to weigh in.

50

0127

1 MR. JAGOW: Madame Chair, this is.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
4 Jason.

5

6 MR. CAIKOSKI: I think that was  
7 someone else, this is Jason. I can address the harvest  
8 part if you'd like or you can take that other question.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead and  
11 then I'll take that question.

12

13 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay. So generally  
14 speaking reporting by local residents has been  
15 historically low. That being said there are very few  
16 people that live in this section of the unit. I am  
17 anticipating an additional harvest of anywhere from  
18 zero to maybe two moose a year, certainly sustainable,  
19 especially considering that that eastern portion of the  
20 unit has more moose. I do have a little bit of concern  
21 about the western portion of the unit if it went wide  
22 open. Moose densities are lower there. We don't do  
23 moose surveys. It's possible we're harvesting at or  
24 near sustained yield. And like Ryan said, we're  
25 confident that the Coleen, the Firth, Old Crow can  
26 sustain a little bit extra harvest of moose and so  
27 that's the approach we're taking.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
30 And that's what I wanted you to do, is to delineate  
31 between that proposal and your suggestion and you did a  
32 good job. Thank you.

33

34 And the voice that we heard earlier, is  
35 that a Council member.

36

37 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, Sue, it's Charlie.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is it,  
40 I'm sorry, I'm having trouble hearing.

41

42 MR. JAGOW: It's Charlie, can you hear  
43 me?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can now, go  
46 ahead, Charlie Jagow.

47

48 MR. JAGOW: Okay. I guess my question  
49 would be do you have data for -- or harvest report data

50

0128

1 for Arctic Village because my understanding would be if  
2 the regulation change was just contained to the Coleen,  
3 Old Crow and Firth, Arctic Village would be essentially  
4 the largest user group that would be excluded from the  
5 expanded season.

6  
7 MR. CAIKOSKI: It's Jason. Again,  
8 through Madame Chair. We do not have accurate or  
9 reliable moose harvest data for Arctic Village.

10  
11 MR. JAGOW: Okay, that answers the  
12 question.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
15 Council members, is there any other questions of ADF&G.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing  
20 none, going down on Page 57, my procedure that I go  
21 through we have just finished ADF&G agency comments and  
22 now we're going to go into are there any Federal.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or tribal.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Seems very  
31 consistent how this works for us. Okay, next is on the  
32 advisory groups, I'm just going to ask are there any  
33 Regional Advisory Councils that have made a decision on  
34 this and then we'll go to Fish and Game Committees and  
35 then Subsistence Resource Commissions.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: This proposal is specific  
38 to your region, there are no other Regional Advisory  
39 Council's taking this one up.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I  
42 assume Fish and Game Advisory Committees haven't even  
43 met on it, am I correct.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: To my knowledge they have  
46 not but.....

47  
48 MR. CAIKOSKI: This is Jason.

49  
50



0129

1 MR. MATHEWS: .....Fish and Game would  
2 know.

3  
4 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah, this is Jason for  
5 Fish and Game. For the Yukon Flats AC, that's correct,  
6 they have not met since this notification of the  
7 proposal.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I imagine  
10 there's no SRC because it's not a Park that has an SRC.  
11 So moving on, written public comments summary.

12  
13 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
14 Tom Plank. There were no written public comments.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
17 public testimony.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
22 Katya Wessels. We did not receive any additional  
23 written public testimony during this meeting. Thank  
24 you.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
27 Katya. Okay, now it's time for a motion.

28  
29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
33 awful quiet out there.

34  
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, did you  
36 get a motion.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear  
39 one, no.

40  
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, this is Don. I'll  
42 make a motion, move to adopt WP22-52 with modification  
43 to include only the Coleen, Old Crow, and Firth Rivers  
44 as discussed by Fish and Game.

45  
46 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright, I  
47 second.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion is  
50

0130

1 made and a second to modify to ADF&G's recommendation.  
2 Discussion. Donald, would you like to speak to your  
3 motion.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes. Thank you, Madame  
6 Chair. This seems to satisfy the needs of the  
7 proponent and anyone that lives in that area and since  
8 they do have a tremendously high bull/cow ratio, I  
9 think that they can afford a few moose to, you know,  
10 satisfy some subsistence needs.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
13 Maybe I'm not doing as good as Chair but No. 8 on Page  
14 57 we should address under our discussion about all  
15 those points, you might have hit on a couple of them.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: I don't think that any  
18 user groups would be impacted.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah,  
21 since it's such a small amount, yes. Any other  
22 discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, I call the  
27 question.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
30 you, Bill. The question has been called for and I am  
31 going to ask again for unanimous consent. If anyone  
32 opposes they need to say so. Is there any opposition  
33 to the proposal as amended 22-52.

34

35 (No opposition)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
38 none, this amended proposal passes unanimous.

39

40 Now, I did have a request by text for a  
41 break. Are you all okay for about a 10 minute break.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no  
46 opposition we will be back in 10 minutes, that will be  
47 3:25 let's say.

48

49 (Off record)

50

0131

1 (On record)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The proposal that's up is Arctic fox in Unit 25, probably a pretty simple proposal. I hate going on without a Council member but we will have the introduction of the proposal and, Vince, if Charlie Wright can't get on.....

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I'll try to  
11 give him a call to see -- if it's a line busy then we  
12 know he's trying so I'll try to give him a call. He  
13 didn't respond to any emails.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's too  
20 bad. Council members do you want to proceed.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Yes, myself let's move on.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
27 That's the problem with taking a break. Okay, 22-53  
28 establish a season harvest limit for Arctic fox in GMU  
29 25. Tom.

30

31 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
32 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Tom  
33 Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of  
34 Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
35 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-53  
36 submitted by Heimo Korth of Fort Yukon requesting the  
37 establishment of a trapping season for Arctic fox in  
38 Unit 25 and this is starting on Page 70 in your meeting  
39 books.

40

41 The proponent states that Arctic fox  
42 are trapped in Unit 25 and in some years they are  
43 trapped more than red, cross or silver foxes. The  
44 State currently has an Arctic fox trapping season in  
45 Unit 25 and the proponent would like a Federal season  
46 to legalize take as well since many are already  
47 incidentally caught in Unit 25 traps intended for other  
48 species. Currently there are no Federal subsistence  
49 trapping regulation for Arctic fox in Unit 25. The

50

0132

1 State of Alaska established a season for Arctic fox in  
2 Unit 25 in 2004 and it has not changed since 2006.

3

4 The population dynamics of the Arctic  
5 fox in Unit 25 are not documented, they are considered  
6 to have stable and sometimes abundant population and  
7 their preferred habitat in treeless coastal areas of  
8 Alaska from the Aleutian Islands north to Point Barrow  
9 and east to the Canada border. Young transient Arctic  
10 foxes have been known to cross the Brooks Range outside  
11 of their home range to Unit 25 and other adjacent units  
12 in search of prey. There was no reported Arctic fox  
13 harvest prior to the 53 that were reported for the  
14 2018/19 trapping season, however, reported harvest  
15 numbers may not reflect actual harvest since sealing of  
16 Arctic fox is not required and incidental take in red  
17 fox traps is likely. The Alaska trapper report  
18 estimates the presence of Arctic fox is scarce in Unit  
19 25 and other units south of the Brooks Range.

20

21 If this proposal is adopted no impacts  
22 to the Arctic fox populations or user groups is  
23 expected as Federally-qualified subsistence users can  
24 already trap an unlimited number of Arctic foxes on all  
25 Federal lands in Unit 25 under State regulations.

26

27 Unit 25 is not within the primary range  
28 and habitat for the Arctic fox and any Arctic fox  
29 harvest in this unit are likely transient individuals.

30

31 Adoption of this proposal would align  
32 Federal and State trapping regulations, reducing the  
33 regulatory complexity for users and incidental take of  
34 Arctic fox would become legal under Federal  
35 regulations.

36

37 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
38 support WP22-53.

39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of  
41 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, are  
44 there any questions.

45

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank

50

0133

1 you. Are there any report, is there a report for  
2 tribal consultations.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. The recent  
5 tribal consultation there was no, you know, discussion  
6 or information requested on this proposal.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
9 you. Agency comments, ADF&G.

10

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
12 This is Ryan Scott with Department of Fish and Game.  
13 The State's recommendation is to support this proposal  
14 as it aligns State and Federal trapping seasons and bag  
15 limits.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
18 you. Any questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
23 Federal or tribal comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
28 advisory council or committee, or commission comments.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the Western Interior  
31 did take up this proposal and the notes I have, they  
32 adopted it as written. The Advisory Committee, as  
33 noted earlier, did not meet for this area.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
36 you, Vince. Summary of written public comments.

37

38 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
39 Tom Plank. There were no written public comments.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
42 public testimony.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, we did not  
47 receive any additional written public testimony during  
48 the meeting but perhaps there is an oral public  
49 testimony. Thank you, this is Katya.

50

0134

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
2 you, Katya. All right, now is the time for a motion  
3 and the motion needs to say adopt, I guess we forgot  
4 that the last couple.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
7 Katya. I'm sorry, the Council's motion needs to be a  
8 motion to support because Council's support or oppose  
9 proposals and the Board adopts or rejects proposals.  
10 So if you make a motion please say motion to support  
11 Proposal such and such.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
16 welcome. Thanks for the clarification. Council.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don. I move to  
19 support WP22-53 as written.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
22 Donald.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: And to speak to the.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to  
27 have a second -- I don't have a second yet.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, sorry. Okay.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, who  
34 seconded it.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Bill,  
39 okay, thanks. Go ahead now, Donald.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. So I'm going  
42 to go down the list this time. Is the recommendation  
43 consistent with established fish and wildlife  
44 management principles; yes. Is the recommendation  
45 supported by substantial evidence such as biological  
46 traditional ecological knowledge; yes. Will the  
47 recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to the  
48 subsistence needs and users; it will be beneficial to  
49 subsistence needs. We're not talking about a closure.

50

0135

1 Discuss what other relevant factors are mentioned by  
2 OSM draft analysis; and there are no other relevant  
3 factors. So there you go.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job,  
6 appreciate that. Any other comments, questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. GLANZ: Hearing none, I'd like to  
11 call for the question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
14 Bill. The question has been called for. Again, I'm  
15 going to ask for unanimous consent. Anyone opposed to  
16 this motion to adopt as written, Proposal -- I got to  
17 get it right here, 22-53.

18

19 (No opposition)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,  
22 the proposal passes unanimously. Thank you. So the  
23 next one is WCR22-22.

24

25 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 Members of the Board. Again, for the record my name is  
27 Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of  
28 Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary  
29 of the analysis for Wildlife Closure Review WCR22-22  
30 starting on Page 74 of your meeting books.

31

32 Wildlife Closure Review WCR22-22  
33 pertains to the closure of moose hunting in Unit 25D  
34 West to everyone except residents of 25D West. The  
35 closure was initiated in 1993 due to conservation  
36 concerns over the low density and declining moose  
37 population which was estimated at 600 moose. The  
38 closure also ensured continued subsistence use of the  
39 resource. Between 1992 and 2018 the Unit 25D West fall  
40 moose population has averaged around 645 moose and  
41 that's shown in Figure 1 on Page 83. The highest  
42 estimate on record occurred in 2018. The 2018 point  
43 estimate is the highest in survey history, however, the  
44 90 percent confidence interval overlaps with those of  
45 2015 and 1999 point estimates. Over the same period  
46 the bull/cow ratio shown in Figure 2 on Page 83 has  
47 fluctuated wildly and has generally been above the  
48 management objective of 40 bulls per 100 cows. In 2018  
49 the bull/cow ratio was well above management objectives

50

0136

1 at 58 bulls per 100 cows. Since 1992 the calf/cow  
2 ratio shown in Figure 3 on Page 84 has generally  
3 exhibited a stable trend while the fall 2015 ratio was  
4 the highest ratio ever recorded indicating the growing  
5 population, the most recent estimate in fall of 2018  
6 indicates the population is stable. Predators are the  
7 primary factor limiting moose population in Unit 25D  
8 West and harvest, particularly of cows, may also be an  
9 important factor.

10

11 There is a harvest quota of 60 moose in  
12 Unit 25D West which applies to both Federal and non-  
13 Federal lands. Between 2000 and 2019 the total  
14 reported moose harvest averaged 13 moose per year with  
15 harvest by Federal permit representing about 65 percent  
16 of the reported harvest on average. However,  
17 unreported and illegal harvest of cows has remained a  
18 chronic issue.

19

20 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
21 maintain the status quo due to conservation concerns.  
22 While the 2018 survey indicates improvement in Unit 25D  
23 West moose population, it is not sufficient to warrant  
24 lifting the closure.

25

26 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of  
27 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, I  
30 was on mute. Council members, any questions.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is  
33 Don. I have a question about this proposal.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. What is the  
38 current permit total, is it still at 60?

39

40 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
41 Tom. Give me a second, let me look through to see if I  
42 can find it. I don't remember it off the top of my  
43 head, let me see if I can find it in the proposal here  
44 for you.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Tom, and Madame Chair,  
47 because I issue those permits, yes, it's 60 permits, 25  
48 to Beaver, 25 to Stevens Village and 10 to Birch Creek.  
49 Thanks.

50



0137

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Vince.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
4 questions.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: I do have one question  
7 for Vince.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: So Vince, in this  
12 analysis they talked about community harvest of  
13 predators in this area. And I was wondering if that  
14 is going on or if it has gone on or if there's been  
15 much discussion about knocking back the bears and the  
16 wolves.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: I can answer the latter  
19 part of your question and maybe Fish and Game might  
20 have some information on the level of predator -- I  
21 shouldn't -- you know, predator harvest. Yes, there's  
22 been, you know, discussions about the impacts of the  
23 predators in the area, that's always brought up. I  
24 believe someone did this morning on that, it might have  
25 been Rhonda, who's the Chief of Beaver. So, yes,  
26 that's always brought up. And then maybe Fish and Game  
27 can discuss what bear harvest and wolf harvest.

28

29 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, this is Ryan  
30 Scott from Fish and Game.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
33 ahead.

34

35 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
36 I'm going to defer to Mr. Caikoski, the area biologist  
37 for this.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

40

41 MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair. Members  
42 of the Council. Over the last, I'm going to say,  
43 couple of decades, there's been several concerted and  
44 organized efforts to increase predator harvest, that of  
45 both black bears, and wolves. Some of those programs  
46 included money for gasoline and stuff that was provided  
47 by tribal governments, et cetera, I think they even had  
48 competitions for largest bear skulls. Numerous wolf  
49 trapping clinics as well as subsidize, for a lack of

50

0138

1 better word, snaring equipment, so like you guys know,  
2 high -- very high density of black bears, moderate  
3 density of wolves, primarily due to low density of  
4 prey, but very high density of black bears and there's  
5 been numerous concerted efforts to increase harvest.  
6 In many of those years harvest did, in fact, increase  
7 but not to levels that would reduce the predators  
8 enough to cause, you know, a decline in calf survival  
9 of moose, for example, or a decline in overwinter  
10 survival of moose. Yes, so some concerted efforts over  
11 the years, yes, increases in harvest because of those  
12 efforts but never to a level that would affect survival  
13 enough of moose to cause an increase in the population.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there  
18 any other questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know I  
23 might have missed it, but Fish and Game -- or not Fish  
24 and Game, but this is a Wildlife Closure Review, who  
25 put it in, it doesn't say so.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, I read the part in  
28 there that the Federal Subsistence Board wanted to  
29 review the closures every three years, I believe, four  
30 years. So we're on cycle to review this closure.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, okay, I  
33 apologize because Chairing a meeting and keeping my  
34 head wrapped around everything is sometimes is really  
35 hard but, thanks, Donald, I appreciate that. Any other  
36 questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

41

42 MS. EVANS: Chairman, one question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. EVANS: Do the people in the  
48 villages in the area affected know about these  
49 proposals or -- that's my question.

50

0139

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I hear  
2 your question, I'm waiting for Staff to come up with  
3 the answer.

4  
5                   MS. EVANS: Okay.

6  
7                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, can  
8 you answer that.

9  
10                  MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

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

14  
15                  MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the closure is  
16 brought up -- when I do outreach efforts on this  
17 permitting process, and we are, the Refuge is looking  
18 into other avenues on outreach and that is one of the  
19 key points to point out that this area has the Federal  
20 public lands are closed except to those three  
21 communities, for 60 permits, and the area also has a  
22 Tier II hunt in that area. So it is brought up that  
23 way. To be honest I don't know if the proposal itself,  
24 not the proposal, excuse me, this review process --  
25 well, obviously it would be known by Rhonda Pitka  
26 because she's on the Board so I'll leave it at that.  
27 But they are there's a closure there, and they are  
28 aware that it is reviewed. Whether they aware that  
29 it's up for right now I'm struggling.

30  
31                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But, Rhonda,  
32 who is on the Board, is in one of the communities so  
33 likely they know. Sorry, Linda, do you have any other  
34 questions.

35  
36                  MS. EVANS: No. Is Rhonda online.

37  
38                  (No comments)

39  
40                  MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, she excused  
41 herself after the recognition of Andrew Firmin so to my  
42 knowledge she is not online. And I will also ask if Ben  
43 Stevens is online because that was his home community,  
44 Stevens Village, so he might be online.

45  
46                  MR. STEVENS: I am online.

47  
48                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you  
49 answer the question, Ben.

50

0140

1 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, I spent a lot of  
2 time out there in that area this summer and there was a  
3 lot of talk about food and fish and moose and stuff  
4 like that but not one single time did we ever engage in  
5 a comment that 25D West was under review. And I  
6 understand the problems, Vince, you're way too busy for  
7 this kind of thing and I think that this here, down the  
8 line, when we start talking about partnerships  
9 tribal/Federal relationship enhancement stuff, I think  
10 this is a great opportunity for a very light  
11 partnership to help us get the word out to them.  
12 Because if communicating with our folks out in the  
13 rural area is hard for the Tanana Chiefs folks,  
14 constantly trying to get a hold of them then it's got  
15 to be monumental for the Feds. So to answer the  
16 question I don't think they know about it.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: My memory is coming back.  
23 And, Ben, please share your patience on this. Yes,  
24 this was discussed with all three villages when the  
25 food security special action request last year was  
26 before the Board. And we had several meetings with the  
27 different leaders of the three villages and at that  
28 time we would have shared that the review would have  
29 been up. Specifically did they see it in the proposal  
30 book or that, no, possibly not, but it definitely was a  
31 discussion point when we were working through the food  
32 security special action last year.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
35 other questions.

36  
37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I think  
41 -- I hate to report this, I think I have a headache --  
42 I know I do. We just had the presentation and now  
43 we're going into -- if there's no other question of the  
44 presenter we'll go into are there any consultation  
45 reports.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. There was  
48 no consultation reports by the tribes or the ANCSA  
49 Corporations on this proposal when they had their  
50

0141

1 consultation session.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
4 thank you. Moving on to agency comments, ADF&G.

5

6 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
7 This is Ryan Scott with the Division of Wildlife  
8 Conservation.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
11 ahead.

12

13 MR. SCOTT: The Department supports  
14 lifting this closure. Under the current regulatory  
15 framework passed by the Board of Game and implemented  
16 by the Department, there is a Tier II hunt permit in  
17 place for moose hunting in GMU 25D West on State and  
18 private land. Tier II hunts are utilized when the  
19 harvestable portion of the game population is not  
20 sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for all  
21 subsistence uses. Resident only applications are  
22 scored on several factors which heavily favor the  
23 awarding of Tier II permits to Alaskans individually or  
24 households who have a strong history of eating meat  
25 from the game population in the hunt area. Other  
26 weighted criteria include the number of days spent  
27 hunting and fishing during the last regulatory year in  
28 the Tier II hunt area, cost of food in the community  
29 where applicants purchase most of their store bought  
30 food and where applicants purchase automotive vehicle  
31 and boat fuel. Given these criteria those individuals  
32 who live in the area and possibly those individuals  
33 with a close traditional and cultural tie to the area  
34 would be the ones who are awarded the Tier II permit.

35

36 The Department also recognizes that  
37 this closure has been in place for many, many years and  
38 a transition to a State Tier II permit process will  
39 take some time to work with all the user groups and to  
40 iron out all the wrinkles in that.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
45 you. Are there any questions of Fish and Game.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have a  
48 question.

49

50

0142

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: This question for Fish  
4 and Game is, in these closure reviews, do you guys  
5 participate in aerial surveys of these moose population  
6 so that we have good data?

7

8 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. As  
9 described earlier we do have a number of areas we do  
10 survey, I don't recall specifically for the 25D West,  
11 however, I believe that in partnership with the -- I  
12 can't remember if it's the Fish and Wildlife Service or  
13 the Park Service, there was a survey completed in 2018.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
18 questions of the Department.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
23 you. Next is advisory groups, is there any comments.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: No, this closure review  
26 is specific to your Council and as noted earlier the  
27 Yukon Flats Advisory Committee has not met.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
30 Vince. Summary of written public comments.

31

32 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
33 Tom Plank. And there were no public written -- no  
34 written public comments.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
37 Public testimony.

38

39 MS. STEVENS: Yes, can you hear me.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we can.

42

43 MS. STEVENS: Hi, this is Carrie Stevens  
44 and I would like to provide some public comment.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Carrie,  
47 go ahead.

48

49 MS. STEVENS: Well, thank you, Chair

50

0143

1 Entsminger and thank you to all of the RAC members,  
2 many of you for your long time service and I know it is  
3 all volunteer and it is hard, especially with this  
4 closure review missing Andrew Firmin in the room. So I  
5 very much want to appreciate you all.

6  
7 I am in support of the OSM position to  
8 maintain this closure. As many of you know I was a  
9 resident of the Yukon Flats for over 13 years and  
10 heavily involved in the moose management planning that  
11 occurred with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G and  
12 the tribal governments of the region over many years  
13 because of the continued low moose population. I  
14 wanted to specifically reference, and, I apologize I  
15 don't have the actual report in front of me, but  
16 comments made of a presentation at the last Yukon Flats  
17 moose management planning meeting which was held in  
18 Fort Yukon in April of 2018 and I was present there and  
19 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the report, and  
20 ADF&G was there as well. In particular, I want to call  
21 attention to a report, a technical report produced by  
22 Nikki Gallagher of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At  
23 that time she produced a study -- excuse me, Nikki  
24 Goldeger, Mark Bertram, if he's still on the line could  
25 correct me. At the time she produced a very intensive  
26 report that outlined that the Yukon Flats moose browse  
27 and habitat would never support a large moose  
28 population. It was a comparative analysis with Koyukuk  
29 region known for its large moose and it's large moose  
30 population, and those moose browse and the moose browse  
31 of the Yukon Flats.

32  
33 This was a very important and eye  
34 opening report for us. We do know the moose of the  
35 Yukon Flats have high twinning rates but we also  
36 learned from Nikki's report, what we kind of have  
37 always known to be true, was that the habitat of the  
38 Yukon Flats did not lend itself to maintaining a large  
39 moose population. Again, that report was presented by  
40 Nikki Goldeger of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the  
41 April 2018 Yukon Flats moose management planning  
42 meeting.

43  
44 That meeting also had representatives  
45 from all the tribal governments of the region who  
46 continue to be gravely concerned over the population of  
47 the Yukon Flats moose. To do, as was mentioned by area  
48 biologist Jason Caikoski that have engaged, rather  
49 heavily in predator management practices. The  
50

0144

1 community of Beaver applied over three times for the  
2 very limited U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tribal  
3 grants to engage in those activities which Jason noted.  
4 They applied three times before receiving that award.  
5 That speaks to their commitment to a healthy moose  
6 population. And so they engaged in those activities,  
7 however, we also note that the Yukon Flats National  
8 Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful habitat for those  
9 predatory animals, all of which I'm sure long time  
10 serving U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biologist, Mark  
11 Bertram could speak to.

12

13 I want to make sure that Nikki's report  
14 is entered into the administrative record. It should  
15 be in the OSM's findings to support this continued  
16 closure. The Yukon Flats, especially 25D West moose  
17 population is always on a razor's edge. It is very  
18 much wonderful to see that it is slowly, very slowly  
19 improving and not declining at this time, however, due  
20 to the habitat and predator population in the region it  
21 is very much -- if this area were opened to outside  
22 hunters because of the easy access from the Dalton  
23 Highway and the Yukon River bridge could easily, easily  
24 be heavily impacted and then take decades of, again,  
25 local community-based efforts to bring it back up to  
26 where it is today.

27

28 In reference to the State's comments,  
29 the Tier II permit exists for exactly this reason.  
30 There is not enough moose population to substantiate a  
31 larger hunt in this area, and so I don't understand how  
32 the State could be in support of lifting the closure  
33 when they, themselves are in Tier II situation. I  
34 would like to also add that local residents in Birch  
35 Creek, Beaver and Steven Villages, by way of personal  
36 communication don't understand the Tier II system, they  
37 don't apply for the Tier II system because they don't  
38 understand it, and there is essentially two computers  
39 in Stevens Village that are connected to the internet  
40 to apply for the Tier II and they are used by Staff to  
41 maintain tribal office obligations so that is very  
42 challenging. We work day to day with hunters to try to  
43 get them to apply to these systems. We've also seen  
44 many traditional hunters be rejected because who've  
45 hunted in this region for many years in the Tier II  
46 system. So we appreciate the Tier II system, I'm just  
47 saying that it is imperfect.

48

49 The last note that I want to make is

50



0145

1 that I noticed that in the OSM report it said that  
2 there was a continued illegal cow harvest. I would  
3 really like to know the documentation of that. I do  
4 find that personally offensive knowing that the Yukon  
5 Flats, the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Government have  
6 worked desperately over decades on public education  
7 campaigns, door to door, and the whole social aspect of  
8 taking cow moose changed dramatically during my  
9 residency in the region for over a dozen years. So I  
10 just want to note that that comment that is official in  
11 the OSM report is very offensive and I would like to  
12 know what information is used to back up such a  
13 comment. But, again, also I just would like to add to  
14 the administrative record, again, please include Nikki  
15 Goldeger's habitat report. And also should be entered  
16 into record the notes from the Yukon Flats moose  
17 management meeting held in Fort Yukon, again, in April  
18 2018. I know those things all exist within U.S. Fish  
19 and Wildlife Service records.

20  
21 Again, I thank you all so much for your  
22 time and your commitment and your energy here today.

23  
24 Enna Baasee'

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
27 Carrie. Any questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Carrie,  
32 I think you had me up there for one of your meetings in  
33 Beaver when you discussed this, it was some time ago  
34 though. Okay. I might have misunderstood ADF&G but did  
35 I -- Carrie said that -- didn't you guys say that you  
36 supported the proposal?

37  
38 MR. SCOTT: Madame Chair, this is Ryan  
39 Scott with Fish and Game.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

42  
43 MR. SCOTT: ADF&G supports lifting the  
44 closure so that would be actually opposed, I suppose,  
45 to how it's written.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess I  
48 totally misunderstood you, sorry.

49  
50

0146

1 MR. SCOTT: Modern technology, Madame  
2 Chair.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.  
5 Hearing -- no more public testimony.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
10 public testimony.

11  
12 MR. STEVENS: Madame Chair, this is Ben  
13 Stevens here. Not necessarily a testimony but I'm just  
14 kind of hoping that we would clarify, like Mr. Scott  
15 did, what a yea or a nay vote means just so our Council  
16 folks know that lifting this would not be good for the  
17 people of Stevens, Beaver and Birch Creek.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
20 you're absolutely correct. It definitely needs to be  
21 clarified. Tom, do you want to handle that, please  
22 clarify that for us. Because what you guys did at OSM,  
23 you said, maintain status quo, which actually means  
24 what?

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.

27  
28 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
31 Tom.

32  
33 MR. PLANK: I'll let Vince take it,  
34 he's probably more up on this than I am.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
41 Vince.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. What's  
44 confusing people is this a closure review and what you  
45 generally do in your Council meeting, you use either  
46 the proposal as written or the OSM recommendation. And  
47 if you look at Page 86, OSM's preliminary conclusion is  
48 to maintain the status quo. So your option would be a  
49 motion in the positive would be to maintain the status  
50

0147

1 quo and then you would vote that up or down.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But the  
4 actual proposal is a review and that is our options,  
5 correct.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. Correct. Every  
8 three years these are rotated around, this is the year  
9 that this one is up and it's before the Council to  
10 decide to maintain the status quo, to modify it or to  
11 eliminate it. and so it's before you at this time.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I  
16 do believe that helped a great deal. All right,  
17 Council members.

18

19 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

22

23 MS. EVANS: So a yea would mean  
24 maintain the status quo?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the  
27 motion would have to be made to do that and that would  
28 be a yea, does that help Linda?

29

30 MS. EVANS: No, that doesn't. I'll  
31 wait and see what comes up.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this  
34 isn't on the floor right now so I can't answer that  
35 until I hear the motion. We have a choice of  
36 maintaining the status quo or doing something else and  
37 right now there's not a motion on the floor to answer  
38 your question. But if there's a motion on the floor to  
39 maintain status quo then my understanding is we would  
40 support, your yea would be to.....

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie, go  
45 ahead.

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: I make the motion to  
48 maintain status quo on Proposal WCR22-22.

49

50

0148

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don and I'll

4 second.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,

7 Charlie, do you want to speak to it.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: I'd just like to maintain

10 status quo, keep the -- since there's low numbers and

11 poor browse for moose in that area it would be in the

12 best interest of the people living in that area to keep

13 as is.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

16 Charlie Wright. Anyone else, discussion to the motion

17 to support status quo, and I had a second from Donald.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

22 discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Linda, do

27 you understand now where we're at?

28

29 MS. EVANS: Yes, I do. I call for

30 question.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,

33 the question's been called for. I'm just going to ask

34 to do a roll call on this one so that would be Donald,

35 Donald, can you do that or I can have Vince do it.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep, I can do it.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. So I'll start

42 with Linda Evans.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Linda, do you support or

47 oppose this proposal of the closure review?

48

49 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, I had my mute

50

0149

1 on. Yes, I support maintaining the status quo.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Nicolas

4 Henry, are you there.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill Glanz.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unmute

13 yourself.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll come back to him.

18

19 Andrew Bassich.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Wright.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Don, this is Bill Glanz, I  
26 support the resolution.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

29

30 Andrew Bassich.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

35

36 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, maintain status quo.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

39

40 Charlie Jagow.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: We don't hear you

45 Charlie, unmute your phone.

46

47 MR. JAGOW: Okay, can you hear me now.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

50

0150

1 MR. JAGOW: Okay. Yes, support for  
2 maintaining the status quo.

3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

5  
6 Timothy McManus.

7  
8 MR. BASSICH: Absent.

9  
10 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue Entsminger.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

13  
14 MR. WOODRUFF: All right. I'll come  
15 back to Nicolas Henry, are you there?

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MR. WOODRUFF: I don't hear him. I  
20 support the closure.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
23 unanimous. But I do want to add something here. I  
24 really believe there's a place that more can be done in  
25 this and, boy, just like the Yukon fish, here's a place  
26 where they need to probably do some predator control or  
27 do something and it just seems sad that we can't do  
28 stuff like that. So I appreciate everybody's work on  
29 this one. And let's see there's one proposal that we  
30 could take up, it's a crossover proposal, on the black  
31 bear, and from there I'm going to turn the Chair over  
32 to the Vice Chair. So I think this is a relatively  
33 easy one so WP22-33. Go ahead, Tom.

34  
35 MR. PLANK: Madame Chair, Madame Chair.  
36 Members of the Council. And for the record my name's  
37 Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of  
38 Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
39 summary for the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-33  
40 requesting to eliminate the sealing requirements for  
41 black bear in Units 11 and 12 and this can be found on  
42 Page 89 of your meeting book.

43  
44 The proponent states that people living  
45 in remote locations need to drive to an Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game office to have bears sealed  
47 and the extra salvage necessary to seal subsistence  
48 black bears in Units 11 and 12 is an undue hardship for  
49 subsistence hunters who are mainly in the meat.

50

1                   Currently, Federal regulations are more  
2 restrictive than State regulations, which only require  
3 harvest tickets but not sealing. Currently there is  
4 not a conservation concern for black bears and harvest  
5 ticket reports provide sufficient harvest information  
6 to monitor and protect black bear populations without  
7 sealing. And, additionally, the proponents request  
8 that bear sealing and permit harvest ticket  
9 requirements do more clearly present in the public  
10 regulation booklet is outside the scope of the  
11 regulatory proposal, however, the suggestion has been  
12 forwarded to the appropriate reviewer.

13  
14                   Since 2008 all Alaska resident hunters  
15 must obtain a State harvest ticket and report their  
16 hunting effort. In 2010 the State of Alaska  
17 reclassified black bears as furbearing animals as well  
18 as game animals. The Alaska Board of Game removed the  
19 requirement for getting a bear hide or skull sealed for  
20 Unit 11 in regulatory year 2011 and 2012 and in Unit 12  
21 in regulatory year 2010/2011 because the requirement  
22 for both the harvest tickets and sealing was determined  
23 to be redundant.

24  
25                   Sealing requirements for black bear in  
26 Units 11 and 12 have not changed under Federal  
27 regulations since the inception of the program in 1990  
28 when they adopted the most current State regulations at  
29 that time. Under existing Federal regulations the  
30 salvage of the hide and edible meat is required when  
31 sealing is required, hunters must additionally remove  
32 the skull from the field.

33  
34                   Unit 11 has not had population surveys  
35 conducted. Through field observations and harvest data  
36 it is believed that the black bear populations are  
37 abundant within areas of suitable habitat. In 2001 the  
38 National Park Service biologist estimated that there  
39 are 100 to 200 black bears per 1,000 kilometers squared  
40 around the McCarthy area in 2001. Unit 12 has not had  
41 population surveys conducted. Through limited radio  
42 telemetry data the Unit 12 population was estimated to  
43 be 700 to 1,000 bears in 2012. While current  
44 biological data for black bears in these units are  
45 lacking, there is no current conservation concern  
46 regarding black bears in Units 11 or 12.

47  
48                   Unit 11 is primarily limited to  
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Between 1998  
50

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1 and 2012 the number of black bears reported harvested  
2 has fluctuated from 8 to 31 annually as seen on Figure  
3 1 on Page 94. Unit 12 has historically low human use  
4 of black bears despite liberal hunting regulations.  
5 Between 1995 and 2007 the number of reported black bear  
6 harvests fluctuates from 23 to 68 annually. And that  
7 can be seen in Figure 2 on Page 95.

8

9 The proposal, if adopted, would remove  
10 the requirement for Federally-qualified subsistence  
11 users to have the skull and/or skin of a black bear  
12 sealed in Units 11 and 12. The process of harvesting  
13 black bears for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
14 would be simplified by removing this unnecessary  
15 requirement. The State removed this requirement over  
16 10 years ago resulting in Federal regulations being  
17 more restrictive which is contrary to the rural  
18 subsistence priority mandate by ANILCA. While  
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users can hunt under  
20 State regulations in parts of these units, they cannot  
21 in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park where only  
22 Federal subsistence regulations apply.

23

24 If this proposal is adopted the State  
25 and Federal regulations for sealing would be aligned  
26 reducing the regulatory complexity and user confusion.

27

28 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
29 support Proposal WP22-33.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of  
32 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
35 questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
40 couple. In Page 94, Unit 11 bear harvest, why is there  
41 10 years of missing data that stops at 2012, and even  
42 in Unit 12 -- that was Unit 11, in Unit 12 it stops in  
43 '17 so that's about four years.

44

45 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46 At the time of doing the proposal that was the only  
47 data that we were able to secure and verify.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it

50



0153

1 seems like there's plenty of data out there to get it.  
2 Okay, I think there's one thing missing that hasn't  
3 been said in this proposal, is if a black bear stays in  
4 the State, it doesn't have to be sealed but if it's  
5 sent out to tanning to the Lower 48 it does have to be  
6 sealed, is that correct for the Federal?

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is  
9 Lisa Grediagin, I'm just joining your meeting and I can  
10 help answer a couple of these questions because they  
11 just came up at the Southcentral meeting as well. So  
12 in regards to your first question about why there's not  
13 good harvest data after 2011 or '12, that's when the  
14 State stopped their sealing requirement so after the  
15 State eliminated their sealing requirement you just  
16 don't get good harvest information. So that's one  
17 benefit of sealing is you get much better harvest  
18 information.

19

20 And as far as sealing the bear skins  
21 and skulls under Federal regulations it says you may  
22 not possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin  
23 or skull of a bear unless an authorized ADF&G  
24 representative has sealed the skin and skull within 30  
25 days of taking.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't  
28 recall that being in there, so I think it's important  
29 to bring it up, thank you. Okay.

30

31 MS. PUTERA: Madame Chair. This is  
32 Judy Putera, Wildlife Biologist Wrangell-St. Elias  
33 National Park and Preserve. At the SRC meeting for  
34 Wrangell-St. Elias the question came up about the black  
35 bear data and in the materials for the SRC there was a  
36 report that was provided by Fish and Game that did have  
37 some additional bear harvest data, so like harvest  
38 data, I don't see it in the RAC book. I mean I just  
39 started looking but I don't know how helpful that is to  
40 you since you don't have the SRC materials in front of  
41 you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I just  
44 thought it was important to bring it up here, if  
45 there's something falling through the cracks between  
46 communication between the Federal system and the State  
47 system, it'd be nice if it wasn't that way because I am  
48 certain that there's data. I pulled it up, the ADF&G  
49 data that was given to us at the SRC meeting, it did  
50

0154

1 have additional data that I just want people to know  
2 that it's important that whatever's going on that --  
3 here with OSM, it needs to be corrected, so just  
4 something to bring up. I'm all into everybody working  
5 together and keeping things informed. So appreciate  
6 it, thanks, Judy.

7

8 MS. PUTERA: You're welcome, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there are  
11 any questions of the Council members.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are  
16 there any -- a report from consultations with tribes.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: The standard comment,  
19 there was no, you know, questions or information  
20 requests for both consultations with the tribes and the  
21 ANCSA Corporations.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
24 Vince. Agency comments, ADF&G.

25

26 MR. RINALDI: Hi, good afternoon, this  
27 is Todd Rinaldi. I'm the Regional Management  
28 Coordinator for Region 4 with the Department of  
29 Wildlife Conservation. Thank you for the opportunity  
30 to speak and I guess as a point of clarification there  
31 is harvest data on Unit 11 black bear harvest, there's  
32 more recent stuff so there is data over the last 10  
33 years that does exist.

34

35 The Department of Fish and Game does  
36 support this proposal as it does align Federal and  
37 State sealing requirements for black bears. The  
38 information acquired during the sealing process has  
39 been deemed not critical by the Board of Game for the  
40 management of black bears in Units 11 and 12. A  
41 harvest ticket will still be required, which does  
42 capture some basic harvest information, however, as  
43 pointed out just moments ago, in order to sell a bear  
44 hide or skull, the hide and skull must be sealed before  
45 sale under State regulations.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

50

0155

1 Any questions.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
7 Todd. It would be nice to have that data in OSM's  
8 report in the future. Next is there any comments from  
9 Federal or tribal.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And advisory  
14 committee groups, other Regional Advisory Councils.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, and  
17 this is an opportunity to bring the new Council members  
18 up to speed on process. Because there is all Alaskan  
19 residents qualify -- all Federally-qualified Alaska  
20 residents qualify to hunt bears in Unit 12 you'll see  
21 on Page 89 and 90 all the Regional Councils are  
22 mentioned are listed there. Right now I have, and  
23 other Staff will probably chime in here, I have the  
24 actions of Western Interior on this proposal and they  
25 support the proposal. Southcentral they're in session,  
26 I don't know if I have their -- if someone has their  
27 actions. And then Southeast has met but I don't have  
28 their actions.

29

30 Okay, I just got a.....

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, yes  
33 this is Katya Wessels. Southcentral supported WP22-33.  
34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. And maybe I'm  
37 jumping ahead here -- no, I'm not, I don't have the  
38 notes -- you do have Park Service Staff online, and of  
39 course, Sue, you attended the SRC so.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have it  
42 here -- I have it and Judy Putera's online so.....

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Just so it's.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Judy, are you  
47 giving that for the Subsistence Resource Commission.

48

49 MS. PUTERA: I -- what was the

50

0156

1 question.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, you  
4 jumped ahead because we're supposed to ask about Fish  
5 and Game Advisory Committees first and then the  
6 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

7

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MS. PUTERA: Oh, I -- I do not have  
their comments or the statement.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm in my  
office of paperwork laying everywhere and it was sent  
to me and I printed it and all I can say without going  
through a lot of work here is that the Subsistence  
Resource Commission did support as written and it does  
bring the two -- the State and Federal aligned, which  
is very important, and it was their proposal to start  
with so certainly they would support it.

So thank you.

Next is summary of written public  
comments.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
This is Tom Plank. There was no written public  
comments.

MS. WESSELS: And, Madame Chair, this  
is Katya Wessels. We received two written public  
comments during this Council meeting at  
subsistence@fws.gov and I'm going to read them into the  
record.

The first comment was received from  
Ahtna Tene Nene' Committee. And they say: We support  
WP22-33 which would eliminate the sealing requirement  
for black bears in Units 11 and 12. Because the State  
does not require black bear sealing anywhere in Ahtna  
traditional territory, it is currently more onerous for  
a Federal black bear hunter than for anyone who's  
hunting under the State's regulations. Passing this  
regulation will make Federal regulations equally or  
less restrictive than State ones. Sealing requirements  
are especially onerous for those who live a long ways  
off the road system. They must travel into town to get  
their bears sealed. Moreover, because there is no  
State sealing requirements in the area this proposal  
would not compromise another larger data set. They

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1 also have a comment; AITRC and Ahtna Gene Nene' support  
2 this proposal. In the past Ahtna people have supported  
3 similar proposals for moose and caribou meat salvage.  
4 As the proposer points out meat on the bone keeps much  
5 better than meat that has been removed. Also removing  
6 the meat from the bone is more likely to create waste  
7 and makes it more difficult for enforcement officials  
8 to determine whether or not waste has occurred. Non-  
9 waste is a very important traditional value to the  
10 Ahtna people and the leg bones themselves are edible in  
11 soups.

12  
13 So this is the first written comment  
14 received during the meeting. So the second written  
15 comment received during the meeting is from Becky  
16 Schwanke. And there's a letter where she comments on  
17 several proposals so the first, a general comment,  
18 which I am going to read and then a specific comment on  
19 22-33, so I'm not going to reread the general comment  
20 with every proposal just read it once.

21  
22 So she says: As a former ADF&G  
23 wildlife manager for Units 11 and 13, along with my  
24 fellow Staff at the time, all since retired, my office  
25 was tasked with drafting the first State community  
26 harvest program hunt handouts. We worked hard to  
27 ensure we followed the proposer's intent as well as the  
28 Board of Game's intent and subsequently the Court's  
29 intent, et cetera. It was an exceptionally arduous  
30 task for which our current State Staff and Alaska  
31 hunters continue to deal with. The hunt has only  
32 gotten more complex and complicated and it truly has  
33 created an all new pattern of who hunts in our local  
34 area. Now, we have a Federal community hunt just in  
35 its infancy. I see it following the same path as the  
36 State hunt, that of unnecessary complexity. I ask that  
37 your RACs work closely with the original proposer and  
38 consider alternate simpler ways to accomplish the same  
39 robust harvest opportunity for moose and caribou in  
40 this area by addressing the general designated hunter  
41 system. More flexibility in this system could be a  
42 very simple answer to this issue allowing for shared  
43 harvest opportunity among a community of individuals  
44 while maintaining a central hunt management entity if  
45 only best for maintaining one source of  
46 information/guidance for hunting rules and regulations.

47  
48 Now, Becky Schwanke has a specific  
49 comment about Proposal WP22-33. She says: I support  
50

0158

1 the request to eliminate black bear sealing for Units  
2 11 and 12. The black bear harvest reporting system is  
3 adequate to get necessary biological data for this  
4 abundant local species.

5

6 And, you know, I might actually have  
7 one more comment -- oh, no, sorry, it was on a  
8 different proposal. So that concludes the written  
9 comments received during this -- written comments  
10 received during the Council meeting, but perhaps there  
11 is an oral testimony from the public.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
16 Katya. Just for the one that pertains to this proposal  
17 is what you just read, the other might need to be in  
18 front of the community hunt stuff. So next is any  
19 public testimony, people online who would like to  
20 testify.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Hi, I thank you. I'm  
28 calling in -- my name -- for the record my name is Seth  
29 Wilson, resident of Gakona. I'm calling in to testify  
30 to this proposal which I submitted. I just want to  
31 doublecheck, we are on 22-34, correct?

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on the  
36 black bear, but, no, we are not on that one, but that  
37 comes up next, I'm sorry.

38

39 MR. WILSON: All right, I'll standby  
40 then, thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.  
43 Any other testimony on WP22-33 requesting eliminating  
44 the sealing requirement for black bears in GMU 11 and  
45 12.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing

50

0159

1 none, the next step is a motion to support. Council  
2 members.

3

4 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman, this is  
5 Don. I'll make the motion to support WP22-33.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
8 Donald. Do I hear a second.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might be  
13 on mute.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy, I'll  
16 second.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Andy.  
19 A motion has been made and seconded to support Proposal  
20 WP22-30 -- I mean 30 -- whatever it is, I'm sorry I  
21 turned my pate too far.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: 33.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 22-23, okay,  
26 thank you.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: 33. 3-3.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 33, sorry.  
31 Okay, WP22-33, a motion to support. Any discussion.

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll read the  
34 justification.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll read the  
43 justification. Is the recommendation.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go  
46 ahead, Donald.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: .....consistent with  
49 established fish and wildlife management principles;

50

0160

1 yes, since the State already has a non-sealing  
2 requirement. Is the recommendation supported by  
3 substantial evidence such as biological or traditional  
4 ecological knowledge; I think that the harvest tickets  
5 support the biological knowledge, the traditional  
6 ecological knowledge is in our review, that some people  
7 had to travel 260 miles to seal a bear. Will the  
8 recommendation be beneficial to or detrimental to  
9 subsistence needs and other uses; the only detrimental  
10 affect would be if someone didn't seal their bear in 30  
11 days and they wished to have it exported. The last one  
12 discuss what other relevant factors are mentioned in  
13 OSM draft analysis; there was no other recommendations.  
14 So WP22-33 is consistent with the OSM analysis.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
19 Donald, for that. Good job. Any other discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no  
24 other discussion do I hear a question.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: I call for the question,  
27 Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Bill.  
30 Okay, if there's no objection I'm going to call for  
31 unanimous consent. I think it's a simple one, this is  
32 the kind of thing that I always preach about, is, make  
33 it easier on the user. So anyone opposed to the motion  
34 to support WP22-33 to eliminate sealing requirement for  
35 black bears in 11 and 12.

36

37 (No opposition)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no  
40 objection the motion passes unanimously. Okay, now,  
41 Council members, do you want to continue.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not  
47 hearing any -- just some background.....

48

49 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair, this is Linda

50



0161

1 Evans.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes,

4 Linda.....

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Hi, I would support ending  
7 for the day.

8

9 MS. EVANS: .....I would be willing to  
10 -- I would be willing to close, adjourn for the day.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I  
13 think I'm hearing two or three of you say end it for  
14 the day. So hearing -- is there any objection to we  
15 will start in the morning at 9:00 a.m., and let's hope  
16 we got the right number so we don't have to go through  
17 30 minutes of getting everybody on. Just please note  
18 that the number's changed and go to your book and that  
19 page where the numbers are, it said 866, it's 877,  
20 everything else is the same, so, please everyone look  
21 in your book, go in there so if you're anything like me  
22 you got to write it down so next time you call in you  
23 can see the call-in number is 877, not 866. Cross it  
24 out, put 877-807-6997, and the passcode's the same.

25

26 So the public can just text Staff and  
27 they'll get the passcode unless they want me to repeat  
28 it -- I can repeat it really quick. 738 is the  
29 passcode to get in -- 73803960.

30

31 Okay. And tomorrow I'll call the  
32 meeting to order and Bill will take over for the next  
33 proposal so thank you everyone. Thank you, very much  
34 everyone for all your patience here today and we'll  
35 talk to you tomorrow at 9:00.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Okay. See you all  
38 tomorrow, or hear you all tomorrow, not see you.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

47

48

49

50

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 ) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 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 2021;

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 9th  
27 day of December 2021.

28

29

30

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Salena A. Hile  
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22

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