

0188

EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE  
October 15, 2021  
9:06 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews (Acting)

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

0189

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

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(Teleconference - 10/15/2021)

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(On record)

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Good morning, everyone. We'll call the meeting back to order here at 9:06. And we'll start the meeting out with any public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.

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MS. STEVENS: Good morning, everyone. This is Carrie Stevens. Can you hear me?

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we can. Good morning.

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MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Chair Entsminger. Is it okay if I give some public comments?

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. On non-agenda items?

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MS. STEVENS: Yes.

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MS. STEVENS: I apologize as I'm not sure exactly which RAC members are in the room. I just dialed in as I had to provide testimony at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And so I do apologize for that, but again I do.....

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would you.....

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MS. STEVENS: .....appreciate all of you.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Would you like to hear who's online?

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MS. STEVENS: Yes, that would be wonderful.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, Charlie Jagow, Charlie Wright, Andy Bassich, Bill Glanz and myself. Nicolas and Linda we can't reach.

0190

1 MS. STEVENS: Okay. And do you have a  
2 quorum to.....

3  
4 MS. EVANS: This is Linda. I'm online.

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6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got Linda  
7 back. Thank you, Linda. Good morning.

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9 MS. EVANS: Good morning.

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11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
12 we're just missing Nicolas today.

13  
14 Go ahead, Ms. Stevens.

15  
16 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Chair  
17 Entsminger. I'll try to keep my comments brief  
18 although I per usual do have quite a few. Typically I  
19 do not testify or give comment at the ERACs or at the  
20 Federal Subsistence Board. As all of you know I really  
21 work to uplift tribal voices, but in this format there  
22 are a few things that I wanted to discuss and share  
23 with you. I believe most of you know me. I currently  
24 reside in Fairbanks and work at UAF as faculty in the  
25 tribal governments program. So I'm here on the lands  
26 of the (in Native). I do speak today just as myself  
27 only and I really do again appreciate all of your  
28 voluntary service in this regard.

29  
30 A couple of things I just wanted to  
31 mention about OSM and this process that for myself  
32 having living in the Yukon Flats for over 13 years and  
33 from learning from all of the people there who are  
34 really struggling to provide for themselves and their  
35 traditional ways of life and their constant  
36 criminalization while hunting and fishing is really the  
37 lack of engagement. Yes, we are in a time of covid  
38 however the lack of engagement and direct outreach and  
39 tribal consultation with the people that all of your  
40 decisions impact.

41  
42 I do understand that you all have  
43 limitations and as far as the OSM Staff, and so I --  
44 it's not -- I'm not faulting any individual, but I just  
45 want to continue to put on the administrative record  
46 that the Federal Subsistence Management Program is not  
47 meaningfully engaging subsistence users that it's meant  
48 to serve. And that the budget of OSM really needs to  
49 be reviewed which was a part of the 2010 findings, that  
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0191

1 never occurred to ensure greater tribal consultation  
2 and participation. It really is a systemic issue.

3

4 As is RAC member participation. I'm  
5 very concerned about members who are not adequately  
6 participating. We only have so many voices at the  
7 table and I know that tribes are asking for this to be  
8 addressed. And I ask for that again here, to take, you  
9 know, this work lightly as a RAC member for those of us  
10 that, you know, are fighting for people to be able to  
11 feed themselves, it's very disheartening, I -- I can't  
12 tell you how disheartening that is. So I appreciate  
13 you for always showing up.

14

15 I did not receive a response yesterday  
16 when I gave testimony for the 25D West closure review.  
17 I just want to comment that again it was specifically  
18 in OSM reports that there's continued illegal cow  
19 harvest with no response on how that is documented or  
20 why that is stated. Again all of the hunters of the  
21 region I think find that incredibly abrasive, racist,  
22 at best. We know there's wanton waste that is not  
23 included in your reports, however this continued  
24 generalization of misuse by the Native people of the  
25 region is very hurtful, is very damaging and it goes  
26 against the very people you are serving and I just  
27 cannot state that enough. None of that food goes to  
28 waste. That is to feed people if there is an  
29 incidental cow moose harvest, however we do see hunters  
30 with wanton waste in that region and we are told it's  
31 not a significant amount of wanton waste to warrant an  
32 issue, however yet somehow calf harvest is.

33

34 I just want to reiterate that this is  
35 -- this is systemic racism in the system and it's very  
36 hurtful. I just cannot state that enough.

37

38 So the other comment I wanted to make  
39 is regarding fisheries and some of the comments made by  
40 all of you of course regarding the chinook and chum  
41 crash along the Yukon. And I also found it  
42 disheartening that out of all of the OSM Staff online  
43 no one could answer RAC member Andy Bassich's question  
44 about the .804 process. And again this isn't my job,  
45 but I'll be happy to explain the .804 process to you,  
46 Andy, and it's also a little -- you know, for me that  
47 we've been in this work for so long that that is not  
48 something that someone can easily explain. It is a  
49 special action request that goes straight to the

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0192

1 Federal Subsistence Board for review.

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4 And the issue on the Yukon of course  
5 for an .804 for chum or chinook is that the Yukon River  
6 of course has a multitude -- flows through a multitude  
7 of quote, land ownership as claimed by the Federal and  
8 State government. So in some areas .804 would not  
9 apply and it would be this very complex debacle of  
10 management because in adjacent to State waters the .804  
11 would not apply. And I think this is the challenge  
12 along the Yukon and I just want to make sure, Andy, I'm  
13 assuming you're extremely aware of that and you want to  
14 bring that up so others are aware of that, that this is  
15 a challenge with the .804 process along the Yukon.  
16 Again that would be any entity requesting a special  
17 action request directly of the Federal Subsistence  
18 Board to have Federal management in Federal waters  
19 along the Yukon to have a closure to non-Federally-  
20 qualified users along the Yukon for whatever fishery  
21 you request.

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So I just wanted to also clarify that  
process which I'm assuming Andy knows well, but that he  
wants everyone else to know well.

I really again do appreciate your time.  
We're all bouncing back and forth between RAC meeting  
to RAC meeting to North Pacific Fisheries Management  
Council and so forth. I also -- that these meetings  
are only twice a year. I am very confused as to why  
Southcentral, ERAC and YRAC, for instance the Ahtna  
people, how can they possibly be in three places at  
once. The Interior people have to be in two places at  
once. Your Staff has to be in two places at once. It  
is very ineffective way to operate and that for me is  
also a huge struggle. And I would just request that we  
really consider our timing, that we can all be  
effective and efficient in this work.

And I think those are all of my  
comments for all of you this morning. Again I really  
do urge you to look at and take position what is a  
Board of Game Statewide proposal to open up that Dalton  
corridor. And I don't know if that's on the agenda so  
I won't speak to that. I didn't directly see it,  
however I think you're going to be discussing that.  
And as we know that will be an absolute safety  
disaster. We see tourists killed just this summer,  
that is a industrial haul road. And if people begin to

0193

1 start using that haul road for hunting opportunity it  
2 will be an absolute debacle of death.

3

4 So I thank you for your time, I thank  
5 you for your service. Thank you, Chair Sue. I really  
6 appreciate all of you because this is a lot of time.

7

8 Enna Baasee'

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
11 Carrie. Counsel members, any questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
16 Carrie, for bringing up your concerns. I'm pretty sure  
17 you can talk to OSM directly after the meeting also if  
18 you like. So I -- thanks again.

19

20 And I would like to ask again if  
21 there's any other public or tribal comments on non-  
22 agenda items.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is Virgil  
25 Umphenour and I have -- I have a couple of comments.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
28 Virgil, go ahead.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The Board of  
31 Fish is getting ready to meet and it'll be a Zoom  
32 meeting. They were going to have an in-person meeting,  
33 but they're not -- they changed their mind.

34

35 Anyway I submitted two proposals --  
36 well, for this meeting I submitted an agenda change  
37 request. But when I submitted it I knew the Board  
38 didn't have the authority to require the Department to  
39 do it because I served three terms on the Board.  
40 Anyway what it requested and I did this to get this --  
41 get the discussion going on what we need to do to find  
42 out partially what's wrong with no fish return to the  
43 Yukon River. And that was to have them reimplement the  
44 genetic stock identification sampling that was done  
45 prior to 2001 in the area M fishery to find out where  
46 those fish were headed that get caught there. They  
47 caught over 900,000 in the June fishery this year, chum  
48 salmon, which is the highest they've had since 1982.  
49 And that's when the chum cap got put on them because we  
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0194

1 had a disaster of fall chums in 1982 on the Yukon.

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3                   Anyway, but I -- so what I would like  
4 is if the Council would like to do it is I'd like them  
5 to just make a motion to support the Department to do  
6 what my ACR is requesting and it is in the  
7 miscellaneous business part of the Board book. And so  
8 you can find that online.

9

10                   The other thing I wanted to talk to you  
11 about is the Board will meet on the Prince William  
12 Sound issues in -- and they're supposed to meet in  
13 December in Cordova, but I seriously doubt if they'll  
14 have an in-person meeting and I don't know what they're  
15 going to do. But I submitted two proposals, number 54  
16 and number 55 and this -- your RAC has actually  
17 submitted those same proposals in the past when I was  
18 on the RAC. And what they are to do is to hold the  
19 hatcheries' feet to the fire over the promise they made  
20 in January of 2001 to the governor that if the Board of  
21 Fish would not take up the proposal from the Elfin Cove  
22 Advisory Committee, that's in southeast, to reduce  
23 hatchery production because the Board has the authority  
24 to reduce hatchery production, that they would  
25 automatically, all hatcheries in the State, these are  
26 the P&P hatcheries now, that stands for private,  
27 nonprofit, they're just big blue card, welfare with  
28 dignity hatcheries for seiners is mainly who it's for  
29 of which 58 percent in the -- you know, in 2001 58  
30 percent of those people in southeast didn't live in  
31 this State. Anyway it's to benefit them is the main  
32 people it benefits, that producing mainly chum and pink  
33 salmon. But anyway that's to hold their feet to the  
34 fire and reduce their production to what it would have  
35 been if they would have done what they did because two  
36 years later after a bunch of us on the Board of Fish  
37 got off and we changed governors in Prince William  
38 Sound they increased their chum production by 125  
39 percent instead of reducing it by 25 percent.

40

41                   But anyway this year we had the worst  
42 run for chum salmon in the history of the Yukon River  
43 since they've been keeping records and can tell me and  
44 also with the coho salmon. And the fish came back  
45 unusually small, the smallest they've ever had -- been  
46 in Prince William Sound. The Copper River sockeye  
47 salmon were exceptionally small this year as well. And  
48 they were in Bristol Bay the smallest ones on record I  
49 think. They only averaged four and a half pounds

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0195

1 apiece and the ones from the Copper River were less  
2 than five pounds too. And what's really substantial to  
3 me is that the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries  
4 Commission finally admitted this past summer, early  
5 summer, that the problem with the fish not returning in  
6 the North Pacific, that's the wild fish not returning,  
7 not the hatchery fish, the wild fish, is that there's  
8 too many hatchery fish out there, we need to quit  
9 dumping five billion hatchery chums and pinks into the  
10 ocean a year. And Alaska dumps approximately two  
11 billion a year. The next biggest one is Japan and  
12 Japan's are all chum salmon.

13

14 But anyway for those who don't know who  
15 the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission is,  
16 it's a group of scientists from the United States,  
17 Canada, South Korea, Japan and Russia. But to me  
18 that's really significant that they finally admitted  
19 that because Andy Bassich and I have been saying and  
20 Stan Zuray in Tanana for at least 25 years that we have  
21 to stop doing this because we're overgrazing the ocean  
22 pasture and there's just not enough food out there.  
23 But that's what those people finally admitted.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

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29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
30 Vince [sic], and I see your passion is still alive.  
31 Good to hear your voice.

32

33 And who was that asked to be called on?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, this is Vince. I  
36 need to make sure it's clear on the record what Virgil  
37 is referring to and then you and I chatted this morning  
38 about when these proposals would come up. So I would  
39 like to get it on the record so everybody's tracking  
40 this.

41

42 So Virgil's correct, this is under the  
43 Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Prince William Sound  
44 Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers, finfish and  
45 shellfish, they -- according to their website, they're  
46 meeting November 30th through December 6. Public  
47 comments are due November 15th. And the two proposals  
48 he's talking about we -- right now I believe there are  
49 Fish and Game Staff on so that's why I'm going through  
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0196

1 this detail so they are up to speed on this. Anyways  
2 it's proposal 54, it's on Page 50 on Board of Fisheries  
3 book and then proposal 55 is on Page 51.

4

5 And, Sue, you may want to share when  
6 these proposals might come up and our liaison with  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has reached out to  
8 key Staff from Fish and Game and it's possible they  
9 will be on to, you know, address any questions.

10

11 So I'll leave it at that, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14 Thanks, Vince. I communicated with Andy Bassich last  
15 night and he asked for the two proposals and I asked to  
16 send those two proposals out to all of the RAC members  
17 by email I'm sure and if you haven't gotten it you have  
18 to say so.

19

20 But, Council members, it's up to us,  
21 would you guys wish to take these proposals up, and I'm  
22 also informed by Staff if we do that it has to be after  
23 all our action items.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Sue. Andy.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. So I would --  
30 I would like to take these up. I requested that that  
31 be sent to all the RAC members. I think it's a fairly  
32 short process for us to support those two proposals as  
33 they move forward so I would encourage the RAC to take  
34 a few minutes to address each one of those. We might  
35 even be able to do it in one motion. I'll leave that  
36 up Vince and Katya on that.

37

38 And then the other thing I wanted to  
39 clarify, Virgil also just mentioned a spec -- I believe  
40 it was a special action request to have the genetics at  
41 area M fisheries to be restarted. I wasn't aware that  
42 it had stopped actually. But I think that's also  
43 extremely important given the chum that we seen this  
44 year.

45

46 And so I -- if I could get some  
47 clarification on that action request and how we could  
48 support it I would appreciate that right now.

49

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0197

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy.

4 Can anyone speak to this?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.

7 The.....

8

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

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

13 Charlie, go ahead.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: I also support exactly  
16 what Andy said supporting Virgil's proposals.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
21 it's been suggested we take it up after Board of Game  
22 proposals. And I'm sure -- does anyone have any  
23 objections to that?

24

25 (No objections)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
28 Hearing none. That's what we'll do. But going to  
29 Andy's question though, there's -- how do you support  
30 that?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, this is

33 Vince.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Katya did send those  
38 proposals by email last night so if people can get them  
39 and then of course if for whatever reason they can't  
40 get to them either myself or hopefully Fish and Game  
41 will summarize the proposals so they would be aware of  
42 them. But they were emailed last night to all the RAC  
43 members.

44

45 Thank you.

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47 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Andy.

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49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

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0198

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. If  
2 Virgil is still onboard I'd like to ask him if he could  
3 speak about the process that he tried to initiate on  
4 the area M genetics. I wasn't -- it was a little bit  
5 broken up so I didn't -- I wasn't able to follow  
6 exactly what he's saying so I don't know if that's  
7 something going to the Board of Fish or if that was a  
8 recommendation going to ADF&G to do that again. So if  
9 he could clarify what his action is and what he's  
10 asking for the Eastern RAC support that would help me  
11 greatly.

12  
13 Thank you. Virgil, if you're still  
14 onboard can you clarify for us that topic?

15  
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, I'm still here. I  
17 submitted that as an individual, but that was because  
18 of the time crunch and we couldn't have any AC  
19 meetings. And then we had the Fairbanks Fisheries AC  
20 met on Wednesday and they voted to support what I did.  
21 What I did is submit it as an ACR, agenda change  
22 request, to the Board because they're getting ready to  
23 have their work session. And it would go in  
24 miscellaneous business because they don't have the auth  
25 -- the Board does not have the authority to tell the  
26 Department how to spend money and it costs money to do  
27 this genetic work. And so I did that to bring  
28 attention to the Board and to cause the Board to get  
29 educated on the issue because we have such a disaster  
30 on the Yukon.

31  
32 And as you well know being a part of  
33 the Yukon River Panel just like I am, that this is an  
34 important thing. And when we first got all this done,  
35 just a short little bit of history here, but Dick  
36 Wilmont was the guy that did the genetics for the  
37 panel, but it wasn't a panel then. We were negotiating  
38 the treaty with the Canadians back in the '90s. And  
39 Dick found because we were complaining about the  
40 bycatch and the Bering Sea trawl fishery. And so they  
41 come up -- because under treaty you get Federal money  
42 to do science, scientific research. And this is before  
43 the treaty was ever signed or anything. And so anyway  
44 they -- we put enough pressure out there politically  
45 and in our negotiations where they would do genetic  
46 analysis of the bycatch in the trawl fishery. And at  
47 that time Dick Wilmont was the guy doing it, he's kind  
48 of a pioneer on this genetic science on fisheries and  
49 he worked out of the laboratory at Auke Bay for  
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0199

1 National Marine Fisheries Service. Anyway he found a  
2 bunch of salmon from the DIPAC chum salmon, from the  
3 Dipac hatchery in Juneau in the Bering Sea trawl  
4 bycatch. And so then the State had -- let's see, the  
5 Seeb, Jim and Lisa Seeb, they did all this genetic  
6 research for the State and they found in some of the  
7 samples, this is for the area M June fishery, some of  
8 the samples that they did in June starting between the  
9 10th and 15th of June, they found that as high as 15  
10 percent of those chum salmon that they were catching in  
11 area M were actually Canadian origin Yukon River chum  
12 salmon. 15 percent were.

13

14                   Anyway they quit doing all that stuff  
15 in January or in 2001 because in January of 2001 I got  
16 the management plan changed so that they couldn't fish  
17 seven days a week, 24 hours a day until they got to the  
18 chum cap because when they got close to the chum cap  
19 they would just quit counting the fish or pitch them  
20 overboard, one or the other. Anyway and so I got that  
21 changed so they could only fish three 16 hour periods a  
22 week. But then as soon as the Board changed three  
23 years later you had people that didn't care about the  
24 Yukon River and YK, they changed that back so that they  
25 increased their fishing time by 280 percent is what  
26 happened. And we've never been able to get it changed  
27 back again.

28

29                   But anyway and they never did do the  
30 genetic work on the coho and the king salmon. It needs  
31 to be done on the coho and the king salmon as well and  
32 I don't know how many of you people realize it, but  
33 either four or five years ago they caught -- in 18 days  
34 they caught 44,000 something king salmon in 18 days in  
35 the June fishery in area M. But they need to do the  
36 genetic sampling on the king salmon and the coho salmon  
37 as well. But that's why I put that in and what the  
38 Fairbanks AC is planning on doing before the  
39 Legislature convenes we're going to try to get the  
40 Interior delegation, which is the -- represents Eastern  
41 Interior RAC, the legislators together and brief them  
42 on this so that they can put pressure on the Department  
43 to do this proper science so we know whether or not --  
44 like they caught 900,000 chums in area M in June this  
45 year, how many of those were Yukon River origin.

46

47                   Thank you. Is that -- I hope that  
48 answers your question.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that was  
2 the short version.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. That was the  
5 short version.

6  
7 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Andy.

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9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

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11 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Andy,  
12 briefly. Yeah, thank you. So when we -- when we take  
13 up the two proposals that Virgil had asked us to  
14 support at the end of this Board -- game issues, I'd  
15 like to also make a motion to support sending a letter  
16 to Board of Game or -- yeah, Board of Fish and also  
17 ADF&G requesting that this genetic sampling of area M  
18 take place. So I just want to put that on the record  
19 or on the agenda right now if possible.

20  
21 Thank you. That's all I have.  
22 Appreciate it very much.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy,  
25 did you say you wanted to make a motion, but -- now or  
26 when we take this up?

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

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31 MR. BASSICH: When we take it up. I  
32 don't know.....

33  
34 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I was going to say  
35 we can't or we shouldn't be doing any motions during  
36 tribal and public comments on non-agenda items. It  
37 should be when we discuss this agenda item.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
40 what.....

41  
42 MR. BASSICH: That's what I was  
43 suggesting, thank you.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Sorry.  
46 All right. Any other questions.

47  
48 (No comments)

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0201

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
2 other.....

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4 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair.

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6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

7  
8 MR. SIMON: Yes, if you're going to  
9 take additional non-agenda item comments. This is Jim  
10 Simon. I have a comment that follows what Virgil was  
11 talking about that might help illuminate this  
12 discussion.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just  
15 announced that.....

16  
17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted)

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....so go  
21 ahead, Jim. This is.....

22  
23 MS. WESSELS: Before -- Sue this is  
24 Katya. Madame Chair, I'm sorry. I just want to make  
25 one announcement. Just want to remind everyone to make  
26 sure that they have themselves mute by pressing star  
27 button and six button and please do not put us on hold  
28 if you need to answer another phone call.

29  
30 REPORTER: Thank you.

31  
32 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Simon.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

35  
36 MR. SIMON: Thank you very much, Madame  
37 Chair, and the Council. And thank you, Virgil, it's so  
38 good to hear your voice and your passion once again and  
39 you're missed.

40  
41 I just wanted to read from a letter  
42 from the Commissioner that was received in August. And  
43 just a little background. On July 23rd the Kuskokwim  
44 River Salmon Management Working Group submitted a  
45 letter to the governor requesting -- voicing some  
46 concerns over management of the area M commercial  
47 salmon fishery as well as salmon bycatch in the Bering  
48 Sea. And on August 23rd the Kuskokwim River Salmon  
49 Management Working Group received a four page response  
50

0202

1 that spoke to some of the changes that Virgil mentioned  
2 in 2001. And one -- and then the Commissioner's letter  
3 says between 2004 and 2016 the Board adopted only  
4 relatively minor changes to the plan that virgil had  
5 outlined which seemed to be a different perspective  
6 than Virgil has. And specifically with respect to chum  
7 salmon the letter states prior to 2006 efforts to  
8 identify origin of salmon caught along the Alaska  
9 Peninsula were focused on tagging studies.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MR. SIMON: Excuse me.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it  
17 sounds like somebody did not mute. I heard a child  
18 speak so whoever has their phone on -- not muted, I'm  
19 sorry, would you please push star, six.

20

21 Go ahead, Jim.

22

23 MR. SIMON: Okay. Okay. Thank you.  
24 So prior to 2006 efforts to identify origin of salmon  
25 caught along the Alaska Peninsula were focused on  
26 tagging studies and scale pattern analysis. WASSIP  
27 brought powerful genetic stock identification to bear  
28 in answering questions related to stock composition and  
29 harvest rate on salmon stocks from Chignik Bay to  
30 Kotzebue Sound. Genetic techniques allowed for three  
31 western Alaska chum salmon stock groups to be evaluated  
32 through WASSIP, Kotzebue Sound, coastal western Alaska  
33 and upper Yukon. In other words Yukon River fall chum  
34 salmon. The coastal western Alaska group includes  
35 salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, lower and  
36 middle Yukon River, in other words summer chum salmon,  
37 and Norton Sound. Since WASSIP additional genetic  
38 markers have been developed and tested to distinguish  
39 among stocks within the coastal western Alaska stock  
40 group. However lower Yukon River, lower Kuskokwim  
41 River and Bristol Bay stocks can still not be  
42 distinguished from one another.

43

44 From 2007 to 2009 57.7 percent of chum  
45 salmon caught in the June Unimak and Shumagin Island  
46 Fisheries, so area M, were of coastal western Alaska  
47 origin, but harvest rate on coastal Alaska chum salmon  
48 was low at 4.2 percent. This harvest rate is the  
49 percent of fish harvested in the fishery relative to  
50

0203

1 the total return of coastal western Alaska fish. The  
2 second largest contributor is -- were salmon harvests  
3 from the Asia reporting group. There have not been any  
4 genetic stock identification programs focused on chum  
5 salmon caught in the Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery  
6 since 2009 so it is not possible to estimate stock  
7 composition of Alaska Peninsula chum salmon harvest  
8 during 2020 or 2021 or estimate the harvest of  
9 Kuskokwim River chum salmon in the Alaska Peninsula  
10 salmon fishery.

11  
12 So I just wanted to share that because  
13 I thought that provided some context from just a couple  
14 months ago from the Commissioner of Fish and Game about  
15 this issue. And I do know that in some other  
16 communications that I think the Department is now  
17 looking at finishing their -- those reports from WASSIP  
18 that sort of were abandoned in 2009. And so I really  
19 support Virgil's efforts and those of the Fairbanks  
20 Advisory Committee and hopefully the Eastern Interior  
21 RAC to address the information needs to really address  
22 this during this time.

23  
24 Thank you very much.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
27 Jim. Council members, any questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
32 Hearing none. Are there any other public or tribal  
33 comments on non-agenda items.

34  
35 MS. BLACK: Yeah. This is Jessica  
36 Black. Can you hear me.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can. Go  
39 ahead, Jessica.

40  
41 MS. BLACK: Okay. Thank you for  
42 everyone's service and thank you for the comments so  
43 far, I really enjoyed listening.

44  
45 My name is Jessica Black, my family's  
46 from (in Native) Fort Yukon. And I live and reside on  
47 the traditional homelands of the lower Tanana Dene here  
48 in Fairbanks. I work at UAF, I am an associate  
49 professor, but I'm here speaking on behalf of myself.  
50



0204

1 I am a fisherwoman, my family has stewarded the lands  
2 of the Gwich'in along with our community for 10,000  
3 plus years and we have deep social, cultural and  
4 spiritual ties to the land.

5  
6 I just wanted to go on the record and  
7 say that the past few years of fishing on the Yukon  
8 have been devastating. This past year as you all well  
9 know we didn't have any fishing and I had to look at my  
10 six year old daughter in the eye and tell her we  
11 couldn't fish and she did not understand because  
12 fishcamp is one of her most favorite times of year.  
13 And it's where we connect with our family, we pass on  
14 culture and it's just so important for emotional,  
15 spiritual and mental health.

16  
17 And that, you know, as Native people we  
18 have been testifying, we've been showing up in spaces,  
19 we've been basically screaming at the top of our lungs,  
20 you know, that we need to more -- we need more  
21 inclusion in management and it's really important that  
22 our voices are heard and taken seriously. I also --  
23 you know, when we don't get king salmon we really rely  
24 on the chums especially in the upper part of the river  
25 the early fall chums, but, you know, they're not doing  
26 well. And so we have a serious problem and, you know,  
27 the causes are many, climate change, bycatch, there's  
28 been numerous testimonies as to the reasons why all  
29 along the river system by indigenous folks showing up.

30  
31  
32 So after a hard fishing year, you know,  
33 we're really reliant then on -- or no fishing, moose  
34 populations, caribou and I just want to reiterate the  
35 Steese Highway hunt right outside of Fairbanks is --  
36 they're just crazy. There needs to be more training  
37 for hunters to understand how to respectfully harvest.  
38 It's a safety issue, it really needs to be taken up.  
39 You drive that way towards Circle, that's the way we  
40 get home to Fort Yukon, you're not going to get  
41 basically shot or, you know, that people are careful.  
42 There's so much waste. My nephew, we drove from Circle  
43 to Fairbanks coming in from Fort Yukon and he just  
44 didn't understand why people just so much and just  
45 wasted. It was so depressing. And so I think more  
46 training for hunters is really needed to understand how  
47 to respectfully harvest or not harvest at all.

48  
49 And then with moose hunts, you know,  
50

0205

1 our climate is vastly changing and so we really need  
2 our Native people to be included in management  
3 decisions and openings because we know how the land  
4 responds to climate change, how the animals operate, we  
5 study them, we live in relationship with them. And the  
6 openings are not always in tune with the way the  
7 animals are moving. And, you know, we rely on our  
8 Native food, we don't have fish, we need to be able to  
9 harvest a moose if it gives itself to us. We need to  
10 harvest the caribou if it gives itself to us, but with  
11 the way things are it just seems like everything's out  
12 of tune and we're not living in good relationship with  
13 the land and the environment.

14  
15 So I would just want to echo that we  
16 need to continue as much inclusion as -- of our Native  
17 people from our communities as possible. We need to  
18 live in better relation with the land, animals and the  
19 water. And we can do that by including Native people  
20 and we need to require more training for hunters who  
21 have no idea how to do that, to get training to  
22 respectfully harvest our animals because what I'm  
23 seeing is really depressing. I took my daughter to go  
24 berry picking on the Steese Highway and it was just  
25 before that Steese hunt so it wasn't open yet. And I  
26 kid you not the caribou all just kept running up to us  
27 and laying right next to us like it was the -- just a  
28 very odd thing because usually they're, you know,  
29 timid, scared. But I think they were scared of all the  
30 hunters to be honest and just felt a sense of safety.

31  
32 So I'll just end it there and say that  
33 we need more inclusion of indigenous voices at all  
34 levels of management in all areas, all species, you  
35 know, and we're showing up because we care this much  
36 and our voices -- we're screaming it at the top of our  
37 lungs in every space. Include us, we live in close  
38 relationship.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Thank  
43 you very much, Jessica. I want to just reiterate I've  
44 been on this Council for 20 years and the Yukon fish  
45 has -- it just hasn't seemed like it's ever been gotten  
46 better. And we worked on a training or hunter ethics  
47 and education and I think that because of covid or  
48 whatever it just -- there hasn't been a lot done since  
49 two different meetings and we -- but it's always on our  
50

0206

1 agenda, we always talk about it, we're trying really  
2 hard to get something done in that light. So I pray to  
3 god it does happen.

4  
5 Are there any questions of Jessica,  
6 Council members.

7  
8 MR. BASSICH: Sue. Andy, brief.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
11 Andy.

12  
13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. So I just wanted  
14 to thank her for her testimony and try and reassure her  
15 as you just did that our Council has been pretty  
16 forward thinking on many of the topics that she's  
17 talking about, hunter ethics and training and all that  
18 and we're trying to make some progress on that and I  
19 think we are listening to the liaison reports from  
20 yesterday, we just need to keep expanding and keep  
21 working on that. That's a very long, slow process to  
22 do it well. So be assured.

23  
24 And to my main point is I'd really like  
25 to put a plug in for this process and that is we need  
26 young people to apply to be on these RACs. And we need  
27 young Native people to apply to be on these RACs so  
28 their voice is heard and so they can take control in  
29 the future of making recommendations to the Board.

30  
31 So that's all I wanted to say. You  
32 know, we talked about this at many of our meetings.  
33 You look at our RAC, we're a lot of older people. The  
34 young people are going to be inheriting many of these  
35 issues in fish and game and so it's incumbent upon the  
36 young people to get engaged so that their voices are  
37 heard. And fortunately we have guys like Charlie  
38 onboard, Charlie Jagow and I'm hoping that William will  
39 be back on too, but we'll see how that goes.

40  
41 Thank you. That's all I had.

42  
43 I just wanted to let her know that  
44 these things are foremost on our minds and we're doing  
45 the best we can and it's a slow process so you got to  
46 be patient.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50

0207

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
2 have any questions of Jessica.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Before  
7 I go on.....

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

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Excuse me.

13 Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
16 Charlie.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

19  
20 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to thank Jessica  
21 also, it's really good to hear people from the land  
22 talking to us, we don't get much of that. There ain't  
23 much said in the tribal comment area. I put something  
24 on Facebook last night to get people involved, to help  
25 try to let people know that we're having meetings.  
26 It's really good to hear people's voice and I thank you  
27 for that. And thank you for reminding us of our duty.

28  
29 Appreciate your time, Jessica. Thank  
30 you. That's all I have.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
33 Charlie. Council members, any other questions of  
34 Jessica.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
39 you very much, Jessica.

40  
41 And before I go on I'm getting text  
42 messages that people are trying to call in and they  
43 can't get in. I don't know how to do it if they can't  
44 call in. I got to.....

45  
46 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
47 Katya. Is's probably because they have the old number,  
48 the incorrect number that we had on the agenda.

49  
50

0208

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are  
2 there any other non-agenda items from the public or  
3 tribal.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
8 Hearing none. The next thing on the agenda would be  
9 the WP 22-34. Since I will probably be talking a lot  
10 to the upcoming proposals I am turning the Chair over  
11 to Bill Glanz, the Vice-Chair. And then we can strong  
12 arm to get it back. I'm joking.

13  
14 Yes. So go ahead, Bill, and I will --  
15 I'm going to send a text to these people asking that  
16 question, what's wrong.

17  
18 Go ahead, Bill. Hey, Bill, you have to  
19 take it off of mute. Are you there?

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Can you hear  
22 me?

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that you,  
25 Bill?

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I'm here. What  
28 the hell.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It --  
31 it's time to take over Chairing the meeting.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. I got --  
34 I'm online I hope.

35  
36 MR. WRIGHT: I hear you in Eagle, Bill.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. You got  
39 me in Fairbanks and everywhere?

40  
41 REPORTER: Yes.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yeah. I love  
44 these phone meetings. Can anybody copy me?

45  
46 REPORTER: We can hear you, Bill.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: You can hear  
49 me?

50

0209

1 REPORTER: Yes.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay, thanks

4 Tina.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go

7 ahead, somebody.....

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: This is Bill, I  
10 can't hardly hear you guys.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

13

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Can you  
15 copy me now, guys, I got it on speaker again?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can hear  
18 you, can you hear us?

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I'm with you  
21 right now. Yeah, I can get it. I can hear what you  
22 do. All right. Before I take over what is our.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right

25 so.....

26

27 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Pardon.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You will  
30 start at WP 22-34.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: 34. Okay.  
33 That's just what I wanted to find out, where were we at  
34 on that.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll probably  
37 help you a little bit. The introduction of 34 would be  
38 Tom Plank.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: What page is  
41 that on? My book is -- I'm sitting here and the next  
42 one I got on my list is 22-51.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: It's on Page 99, Bill.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Page 99. Okay.  
47 Thank you. Okay. I'm on it now, 22-34. Okay. Now I  
48 got to go back to my list of things to ask. Stand  
49 back.

50

0210

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. On  
2 Page 57 is the procedure.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: 57. Okay. I'm  
5 getting ready to go now. Lost it again. Okay. Here  
6 we got. Draft Staff analysis on WP 22-34.  
7 Introduction and presentation of draft Staff analysis.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I  
10 think it's Tom Plank.

11  
12 MR. PLANK: Good morning, Chair,  
13 members of the Council. Are you ready.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, we sure  
16 are, Tom.

17  
18 MR. PLANK: All right. My name -- for  
19 the record my name is Tom Plank, I'm the Wildlife  
20 Biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management and I  
21 will be presenting the summary of the analysis for  
22 wildlife proposal WP 22-34 submitted by Seth Wilson of  
23 Glennallen requesting a change in salvage requirements  
24 to a bone in for sheep taken in Units 11 and 12. And  
25 this starts on Page 98 of your meeting books.

26  
27 The proponent states there should be a  
28 meat on bone salvage requirement for the two front  
29 quarters, two rear quarters and ribs for all sheep  
30 taken in Units 11 and 12. The proponent states that  
31 deboning the meat in the field may lead to waste of  
32 meat that is left on the bone. Keeping the meat on the  
33 bone also allows for better meat handling, ensuring  
34 that all edible meat is cool and dry until it is out of  
35 the field. There currently is no bone in requirements  
36 for sheep hunters in either Federal or State  
37 regulations although such regulations exist for moose  
38 and caribou in both Federal and State hunts as well as  
39 for bison in State hunts. There has never been a  
40 Federal Subsistence Board action for bone in  
41 requirements for sheep.

42  
43 The proponent of this proposal has also  
44 submitted the same language to the Alaska Board of Game  
45 for Unit 11 as proposal 67 and consider it -- for  
46 consideration during the January, 2022 meeting.

47  
48 If this proposal is adopted all  
49 successful sheep hunters in Units 11 and 12 would have  
50

0211

1 to pack out all edible meat on the bone, most of whom  
2 travel by foot many miles just to harvest a dall sheep.  
3 The proposed regulation would apply to only Federally-  
4 qualified subsistence users harvesting sheep on Federal  
5 public lands under Federal regulations. And it would  
6 not affect non-Federally-qualified users. This  
7 requirement would place an undue burden on Federally-  
8 qualified subsistence users harvesting sheep.

9

10 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
11 oppose proposal WP 22-34.

12

13 Thank you, Chair, members of the  
14 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Anybody have  
17 any questions for Tom on WP 22-34.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have a  
20 question for the.....

21

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Don.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: .....analysis.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Bill. Does  
29 the proponent have a proposal in in the State regs for  
30 11 and 12 or only 11 or only 12?

31

32 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
33 Tom. The information I have is that they've only put  
34 in a proposal for Unit 11. And that's proposal 67 for  
35 the Board of Game.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Anybody else  
38 want to call -- talk to him?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Any  
43 tribes have any comment on this.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I'll move down  
48 to ANCSA corporations.

49

50



0212

1 MR. LIND: Good morning. This is  
2 Orville Lind, Native liaison for the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management. And during the consultation  
4 session there were no questions or comments on this  
5 proposal.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. All  
10 right. ADF&G, any comments.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Any Federal  
15 agency comments.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We'll go back  
20 to the tribal again.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. We'll go  
25 into the advisory group comment, other Regional  
26 Advisory Council comments.

27  
28 MR. BURCH: Sorry. This is Mark Burch.  
29 Did you just call on the Department of Fish and Game?

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, I did it  
32 was earlier on agency comments, Mark. Go ahead.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Mark Burch, do  
37 you copy?

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We'll go again  
42 to other Regional Advisory Councils, any ACs.

43  
44 MR. RINALDI: Hi, this is Todd Rinaldi  
45 with the Department of Fish and Game. I think Mark  
46 Burch just cut himself off on the phone. And I can  
47 provide comment addressing this proposal.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right. Go  
50

0213

1 right ahead.

2

3

4 MR. RINALDI: So the Alaska Department  
5 of Fish and Game is neutral on this proposal. With  
6 that said we do encourage hunters to ensure the optimal  
7 salvage of their meat. You know, requiring meat to  
8 remain naturally attached removes any question for the  
9 hunter or for enforcement officers that the salvage  
10 requirements are being met. So leaving the meat  
11 naturally attached is widely recognized as the best way  
12 to transport meat out of the field to prevent spoilage  
13 when it can be done and this is a practice that the  
14 Department does encourage.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. All  
18 right. Anyone commenting on that -- ADF&G.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We'll got to  
23 Advisory Groups or Regional Advisory Councils.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Chair Bill.  
26 Southcentral took up this proposal this week and they  
27 oppose the proposal as written.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. They  
30 opposed it. All right. Do we have any summary of  
31 written public comments.

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: Were you going to ask  
34 for Subsistence Resource Commission?

35

36 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Say again,  
37 please.

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: Would you take comments  
40 from the Subsistence Resource Commission under Advisory  
41 Groups?

42

43 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, I would do  
44 it that way. That'll work.

45

46 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Usually it's --  
47 we're on the list there.

48

49 This is Barbara Cellarius, I am the

50

0214

1 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National  
2 Park and Preserve. And I provide Staff support to the  
3 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission so I  
4 will be presenting their comments at today's meeting.

5

6 The Wrangell-St. Elias.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: .....Subsistence  
11 Resource Commission unanimously opposed WP 22-34. A  
12 meat on the bone salvage requirement for sheep puts an  
13 unnecessary burden on subsistence hunters especially on  
14 users who are getting older and for whom it is  
15 increasingly more difficult to pack out the extra  
16 weight.

17

18 SRC members questioned whether there  
19 was evidence of subsistence users wasting meat in the  
20 field noting that they had not seen such waste and that  
21 they personally would scrape the bones clean. If this  
22 is an issue with sport hunters the State should address  
23 it before subsistence users are punished with an  
24 unnecessary requirements.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.

29 Thank you. Any more advisory group comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I'll pass over  
34 to the summary of written public comments.

35

36 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
37 Tom Plank. There was no written public comments.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.

40 Thank you, Tom. Public testimony. Do we have any  
41 public testimony folks.

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya  
44 Wessels and we received three written public comments  
45 during this Council meeting at subsistence@fws.gov so  
46 I'm going to read them into the record.

47

48 First comment is from Becky Schwanke.  
49 She says I oppose this request to require on the bone

50

0215

1 salvage of dall sheep in Units 11 and 12. As a long  
2 time sheep hunter I have been on many successful sheep  
3 hunts throughout these units and I can say that meat  
4 waste has never been an issue for me or my group of  
5 Federal sheep hunting friends.

6  
7 This regulation is not necessary and  
8 would unnecessarily burden those hunters, like myself,  
9 my family and friends that hunt remote portions of the  
10 Park backcountry on foot. In all my years of sheep  
11 hunting I have boned out a handful of sheep when  
12 circumstance required it, but not once have I lost any  
13 meat to spoilage. Requiring us to pack out entire leg  
14 bones would be a burden especially as a laurelet is  
15 mostly bone with very limited shank meat. Requiring us  
16 to pack out the entire ribcage would be an excessive  
17 burden as we don't have the extra space in our packs.  
18 And it could possibly lead to more meat spoilage having  
19 air get to the entire span of the thin rib rack  
20 especially if one removed brisket meat. My family  
21 holds sheep meat in the highest regard as do most of  
22 our friends who work very hard to get our harvest out  
23 of the field in a timely manner every time to ensure we  
24 don't waste this precious resource.

25  
26 This proposal just makes no sense  
27 especially for this area. Park hunters all start from  
28 trails or river. These are valley bottoms way below  
29 the sheep. We don't fly into mountain tops, we hike  
30 through timber to get to our hunting areas. A selected  
31 couple local hunt areas allow hunters to four-wheel  
32 right up to the mountain, but the vast majority of us  
33 had more involved country. In 25 years of sheep  
34 hunting I have never personally observed a light sheep  
35 pack. If a law enforcement officer does by all means  
36 cite the hunter to encourage them to do better next  
37 time. Don't punish the numerous Federal sheep hunters  
38 that hunt the right way for the right reasons because  
39 of one person's fear that there might be an issue.

40  
41 We all have a responsibility to help  
42 educate new and novice hunters as to the best way to  
43 handle wild game. We don't write proposals to punish  
44 our fellow hunters for a nonissue.

45  
46 That concludes Becky Schwanke's comment  
47 on WP 22-34.

48  
49 So then we have another two comments.  
50

0216

1 The second comment is from Matt Schneider. He says I'm  
2 writing some comments on proposal WP 22-34, meat on  
3 bone requirement for sheep in field. I do not like  
4 this proposal. I started hunting sheep in '78 with my  
5 parents and have hunted and guided for sheep ever  
6 since. I have packed plenty of bones out over the  
7 years to boil for soup broth. As I get older I want  
8 lighter backpack loads, not heavy and not more loads to  
9 get meat out of the field. This proposal would require  
10 that.

11  
12 So I have been deboning meat in the  
13 field especially for long distance packs. The longer  
14 meat is in the field the more chances you have of  
15 spoilage. When it's hot out it's harder to cool meat.  
16 When on the bone the legs are a larger mass and takes  
17 longer to cool unlike smaller chunks of meat. People  
18 who do not know how to debone meat very well are not  
19 going to do a better job at home, the waste will be the  
20 same. Maybe informing people how to debone carefully  
21 would be a better way to go.

22  
23 This concludes Matt Schneider's  
24 comment.

25  
26 So the next comment on the WP 22-34 is  
27 from Wade Sampson. This is in response to the new  
28 proposed sheep hunt salvage regulations for Units 11  
29 and 12. I strongly oppose these new bone in proposals.  
30 I have been a sheep hunter for over 25 years and have  
31 packed my meat out both ways, with the bone on -- in on  
32 the quarters and deboned. I didn't notice any benefit  
33 with bone in and didn't get any more meat home to my  
34 freezer. And I don't eat the bones so I started  
35 deboning my sheep many years ago.

36  
37 I take great pride in sheep hunting and  
38 my skills to process wild game and think it would be  
39 very wrong to be punished for what a novice hunter does  
40 or any hunter do. This proposal says keeping the meat  
41 on the bone would ensure that it is in good quality  
42 when it arrives in the place it will be processed. If  
43 a hunter isn't skilled in processing wild game they're  
44 going to waste meat whether it is bone out or not.  
45 Enforcement officers are able to tell if you have all  
46 the meat from your sheep by looking at all boned out  
47 muscle groups and recreating a full sheep's carcass.  
48 Please do not pass this proposal.

49  
50

0217

1 Thank you.

2

3 This concludes Wade Sampson's comment.

4

5 That's the end of all written public  
6 comments received during this meeting.

7

8 Thank you. But there may be some  
9 public testimony, oral testimony.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you.  
14 Okay. Do we have any public testimony on this 22-34.

15

16 MR WILSON: Mr. Chair, this is Seth  
17 Wilson.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Mr. Chair,  
22 this is -- for the record this is Seth Wilson, resident  
23 of Gakona. I'm calling in to testify towards 22-34, a  
24 proposal which I did submit. I -- in my testimony I'd  
25 like to provide a little bit more context and reasoning  
26 as to why I submitted it. I'm hoping by the end of my  
27 testimony you'll see a little bit more of my  
28 perspective and hopefully I'll make my case known.

29

30 I would like to start with to disclose  
31 that I am a previous 10 year employee at the Alaska  
32 Department of Fish and Game, currently not employed  
33 there. I am also currently married to the local  
34 management biologist. But I want to make it clear that  
35 I submitted this proposal on my own.

36

37 And I'd like to begin my testimony by  
38 acknowledging the previous written comments, all of  
39 which were very valid.

40

41 I acknowledge that this proposal as  
42 written would be very burdensome especially to skilled  
43 hunters, those that are practiced at boning out meat,  
44 have hunted sheep for a very long time. And sadly I do  
45 acknowledge that this proposal would be most difficult  
46 for elderly hunters who just want to get out and do  
47 what they love as they should. And frankly I  
48 understand that this proposal caused a lot of upset  
49 with some of my previous coworkers, but also a lot of  
50

0218

1 my community members. And I want to sort of discuss  
2 that really quick. I -- you know, as Alaskans we have  
3 a pretty strong distaste for waste of meat. It's a  
4 foundational Alaska value that we hold. So frankly any  
5 sort of perceived accusation towards the waste --  
6 wanton waste, any sort of mention of it becomes a very  
7 difficult conversation to have. And it can be utterly  
8 insulting. And for any sort of upset I've caused I do  
9 apologize for that, but I do feel that I was right in  
10 submitting this proposal and I'm going to discuss why  
11 with a little bit of background and context here.

12  
13 I began to question wanton waste and  
14 salvage requirements for sheep about two years ago when  
15 there were a couple local instances that I heard of. I  
16 brought the issue to the local law enforcement officer  
17 and asked his take on it and his statement in the  
18 discussion was such that he has noticed that -- a trend  
19 where a lot of what he called light packs, you know,  
20 quote, unquote, in the Wrangells and I think that same  
21 phrase was used in a recent SRC meeting by the National  
22 Park Service ranger which unfortunately I do regret I  
23 did not attend. But I have no background in law and  
24 I'm not a law enforcement officer, but I do understand  
25 that you can't really cite a person for having a light  
26 pack. For any question that enforcement might have,  
27 any question about the waste of meat, it -- an  
28 investigation would be required to collect evidence and  
29 that requires a trooper traveling back into the  
30 mountains with a cub -- with a helicopter to fly around  
31 during sheep season to locate the remains and collect  
32 evidence.

33  
34 So as it was related and as I perceive  
35 it salvage requirements for sheep are difficult to  
36 enforce. And I did submit this proposal certainly to  
37 the Wrangells, but that's only because I hunt here. I  
38 feel that if it were to be passed it should be on a  
39 much wider scope.

40  
41 A little bit of back -- more  
42 background. I brought the issue up to the AC about two  
43 years ago. The discussion there was generally  
44 supportive, but uncomfortable. The quote I remember  
45 being left with was yeah, we kind of like it, but we  
46 don't want to submit a proposal about it, but you're  
47 welcome to do so. So I did submit a proposal to the  
48 Board of Game. They have since met on it, I believe a  
49 year and a half ago and voted unanimously not to  
50

0219

1 support it which I understand. And then as we all know  
2 the Board of Game cycle was delayed one year so the  
3 Board of Game has not been able to meet on it which I  
4 regret.

5

6 I submitted it to the Subsistence Board  
7 as a companion proposal just so it could be discussed  
8 in the Federal realm. And most importantly I didn't  
9 really want to be seen as targeting one user group or  
10 another. The conservation measure should lie on  
11 everybody equally.

12

13 So I think with that I'll just end my  
14 testimony here and I'll take whatever questions,  
15 beratement, tongue lashings, that are offered up by the  
16 SRC.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
21 Thank you. Any of our members have any questions for  
22 him.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Bill, I  
25 have one.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go right ahead,  
28 Sue.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Seth, I  
31 have a long history and love for sheep and it's part of  
32 me, it's spiritually part of me. So my question of you  
33 would be wouldn't it be easier to go through an  
34 education process more than to come up with proposals  
35 that hit people with this?

36

37 MR. WILSON: Yes, Sue. Thank you. You  
38 know, first I can just say that I started hunting sheep  
39 when I was pretty young too. I grew up on the Kenai  
40 Mountains. And so my personal view of this is yes, it  
41 is -- I mean, it's much more preferable for people to  
42 police themselves rather than to be regulated. And  
43 that's why I was uncomfortable with submitting this,  
44 but I also acknowledge that you got to put self  
45 interest aside sometimes to raise a bigger issue. But  
46 the best -- in the SRC the best comment I heard was it  
47 would be much easier to encourage people to take  
48 pictures of the remains. And yes, before any  
49 regulatory action is taken it would probably be much

50



0220

1 more preferable and easier to educate because --  
2 educate the public, do outreach and whatnot because  
3 education I imagine is much easier, cheaper than  
4 enforcement and putting a burden on people. So yes, it  
5 would be to answer your question.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

8  
9 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair.

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

12  
13 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion  
14 on this topic if we're at that point.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you.

19  
20 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, this is  
21 Barbara Cellarius.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
24 Yes.

25  
26 MS. CELLARIUS: I was asked to share  
27 some of the written comments that the SRC had received.  
28 I had written up just a brief summary of those  
29 comments. With the.....

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

32  
33 MS. CELLARIUS: .....Council's  
34 permission I would present them.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, you go  
37 right ahead.

38  
39 MS. CELLARIUS: So the SRC as I  
40 mentioned the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource  
41 Commission met last week and they received nine written  
42 comments on this topic from a couple of people you've  
43 already heard written comments from today, but the  
44 summary that I wrote up includes their comments as well  
45 as those of others, Becky Schwanke, Chris Summerall,  
46 Cory Schwanke, Michael Rego, Mike Willard, Robert Seer,  
47 Wade Sampson, Keith Roland and David Roland. All of  
48 the commentators opposed WP 22-34 and I'm just going to  
49 share a few points that they made.

50

0221

1                   Most commentors identified themselves  
2 as long time local sheep hunters with many years of  
3 experience. This proposed regulation would place an  
4 unnecessary burden on sheep hunters. And then this is  
5 sort of a mixture of quotes and a summary.

6  
7                   Every serious sheep hunter knows that  
8 controlling and minimizing weight on a sheep hunt is  
9 very important. This proposal would instantly negate  
10 those efforts on the back end of the hunt for a hunter  
11 who wishes to bone out some of their meat. Most  
12 hunters in the Park are very experienced and know how  
13 to take care of meat. All subsistence hunters I know  
14 value the meat tremendously. I've been on over a dozen  
15 sheep hunts in the Park and have never run across  
16 another hunter packing a light sheep. When you travel  
17 30 plus miles in and you carry everything on your back,  
18 it is difficult to complete the trip let alone double  
19 the distance. We try to get everything out in a single  
20 trip so that the meat spends less time subject to the  
21 elements. And if you relay the gear and the meat there  
22 is a higher chance that it could be subject to  
23 predators. Several note that meat waste or spoilage  
24 has not been an issue when they have boned out meat  
25 before transport. Requiring packing out the ribcage  
26 could result in more meat spoilage from having the air  
27 get to the entire span of the ribs. Also the meat of  
28 the ribs often dries out and is difficult to trim  
29 properly for human consumption if left on a bone -- on  
30 the bone. Instead we filet the meat off the rack of  
31 ribs, even between the rib bones to get one rolled rib  
32 roast that keeps perfectly fine. Once you get this  
33 slab of meat off and it cools you simply roll it up and  
34 it keeps better than bone in ribs because the surface  
35 to volume ratio is greatly reduced. Additionally boned  
36 out ribs take up a lot less space and room, important  
37 things when trying to pack out an animal off the  
38 mountain. Providing all edible meat is properly  
39 salvaged it should be the hunter's choice whether or  
40 not to bone out the animal. If a hunter takes poor  
41 care of their boned out meat they will also take poor  
42 care of their bone in meat and these hunters need to be  
43 addressed, not the entire group of subsistence hunters.

44  
45  
46                   And that's the summary of the nine  
47 written comments that was presented from the SRC  
48 meeting.

49  
50

0222

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you,

4 Ma'am.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair,

7 this is Sue.

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just  
12 want to thank Barbara for summarizing those comments  
13 and I'd actually made sure it got done because I want  
14 people to know that on this public process if the  
15 public goes into one meeting like the SRC and gives  
16 their comments and then they -- that comment sometimes  
17 is lost before it gets to us at the RAC level. And I  
18 don't like to see that happen. I just wanted to make a  
19 point of that.

20

21 And if there is no other public  
22 testimony I would make a motion to adopt WP 22-34.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Seconded by Andy.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Seconded by

29 Andy.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to  
32 speak to the motion.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go right ahead,

35 Sue.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Most  
38 everything that I feel I want to bring forward has been  
39 said. I will say that there seems to be a lot more  
40 bears in -- especially in Unit 11 where I've been  
41 hunting and transporting meat with bone might make  
42 people take more trips. And then there's the worry  
43 about -- because last year when I was out hunting there  
44 was bears on the kill within 12 hours after the kill.  
45 And if you're bringing out a bunch of extra trips you  
46 still have that problem of running into bears. And we  
47 saw two other bears during that trip.

48

49 But the other things is as an elder

50

0223

1 now, I hate to say that, but when I have the luxury of  
2 getting out and having young people help me they pack  
3 more than I do. And this is something that I always  
4 will do as long as my body allows me to do it. And  
5 it's like you say it's like a -- you're a -- it's a  
6 part of you like people are saying. So I would say  
7 that number 1, we don't want to make regulations worse  
8 than State regulation even though there's another  
9 proposal to do that, that -- I don't know if it'll pass  
10 or not and I don't want a burden of stricter  
11 regulations on subsistence. And I believe most of the  
12 things have been said that and I believe that education  
13 is the way to go. And we've learned that from all of  
14 what we've heard many, many years now.

15

16 So that is all I have.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Andy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: So I'm going to continue  
23 on Sue's note there and do this kind of by the book  
24 with our handy dandy there. First bullet is is the  
25 recommendation consistent with established fish and  
26 wildlife management principles. In some ways yes, but  
27 only in regards to moose and caribou and bears as far  
28 as wanton waste recommendations go or some laws in some  
29 areas. However it does not for sheep, standard sheep  
30 regulations.

31

32 Is the recommendation supported by  
33 substantial evidence such as biological or traditional  
34 ecological knowledge. Absolutely not. In fact even  
35 the proponent admitted that the vast majority of people  
36 who are experienced sheep hunters do an excellent job  
37 of taking care of the meat.

38

39 Will the recommendation be beneficial  
40 or detrimental to subsistence needs. As testimony and  
41 letters have supported it will actually hurt the  
42 subsistence user. If the closure is involved is  
43 closure necessary for conservation or healthy fish or  
44 wildlife populations or is closure necessary to ensure  
45 continued subsistence use. Absolutely not. Sheep in  
46 those areas of healthy and there's no need for any kind  
47 of closures especially due to wanton waste or  
48 overharvest.

49

50

0224

1                   And I guess as far as the last bullet,  
2 discuss what other relevant factors are mentioned in  
3 the OSM draft analysis. I think it's fairly clearly  
4 written that OSM also does not support this -- this  
5 proposal. And the majority of all public comment does  
6 not support it. Therefore if there are no other  
7 comments from other people.....

8  
9                   (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11  
12                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Do you have any  
13 other comments from our members.

14  
15                   (No comments)

16  
17                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I call for  
18 the question.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. The  
21 question's been called for. Do we want to do an  
22 individual yea or nay or how do you want to handle  
23 that?

24  
25                   MR. MATHEWS: Chair Bill, we're getting  
26 a lot of interference. Somebody needs to moot -- mute  
27 their phone.

28  
29                   REPORTER: Whoever's typing right now  
30 please mute your phone.

31  
32                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Any  
33 clearer for you folks over there? I didn't have any  
34 problem in here. But anyway.....

35  
36                   REPORTER: It's gone now.

37  
38                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. So we're  
39 ready to make the final vote for the record.

40  
41                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would ask  
42 for unanimous consent.

43  
44                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Unanimous. Do  
45 we want to make this a unanimous vote?

46  
47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and ask  
48 if there's any objection.

49  
50

0225

1                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none,  
2 any objection to making it that way.

3  
4                   (No objections)

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.  
7 The motion passes.

8  
9                   MS. EVANS: I needed a clarification.

10  
11                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

12  
13                   MS. EVANS: Are we voting to -- by  
14 unanimous consent voting to adopt this proposal or  
15 oppose it?

16  
17                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: No, Ma'am. No,  
18 this is everybody voting against it.

19  
20                   MS. EVANS: Yeah. Okay.

21  
22                   MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, if --  
23 you cannot say motion passes if everybody voted against  
24 it, then you need to say motion failed.

25  
26                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Motion  
27 failed.

28  
29                   MS. EVANS: Yes.

30  
31                   MS. WESSELS: Because the motion was to  
32 support WP 22.....

33  
34                   MS. EVANS: Yeah.

35  
36                   MS. WESSELS: .....34. So if the  
37 Council is voting against it then the motion to support  
38 WP 34 failed.

39  
40                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Correct. Okay.  
41 Thank you. All right. Yeah. Okay. Moving on.  
42 What's our next item in here.

43  
44                   MS. WESSELS: The next on the agenda is  
45 WP 22-35..

46  
47                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: 22-35. Okay.  
48 Where's that one. What page would that be on.

49  
50

0226

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's on 105.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: There we go.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: 22-35, the executive  
6 summary starts on Page 104 of your meeting materials  
7 book.

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Okay.  
10 Draft Staff analysis of proposal WP 22-35 submitted by  
11 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Committee requests establish  
12 a may be announced caribou season in Unit 11 with a  
13 harvest limit of one bull -- that's caribou --  
14 discussion.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The first  
17 thing, Bill, is the presentation of.....

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Do you want me  
20 to read all these discussions here.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:  
23 .....presentations.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: .....or are we  
26 going to read them -- let's see scientific research.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, this is  
29 Sue.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Say again.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, this is  
34 Sue. I -- are you having trouble understanding the  
35 procedure on Page 57?

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: No, I don't  
38 have any trouble with that. I've even got it marked in  
39 my book here.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Presentation  
44 procedure for proposals and closure reviews. Yes, I've  
45 got it. I've been using that like a little Bible.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So

50

0227

1 you're at No. 1, introduction and presentation.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Introduction  
4 and presentation of Staff analysis. Right.

5

6 Okay. So we need a draft Staff  
7 analysis.

8

9 Tom.

10

11 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
12 members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom  
13 Plank and I a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of  
14 Subsistence Management. And I will be presenting a  
15 summary of the analysis for wildlife proposal WP 22-35  
16 submitted by Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission  
17 requesting to establish a may be announced caribou  
18 season in Unit 11 with a harvest limit of one bull by  
19 Federal permit and .804 analysis. And as previously  
20 mentioned this starts on Page 104 of your meeting  
21 books.

22

23 The proponent states their  
24 understanding is that recent scientific research and  
25 assessment has determined that the Mentasta Caribou  
26 Herd population has stabilized at a lower level than  
27 that envisioned by the now outdated Mentasta Caribou  
28 Herd Management Plan as a necessary level needed in  
29 order to resume subsistence caribou hunting  
30 opportunities in Unit 11. The proponent further states  
31 their understanding is that the Nelchina bull caribou  
32 collar data demonstrates that Nelchina frequent the  
33 Mentasta herd such that a bulls only caribou hunt  
34 during times the Nelchina herd is present in Unit 11  
35 would not affect the biological status of the Mentasta  
36 Caribou Herd since a distinct Mentasta cow caribou  
37 would not be open to hunting. The proponent would like  
38 to resume the continuous subsistence use of caribou in  
39 Unit 11 within the Ahtna Tribal Traditional Use  
40 Territory.

41

42 Note that this analysis only considers  
43 the establishment of a season and a harvest limit. The  
44 .804 analysis may be conducted at a later time if a  
45 caribou hunt is opened in Unit 11.

46

47 There has not been a Federal season for  
48 caribou hunting in Unit 11 for most of the last three  
49 decades and there have been few proposals to establish

50



1 one. In 1993 a proposal was adopted by the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board to close Federal public lands to  
3 caribou hunting in Unit 11. The combination of low  
4 caribou numbers and low recruitment were direct  
5 indicators of a continued conservation concern which  
6 warranted protection of the small Mentasta Caribou Herd  
7 population under ANILCA section 815(3).

8  
9 In 1996 the Federal Subsistence Board  
10 adopted a proposal with modifications to reopen the  
11 caribou season with a total quota of 15 bulls only to  
12 residents of the seven communities identified  
13 consistent with requirements of ANILCA section .804.  
14 Based on the objectives of the Mentasta Caribou Herd  
15 Cooperative Management Plan being met for calf  
16 production and recruitment by the Mentasta Caribou Herd  
17 despite a decline in population. In 1998 the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board adopted a proposal requesting the  
19 close of all caribou hunting within Unit 11 due to calf  
20 recruitment being below management objectives.

21  
22 Caribou in Unit 11 may be part of the  
23 Nelchina Caribou Herd or Mentasta Caribou Herd as the  
24 ranges of these herds overlap as seen on map two on  
25 Page 111. These two herds are considered distinct  
26 herds because females calf in separate areas although  
27 the herds mix during some breeding seasons. The  
28 Nelchina Caribou Herd calving grounds and summer range  
29 lie within Unit 13. The Mentasta Caribou Herd, the  
30 primary herd within Unit 11, calves and summers within  
31 the Upper Copper River basin and the northern and  
32 western flanks of Wrangell Mountains within Wrangell-  
33 St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

34  
35 The Mentasta Caribou Herd declined from  
36 an estimated 3,200 caribou in 1987 to an estimated 479  
37 caribou in 2019. And you can see that on table two on  
38 Page 116. The fall population estimate in 2020 was  
39 almost 1,200 caribou, however the increase from 2019 is  
40 not explained by calf production the previous year, but  
41 may be due in part of the Nelchina caribou returning  
42 late from their winter range or may have failed to  
43 migrate back to their traditional calving grounds. The  
44 Mentasta Caribou Herd population has remained stable at  
45 relatively low levels since 2004 as evident by low calf  
46 survival. The bull/cow ratio and total bulls observed  
47 as fluctuated wildly between 1987 and 2020. And you  
48 can see that on table two also on Page 116.

0229

1                   While Nelchina bulls have wintered  
2 within the range of the Mentasta herd there's limited  
3 ability to predict the extent or frequency of mixing  
4 between the Nelchina and Mentasta bulls and is  
5 impossible to discern whether the harvest of a bull  
6 would be from the Nelchina or Mentasta Herd. The  
7 Nelchina Caribou Herd is a popular herd to hunt and  
8 experiences heavy harvest pressure due to its road  
9 accessibility and proximity to Fairbanks and Anchorage.  
10 Over 95 percent of the Nelchina Caribou Herd harvests  
11 occur in Unit 13. And between 2001 and 2019 harvest  
12 under State regulations has averaged around 2,300  
13 caribou a year.

14  
15                   Federal regulations for Units 12 and 13  
16 combined average 421 caribou per year.

17  
18                   Harvest for the Mentasta Caribou Herd  
19 in the 1996 and 1997 season was one caribou with 15  
20 permits issues. And in the 1997/98 season 12 permits  
21 were issued, but no harvest was reported for caribou.  
22 There's been no reported harvest for the Mentasta  
23 Caribou Herd since 1998 as there has been no State or  
24 Federal season for caribou in Unit 11. However some  
25 incidental harvest of Mentasta caribou may have -- may  
26 take place during winter hunts targeting Nelchina  
27 Caribou Herd in areas of herd overlap in the adjacent  
28 units.

29  
30                   If this proposal is adopted the  
31 additional harvest is unlikely to have any biological  
32 affect on the Nelchina Caribou Herd, however impacts to  
33 the Mentasta Caribou Herd are a conservation concern  
34 and deters from the principles in the Mentasta Caribou  
35 Herd Management Plan. The Mentasta Caribou Herd has  
36 fallen short of any metric that would support opening a  
37 season for the past 25 years. Current low population  
38 numbers are indicative of a poor recruitment and low  
39 survival rates among cohorts within the population and  
40 increased opportunity for incidental harvest could  
41 further exacerbate the decline of a population that is  
42 currently a conservation concern.

43  
44                   If this proposal is adopted it would  
45 allow a harvest of caribou when the Nelchina Caribou  
46 Herd migrates through Unit 11 providing increased  
47 subsistence hunting opportunities. Based on  
48 participation and harvest of Federally-qualified  
49 subsistence users from 1996 to 1998 when a very limited  
50

0230

1 open Federal caribou season occurred in Unit 11,  
2 harvest from a Unit 11 caribou hunt might be expected  
3 to be very low. However if Nelchina caribou are easily  
4 accessible along the Nabesna Road hunting efforts and  
5 harvest could be higher than was experienced in 1996  
6 and 1998.

7

8 The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
9 support proposal WP 22-35 with modification to delegate  
10 authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
11 Preserve superintendent to announce season dates,  
12 harvest quotas and the number of permits to be issued,  
13 to define harvest areas and to open and close the  
14 season via delegation of authority letter only. Timing  
15 of this migration differs from year to year and the  
16 number of Nelchina bulls that mix with the Mentasta  
17 Caribou Herd within Unit 11 also varies year to year.  
18 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve  
19 superintendent will have the needed data to make these  
20 announcements year to year as timing and numbers vary.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
23 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Chair Bill, I think the  
26 Regional Council needs to know that I think there's  
27 some communication challenges with Bill. So.....

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. I'm back  
30 on.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Bill, if you need  
33 any assistance I can provide just bringing up the key  
34 topic and then I drop off when you guys get to motions.  
35 So that might help people know what the next step is if  
36 that's okay with you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: That'll work  
39 just fine with me, Vince, go right ahead.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. And,  
42 Bill, I know that this is really challenging by  
43 teleconference and I know that your phone drops off and  
44 picks up again.

45

46 But the next item -- well, what's  
47 before now is there -- as he announced, are there any  
48 questions on Mr. Plank's presentation?

49

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We don't hear any.  
4 So but if you do, do speak up.

5

6 So the next one is report on Board  
7 consultations with tribes and ANCSA corporations.

8

9 MR. LIND: Thank you, Vince. This is  
10 Orville Lind, Native liaison for the Office of  
11 Subsistence Management. And I don't have anything on  
12 wildlife proposal 22-35 during the consultation session  
13 no questions or comments made.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Orville. The  
18 next one is three which is agency comments. Does  
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game have any comments.

20

21 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch  
22 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. BURCH: The Department of Fish and  
27 Game is opposed to this proposal at this time. We're  
28 concerned that any harvest of animals from the Mentasta  
29 Caribou Herd plus the already existing hunts in place  
30 that allow for the take of the harvestable surplus  
31 associated with the Nelchina Caribou Herd, adding any  
32 additional, highly variable Federal harvest  
33 opportunities with no restrictions or framework for  
34 interagency coordination would only add to the  
35 complexity and difficulty currently associated with the  
36 current management of this important subsistence  
37 resource.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
42 question.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Bill, it's up to you to  
45 accept if Sue has questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I think again we're

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0232

1 having difficulty with phone connection. So to make  
2 efficiency here I'll say Sue, please share your  
3 comments. And you may need to repeat when Bill gets  
4 back on.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Can  
9 everybody hear me now. Okay. I'm on again.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.  
12 Bill, I'm asking to ask Fish and Game a question,  
13 please.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. I just  
16 got in. Where are we at on the presentation process  
17 here?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. Bill, we're at  
20 agency comments, we just finished Alaska Department of  
21 Fish and Game and then announced.....

22

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: .....for Federal  
26 agencies, but Sue had -- your Council member Sue had  
27 questions.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Who --  
30 whatever Council member go ahead and ask.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Mark,  
33 did you see the OSM's modification to -- for season to  
34 be announced by the superintendent?

35

36 MR. BURCH: Yes, Ma'am, through the  
37 Chair, I did see that.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you speak  
40 to that, I wasn't sure?

41

42 MR. BURCH: No, I did not speak  
43 directly to it. And in general I would say that our  
44 Department comments are always draft through the  
45 Regional Advisory Council meetings because there is a  
46 chance, even a likelihood, that we'll change our  
47 position as a result of either something we hear at a  
48 Regional Advisory Council meeting or alternatives or  
49 modifications that come up during this process. I

50

0233

1 would say in general though that as you've heard  
2 there's been little harvestable surplus documented for  
3 the Mentasta herd in quite some time and we have a  
4 concern about that. And I also made the point that  
5 there are many opportunities to take Nelchina caribou  
6 and those are fully allocated as well. So.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I heard  
9 all that.

10

11 MR. BURCH: .....our position at this  
12 point is that we're opposed to this proposal. I can't  
13 necessarily speak to where we'll come out on any  
14 modifications down the road.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you  
19 answer this question. If the superintendent had the  
20 authority to open and close would it be similar to the  
21 Tetlin Refuge when they open and close when the  
22 Nelchinas are in the Refuge?

23

24 MR. BURCH: You know, I don't know what  
25 the process would look like. I do know that one didn't  
26 work very well. I have a pretty solid memory of how  
27 that went and it did not go well. I won't dwell on it,  
28 but I don't know whether a different manager would  
29 manage differently, it's quite possible.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
32 all I have for Fish and Game.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Continuing on  
35 agency group comments. Subsistence Resource Commission  
36 comments.

37

38 MS. PUTERA: Excuse me, through the  
39 Chair, we -- should we be doing Federal?

40

41 REPORTER: Okay. Who's talking,  
42 please? I didn't catch your name.

43

44 MS. PUTERA: Judy Putera, Wildlife  
45 Biologist with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

46

47 REPORTER: Thank you, Judy.

48

49 MS. PUTERA: I feel like you skipped

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0234

1 over Federal.

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ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: You can go ahead, we're done with the ADF&G.

MS. PUTERA: Okay. Yeah, I just wanted to first of all update the Mentasta Caribou Herd population estimate. We finished our work this year and we are estimating 495 caribou for the fall population estimate. And if you look at Page 116 in the book we had a much larger estimate from 2020 and postulated that that might be due to Nelchina caribou remaining in the Mentasta calving area that year due to a late migration back through. And it looks like that was possibly the -- what happened as we fell back to 495 caribou in 2021.

And I guess I wanted to make a comment on Sue or the previous question about the delegation of authority. Shoot, I'm losing my train of thought here. I think -- oh, this might be a question for Tom, but I think this would be in consultation with Fish and Game; is that correct, since it is, you know, since the proposal is to target the Nelchina Caribou Herd?

(No comments)

MS. PUTERA: I guess I'm asking is that correct, Tom.

MR. PLANK: Through the Chair. Hi, Judy. Thanks. I'm going to refer this question to Lisa Grediagin if she's online. I'm still kind of learning the process on how these all work together.

Thank you.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, through the Chair. This is Lisa Grediagin. Sorry I was away from my phone for just a second. But yeah, this -- the delegation of authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias superintendent would require consultation with ADF&G before announcing any season.

Thanks.

MS. PUTERA: Thank you. And I think that's all I have right now.

0235

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. And I  
4 apologize, I jumped ahead there. I've got a couple  
5 things going on here on other things so I apologize.  
6 So we will get back to agency comments. We did have  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 Are there any other Federal agencies  
10 that would like to comment at this time.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Are there.....

15

16 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: .....tribal agencies.....

19

20 MR. BAYLESS: Mr. Chair, Shawn Bayless.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Shawn.

23

24 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah. Just to comment on  
25 what we do on the other side of the mountains to the  
26 north with the same herd, the Nelchina herd, migrates  
27 occasionally or usually through the Refuge and I have  
28 the authority of delegation for the same season and we  
29 work with the Park Service and the Fish and Game and  
30 it's worked very well. To my knowledge we have never  
31 harvested a marked Nelchina caribou ever. So, you  
32 know, I don't -- you know, there was a comment made by  
33 Tom that it didn't go so well. I would like to have a  
34 little clarification of what he meant by that because  
35 if there's something that I'm doing well I'd like to  
36 know about it.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Is there a response to  
39 the Refuge manager Bayless on his question?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Under agency  
44 comments are there any tribal agencies that would like  
45 to speak at this time?

46

47 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Sir, if I may.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you may.

50



0236

1 MS. LINNELL: Okay. This is Karen  
2 Linnell with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.  
3 We put this proposal in as we've been limited in  
4 hunting the Nelchina caribou in GMU 13 for close to 40  
5 years. The -- I mean, GMU 11, sorry, for close to 40  
6 years. And based on the Mentasta herd population they  
7 have not seen a growth in the Mentasta herd population  
8 in several decades now, it's maintained around that 600  
9 level according to the reports we get from the Park  
10 Service.

11

12 And, you know, we -- the reason we put  
13 bulls only in this proposal because we recognize that  
14 the Mentasta herd is differentiated by the myocardial  
15 DNA, that comes in from, you know, the cows. And  
16 that's why it was a bulls only hunt as proposed. We do  
17 approve of the delegation of authority through the  
18 modification put forward by OSM for the delegation to  
19 the superintendent as the herd fluctuates so often.

20

21 I think it's rather high handed that  
22 ADF&G thinks that the -- all of the take should be  
23 taken in Unit 13 that used to be in 11 and 12 as well.  
24 And a big -- being able to provide for use for  
25 Federally-qualified users is a priority for this RAC  
26 and for the Federal Subsistence Board. This allocation  
27 and the ability to meet some of the needs --  
28 subsistence is important and to reclaim that. Recently  
29 we were asked -- you know, I was asked, you know, what  
30 was hunting like when I -- I was a teenager just out of  
31 high school kind of when -- young adult and not hunting  
32 in 11 then. My dad has experienced a lot of change and  
33 his ability to provide for his family has changed. The  
34 folks that are -- who were hunting and who did use the  
35 land over there and the restrictions that we see  
36 imposed on us over the last several decades regarding  
37 access and type of harvest and when we can hunt and  
38 things like that has changed dramatically just in my  
39 lifetime. And, you know, looking at my dad who's 86  
40 years old and the changes that he's seen and the  
41 restrictions that he's gone through, it's slowly  
42 regulating us out of our way of life to quote a long  
43 gone elder now, Roy S. Ewan. And this is a part of our  
44 gathering of winter meat.

45

46 I never even once imagined that the  
47 National Park Service would not consult with BLM who's  
48 also manage -- helping with managing of this herd,  
49 Tetlin Refuge and ADF&G, not once did I -- did AITRC

50

0237

1 consider this, that they wouldn't be working together  
2 in this, meeting the quota or managing the herd for  
3 quotas. And while I know this year was a restricted  
4 year we've also had years where there was  
5 quote/unquote, a super abundance. And that they  
6 doubled the issuance of permits for GMU 13. This would  
7 have allowed for an opportunity in GMU 11.

8

9 And so we all know that these things  
10 can change based on snow and ice conditions and calving  
11 recruitments, but, you know, nearly 40 years without  
12 hunting in GMU 11, it's time to -- it's time to  
13 reinstate the ability to hunt for caribou in GMU 11.

14

15 Thank you. And I'll take any  
16 questions.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Hearing no questions I'll  
19 ask again are there any other agency comments since we  
20 have a teleconference that can make it difficult. So  
21 are there any other agency comments that need to be  
22 shared at this time.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Hearing none. The  
27 next one is.....

28

29 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. SIMON: Yes. This is Jim Simon  
34 with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. I'd  
35 just like to add onto the testimony provided by the  
36 Commission's Executive Director, Karen Linnell.

37

38 The -- it's very concerning when the  
39 Department of Fish and Game says that this is a fully  
40 allocated hunt. If you look at your Federal handy  
41 dandy for Unit 11 you will see that while there is no  
42 open Federal season for caribou in Unit 11, residents  
43 of Unit 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, Chickaloon Dot Lake  
44 and Healy Lake all have customary -- Federal customary  
45 and traditional use determinations for caribou in Unit  
46 11 north of the Sanford River and in the remainder of  
47 Unit 11 residents of Units 11, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D and  
48 Chickaloon all have Federal customary and traditional  
49 use. So if it is as the Department claims that the  
50

0238

1 harvestable surplus is all intended to be taken before  
2 the caribou cross the Richardson Highway that was  
3 stated at the meeting yesterday, then there may be  
4 other aspects of the Federal Subsistence Priority  
5 Program that need to be considered in this case.

6

7 Winter opportunities for caribou are  
8 very important. It was also stated by the Department  
9 that the intention of their management of the caribou  
10 herd is that the entire harvestable surplus be taken in  
11 the fall. I myself as a young person from the -- who  
12 grew up in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, we --  
13 my family always appreciated the opportunity to get  
14 caribou in the winter, especially when we were  
15 unsuccessful in the fall because of it being inundated  
16 by urban residents.

17

18 The -- there was another point, but  
19 that has escaped me so I will end here.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. LINNELL: If I might, please.  
24 There is one thing that I did forget to mention, this  
25 is -- again this is Karen Linnell, I'm the Intertribal  
26 Resource Commission Executive Director, is that the  
27 monitoring of the Mentasta herd and managing for growth  
28 is something that hasn't been happening and this was  
29 brought up at the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. We have  
30 offered to purchase collars to assist the Park in  
31 monitoring the herd and improve the quality of data  
32 that they have. And we're still waiting for them to  
33 take us up on that offer because we feel that more  
34 information leads to better management.

35

36 And again I do want to say, you know,  
37 again that I appreciate the time and the opportunity to  
38 speak to this proposal and we ask for your  
39 consideration on this proposal to pass this proposal as  
40 amended by OSM to include the delegation of authority  
41 to the Wrangell-St. Elias Park superintendent.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We'll go on to  
46 advisory group comments, other Regional Advisory  
47 Councils.

48

49 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch, if I

50

0239

1 may interrupt.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

4

5 MS. PUTERA: And this is Judy, I would  
6 like to also.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -  
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch  
12 with the Department of Fish and Game. Staff has  
13 pointed out to me that Tetlin was asking for a  
14 clarification from me. And I would like to do that at  
15 this point simply by apologizing. I brought up  
16 something that was really ancient history. There's  
17 been -- or I alluded to it I guess you could say,  
18 something that happened a while back with different  
19 Staff under difficult circumstances admittedly for  
20 communication. And really I -- I wish I hadn't done  
21 that. In general I think it's very clear and  
22 specifically in this case as well, field biologists  
23 among the various Federal agencies and the Department  
24 of Fish and Game work together on a very regular basis  
25 and communicate well together and I have no reason to  
26 believe that that's not going to continue between all  
27 the field managers.

28

29 Thank you for this opportunity.  
30 Thanks.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

33

34 MS. PUTERA: Also could I -- through  
35 the Chair, this is Judy Putera at Wrangell-St. Elias.  
36 May I address a few things that Ms. Linnell has said?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

39

40 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, I just would like to  
41 with all due respect address I guess the comments from  
42 Ms. Linnell that we're not doing much to monitor the  
43 Mentasta Caribou Herd. We are trying to get a  
44 population estimate every year and we've been fairly  
45 successful at doing that. We appreciate their offer to  
46 help us with collaring efforts although there's a lot  
47 of, you know, issues that we need to walk out with that  
48 moving forward. And let's see. And I -- you know, we  
49 only have a limited number of, you know, management I

50

0240

1 guess tools in our toolbox and -- for this herd and one  
2 of those is trying to allow the population to rebound  
3 with a real, you know, limited harvest.

4

5 And then I'd also like to address  
6 something Jim Simon mentioned which is winter  
7 opportunity. And I guess I think in the heart of the  
8 winter or in the winter that is when the mixing -- the  
9 greatest amount of mixing with the Nelchina and  
10 Mentasta herds occur. And that would worry me a little  
11 bit more than that there would be incidental harvest of  
12 Mentasta caribou through winter opportunity in Unit 11  
13 rather than a fall sort of migration opportunity as the  
14 Nelchina are coming through.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 MS. LINNELL: If I might.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Is it germane to the  
21 proposal or is it germane to the discussion on other  
22 management actions for other areas?

23

24 MS. LINNELL: It's germane to the  
25 proposal and to this -- the management of this herd has  
26 been rather lax when the management plan calls for 40  
27 collars and there are only five on there. And that's  
28 why Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission has offered  
29 to help and then to improve the data collection. I  
30 think this will also improve the sightability of the  
31 herd as they all are in different pockets. But this  
32 again goes back to being able to provide for  
33 subsistence needs based on, you know, when there hasn't  
34 been any change in that herd.....

35

36 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MS. LINNELL: .....in several decades.  
40 That's all I have to say.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: I did hear another voice.  
45 Was that another voice or was that just by accident?

46

47 (Teleconference interference -  
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0241

1 MS. WESSELS: Somebody is not muted.  
2 Please mute your phone, we can hear your background  
3 conversation.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. We'll move to  
8 advisory group comments and of course Southcentral is  
9 involved with this and the Southcentral Regional  
10 Advisory Council action was to support OSM's  
11 conclusion.

12  
13 Was there any Fish and Game advisory  
14 committees that have comments.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Hearing none. Was  
19 there any comments from the Wrangell-St. Elias Resource  
20 Commission.

21  
22 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. This is  
23 Barbara Cellarius. And the Wrangell-St. Elias National  
24 Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported WP 22-35  
25 with the OSM modification plus an additional  
26 modification requesting a working group on the Mentasta  
27 Caribou Herd Management Plan with tribal organization  
28 involvement in the planning effort.

29  
30 The proposal would provide for  
31 subsistence opportunity when Nelchina caribou are  
32 present in Unit 11. Considerable concern was expressed  
33 about potential harvest of Mentasta caribou and the  
34 delegation of authority to the superintendent would  
35 provide important tools for managing a hunt.

36  
37 Updating the management plan is  
38 similarly important for ensuring agreement on a  
39 consistent cooperative approach for management.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Are there any questions  
44 for the SRC actions.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Hearing none.  
49 Summary of written public comments.

50

0242

1 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
2 Tom Plank. And there were no written public comments.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Public testimony.  
7 Is there anyone else online that would like to testify  
8 in this -- at this time?

9  
10 MR. IRVIN: Hello, Chair, this is.....

11  
12 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels. I  
13 have two written public comments that were submitted  
14 during this meeting. But first of all I would like to  
15 issue an apology to Mr. Cory Schwanke. He send a  
16 comment on the proposal that the Council took  
17 previously, WP 22-34. And we did not receive that  
18 proposal when he send it yesterday. There was some  
19 technical difficulties with out email inbox. So I am  
20 trying to figure out now what happened, but now we  
21 received his comment. And the good thing that the  
22 Council voted proposal WP 22-34 down, Mr. Schwanke was  
23 opposed to that proposal.

24  
25 So now back to WP 22-35. We received  
26 two comments, recent comments, during this meeting.  
27 One from Ahtna Tene Nene' and their comment is  
28 Federally-qualified subsistence users should be able to  
29 engage in subsistence hunting for caribou in their  
30 traditional homelands. This proposal would protect the  
31 Mentasta herd by focusing harvest efforts on Nelchina  
32 bulls. Wrangell-St. Elias has the authority to  
33 identify users who are our most C&T dependent on Unit  
34 11 caribou. In recent years the population of the  
35 Nelchina herd has stabilized. Biologically this would  
36 be a very conservative way to open up a new hunt as  
37 only Federally-qualified subsistence users with a  
38 customary and traditional determination for Unit 11  
39 caribou would be eligible to participate in the revised  
40 management plan.

41  
42 That concludes Ahtna Tene Nene'  
43 comment. And the other comment that we received, the  
44 recent comment received during the meeting is from  
45 Becky Schwanke. She says I support efforts to address  
46 possible Nelchina caribou harvest in Unit 11 when they  
47 migrate through each fall, but I would suggest that the  
48 Mentasta Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan be  
49 updated first. Originally done cooperatively by the  
50

0243

1 NPS and ADF&G with an added emphasis of Nelchina  
2 harvest opportunity within the range of the Mulchatna  
3 Caribou Herd. Given the interest by the local tribal  
4 entities, they should certainly have a voice in this  
5 process as should all affected stakeholders.  
6

7 The latest plan I have seen was from  
8 June, 1995. Regardless it does account for winter  
9 hunts where Nelchina caribou are the focus. It states  
10 that the agency proposing the hunt shall be responsible  
11 for determining the mix in ratio between the two herds  
12 prior to any harvest. This would not be any different  
13 than for the Federal Nelchina caribou winter hunt in  
14 Unit 12.  
15

16 It's been known for many years that the  
17 Mulchatna Caribou Herd cows are genetically different  
18 from Nelchina Caribou cow -- Herd cows. While the  
19 bulls have less differentiation. That said there are  
20 remote pockets of very large nonmigratory caribou bulls  
21 in Unit 11 that I believe are truly Nelchina Caribou  
22 Herd bulls. Any harvest of these bulls could be  
23 detrimental to these remnant herd.  
24

25 When it comes to localized harvest  
26 opportunity along the Nabesna Road there is certainly  
27 opportunity to target Nelchina bulls. And this Federal  
28 harvest opportunity should be explored like the Federal  
29 harvest in Unit 12 though these harvests should be  
30 based on the full Nelchina Caribou Herd population and  
31 composition data. At this time there does not -- at  
32 this time there does seem to be adequate numbers to  
33 allow a limited harvest in Unit 11. But this of course  
34 should be predicated on a cooperative agreement between  
35 the managing parties. I believe this would negative --  
36 sorry. I believe this negate the need to do an .804  
37 analysis.  
38

39 That concludes the comment from Becky  
40 Schwanke. That's all the written comments that we  
41 received at this time on proposal 22-35.  
42

43 Thank you.  
44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That brings us up  
46 unless there some other public testimony that bring us  
47 up where I turn this back over to the Chair and that  
48 would be Regional Council recommendation with a note  
49 and I know they know this, but the recommendation has  
50



0244

1 to be in the positive.

2

3 So, Bill, are you back online?

4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, I'm here  
6 with you.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There's more  
9 public testimony.

10

11 MR. IRVIN: Hello, Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Go  
14 ahead. We have more public testimony we'll take. Go  
15 ahead.

16

17 MR. IRVIN: Hi. Thank you. Can you  
18 hear me okay? This is Bruce.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We hear you  
21 okay, Bruce. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. IRVIN: Thank you, Chair and  
24 Council members. My name is Bruce Irvin and I'm a  
25 Northway tribal member from Upper Tanana, Unit 12. I  
26 support this proposal, WP 22-35 and I have total  
27 confidence in Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission  
28 submitting this proposal and the Wrangell-St. Elias  
29 National Park and Preserve superintendent.

30

31 I would like to stress the importance  
32 to support the proposal WP 22-35 with modification to  
33 delegate authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias  
34 superintendent to announce season dates, harvest quotas  
35 and the number of permits to be issued, to define  
36 harvest areas and to open and close the season via a  
37 delegation of authority letter only.

38

39 Again it is important to listen to the  
40 people who are out on the land and from the area, to  
41 support their valuable knowledge on what they know the  
42 areas need. Having people look in from outside and  
43 telling them what they need is unacceptable. We all  
44 know that the animals move on a natural schedule that  
45 they determine. This proposal is important and would  
46 provide an important chance for Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users to provide food security for their  
48 family.

49

50

0245

1 Thank you, Chair and Council members.  
2 I respectfully request that you support WP 22-35 with  
3 the OSM conclusion.

4  
5 (In Native) I'm done.  
6

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Thank  
8 you. Do we have any more public testimony.

9  
10 (No comments)  
11

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.  
13 Regional Council recommendation. Do we have any motion  
14 to adopt.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I have a motion.  
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I make  
21 it, Andy?

22  
23 REPORTER: Wasn't that Don.  
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue.  
26 Could I make that motion?

27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.  
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Sue,  
31 could I make that motion.

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Sue wants to  
34 make the motion.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Okay.  
37 I make a motion to support WP 22-35 with the OSM  
38 modification and to reinstate or establish Mentasta  
39 Caribou Herd Management Plan, including all members,  
40 tribal and other.

41  
42 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I'll  
43 second.

44  
45 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We have a  
50

0246

1 motion on the floor.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4 Speaking to the motion. Serving on the SRC and taking  
5 up this proposal, it's -- I think it's unheard of that  
6 the management plan hasn't been worked on since the  
7 late '90s, late 1990s. So I think it's important that  
8 the managers work together and work on that. And I  
9 support OSM's modification. I want to reiterate that  
10 I've been working with the Advisory Committees for  
11 many, many, many, many years in addition to being on  
12 the Council and everything else. And that herd  
13 management plan for the Nelchina when it's in Unit 12,  
14 it works just fine. I'm glad that Mark Burch clarified  
15 that. It is not always opened and that will be the  
16 case in this one also.

17

18 And I -- I'm sure that people once they  
19 get to working on it and working together, I trust that  
20 the Department of Fish and Game will always be involved  
21 with the superintendent and the Refuge manager when  
22 this comes about because it's always been done in the  
23 past.

24

25 I just want to do my support for this  
26 proposal.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Any more  
29 discussion on this.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Bill, I  
32 should clarify -- codified and with the working on the  
33 management plan for the Mentasta herd.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
36 Okay. Any more discussion on this justification. Is  
37 the recommendation consistent with established fish or  
38 wildlife management principles? It certainly is. Is  
39 the recommendation supported by substantial evidence as  
40 to biological and traditional knowledge; yes, it has  
41 been. Will the recommendation be beneficial or  
42 detrimental to subsistence needs and uses; definitely  
43 beneficial. If a closure is involved is the closure  
44 necessary for conservation of healthy fish or wildlife  
45 populations or is closure necessary to ensure continued  
46 subsistence uses, okay, this is not a closure, it's an  
47 opening for subsistence use. Discuss what other  
48 relevant factors are mention in OSM draft Staff  
49 analysis. Do we have any more.

50

0247

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I'd like to say  
2 something. This is Don.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go right ahead,  
5 Don.

6  
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I would like  
8 to support this proposal and the reason for that is  
9 that Sue put in the caveat in the motion that they  
10 update the Mentasta Herd Management Plan. It worries  
11 me that the Mentasta herd is stable at 400 or 600  
12 caribou. And I was for a long time thinking to fail  
13 this proposal, but with that caveat that Sue put in  
14 there I think that those caribou will be protected and  
15 will be watched closely.

16  
17 So I think those are my reason for  
18 wishing to pass this proposal.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right. Any  
23 more comments. Restate final motion for the record.

24  
25 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Oh, thank  
28 goodness. All right. We have a question call.

29  
30 MS. EVANS: Chair, this is Linda.  
31 Could you state.....

32  
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Say again.

34  
35 MS. EVANS: .....the motion again?  
36 Could you please restate the motion with the added  
37 recommendation?

38  
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Wildlife  
40 proposal 22-35 submitted by the Ahtna InterTribal  
41 Resource Commission. Requests establishing a may be  
42 announced caribou season in Unit 11 with a harvest  
43 limit of one bull by Federal permit and .804 analysis.

44  
45 Everybody understand that?

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Bill,  
48 this is Sue. I'd like.....

49  
50

0248

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, could you get.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....I would

4 -- motion.....

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Could you -- Bill, could  
7 you get Sue to restate the motion?

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, I can ask  
10 Sue to restate the motion.

11

12 Can you help us, Sue.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yes.  
15 My motion is to support OSM's modification to the 22-35  
16 and add working with the Mentasta or reinstate -- I'm  
17 sorry, reinstate the Mentasta Caribou Management Plan  
18 and all users involved including tribal.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Everybody good,  
25 or do you want me to restate it -- say again.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
28 Lisa. I'd just like to offer a clarification to the  
29 Council.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. Lisa  
34 Grediagin for the record. And while the Council is  
35 welcome to make whatever recommendation they want on a  
36 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board, I just want  
37 the Council to understand some things are beyond the  
38 authority of the Board to implement. And so the Board  
39 is not -- the Board does not have any authority over  
40 whether or not the management plan is reinstated or  
41 updated. And so I just wanted to clarify that while  
42 the Council can make that recommendation, the Board  
43 just has limited authority over what they can do  
44 regarding that.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lisa, can I  
49 ask you a question regarding that?

50

0249

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sure. Go ahead.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it better  
4 to -- I mean, I -- that's what we did at the SRC  
5 meeting to establish a working group -- was to  
6 establish a working group on that, would that be better  
7 stated that way?

8

9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, it kind of might  
10 be better speaking to the specifics of the working  
11 group, but the Board can -- you know, they've done this  
12 with other proposals where they asked a working group  
13 to be formed to discuss a recommendation for -- on a  
14 proposal. But I think the Eastern Interior Council has  
15 come up with this issue before with like the Arctic  
16 Village Sheep Management Area and the differences  
17 between working groups and subcommittees. And so if  
18 it's a working group that can only contain Federal  
19 Staff, State Staff and Council members. And then with  
20 an option to open it up to any public, but they  
21 couldn't officially be on the working group whereas a  
22 subcommittee would need a lot more approval from the  
23 Board and FACA compliance and all sorts of things. So  
24 sorry it gets complicated with the bureaucracy here,  
25 but that's what we're left to work with.

26

27 And again in the past when the Board  
28 has directed, you know, working groups it's been to  
29 develop a recommendation on a specific regulatory  
30 proposal, not a management plan. And, yeah, Katya or  
31 someone might be able to better guide the Council on  
32 the requirements with the working group, but I -- I  
33 mean, there -- you certainly understand the heads of  
34 all the agencies are on the Board so if it's brought to  
35 their attention at that level it might help for them  
36 to, you know, support agencies in updating and -- that  
37 Mentasta Caribou Herd Management Plan, but again that  
38 is really beyond the scope of the Federal Board to be  
39 updating management plans.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
42 appreciate the information you have just given us, but  
43 I'm not going to change my motion to make a working  
44 group. I'm going to allow the Board, the Federal  
45 Board, to look at that we think that it's a concern  
46 that the management plan should be worked on. So I'm  
47 not changing my motion.

48

49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Yes.

50

0250

1 MR. BAYLESS: Mr. Chair, Shawn Bayless.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you. I just  
4 wanted to clarify that with the members.

5

6 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Shawn  
7 Bayless.

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead,  
10 Shawn.

11

12 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
13 Chair, Council members. The superintendent here, I  
14 think it was three or four years ago, Judy can correct  
15 me if I'm wrong, we actually put together a working  
16 group between the Park Service, the Refuge, Fish and  
17 Game and I'm not sure if Ahtna was included in that,  
18 they probably should be if they weren't, but I wouldn't  
19 be surprised if they weren't, but I wouldn't be  
20 surprised if they were, to look at the Chisana herd and  
21 specifically and especially the Mentasta Herd  
22 Management Plan. So that was -- that was put together,  
23 we just need to kick it back in the butt and revive it  
24 and get it moving again. That's really all that needs  
25 to be done.

26

27 If Benny's listening on the other line  
28 maybe he can weigh in on that order or Judy.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. PUTERA: Thank you, Shawn. This is  
33 Judy. I agree -- yeah, I -- Mark Miller was sort of in  
34 charge, I don't know if he's on, but sort of  
35 shepherding that working group. And I'm not sure what  
36 happened in the last couple years maybe with all the --  
37 you know, all the covid reasons and things like that,  
38 we haven't been able to convene in person. But I  
39 definitely have said in the past and support updating  
40 the management plan and continuing with the working  
41 group.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I might  
46 add the difference in some Staff may change or tell me  
47 I'm doing it wrong, but I served on that working group  
48 and it was created by the Park Service and asking all  
49 the players to come in. So we were working on all the

50

0251

1 caribou herds. So it really wasn't established by the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board. That's my understanding.

3

4 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, this is -- this is  
5 Katya. I wanted to add if there is an agency, that  
6 agency establishes the working group, the Council  
7 members certainly can participate on this working  
8 group, there's no restrictions with that. And actually  
9 the better way of doing it if a working group is  
10 established by another agency this way you can still  
11 share your expertise and participate in this work  
12 instead of, you know, us trying to operate within the  
13 limitations that we have for establishing working  
14 groups or subcommittees.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I call for  
19 the question.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. The  
22 question has been called on this motion, 22-35.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With  
25 modification.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Do we want to  
28 do an individual vote, Council?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right. Do  
33 we want to make it -- am I online yet?

34

35 MR. BASSICH: We hear you, Bill.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: How do you want  
38 to do this vote then, individual?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Chair Bill, we can do a  
41 roll call vote. I think it would be best for Sue since  
42 it's gone back and forth to repeat her motion and then  
43 if you desire we can do a roll call vote.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
46 Okay. Sue, do you want to reread your motion and then  
47 we'll call for a roll call vote.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My motion is

50



0252

1 to support W 22-35 with the OSM modification that would  
2 establish the hunt under the Park Service delegation of  
3 authority and.....

4  
5 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Did everybody  
6 copy that?

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....and to  
9 work on the.....

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. And.....

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....Mentasta  
14 Caribou Herd Management Plan.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Right. That's  
17 involved with that.

18  
19 Okay. Everybody hear it?

20  
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Bill.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: We'll do a roll  
24 call.

25  
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, do you want me to  
27 do the roll call?

28  
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: If you want,  
30 Don, go through the book to find the members.

31  
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. I got it.

33  
34 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you.

35  
36 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. So this is a roll  
37 call vote on WP 35.

38  
39 Sue Entsminger.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And  
42 that's -- yes, it does with the .804. I want to make  
43 sure people know that too.

44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans.

46  
47 MS. EVANS: Yes.

48  
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Nicolas Henry.

50

0253

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Absent I think.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Wright.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

18

19 MR. JAGOW: Yes.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Timothy McManus. He's  
22 excused.

23

24 And me, Don Woodruff, yes.

25

26 So it unanimous for the people online.  
27 One, two, three, four, five, six -- eight positive.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Eight  
30 positive votes. Motion carries.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: No, it would have been a  
33 positive of seven. A positive of seven.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Seven. Okay.  
36 Thanks, Vince.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
39 Kenner. I'd just like to remind the Council that we're  
40 skipping over WP 22-36 in order to take up WP 22-01.  
41 This is Pippa Kenner and I'm prepared to present the  
42 proposal.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Pippa, what page is that  
49 on?

50

0254

1                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: What was the  
2 numbers again, Pippa?

3  
4                   MS. KENNER: It begins on Page 151 of  
5 your Council books. And it is also available at the  
6 Federal Subsistence Program website. Look for the  
7 Eastern Interior Alaska meeting materials.

8  
9                   Mr. Chair, this is Pippa. Let me know  
10 when you're ready to proceed.

11  
12                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. We're  
13 ready to proceed with WP 22-01. Go ahead.

14  
15                   MS. KENNER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
16 and members of the Council. So again I'd like to  
17 repeat this analysis for wildlife proposal WP 22-01.  
18 It begins on Page 151 of your Council books.

19  
20                   My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
21 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management  
22 in Anchorage. I'd like to shout out to those on the  
23 Council who know who I am, we worked together for  
24 several years. I look forward to meeting in person  
25 again. And to those new members of the Council I look  
26 forward to meeting you face to face in the future.

27  
28                   So proposal WP 22-01 was submitted by  
29 the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to  
30 clarify who is and who is not a participant in the  
31 community harvest system.

32  
33                   So first I'll describe community  
34 harvest systems in Federal regulations. So community  
35 harvest systems generally allow hunters to harvest  
36 animals up to a community harvest limit. Individual  
37 harvest limits such as one moose do not apply to  
38 hunters in a community harvest system. Each hunter may  
39 continue to harvest until the community harvest limit  
40 is met. So these regulations generally describe what  
41 animal species may be taken, where there may be taken  
42 and who may take them.

43  
44                   The general regulation describing  
45 community harvest system harvest limits is split  
46 between Pages 154 and 155 in your Council book. And  
47 I'm going to read it to you. An animal taken under  
48 Federal or State regulations by any member of a  
49 community with an established community harvest limit  
50

0255

1 for that species counts towards the community harvest  
2 limit for that species. An animal taken as part of the  
3 community harvest limit counts toward every community  
4 member's harvest limit for that species taken under  
5 Federal or State of Alaska regulations.

6  
7 So what this regulation doesn't say is  
8 that there's some people who might not want to  
9 participate in their community harvest system for moose  
10 for example. So this proposed regulation clarifies  
11 that a person can request a registration system where  
12 only people who register may participate in the  
13 community system. So this proposed regulation reads,  
14 for the purposes of this provision all residents of the  
15 community are deemed participants in the community  
16 harvest system unless the Board approved framework  
17 requires registration as a prerequisite to harvesting  
18 or receiving any fish, wildlife or shellfish pursuant  
19 to that community harvest in which case only those who  
20 register are deemed participants in that community  
21 harvest.

22  
23 Currently there is one community  
24 harvest system in regulation in Eastern Interior Alaska  
25 region. It's for Unit 25 black bear, but it's actually  
26 with a State community harvest permit. However it's  
27 important for you to know that this proposed regulation  
28 if adopted will not affect existing community harvest  
29 systems in Federal regulation.

30  
31 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
32 support proposal WP 22-01. We believe that subsistence  
33 users and others will find this revised regulation less  
34 confusing and easier to use.

35  
36 Finally I want to point out to the  
37 Council that you are the fourth to act on this  
38 proposal. The proposal is a request to change a  
39 general regulation that affects all regions of the  
40 State and we're asking all Regional Advisory Councils  
41 to act on this proposal. Before you the Kodiak  
42 Aleutian, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior  
43 Alaska and Southcentral Alaska Council supported this  
44 proposal and the Southeast Alaska Council took no  
45 action primarily because they ran out of time.

46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm done with my  
48 presentation.

49  
50

0256

1                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Does  
2 anybody have any questions for Pippa.

3  
4                   MR. BASSICH: Yes, Bill. Andy Bassich.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Andy.

7  
8                   MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you Pippa for  
9 that clarification. I do have a question for you in  
10 general. Generally when there are community harvest  
11 put into place is that mainly due to a lack of the  
12 resource or that the resource is down and that's why  
13 community harvests are put in place?

14  
15                   MS. KENNER: Thank you -- thank you for  
16 the question, Andy. Through the Chair. No, I would  
17 say generally they're put in place so that people who  
18 are efficient hunters can harvest for the community.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Am I still on?

21  
22                   MR. BASSICH: I guess a quick follow-up  
23 question then I would ask is what's -- why would you  
24 need a community harvest program for a person to hunt  
25 and then give their meat to someone they want to give  
26 it to, whether it be an elder or disabled or anybody,  
27 why would you need a community.....

28  
29                   MS. KENNER: I get.....

30  
31                   MR. BASSICH: .....harvest quota for  
32 that?

33  
34                   MS. KENNER: Because people have  
35 individual harvest limits. Without a community harvest  
36 system and limit in regulation people must abide by  
37 their individual harvest limit.

38  
39                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40  
41                   MR. BASSICH: Copy that. Thank you for  
42 that clarification.

43  
44                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
45 question.

46  
47                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Sue.

48  
49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Bill.

50

0257

1 Hi, Pippa, nice to hear your voice again. Do you know  
2 -- you might have already said this, but I don't have  
3 it in my head. Are there many community harvests on  
4 the books now?

5

6 MS. KENNER: Sue, thanks for the  
7 question. Through the Chair. Let me see, there are  
8 seven.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I have a question.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Don.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Pippa, this is Don  
15 Woodruff. I wonder if that includes Unit 25 that --  
16 that's right here by Eagle?

17

18 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thanks for the  
19 question. This is Pippa Kenner. Through the Chair.  
20 Out of the seven I have included the Unit 25 black bear  
21 community harvest, but that is with a State community  
22 harvest permit.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Pippa,  
29 you said there was seven and that included that one  
30 that was a State one. I'm asking how many Federal?

31

32 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
33 question. Through the Chair, this is Pippa. Then  
34 there are six.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37

38 MR. JAGOW: Bill, this is Charlie.  
39 I've got a quick question.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Charlie,  
42 go ahead.

43

44 MR. JAGOW: Okay. Just for my own  
45 education how does that relate to proxy hunting?

46

47 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Charlie -- member  
48 Charlie. Thank you for the question. Through the  
49 Chair, this is Pippa. It really doesn't have any

50

0258

1 relationship to proxy hunting. Just to remind people,  
2 proxy hunting is a process that occurs under State  
3 regulations.

4

5 MR. JAGOW: Okay. Thanks.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
8 question.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, yeah,  
13 proxy's under State, but there's -- we have something  
14 and then the word escapes me for someone hunting for  
15 someone else under Federal rule?

16

17 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
18 question. Through the Chair, this is Pippa. Yes, it's  
19 called -- we have a designated harvester system in  
20 Federal regulation. As a matter of fact we're going to  
21 be discussing that in the next proposal.

22

23 These are called permits for, you know,  
24 alternative permitting processes. And so in a sense  
25 they are all related, they were an attempt in the  
26 Federal Subsistence Management Program to provide these  
27 alternative permitting processes to better acknowledge  
28 and allow traditional harvest systems to exist in rural  
29 communities such as specific hunters being more able to  
30 harvest and harvesting for other people in the  
31 community.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so it's  
34 a designated hunter, right?

35

36 MS. KENNER: That's correct.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Chair Bill.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: If there's no more  
45 questions about the Staff an analysis then it would go  
46 on to report on Board consultation. So I don't know if  
47 there's any other questions on the analysis that's been  
48 presented.

49

50

0259

1                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I don't -- I  
2 don't think -- nobody said anything for a few seconds  
3 so introduction and presentation of draft Staff  
4 analysis, you want to do that?

5  
6                   Tom.

7  
8                   MR. MATHEWS: So now would be a report  
9 on Board consultations with tribes and ANCSA  
10 corporations.

11  
12                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. All  
13 right.

14  
15                  MR. LIND: Yes, Sir, this is Orville  
16 Lind, the Native liaison for OSM. During the  
17 consultation session we did not have any comments or  
18 questions on this proposal.

19  
20                  Thank you.

21  
22                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. And  
23 ANCSA corporations, any comments on this?

24  
25                  (No comments)

26  
27                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.  
28 Agency comments.

29  
30                  ADF&G, any comments.

31  
32                  MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This  
33 is Ben Mulligan at ADF&G. We agree with the need for  
34 the clarification that this proposal provides.

35  
36                  Thank you, Sir.

37  
38                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
39 Federal comments.

40  
41                  (No comments)

42  
43                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.  
44 Tribal comments.

45  
46                  MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47  
48                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes.

49  
50



0260

1 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell  
2 with Ahtna executive -- Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
3 Commission Executive Director. We're in support.....  
4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
6

7 MS. LINNELL: .....of this proposal.  
8 This came to light as we were negotiate -- you know,  
9 following our negotiations on the framework for our  
10 community harvest system. The intent was -- there was  
11 never any intent to restrict any of our neighbors with  
12 our community harvest system. And so we are in support  
13 of this proposal.  
14

15 And.....  
16

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.  
18

19 MS. LINNELL: .....thank you, Mr.  
20 Chair.  
21

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you.  
23 Anybody else in tribal.  
24

25 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
26 Jim Simon.  
27

28 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay, Jim. Go  
29 -- go ahead.  
30

31 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record  
32 my name's Jim Simon, I'm a consultant with Ahtna  
33 InterTribal Resource Commission and I'd just like to  
34 give -- based on some of the question an additional  
35 perspective on this particular proposal.  
36

37 As Karen mentioned the -- during the  
38 negotiations to establish the most recent community  
39 harvest system in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory  
40 which is on the road system as you all know, it came to  
41 light that in all the other community harvest systems  
42 people don't really have the option of opting in or out  
43 of the community harvest system. So wildlife proposal  
44 22-01 ensures that the Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
45 Commission administer community harvest system for  
46 moose and caribou in their traditional territory, won't  
47 have any affect on an individual Federal-qualified  
48 subsistence user's individual permit and harvest limit  
49 opportunities.  
50

0261

To understand what the difference between proxy system, et cetera, is, subsistence research across the State in rural communities has demonstrated that on average 30 percent of the community's households harvest 70 percent of that community's wild resources. And the Federal community harvest system provides the opportunity for those very experienced super hunters that's also been documented through 30 plus years of research of being a characteristic of customarily and traditionally dependent rural subsistence communities, gives them the opportunity to hunt for other people in their community without requiring getting a Federal designated hunter permit.

So this is a way of recognizing the customary and traditional community patterns of use and that's why these systems exist in various parts throughout Alaska.

So again the intent of this proposal that OSM developed is to ensure that these community harvest systems provide the opportunity for others who don't want to participate who live in those communities to be able to continue to hunt with their individual Federal permit and their individual bag limit.

The next proposal addresses a similar effort to ensure that the community harvest systems don't negatively impact those who don't want to participate.

So the other aspect of this is that in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory the Alaska Native population is a third or less of the total Federally-qualified subsistence users so the eight tribes in the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission wants to make sure that their community harvest system doesn't negatively impact other Federally-qualified neighbors of these tribal communities, the eight tribal communities.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you, Jim.  
Hearing no more on that, summary of written public  
comments.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0262

1 This is Pippa for the record. There were no public  
2 written comments submitted during the public comment  
3 period on this proposal.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you,  
8 Pippa.

9  
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Public  
11 testimony.....

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Chair Bill.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead. Yes,  
16 go.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: We kind of stepped over  
19 Advisory Group comments. I know Pippa covered in her  
20 presentation what the other Regional Advisory Councils  
21 did, but this would be an opportunity for -- if there's  
22 any comments from Fish and Game Advisory Committees or  
23 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

24  
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right.  
26 I'll step back here in a minute. Okay. Do we have any  
27 Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommendations,  
28 comments.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. No Fish  
33 and Game Advisory, no AC comments. Subsistence  
34 Resource Commission.

35  
36 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 This is Barbara Cellarius. The Wrangell-St. Elias  
38 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission  
39 unanimously supported WP 22-01. The proposed change  
40 clarifies who is a participant in a community harvest  
41 system and ensures that nonparticipants in a community  
42 harvest system would retain individual harvest limits.  
43 This proposed change will allow communities to meet  
44 their subsistence needs whether or not an individual is  
45 participating in the community harvest system.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Thank  
50

0263

1 you. Any more comments on that.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.

6

Okay. We went through the written public comments.

7

Public testimony. Do we have any public testimony.

8

9

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
10 Katya Wessels. We received two written public comments  
11 during this meeting. One is from Beck Schwanke and she  
12 says I would ask that you table this OSM proposal and  
13 defer to the proposer's request, WP 22-36 to clarify  
14 their own requested regulation.

15

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That concludes Ahtna Tene Nene'  
Committee comments.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you.  
Hearing no more written comments, we'll go with public

0264

1 testimony. I asked that earlier. Is anybody in public  
2 testimony here or on the phone.

3

4 MR. STEVENS: Hello.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, go ahead.

7

8 MR. STEVENS: Hello.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes.

11

12 MR. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, Ben Stevens  
13 here. I would like to lend support to this proposal.  
14 I think that this is going in a direction that better  
15 meets the subsistence needs of those that we serve. As  
16 we all know the regulations that were inhibited by now  
17 were made by somebody else, and very likely they were  
18 from someplace else. And very likely they were for  
19 someone else. And so we're having to bend and contort  
20 our ancient ways to meet this new style. And as you  
21 know our people weren't involved in that and so we're  
22 having to go through this horribly painful process just  
23 to allow our people to live the way that they know.  
24 It's a -- it makes sense for a community to designate  
25 somebody that is good at hunting, good at fishing to  
26 help feed the people. Those stories go way back. And  
27 so this I believe is an effort to help our people eat  
28 and be healthy. And I think that we need to give our  
29 folks the benefit of the doubt and give them all the  
30 support that we can.

31

32 So I'm behind this proposal here and I  
33 would just hope that the Council here would also.

34

35 Thank you much, Sir.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Thank you. Do  
38 we have any more public testimony?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I'll step down  
43 to number 7, Regional Council recommendation. Motion  
44 to adopt.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, this is  
47 Sue.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go ahead, Sue.

50

0265

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I make a  
2 motion to support WP 22-01 that for clarification on  
3 the community hunt.

4  
5 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Sue made  
6 a motion to adopt 22-01. Any other comments,  
7 recommendations.

8  
9 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don. I'll  
10 second.

11  
12 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: All right. Don  
13 seconds. Motion on the floor. Is the  
14 recommendation.....

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to  
17 the motion.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: .....consistent  
20 with established fish or wildlife management  
21 principles, I would guess so doing what they're doing.  
22 Is the recommendation supported by substantial evidence  
23 such as biological and traditional ecological  
24 knowledge, somebody has to answer that for to if they  
25 -- if they -- it does go along with it. Will the  
26 recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to  
27 subsistence needs, I guess it would be beneficial.  
28 There's no closure involved. Discuss what other  
29 relevant factors are mentioned in OSM draft Staff  
30 analysis.

31  
32 Restate final motion for the record.  
33 Proposal WP22-01, subsistence users will find this  
34 regulation less confusing, that's good enough. If you  
35 want me to read it all the way through you got to say  
36 so. All right.

37  
38 Do we have a Council vote coming up?

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Bill.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes. Yes.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This  
45 is Sue. We should be under discussion and I am -- I  
46 can support this given with all the information that  
47 was given and the Subsistence Resource Commission which  
48 I serve, we spent some time on this and they also  
49 supported it. So I am in support of the motion.  
50

0266

1                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. We have  
2 a second on that. So does anybody have any comments on  
3 it before we ask for the vote?

4  
5                   (No comments)

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Hearing none.

8  
9                   MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I have a comment.

10  
11                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Go right ahead.

12  
13                  MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don  
14 Woodruff. You know, this community harvest system is a  
15 little bit confusing and my eyes kind of rolled up in  
16 my head a little bit, but Pippa did such an excellent  
17 job in presentation that it seems to be pretty clear  
18 that this would very much benefit the local subsistence  
19 users. So I think it's beneficial for everyone.

20  
21                  Thank you, Bill.

22  
23                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. All  
24 right. Is it time to call for the vote then. Don  
25 Woodruff, do you want to take care of the vote.

26  
27                  (No comments)

28  
29                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Don, are we  
30 still on?

31  
32                  REPORTER: Don, are you calling the  
33 roll?

34  
35                  MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Don, are you still  
36 on. And I believe -- sorry. I believe the -- I didn't  
37 hear anybody call for question so maybe they want to  
38 repeat and then it can be done.

39  
40                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: A question.....

41  
42                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I  
43 called for the question.

44  
45                  ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay.

46  
47                  REPORTER: Okay. Somebody was calling  
48 for the question. Can you repeat yourself, I didn't  
49 hear you.

50

0267

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I  
2 called for the question.

3  
4 REPORTER: Thank you, Sue. Go ahead,  
5 Don, call the roll.

6  
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, do you want  
8 to do a roll call vote or do you just want to do a  
9 unanimous consent? That's going to.....

10  
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: If we're in  
12 favor of it, I mean, we can do a unanimous consent.

13  
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. So.....

15  
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: It's up to you.

17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. We're voting on  
19 WP.....

20  
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: 22-01.

22  
23 MR. WOODRUFF: .....22-01 and I'm  
24 asking for unanimous consent for approval of this  
25 proposal. If there is a negative vote please speak up.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Hearing none.

30  
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes, Council  
32 voted at 100 percent.

33  
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. It's unanimous.  
35 The proposal passes.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yep. A little  
38 after 12:00 did anybody think about getting a sandwich?

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I think  
41 it's a good time. I have a question. This is Sue.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Yes.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to  
46 ask the Council, I know it's really hard, Bill's got a  
47 bad connection there and all, the reason I had him  
48 Chair the meeting is because I had a little -- a lot to  
49 say about these upcoming proposals and I believe I can  
50



0268

1 separate out myself and still Chair the meeting. I  
2 know it's been kind of hard. So I'm going to ask the  
3 Council would it be okay with all of you for me to take  
4 back the Chair?

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I myself agree  
7 with this.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does  
10 anybody have any opposition to it?

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie. No  
13 opposition.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
16 think when we come back I will continue Chairing the  
17 meeting. It is.....

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Like I say,  
20 Sue, I used to be a.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want  
23 it to go a little smoothly for us so we don't have to  
24 be on the phone so long.

25

26 So thanks, Bill, I mean, great try  
27 there. It's a lot to keep track of.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: I used to run  
30 meeting with the State police and fire pension board, I  
31 used to run that one for a couple of thousand people.  
32 Anyway without a phone conversation this is tough, this  
33 thing cuts me off and -- oh, well.

34

35 Thank you, Sue.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's  
38 the problem.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: How long do you  
41 want to take off for lunch here, half an hour?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds good.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN GLANZ: Okay. Let's  
46 say we're back here at quarter to 1:00. Talk to  
47 everyone later.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0269

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Bill.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Thanks, Bill.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Council  
10 members back online?

11

12 (Extensive telephone issues for  
13 participants)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Alrighty,  
16 Pippa, now it's your turn, WP22-02.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Good afternoon, Madame  
19 Chair, and members of the Council. The analysis of  
20 Wildlife Proposal WP22-02 begins on Page 169 of your  
21 Council books that were sent to you and, of course,  
22 it's also available at the Federal Subsistence  
23 Management Program web page, look for the Eastern  
24 Interior Alaska region meeting materials. So my name  
25 is Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office  
26 of Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

27

28 Proposal WP22-02 was submitted by the  
29 Office of Subsistence Management and requests to  
30 clarify designated hunting regulations that currently  
31 prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of  
32 a community operating under a community harvest system.

33

34 So earlier, we were just now talking  
35 about community harvest system and now we're going to  
36 talk about the designated hunter system in Federal  
37 regulations. So the current designated hunter  
38 regulation is on Page 171 and states: if you are a  
39 Federally-qualified user you may designate another  
40 Federally-qualified user to take deer, moose and  
41 caribou on your behalf unless you are a member of a  
42 community operating under a community harvest system.  
43 The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter  
44 permit and must return a completed harvest report. The  
45 designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients  
46 but may have no more than two harvest limits in his or  
47 her possession at any one time. So there is the  
48 general designated hunter regulation.

49

50

0270

1                   We're proposing is to remove the  
2 language that says: unless you are a member of a  
3 community operating under a community harvest system.  
4

5                   This is because if a person does not  
6 register to participate in their community harvest  
7 system, that person retains or still has an individual  
8 harvest limit,. one moose, for example, and should be  
9 able to designate that harvest limit to someone else to  
10 harvest for them through the designated hunter system.  
11

12                   So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
13 support Proposal WP22-01 [sic]. And finally your  
14 Council is the fifth to act on this proposal. It's a  
15 proposal to change a general regulation that affects  
16 all regions of the state, we're asking all Regional  
17 Advisory Councils to act on this proposal. So the  
18 Kodiak/Aleutians, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western  
19 Interior Alaska and Southcentral supported this  
20 proposal, and, the Southeast Alaska Council took no  
21 action primarily because they ran out of time.  
22

23                   Thank you, Mr. Chair [sic] and members  
24 of the Council. That is the -- Madame Chair, and  
25 members of the Council that's the end of my  
26 presentation.  
27

28                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
29 Pippa. Questions from Council members.  
30

31                   (No comments)  
32

33                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
34 Hearing none, a report on Board consultation with  
35 tribes and ANCSA Corps.  
36

37                   MR. LIND: Yes, this is Orville Lind,  
38 OSM. We did not have any questions or comments on this  
39 proposal, thank you.  
40

41                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
42 Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.  
43

44                   MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Madame Chair, it's  
45 Ben Mulligan at ADF&G. The Department has no comments  
46 on this proposal. Thank you.  
47

48                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
49 Federal comments, agency, Federal.  
50

0271

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or coun.....

4

5 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
8 ahead, Karen.

9

10 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell,  
11 Executive Director of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
12 Commission. We're in support of this proposal. The  
13 intent of this proposal is to allow designated hunters  
14 for those not participating in a community harvest  
15 system. It also allows for community harvest systems  
16 to -- participants to be a designator for tho --  
17 designated hunter for those who do not participate in a  
18 community harvest system. And if that's the case with  
19 this one then that's what we support.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
22 Karen. Any questions of Karen.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
27 tribal comments.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
32 none, Pippa, did the other Regional Advisory Council --  
33 I doubt there -- were there any Fish and Game Advisory  
34 Committees.

35

36 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa, I didn't  
37 hear of any.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks  
40 Pippa. Subsistence Resource Commissions.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: The Wrangell-St. Elias  
43 has a comment.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara  
48 Cellarius presenting the comment for the Wrangell-St.  
49 Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

50

0272

1 The Commission unanimously supported WP22-02 with  
2 modification to authorize residents of community  
3 harvest system communities who opt not to participate  
4 in the community harvest system to have a designated  
5 hunter under Federal designated hunter regulations.  
6 With this modification community harvest system  
7 participants would not be eligible to have someone hunt  
8 for them with a Federal designated hunter permit under  
9 the Federal designated hunter regulations. The  
10 modification was recommended by a representative of the  
11 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. This proposed  
12 change with modifications would allow people outside of  
13 the community harvest system to have a designated  
14 hunter to meet their subsistence needs which would be  
15 beneficial to subsistence users.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
20 questions of Barbara on the SRC comments.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, just  
25 refresh my memory, the modification on this one.

26  
27 MS. CELLARIUS: So as the proposal is  
28 written it would authorize anyone living in a community  
29 that's part of a community harvest system to have  
30 someone hunt for them -- harvest subsistence resources  
31 on their behalf with a Federal designated hunter  
32 permit. The Commission received testimony at its  
33 meeting that that was -- that AITRC preferred that  
34 community harvest system participants use the community  
35 harvest system to have others hunt on their behalf and  
36 then the intent -- their intent was that people who  
37 live in the communities that are eligible that are non-  
38 participants, we talked about that in the previous  
39 proposal, they are the ones who would be able to use it  
40 -- have someone harvest resources on their behalf with  
41 the Federal designated harvest permit.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
44 Barbara. Okay, Council members, any questions.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks.  
49 Summary of written public comments.

50

0273

1 MR. BASSICH: Andy.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: Madame.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Several  
6 people spoke over each other.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Sue, this is Andy.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
11 Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I just  
14 have a question. Under this proposal, would that allow  
15 say a person from an urban area who, I don't know if  
16 they have Federal qualifications or not, you know  
17 someone who normally lives in rural area is in an urban  
18 area, would they be able to dedicate someone to hunt  
19 for them and then transport the meat under the Federal  
20 Program.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. Thank you  
23 for the question. This is Pippa Kenner.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Yeah, under the Federal  
28 designated hunter program, no, that wouldn't be  
29 possible.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
32 questions.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, Madame Chair, this  
35 is Charlie.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
38 Charlie.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: I just got back on, I was  
41 cut off for a few minutes.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm  
44 sorry.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Just letting you know.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did  
49 you have any questions Charlie from the update.

50

0274

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3  
4 MR. WRIGHT: No, Ma'am.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody  
7 needs to mute their phones. You need to mute your  
8 phone.

9  
10 MS. LINNELL: Todd Rinaldi, is that  
11 your phone that's not on mute.

12  
13 MR. RINALDI: No, it's not my phone.

14  
15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted)

17  
18 MS. LINNELL: It sounded like you.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Someone's not  
21 on mute.

22  
23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,  
27 somebody's phone is not on mute and I understand it  
28 might be Todd Rinaldi.

29  
30 MR. RINALDI: No, it's not Todd Rinaldi.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it?

33  
34 MR. RINALDI: No.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would  
37 appreciate whoever knows Todd's number to text him.

38  
39 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi,  
40 that is not me.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
43 you got accused of it, I'm so sorry.

44  
45 MS. LINNELL: I apologize for that, it  
46 sounded like him.

47  
48 (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted)

50

0275

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nathan,  
2 can.....

3  
4 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....you help  
7 me on this one, the recorder, Nathan.

8  
9 REPORTER: Hi, yes, I'll do it right  
10 now.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I Tina,  
13 sorry, yesterday it was your son, we'll wait for you to  
14 come back.

15  
16 MR. BASSICH: I got cut off immediately  
17 after I asked my question so if I could just get a yes  
18 or a no for my question.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy,  
21 so right now we're.....

22  
23 MS. KENNER: Hey, Andy, through the  
24 Chair, this is Pippa again. So the answer to your  
25 question is, no, under the Federal designated hunter  
26 regulations that would not be possible.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need to  
29 stop.....

30  
31 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you for  
32 clarifying.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....talking  
35 and she's going to try to isolate that call because she  
36 cannot record until we hear back from Tina, and that  
37 call is isolated we can't go on.

38  
39 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz, I'm  
40 back on.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, everybody  
43 got cu -- see, that's what happens when we isolate a  
44 call, oh, darn.

45  
46 MR. GLANZ: I think I'm cut off -- no,  
47 I'm back on.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're back  
50



0276

1 on, Bill, I hear you.

2

3 (Pause - contacting operator)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen.

6

7 MS. LINNELL: I just wanted to make  
8 sure that all Council members were on the call when I  
9 made my statement regarding this proposal. AITRC  
10 supports this proposal as long as it does not include a  
11 portion that says that any -- anyone that is not  
12 participating in the community harvest system, they  
13 cannot hunt for another participant of the community  
14 harvest system. And this affects me personally, as my  
15 dad is qualified to participate in a community harvest  
16 system and I usually hunt for him and I live in  
17 Glennallen, so I am not eligible to participate in our  
18 hunt, and I don't think that we should allow for other  
19 hunters to partici -- from -- although they're  
20 Federally-qualified, if they're not participating in  
21 the community harvest system, that they hunt for those  
22 participating in the community harvest system.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Karen,  
25 we.....

26

27 MS. LINNELL: It kind of defeats -- it  
28 kind of defeats the purpose of the community harvest  
29 system if that's allowed and I just wanted to make sure  
30 that they all heard that. So thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the  
33 problem is we can't be recorded until Tina comes back.

34

35 MS. LINNELL: Okay.

36

37 REPORTER: All right, I'm here, I got  
38 that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tina, are we  
41 back?

42

43 REPORTER: Yep.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, now, I  
46 don't know what you missed there but we were just  
47 clarifying if other Council members heard all of  
48 Karen's testimony. Did anyone not hear it?

49

50

0277

1 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Charlie Wright. I didn't hear none of it until the  
3 last portion she just done.  
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.  
6 Anyone else, we have it covered now, we're all on,  
7 right? Everybody -- yes, I verified just two minutes  
8 ago or three, that we're all on, all seven of us are  
9 on. So the question was by Andy, answered by Pippa, so  
10 answered Andy's question about a non-rural person  
11 hunting for a designated hunter for a rural person and  
12 it's no.  
13

14 All right.  
15

16 Any other questions  
17

18 (No comments)  
19

20 MR. GLANZ: I don't think I'm on here.  
21

22 MS. KENNER: No, you're -- no, you're  
23 on, Bill, you're on.  
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. With  
26 all of that, I think we ended at ADF&G and Federal and  
27 tribal. Now we're on other Regional Advisory Councils,  
28 which Pippa went through, we had Subsistence Resource  
29 Commissions and now it's summary of written public  
30 comments.  
31

32 (No comments)  
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, dear,  
35 Pippa, do you handle that?  
36

37 MS. KENNER: I'm sorry, I didn't hear,  
38 what was your question?  
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is doing  
41 the summary of written public comments?  
42

43 MS. KENNER; Thank you, very much,  
44 Madame Chair, this is Pippa Kenner. No written comments  
45 were received for this proposal during the public  
46 comment period. Thank you.  
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Public  
49 testimony. Any handed in today?  
50

0278

1 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Katya Wessels. And.....

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Katya,  
5 you're breaking up. Can anyone.....

6  
7 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, can you hear me  
8 now?

9  
10 MS. LINNELL: You're really broken up.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, just  
13 between you and me I can't understand you, you're  
14 breaking up. I'm asking Council members, can you  
15 understand Katya.

16  
17 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, that's a  
18 negative.

19  
20 MS. EVANS: This is Linda.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you  
23 Linda.

24  
25 MS. EVANS: No, she was breaking up.

26  
27 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
28 Charlie Wright. I could not hear either, she's breaking  
29 up.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Katya,  
32 did you get that, you're breaking up.

33  
34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, Katya  
35 just messaged she was dropped off the call.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can anyone  
38 fill that in or do we need to wait until she gets back.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my gosh.

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, the way  
45 this works it comes into that special email addressed  
46 and she has access to that.

47  
48 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I am back.

49  
50

0279

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: I am back, sorry, I got  
6 dropped. So we received one written public comment  
7 during today's meeting. That comment is from Becky  
8 Schwanke and she says: I would ask that you table  
9 these OSM proposals and defer to the proposer's  
10 request WP22-36 to clarify their own requested  
11 regulation. Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
14 public testimony, people online.

15

16 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chair -- or Madame  
17 Chair, Jim Simon.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record  
22 my name is Jim Simon and I'm a consultant with the  
23 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. I'd like to  
24 reference my previous comments under Wildlife Proposal  
25 22-01. And point out that it's unfortunate that I  
26 don't think that Becky understands that this proposal  
27 was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management  
28 and it's not submitted by the Ahtna InterTribal  
29 Resource Commission and just to reiterate that would --  
30 is an issue that came up through the negotiations of  
31 the AITRC administered community harvest system and  
32 passage of this proposal will, as originally intended  
33 and as Karen spoke to with the modification will help  
34 to ensure that the community harvest system does not  
35 eliminate the opportunity for someone who does not  
36 choose to participate in the community harvest system  
37 since they'll still be able to get a Federal designated  
38 hunter permit and have someone else hunt on their  
39 behalf. The clarification again is that in the way  
40 that OSM has approached this that they would also allow  
41 a participant in the community harvest system to  
42 designate a Federal designated hunter to hunt for them  
43 and that -- the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission  
44 does not support that because that sort of defeats the  
45 purpose of the AITRC administered community harvest.

46

47 So passage of this proposal will make  
48 sure that an individual Federally-qualified user who  
49 doesn't want to be part of the community harvest system  
50

0280

1 can still do everything as normal.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
6 Jim. Any questions of Jim.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
11 other public testimony online.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was that?

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does somebody  
23 else want to testify.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next is  
28 Regional Council recommendation.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we all  
33 back online. This will require a motion.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don, I have  
36 a question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
39 ahead, Don.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, so if a motion is  
42 to go forward the modification by the SRC is, in my  
43 eyes, the most practical, I'm wonder if I'm confused  
44 about that.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I don't  
47 think you are confused -- I think everybody might be.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: That's reassuring.

50

0281

1 Well, I'll make the motion, this proposal -- what the  
2 heck number is it.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 22-02.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. 22-02 with the  
7 modification presented by the SRC.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10 There's a motion on the floor to support WP22-02 with  
11 the modification from the Wrangell SRC. Is there a  
12 second.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second, Charlie  
15 Wright.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Got it,  
18 Charlie, thank you. And second by Charlie Wright.  
19 Discussion.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is  
22 Lisa. I have a comment if permissible.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
25 ahead.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin  
28 for the record. And I just wanted to remind the  
29 Council that this regulation applies to the entire  
30 state so it would apply to all community harvest  
31 system, you know, currently in the state not just the  
32 AITRC administered community harvest system, and so  
33 just a reminder that, you know, if AITRC wants to  
34 restrict themselves for their community harvest system  
35 there's other methods to do that through their unit-  
36 specific regulations or framework, we're affecting all  
37 community harvest systems in the entire state.

38

39 So just a reminder of that scope of  
40 this proposal. Thanks.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think  
43 that's what makes it confusing. Discussion on the  
44 proposal -- or on the motion. Or do you have any  
45 feeling about your motion being different.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, this is Don.  
48 Justification or discussion. Lisa (indiscernible) made  
49 things that much clearer. But to speak to the motion,

50

0282

1 I think the SRC has a good handle on that and they have  
2 all kinds of advisors and tribal entities that  
3 participate so I'm going to stand with the motion as  
4 read.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: Do you want any  
9 discussion about that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. So is the  
14 recommendation consistent with established fish and  
15 wildlife management principles; for the most part. Is  
16 the recommendation supported by substantial evidence  
17 such as biological and traditional ecological  
18 knowledge; yes. Will the recommendation benefit or be  
19 detrimental to subsistence needs and uses; it would be  
20 beneficial. There's no closure involved. Discuss what  
21 other relevant factors are mentioned in the OSM draft  
22 analysis; I think that's where Lisa came in. I think  
23 there may be some more discussion to go on that bullet  
24 point.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you  
27 might want to ask a question.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, so Lisa, you  
30 understand the motion that I presented so what did your  
31 last comment, how did that affect or help?

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Don.  
34 This is Lisa, through the Chair. I just wanted to  
35 remind the Council that this is a general regulatory  
36 change that would affect all community harvest system  
37 in the state, which as Pippa previously said there's  
38 currently seven. And if any community harvest systems  
39 are proposed in the future, this regulation would also  
40 apply to them. And while AITRC, you know, they  
41 represent one community harvest system but I would just  
42 caution the Council applying what AITRC wants for their  
43 community harvest system to automatically, you know,  
44 put that stipulation on all the other community harvest  
45 systems in the state and there are other methods for  
46 achieving what AITRC wants to achieve with their  
47 community harvest system without affecting all the  
48 other community harvest systems in the state. And,  
49 specifically 22-36, which is coming up next, that deals

50

0283

1 specifically with the AITRC administered community  
2 harvest system and there just are options to put this  
3 stipulation through 22-36 that would only apply for  
4 their system versus affecting all the ones in the  
5 state.

6

7 So hopefully that helps and didn't just  
8 confuse you more.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair, since we're  
11 abandoning process could I add some more information  
12 for the Council to consider with respect to what's just  
13 been added to your deliberations.

14

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

17

18 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I guess the  
19 corresponding question then from what Lisa is saying is  
20 did OSM consult with all the other existing Federal  
21 community harvest systems throughout the state prior to  
22 this change that is in response to the AITRC  
23 administered community harvest system, which is very  
24 different because it's on the road. So the principle  
25 that OSM is promoting now will affect all of those  
26 preexisting community harvest systems and I think it's  
27 irresponsible for OSM to change them unless they have  
28 consulted with each of those community harvest systems.  
29 I think the appropriate approach is to not have OSM  
30 take this pendulum and fling it all the way to the  
31 other extreme that basically what -- what Karen Linnell  
32 has already put on the record, basically waters down  
33 the whole intent of the Federal community harvest  
34 system. So I just want that to be part of the record.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is  
39 Lisa, if I could clarify one additional thing.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

42

43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you. And I  
44 apologize if my statements in many way were perceived  
45 by the Council trying to influence your action at all,  
46 I was just trying to make sure the Council understood  
47 the implications that this, you know, as the proposal's  
48 written is going to affect, you know, Unit 6, Unit 9,  
49 Unit 10, Unit 22, Unit 23 and just so you're aware of  
50



0284

1 that. I didn't mean to try and suggest one action or  
2 another, I was just trying to make sure the Council  
3 realized this wasn't only going to affect the Unit 13  
4 and 11 AITRC administered systems but all the ones in  
5 the state.

6  
7 Thanks.

8  
9 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, yes,  
12 but I do want my Council to understand what's going on,  
13 too. So they may need to be asking some more questions  
14 but, go ahead, Karen.

15  
16 MS. LINNELL: Yeah, and that's the  
17 whole point behind this proposal is to affect all  
18 community harvest systems and their designated hunter  
19 piece to it. But, again, any community harvest system  
20 was adopted to allow for participants to care for each  
21 other. If somebody chooses not to participate then  
22 they are -- and they have other Federally-qualified  
23 subsistence users outside of that community, they can  
24 get a designated hunter to help them with that. I  
25 don't think that it should be the reverse where a  
26 designated hunter can come in to a community harvest  
27 system, they can be from an entirely different  
28 community that's eligible for those same lands. Again,  
29 while Tetlin is Federally-qualified for Unit -- GMU 12  
30 and so am I, them being able to come over and hunt  
31 under a community harvest system Chistochina resident  
32 totally defeats the purpose of that community harvest  
33 system. And this is to protect the -- and our comments  
34 have been to protect the community harvest system and  
35 that sense of community that's involved with this so if  
36 individuals are opting out and therefore they can  
37 participate under a designated hunter program. But I  
38 just wanted to make sure that that was clear.

39  
40 And, you know, have those communities  
41 with community harvest systems been contacted in  
42 regards to this proposal so that they could speak to,  
43 for all those GMUs that she mentioned, and the tribes  
44 of those communities, were they individually, you know,  
45 contacted for that tribal consult of those. Sending a  
46 mass email, I know Bless Orville he's got 229 tribes to  
47 talk to but I can't believe that nobody had anything to  
48 say with this as we've been -- we're busy trying to  
49 administer our hunt we did miss the call for the tribal  
50

0285

1 consult process but we knew that we'd be in person to  
2 speak to to you folks on this.

3

4 So, anyway, that's all I had to say is  
5 we're trying to protect the intent behind the community  
6 harvest system with our comments and I think that's  
7 what the SRC was trying to do, is to protect the intent  
8 behind the community harvest system for all the  
9 community harvests throughout the state.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I would  
14 like the Council to understand the proposal and the  
15 motion that's on the floor. And all of you, do you  
16 have any questions, this is the time to ask questions  
17 of Staff and discussion of the proposal as the motion  
18 is. So Donald, do you want to go a little further on  
19 your intent.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
22 My intent is to allow the opt out of a community  
23 harvest system and designated hunter paperwork be  
24 processed. I still think that it's a detrimental to  
25 any other user group or that any other community  
26 harvest system would be benefitted, I think they would  
27 be benefitted because it would be so much clearer about  
28 the designated hunter.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
33 Pippa.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Pippa,  
36 go ahead.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Oh, thank you, yeah,  
39 through the Chair. I understand your motion and the  
40 intent of the motion. I think it's clear that the  
41 desire of AITRC, through their testimony to the SRC and  
42 then the SRCs testimony to us, is they want to ensure  
43 that people who are registered for a community harvest  
44 system may not use the designated hunter system. We  
45 can work with that. We understand the intent. And we  
46 will be talking to Ahtna in the next proposal, WP22-36  
47 about their specific desires and needs for their hunt.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0286

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, was there a second  
4 for this proposal.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, there  
7 was.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie  
12 Wright seconded it. So I just want on the record  
13 everything to be clear and I believe you did a good job  
14 in that when you last spoke and I believe Pippa  
15 verified that they can work with that. So is there any  
16 other discussion or questions on this.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Call for question.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the  
23 question has been called for. Does everyone understand  
24 the motion -- I should ask, does anyone not understand  
25 the motion.

26

27 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
30 ahead.

31

32 MS. EVANS: Clarify the motion again,  
33 please.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did you  
36 Donald's intent. His motion was to support Proposal  
37 22-02 with the intention of the SRC, if I'm doing it  
38 right. Do you want to restate it Donald.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am, thank you.  
41 The intent of the motion is to support Proposal 22-02,  
42 I believe it is, and incorporate the SRCs modification.  
43 How is that.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Which is to -- people  
48 that are participating in the community harvest system  
49 cannot designated hunter, but people that opt out of

50

0287

1 the community harvest system can still designate a  
2 designated hunter.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does  
5 anyone not understand the motion.

6

7 MS. EVANS: This is Linda. I'm just a  
8 bit confused about the community harvest system. I  
9 understand that there's only 7 in the state.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually  
15 several.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Linda, this is Pippa,  
18 through the Chair. Were you on earlier when we  
19 discussed what a community harvest system is?

20

21 MS. EVANS: I was but I didn't hear it  
22 exactly what it was.

23

24 (Contacting operator)

25

26 MS. KENNER: .....and they do not abide  
27 by the community harvest limit so they are unaffected.

28

29 MS. PETRIVELLI: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda, go  
32 ahead.

33

34 MS. PETRIVELLI: Madame Chair, this is  
35 Pat Petrivelli, can I say one thing.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm  
38 sorry, Pat, I thought it was Linda that wanted to speak  
39 again but go ahead, Pat.

40

41 MS. PETRIVELLI: I just wanted to add  
42 one thing because Pippa said if they choose to opt out  
43 that they're not affected, that's only if the Proposal  
44 01 passes because with the existing community harvest  
45 regulations are in place, they define community  
46 harvest. And like, for example, the Unit 19 for  
47 caribou, rural residents of Lime Village only, there is  
48 a village harvest quota of 200 caribou and it just has  
49 reporting by community harvest system, and that's all  
50

0288

1 it says in there. And then the other regulations say  
2 if designated hunting can't apply to people who are  
3 part of a community harvest system, if 01 passes, then  
4 a person could choose to opt out of that Lime Village  
5 quota and then once if they do that if the intent of  
6 this next one goes they can choose a designated hunter.  
7 Under the regulations as currently written for  
8 designated hunting it says that they could only hunt --  
9 it says they -- except anyone who is a member of a  
10 community who has a community harvest quota. It  
11 doesn't say if they choose to be in the community  
12 harvest system, it just says that they live in that  
13 community.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Pat,  
16 could you identify yourself for Linda please.

17  
18 MS. PETRIVELLI: Oh, I'm the  
19 Subsistence Anthropologist for the Bureau of Indian  
20 Affairs and I'm a member of the InterAgency Staff  
21 Committee.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Pat.  
24 Linda, does any of this help?

25  
26 MS. EVANS: I -- a lot of interacting  
27 depending on whether a person decides to opt -- be in  
28 the community harvest system or opt out.

29  
30 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner,  
31 through the Chair. That's correct, Linda, I think you  
32 have it.

33  
34 MS. EVANS: Okay, thank you for the  
35 clarification, I sure appreciate it.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I  
38 believe that helped all of us, Linda, thanks for asking  
39 the question. Is there any other questions from the  
40 RAC members.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm going  
45 to ask once again do you all understand the proposal  
46 and if somebody does not, please speak up, I mean as  
47 what's stated by Don.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

0289

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If the  
2 Council members feel we need a roll call say so,  
3 otherwise I will ask for unanimous consent and ask if  
4 there's any opposition.

5  
6 (No opposition)

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no  
9 opposition, the motion passes unanimously. Okay,  
10 thanks everybody.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I think you  
13 also want to include if there was anyone in opposition  
14 to speak up.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did.

17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: She did that.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear  
21 any. Is there anyone in opposition.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

24  
25 (No opposition)

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is anyone in  
28 opposition, I'll ask a third time.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
33 none, we'll move on to the next Proposal WP22-36.

34  
35 MS. KENNER: Good afternoon, Madame  
36 Chair and members of the Council. The analysis for  
37 Wildlife Proposal WP22-36 begins on Page 126 in your  
38 Council books and, of course, it's also posted at the  
39 Federal Subsistence Management Program website. Look  
40 for the Eastern Interior Alaska region meeting  
41 materials and my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
42 Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management  
43 in Anchorage.

44  
45 Proposal WP22-36 was submitted by the  
46 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, or AITRC and  
47 requests to codify temporary regulations that expire on  
48 June 30th, 2022, regarding the community harvest system  
49 for moose and caribou in Units 11, 12 and 13.

50

0290

1 AITRC states that these proposed  
2 changes are necessary to fully implement the AITRC  
3 administered community harvest system for caribou and  
4 moose in Units 11, 12 and 13. The proponent  
5 additionally states that these community harvest  
6 systems are a management partnership between the  
7 Federal government and the Federally-recognized tribes  
8 of the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.

9  
10 Okay so I'm going to direct your  
11 attention to Pages 127 and 128 in your Council book.  
12 These are the regulations the Board adopted in April  
13 2020 regarding the community harvest system in Unit 11  
14 for moose and Unit 13 for moose and caribou.

15  
16 So under the proposed regulation on  
17 Pages 128 and 129 of your Council book, these are the  
18 regulations proposed to you today. The proposed  
19 regulation encompasses these temporary special actions  
20 that are in effect through June 30th, 2022. These  
21 temporary regulations were adopted by the Board in  
22 January 2021. These are the regulations that are the  
23 focus of this analysis. The proposed regulation in  
24 this proposal have been brought to you after extensive  
25 work by AITRC and agencies and these changes are fully  
26 supported by OSM with additional changes to be worked  
27 out in the framework for the hunt in cooperation  
28 between the agencies and AITRC.

29  
30 Specifically, Proposal WP22-36 would  
31 codify these temporary regulations to, one, allow  
32 community members to opt out of the community harvest  
33 system, thereby, retaining their individual harvest  
34 limits; two, allow designated hunters as part of the  
35 community harvest system; three, define the geographic  
36 boundaries of eligible communities as the most recent  
37 census designated places established by the U.S. Census  
38 Bureau; four, specify that harvest reporting will take  
39 the form of reports collected from hunters by AITRC and  
40 submitted directly to the land managers and the Office  
41 of Subsistence Management, rather than through Federal  
42 registration permits, joint State/Federal registration  
43 permits or State harvest tickets; five, that the  
44 harvest quota for the species and units authorized in  
45 the community harvest system as the sum of the  
46 individual harvest limits for those opting to  
47 participate in the system; and, six, add moose and  
48 caribou in Unit 12 to the community harvest system.

49  
50

0291

1                   So if this proposal is not adopted then  
2 temporary regulations describing the community harvest  
3 systems in Units 11, 12 and 13 for moose and caribou  
4 will expire on June 30th, 2022. These provisions  
5 clarify the intent of the Board. If not adopted this  
6 will lead to confusion when AITRC and Federal managers  
7 try to use these community harvest systems already in  
8 regulation. Additionally, community harvest systems  
9 for moose and caribou in Unit 12 will not be added to  
10 codified regulations.

11  
12                   So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
13 support WP22-36 with modification to modify and clarify  
14 regulatory language and that is to remove these two  
15 statements from the codified regulations because we  
16 feel they are redundant and repeat things that members  
17 of the community harvest system are already eligible to  
18 do.

19  
20                   So these regulation changes are  
21 necessary to enable AITRC and Federal managers to fully  
22 and effectively implement this community harvest system  
23 on a long-term basis. These proposed regulations so  
24 have already been approved by the Board in temporary  
25 regulations through June 30th, 2022, when they will  
26 expire. The Board should acknowledge these efforts by  
27 adopting these changes into codified regulations.

28  
29                   I would like to add to this that the  
30 Southeast [sic] Council took action on this proposal  
31 and to better help you understand what I'm about to  
32 say, I want to point out that an AITRC representative  
33 at that meeting put forward a modification to the Unit  
34 12 regulation that they will explain to you and the  
35 Southcentral Council adopted those regulations and  
36 there does appear -- I think I said something else, I  
37 meant Southcentral -- I want to make clear it was  
38 Southcentral that acted on this proposal. There also  
39 appears to be maybe another line in the regulations  
40 that Ahtna would like to comment on and that would be,  
41 I think the line that says: designated hunters are  
42 authorized in this community harvest system.

43  
44                   That's the end of my presentation,  
45 Madame Chair, and I'm available to answer questions.

46  
47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,  
48 Council members.

49  
50



0292

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah,  
4 go ahead, Don.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I'm curious, what  
7 is the reported parameters so that they don't go over  
8 their quota?

9

10 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
11 question. Through the Chair, this is Pippa. I have  
12 included as an appendix the harvest framework, the  
13 community harvest system framework, which clearly  
14 explains how the hunt will be implemented including the  
15 collection of harvest data. There's a lot of different  
16 ins and outs. I could get to that. It could be that  
17 if Lisa Maas, or Grediagin, is online she might be able  
18 to convey that information more quickly than I can.  
19 I'm looking now.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
22 is Lisa Grediagin. Yeah, as Pippa stated it's outlined  
23 in the framework, but specifically AITRCs responsible  
24 for registrating the community hunters and providing  
25 them harvest reports for them to fill out and the AITRC  
26 reports to the Federal land managers, so BLM, Wrangell-  
27 St. Elias on a weekly basis what the harvest is. And  
28 so basically AITRC keeps -- they're responsible for  
29 collecting that harvest information from any  
30 registrants in the system and then that's reported to  
31 the Federal managers just for the harvest, you know,  
32 reporting and tracking for managing the populations in  
33 general. But I guess, yeah, the short answer is, yeah,  
34 AITRC manages that through their framework, thanks.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
37 questions.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
40 Pippa, I have a question.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, I think I  
47 might have misspoke. Did I mention that the  
48 Southcentral Council adopted the proposal as is with  
49 one modification and the modification was a request by  
50

0293

1 AITRC to limit the community harvest system in Unit 12  
2 to lands in the traditional area of Ahtna. And that  
3 will be worked out cooperatively with AITRC exactly  
4 what those lands are. So the modification actually  
5 reduced the area in which the community harvest system  
6 would be implemented. That was the modification by the  
7 Southcentral Council.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did  
12 mention that but having gone through the SRC meeting  
13 and trying to wrap my head around it, it -- there was  
14 -- as the map is on 136, that was one of the things  
15 that was discussed is the Ahtna traditional hunting  
16 area. You just said that that map will be worked out,  
17 which was a little different than what we were hearing  
18 there, can you explain that to me?

19

20 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair  
21 for the question. This is Pippa Kenner. It will be  
22 worked out based on that map and discussions with  
23 Ahtna.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
26 Which.....

27

28 MS. KENNER: At the Southcentral.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:  
31 .....which.....

32

33 MS. KENNER: .....Council we were  
34 having a hard time coming up with specifically the  
35 appropriate language and so we moved on saying it would  
36 include only those areas in the Ahtna traditional  
37 territory.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40

41 MS. KENNER: In Unit 12.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I  
44 have a question regarding a map of Ahtna's traditional  
45 area, are there other Native organizations that have  
46 maps like this that OSM has?

47

48 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
49 question, Madame Chair. This is Pippa Kenner. We might

50

0294

1 have somewhere, I don't believe we have any that have  
2 been worked out, you know, in modern times, like in the  
3 last couple of years with tribes. To me, I believe  
4 this is a unique map for OSM to have.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, which  
7 leads me to another question. And I want people to  
8 understand I am not being disrespectful to Ahtna at  
9 all, I respect them deeply but a little concern that  
10 comes out from other areas, other Native areas is, for  
11 instance, the Upper Tanana Doyon, if a map from another  
12 -- a map appears from Doyon and their traditional  
13 hunting area and it overlaps a big part of this  
14 traditional hunting area, how does that affect the  
15 users.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
18 question, Madame Chair. This is Pippa Kenner for the  
19 record. It really doesn't affect the other users at  
20 all. It doesn't partition off lands to them, they  
21 would continue to hunt in their normal way. And, you  
22 know, in historical times I don't believe it was that  
23 unusual for there to be overlap in areas considered  
24 traditional by groups.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
29 other questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
34 thanks for the presentation and helping us to  
35 understand it.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have one  
38 question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
41 Don.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I'm curious what  
44 Southcentral's vote was on that modification.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
47 question. Through the Chair this is Pippa. And, of  
48 course, we will get to that again in the advisory  
49 council comments but just because it's important for  
50

0295

1 you to know Southcentral supported adopting the  
2 regulation as it is written with one modification. The  
3 modification was to change the area that would be part  
4 of the community harvest system in Unit 12. And that  
5 area in Unit 12 would reduced to only those lands that  
6 are part of the Ahtna traditional territory, and that  
7 Ahtna traditional territory has been represented in the  
8 Figure on Page 136 in your Council book. As you can  
9 see it doesn't take up all of Unit 12, it's just a  
10 corner of Unit 12.

11  
12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, did you  
15 want to know the actual vote?

16  
17 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that would  
18 be.....

19  
20 MS. KENNER: Oh.

21  
22 MR. WOODRUFF: .....helpful if somebody  
23 has that.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: I cannot be 100 percent  
26 certain, I believe it was unanimous. Can someone  
27 correct me if I'm wrong.

28  
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So can  
32 anyone answer that question for Donald.

33  
34 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair,  
35 this is Lisa. And my recollection is that it was  
36 unanimous as well but, like, Pippa, I can't say with  
37 100 percent confidence that it definitely was but,  
38 yeah, that's my recollection.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We deeply  
41 appreciate that.

42  
43 MS. KENNER: The Council coordinator  
44 who would know is DeAnna Perry and I don't know if I  
45 could get a hold of her right now but I could try.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so we  
48 don't need to get it immediately but we would like it  
49 so as soon as you guys can get that answer that can be  
50

0296

1 great. You can even bring it up if you have it when we  
2 come up to the other Regional Advisory Councils. So  
3 there's only two of us so I imagine, in a way we  
4 already covered that, right, Pippa.

5

6 MS. KENNER: I'm sorry, Madame Chair, I  
7 was looking up email addresses, could you please ask me  
8 that again.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said  
11 there's only one other Regional Advisory Council on  
12 this proposal for recommendation so we'll just take  
13 that up as soon as you find it.

14

15 MS. KENNER: That's correct, Madame  
16 Chair. So, again, you're waiting for the vote.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but,  
19 we'll continue. You can just let us know and you can  
20 actually text me. Now, okay, that concludes the  
21 presentation, is there any other questions of the  
22 Council.

23

24 (Teleconference interference -  
25 participants not muted - typing)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,  
28 the next would be a report on the Board consultation  
29 with tribes and ANCSA Corps.

30

31 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair. T  
32 his is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. And we  
33 did not have any questions or comments on this  
34 proposal. Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
37 Orville. Next is agency comments, Alaska Department of  
38 Fish and Game.

39

40 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Madame Chair, this is  
41 Ben Mulligan from the Department of Fish and Game.  
42 Just to preface our position, it's on the provisions as  
43 they're written. You know we heard a good conversation  
44 at Southcentral RAC and we -- well, I figure that  
45 there'll be another robust discussion here for this RAC  
46 so depending on those conversations we may be  
47 reevaluating our position and changing it based off the  
48 modifications we've heard.

49

50

0297

1                   So with that, on the different aspects  
2 of the proposal, Fish and Game does appreciate the  
3 aspect of allowing those Federally-qualified users to  
4 opt out of the CHS, we're not going to take a position  
5 on how you define the boundaries of the areas. And  
6 then on the delegation of collecting the harvest  
7 information by AITRC, you know, as we testified on the  
8 special action on this, we believe that ANILCA doesn't  
9 allow for the Federal agencies to delegate that  
10 administrative function away from themselves, so with  
11 that said if the Federal Subsistence Board feels that  
12 they can pass the proposal, all we do is encourage that  
13 OSM and the other relevant Federal agencies work  
14 closely with AITRC to ensure that harvest information  
15 is collected consistently and passed along in a timely  
16 manner so those of us who are managing the populations  
17 in this area can do so.

18  
19                   Thank you, Ma'am.

20  
21                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
22 Ben. Any questions of Fish and Game.

23  
24                   (No comments)

25  
26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next,  
27 is there any Federal comments.

28  
29                   (No comments)

30  
31                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And next is  
32 any tribal comments.

33  
34                   MS. LINNELL: Yes, Madame Chair.

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

38  
39                   MS. LINNELL: Thank you. This is Karen  
40 Linnell, Executive Director of the InterTribal Resource  
41 Commission. As Pippa indicated, we're opposed to some  
42 of the changes that they made in the language and,  
43 therefore, are requesting that this be adopted or  
44 approved as written with one modification to -- it was  
45 never AITRCs intent to include all of GMU12 and in our  
46 haste to get this done by the deadline as it had just  
47 gotten passed and negotiating framework, we  
48 inadvertently didn't include that -- for the language  
49 to be GMU12 as -- there was portions of GMU Unit 12  
50

0298

1 that lie within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.

2

3

4 Some of the other changes, and why  
5 we're saying as written is because there is some  
6 modification to the framework that was attached and is  
7 referenced many times throughout the OSM modification,  
8 that was a long negotiated framework, many hours, lots  
9 of phone calls with all agencies, AITRC was not  
10 consulted by OSM with their modification and their  
11 comments to this proposal, as AITRC being the  
12 proponent, but also as AITRC being the administrator of  
13 the community harvest system.

13

14

15 And I want to just address Mr.  
16 Mulligan's comments in regards to timely reporting. We  
17 have been complying with that and getting information  
18 in. I know there are concerns about the caribou  
19 harvest and so far under this community harvest system  
20 no caribou have been harvested under this Federal  
21 permit, so the report that was submitted last week is  
22 very up to date, a new one will be going out today,  
23 mostly with just folks that were late in mailing out  
24 their moose harvest report.

24

25

26 As far as this goes, again, I just want  
27 to say that we appreciate your time. I might ask if  
28 Jim Simon has anything he'd like to add to my comments  
29 as we've been going to three -- well, we participated  
30 in the YKRAC, and Southcentral RAC and now with this  
31 RAC trying to get -- and address this community harvest  
32 system and some misinformation that's been put forward.  
33 So I'm happy to say that the reporting and reporting  
34 out to the RACs have improved over the last few days so  
35 thanks for that. So, Jim, did I miss anything.

35

36

37 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Through the  
38 Chair. Yeah, I'd just like to add that one of the  
39 previous questions about, you know, what portions of  
40 Unit 12 are included in the community harvest system,  
41 that is addressed, in part, at least, within the  
42 existing community harvest framework that the Federal  
43 Subsistence Board adopted in 2021. It's been  
44 unfortunate that there's been so much back and forth  
45 due to the lack of any consultation with AITRC with the  
46 presentations that have been provided across the state  
47 on the -- and referencing to the Ahtna InterTribal  
48 Resource Commission community harvest system, but we  
49 also recognize that there's been a lot of -- you know  
50 the revolving door at OSM, there's a lot of new Staff,

50

0299

1 there's been a lot of shortages for Staff and  
2 resources, and there have been recent shuffles in Staff  
3 so I understand, you know, the challenges, but, you  
4 know, so -- so, you know, as Karen said this proposal  
5 was submitted with the sole intention of making  
6 permanent the inclusion of that portion of Unit 12  
7 outlined in the existing harvest framework and within  
8 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory and has been  
9 discussed for four plus years with the Department of  
10 Interior agencies into the permanent codified.

11  
12 I don't understand, as someone who's  
13 been involved for many years in making this happen how  
14 that simple request is now suggesting that a vote on  
15 this proposal to fail it by the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board would make the community harvest system disappear  
17 throughout the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. I  
18 appreciate that there were some modifications of  
19 previous testi -- you know, Staff analysis at this  
20 meeting, you know, that it's been refined, but this  
21 whole -- and it's a very unfortunate circumstance that  
22 RAC members have to be exposed to this because this  
23 could have all been worked out in advance, you know.  
24 It was a matter of a couple days before these OSM Staff  
25 analysis were made available to the public, right  
26 before the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC meeting, they were  
27 brought to the SRC meeting and there were no OSM Staff  
28 even there to speak to them for the most part. And so  
29 it's made a heavy burden by the public -- on the public  
30 because of this lack of just simple tribal consultation  
31 with issues that have resulted from the establishment  
32 of the AITRC administered community harvest system and  
33 the implications now for all community harvest systems  
34 because of the realizations that OSM Staff had as we  
35 spent all of that time negotiating the harvest system  
36 framework that's now approved.

37  
38 So the issue that Karen has spoken to  
39 to amend and focus on the original intention of the  
40 proposal, is to not allow someone who is a registrant,  
41 or a participant in a community harvest system to have  
42 someone hunt for them using a Federal designated hunter  
43 permit. And I understand that OSM is trying to make it  
44 respond to the issue that, right now, no one, even if  
45 they're not participating in the community harvest  
46 system, if you're living in that community as defined  
47 geographically, you cannot use a Federal designated  
48 hunter permit. So AITRC doesn't want that. Doesn't  
49 want to affect people who don't want to be part of  
50



0300

1 this, really, harvest reporting system.

2

3 So the problem is that OSM's approach  
4 with the modification is that it compromises the  
5 reporting requirements within the existing FSB approved  
6 community harvest framework because only a Federal  
7 agency can issue a Federal designated hunter permit.  
8 If that permittee has to have a community harvest  
9 system AITRC harvest report, it's not a permit, report,  
10 in his possession, but by issuing that Federal  
11 designated hunter permit to that Federally-qualified  
12 user, that means that hunter has to report back to the  
13 Federal issuing agency, so how does AITRC fulfill its  
14 responsibilities to coordinate all the harvest  
15 information from the harvest reports and provide these  
16 weekly reports to the various land management agencies,  
17 Federal agencies.

18

19 So these are the kinds of questions  
20 that should be worked out well in advance so that there  
21 could be a coordinated Federal government and tribal  
22 agency response and support for how these proposals get  
23 addressed.

24

25 So I hope that -- I'm sorry for being  
26 so long-winded but, as Karen said, we have been trying  
27 to mitigate throughout the state as much as we can and  
28 hopefully future interjections by OSM Staff, you know,  
29 will consider some of what's been said and hopefully  
30 will modify as the RAC meetings continue.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
35 Kim and thank you, Karen. Is there any -- I do need to  
36 ask does anyone have any questions of both of the  
37 presenters on their comments.

38

39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is  
40 Lisa, I have a question.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
43 ahead, Lisa.

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Karen and  
46 Jim. And so in WP22-36 the AITRC submitted proposal,  
47 as submitted it reads, designated hunters are  
48 authorized in this community harvest system, and what  
49 I'm understanding from, you know, your comments now and  
50

0301

1 your yesterday at the Southcentral meeting was that it  
2 actually -- it sounds like it actually should have read  
3 designated hunters are not authorized in this community  
4 harvest system, and, again, that's just what's  
5 currently in the proposed regulations so if either of  
6 you could clarify the intent behind that proposed  
7 language.

8

9

Thanks.

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MS. LINNELL: So one of the things that came out in our negotiations was whether we have a hunter who's participating in the community harvest system, whether he can get a designated hunter permit and hunt for somebody in a non-community harvest system community. There, like Copper Center. If somebody in Copper Center is participating in the CHS, he can get a registered hunter permit from BLM and come to Glennallen and get my permit under BLM and hunt for me under my BLM permit. It was not the intent that this would be where a Glennallen resident would go and hunt for a community harvest system.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He or she.

MS. LINNELL: .....participant from Copper Center. We have reporting requirements that we have to meet. We have, you know, as you've been as a part of all these conversations, Lisa, that was that intent was. Is that they can become a designated hunter for other communities, not for within the community harvest system. Community harvest system participants should be hunting for each other, not -- it dilutes the whole purpose and that was one of the things in that framework and some other things with the modification that was submitted by OSM that we didn't agree with and that's why we said as written. So that's the clarification. Yeah.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks for that Karen. And just an FYI, you know, full disclosure from a regulatory standpoint, I think that's where some of this confusion and maybe disconnect came in was because of that proposed language and that language would probably need to be tweaked a bit to fully reflect AITRC's intent.

Thank you.

0302

1 MS. LINNELL: If that's the case then,  
2 perhaps before the Federal Subsistence Board, OSM and  
3 AITRC can meet and work out that language to put in  
4 there. Because, you know, had we worked on this  
5 together it would have been much better and more  
6 efficient and less confusing. The reason we're not  
7 accepting the OSM modifications is because it has the  
8 reverse in there, where non -- where a non-resident of  
9 those eight communities who doesn't live within the CDP  
10 of those eight communities can hunt for a community  
11 harvest participant and the other was that it addressed  
12 changed to the framework and so that's -- those are  
13 some of our concerns with that.

14  
15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay, thank you, Karen.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
18 Karen and.....

19  
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I agree that  
21 meeting after the fact that OSM and AITRC would be a  
22 great idea. Thank you, Madame Chair.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You  
25 know I think this is where it's difficult for all of us  
26 to wrap our head around because there's so many moving  
27 parts. So right now I just finished with tribal and  
28 I'm into advisory group comments and other Regional  
29 Advisory Councils. Did we get the vote.

30  
31 MS. KENNER: Yes, Madame Chair, it is  
32 -- the Southcentral vote for WP22-36 was seven votes  
33 yes, unanimous.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
36 you. Okay and I'm just making sure because there's so  
37 much discussion here, you know, it's hard to stay  
38 focused, the Southcentral RAC approved the modif --  
39 approved the proposal as read and added the definition  
40 of the map and did not go with OSM's modification; is  
41 that correct.

42  
43 MS. KENNER: That is correct, Madame  
44 Chair.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47  
48 MS. KENNER: Additionally, I think what  
49 I just heard from Ms. Linnell with AITRC and Mr. Simon,  
50

0303

1 is that, the part of the proposal that says:  
2 designated hunters are authorized in this community  
3 harvest system, unless I'm wrong, I think they would  
4 like us to delete that and that language can be worked  
5 out in the framework at a later time with AITRC. Does  
6 that reflect the comments I just heard from AITRC?

7

8 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Ma'am.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12 MR. SIMON: Sort of.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, is  
15 that you.

16

17 MR. SIMON: No.....

18

19 MS. LINNELL: Right, it's.....

20

21 MR. SIMON: No, Sue, that was me, Jim  
22 Simon. You know that language, the clarification is --  
23 allows Federal designated hunters from those  
24 communities to hunt for others outside the communities.  
25 And -- which is, as Karen said, all part of the, you  
26 know, the negotiations that took months and months.

27

28 You know, just to skip my personal  
29 testimony that was coming up on this, as an adjunct  
30 Professor at UAF Tribal Governance Program, this  
31 complexity is only for the Ahtna tribal citizens to try  
32 to live the way they always did before Colonism and  
33 it's taken years for them to get here and it is sort of  
34 ridiculous that it has to be so complicated.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I  
37 agree.

38

39 MR. SIMON: .....but that's the world  
40 we live in. So thank you very much.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think  
43 making things complicated just makes it clear as mud  
44 sometimes. And did I skip over your -- I didn't mean  
45 to, we were at the Regional Advisory Councils, but  
46 thanks Jim. Any fish and Game Advisory Committee.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0304

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And now the  
2 Subsistence Resource Commission.

3  
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame  
5 Chair. The Wrangell -- this is Barbara Cellarius. The  
6 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource  
7 Commission supported WP22-36 with the OSM modification  
8 plus an additional modification to limit the land in  
9 Unit 12 to that portion of Unit 12 within the Ahtna  
10 Traditional Use Territory. That latter modification  
11 was recommended by representatives of the Ahtna  
12 InterTribal Resource Commission.

13  
14 I don't know if it would be helpful if  
15 I said a couple things about this.

16  
17 One is that the current way that the  
18 unit is divided up, doesn't -- for various hunts  
19 there's sort of hunt area descriptions, doesn't really  
20 match well with the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory  
21 boundary which is why, I think it's simpler just to say  
22 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory boundary. And then  
23 the other thing is that the SRC's understanding of the  
24 OSM modification is that Proposal No. 1 and Proposal  
25 No. 2 addressed the components that OSM suggested  
26 dropping from -- its modification would not address  
27 those topics because they're addressed in Proposal No.  
28 1 and Proposal No. 2 and the SRC already commented on  
29 those.

30  
31 I'll stop there, thanks.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
34 questions of Barbara.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do have to  
39 bring it up to the Council, what was the vote on this,  
40 Barbara.

41  
42 MS. CELLARIUS: I need to look it up,  
43 it'll take me a minute, I think it was four to one with  
44 three abstentions.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I agree.

47  
48 MS. CELLARIUS: And I was not given an  
49 opportunity -- people were confused and I wasn't given  
50

0305

1 the opportunity to help clarify the confusion. That  
2 was the vote, four in favor.....

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: .....one against, and  
7 three abstentions.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
10 think it's important to note that in our discussion  
11 later. All right, moving.....

12

13 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, I have a  
14 point of clarification please.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
17 ahead.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20 May I speak directly to Ahtna?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

23

24 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. For Jim or  
25 Karen, it seems like my understanding -- my -- I'm  
26 trying very hard, my understanding of your statement,  
27 is that, your intent is to say that a participant in  
28 the community harvest system may not be a recipient of  
29 a Federal designated hunter. They may not ask somebody  
30 who is outside of the community harvest system to hunt  
31 on their behalf through the Federal designated hunter  
32 system. They can only ask somebody who is a  
33 participant to hunt on their behalf.

34

35 MR. SIMON: This is Jim for the record  
36 with AITRC. That is correct. Because otherwise how  
37 can the community harvest administrator report that  
38 harvest because that Federal designated hunter  
39 permitholder must report their harvest to the issuing  
40 Federal agency, not to the community harvest  
41 administrator.

42

43 MS. KENNER: Okay. So we would modify  
44 the language in the proposal to say a participant may  
45 not be a recipient of a designated hunter under the  
46 Federal designated hunter regulation.

47

48 MR. SIMON: Karen, that's what you  
49 want, right?

50

0306

1 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. Wouldn't it be  
2 easier to say a participant may be a designated --  
3 let's do the positive -- a participant may be a  
4 designated hunter for other Federally-qualified users  
5 outside of the community harvest system.  
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would think  
8 that this kind of thing can be worked out as long as we  
9 say our intent and Staff and AITRC can work from there,  
10 right, Pippa and Karen.  
11

12 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Ma'am.  
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
15 think that would be great for us since we have a long  
16 meeting ahead of us yet. I'm going to continue on. Is  
17 there a summary of written public comments.  
18

19 (Teleconference interference -  
20 participants not muted - typing)  
21

22 (No comments)  
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Pippa,  
25 that's you or Katya, I guess.  
26

27 MS. KENNER: Sorry, Madame Chair, this  
28 is Pippa Kenner.  
29

30 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.  
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
33

34 MS. KENNER: And there were no public  
35 comments on this proposal during the public comment  
36 period. Thank you.  
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is  
39 there any public testimony first, anything.....  
40

41 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this  
42 is.....  
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....come in.  
45

46 MS. WESSELS: .....Katya Wessels and we  
47 received one written public comment during the Council  
48 meeting. And this comment is from Ahtna Tene Nene'  
49 Committee and it reads: AITRC and Ahtna Tene Nene'  
50

0307

1 strongly supports this proposal, which would make  
2 permanent the community harvest system passed by the  
3 Federal Subsistence Board in WP18-19. It would also  
4 make permanent all temporary and emergency special  
5 actions to be able to include Unit 12 as part of the  
6 community harvest system. AITRC worked for years to  
7 implement this system and ensure it met all Federal  
8 regulatory and statutory requirements. We believe the  
9 community harvest system will open up greater harvest  
10 opportunities for all residents of the eight Ahtna  
11 villages, both tribal and non-tribal and we want to  
12 ensure that it becomes codified and made permanent.

13

14 That concludes the Ahtna Tene Nene'  
15 Committee comment. Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
18 you. Are there any public testimony from people that  
19 are online.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
24 Regional Council recommendation. How do you want to  
25 proceed Council.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would anyone  
30 like to make a motion.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, Don, I'll make a  
33 recommend -- the motion.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go  
36 ahead, Don.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
39 Two alleviate any confusion, I think that we should  
40 finalize our intent, but this is the motion, to accept  
41 Proposal WP22-36, I believe it is.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: .....with the  
46 modification from OSM and the modification from the  
47 SRC, and I think that would include the tribal  
48 consultations and our intent that OSM and the tribes  
49 work out the final language. I have trouble sort of

50



0308

1 voting on language that's not there but that's the  
2 motion.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And  
5 then we can go through and put our intent on the record  
6 and I heard that that was acceptable earlier. Is there  
7 a second to the motion.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie.....

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Andy seconds.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: .....Wright, I'll second  
14 that.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I got  
17 two seconds, I heard Charlie real fast so it's been  
18 moved and seconded. Moved by Don and seconded by  
19 Charlie Wright. All right, discussion.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll go through the  
22 justification if I can.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, before  
25 you do that can I explain something to all of you. The  
26 SRC probably would have had a more positive vote but  
27 things, as it happened, with all these proposals, they  
28 start getting so muddy and then people get really  
29 confused and then one of the members was a user of the  
30 State system and it was all convoluted in the  
31 discussion and mixed up and people didn't understand.  
32 So -- and I was one of the ones that abstained and  
33 another person from Unit 12 was also one that abstained  
34 and the reason for that was more of the understanding  
35 of something that was brought out here today and that  
36 was a concern of overharvest and a concern of the Upper  
37 Tanana villages and I would request, and my intent  
38 would be on this proposal, that, the Upper Tanana  
39 villages be included in things if, you know, on this  
40 map, so they understand that everyone's working  
41 together and not stepping on each other. And I  
42 appreciate all the information that came forth today  
43 and that's why I actually wanted to pass of the Chair  
44 in the meeting so I didn't dominate it but so much  
45 discussion has been made and I appreciate all of it.

46

47 And I think you, Don, identifying our  
48 intent is very -- if Staff doesn't think it's clear  
49 then they need to tell us that it isn't clear but it's

50

0309

1 clear to me Don, thank you.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: So if there's no more  
4 discussion by other Council members I'll go through the  
5 justification.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
10 Council members have any more discussion.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
15 Andy.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I guess  
18 I would only ask the question, what's the difference  
19 whether our Council even addresses this or not. At  
20 this point in time it sounds like OSM needs to have  
21 some communications with Ahtna and other parties  
22 involved. It doesn't sound like it's really been  
23 worked out, very well thought out, and what difference  
24 does it make if our Council weighs in on this or not.  
25 I realize there's a timeframe, but I would almost say,  
26 if it's possible, if they really feel like we need to  
27 chime in on this and give a position then bring it back  
28 to us at our winter meeting with some of the details  
29 worked out. I just find this whole discussion that  
30 we've been through for the last hour on this one  
31 proposal very perplexing, very unnecessary, I agree  
32 with Mr. Simon's assessment of it, and I think it puts  
33 us -- or at least I feel like I'm being put in a very  
34 compromising position because I don't fully understand  
35 what's going on with all of this back and forth between  
36 those entities and I think they should have worked that  
37 out before they brought this to us since this is being  
38 brought to us by OSM.

39

40 So, you know, from my perspective I'm  
41 going to abstain from any vote and I am just  
42 questioning the Chair whether we even need to take this  
43 up and just table it until the winter meeting.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's all I  
46 have to say on this. And I'd really like to see us  
47 move on because we've sent an ordinate amount of time  
48 on these topics in Unit 13 -- or in Unit 11 and 12 and  
49 I'd really like to see us move on.

50

0310

1 Thank you.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I really  
4 share your frustration Andy and I guess -- and you  
5 bring out some really valid points and I appreciate  
6 that. So I'm going to -- Council members how do you  
7 want to proceed, we have a motion on the floor and a  
8 second.

9

10 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, if I might.

11

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, I  
12 should probably keep this with the -- I hate -- I just  
13 think I should keep this to OSM and Staff, we have to  
14 decide.....

15

16 MS. LINNELL: Well, I was going to  
17 say.....

18

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....the  
19 reason we take it up -- and I'm going to say this to  
20 Andy again, and he knows this, it's a crossover  
21 proposal when it comes to Unit 11 but Unit 12 is our  
22 area and me, personally, you know, it's important that,  
23 you know, this doesn't step on the toes of the people  
24 in Unit 12, all the villages there and that came out  
25 at.....

26

27 MS. LINNELL: If I could.....

28

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....there.  
29 So I want to ask Council.....

30

31 MS. LINNELL: I just wanted to say I  
32 agreed with.....

33

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....members  
34 how do you.....

35

36 MS. LINNELL: .....Andy that it should  
37 be tabled until the language is clear.

38

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That  
39 would require a motion to table.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, I'd like to  
42 table this motion until we get further information on  
43 it.

44

45

46

0311

1 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Katya Wessels. For procedural purposes, you first need  
3 to act on the motion on the floor. Either the  
4 proponent of the motion withdraws the motion with  
5 agreement of the second or you need to hold the vote on  
6 the motion on the floor before the next motion is made.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you sure  
9 about that, I think you can table a motion and move on  
10 but I don't want to go through a bunch of proce.....

11  
12 MS. WESSELS: Are you tabling a motion  
13 or are you tabling a proposal?

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A motion.

16  
17 MS. WESSELS: Okay. I guess I missed  
18 that.

19  
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Can't we just withdraw.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I got the --  
23 I got the motion from Bill to table, is there a second.

24  
25 MR. BASSICH: Yes, Andy.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
28 other -- I don't think there's any discussion on table.  
29 I take the vote so I'll ask for a roll call vote on the  
30 motion to table.

31  
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I'll do  
33 the roll call vote if that's okay.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
36 ahead.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
41 Donald.

42  
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
44 I'll start at the bottom. Timothy McManus is excused.

45  
46 Charlie Jagow.

47  
48 MR. JAGOW: I'll vote to table.

49  
50

0312

1

MR. WOODRUFF: I didn't catch that,

2

what?

3

4

MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I would vote to table.

5

6

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Charlie.

7

8

Charlie Wright.

9

10

MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I vote to table.

11

12

MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

13

14

MR. BASSICH: Yes, vote to table.

15

16

MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz.

17

18

MR. GLANZ: Yes, vote to table.

19

20

MR. WRIGHT: Nicolas Henry, are you

21

there?

22

23

(No comments)

24

25

MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans.

26

27

MS. EVANS: Yes.

28

29

MR. WOODRUFF: Sue Entsminger.

30

31

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32

33

MR. WOODRUFF: And I'll vote yes.

34

35

MR. GLANZ: Unanimous.

36

37

MR. WOODRUFF: That's seven.

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 7/0, thanks

40

Donald.

41

42

MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passes

45

to table our motion on 22-36. Okay, moving rapidly

46

along next is a Park Service individual C&T use

47

determination proposal, ICTP21-02. Barbara.

48

49

MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame

50

0313

1 Chair. I can go ahead and do the analysis.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go right  
4 ahead.

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: So this is Barbara  
7 Cellarius and I'm going to be presenting an overview of  
8 the analysis conducted for individual customary and  
9 traditional use determination proposal, ICTP 21-02.  
10 You can find the full analysis of this request  
11 beginning on Page 187 of your meeting book.

12

13 Federal subsistence regulations allow  
14 the Board to make individual customary and traditional  
15 use determinations in NPS managed National Parks and  
16 Monuments but not in National Preserves. The Federal  
17 Board revised its policy and under their -- under this  
18 new policy on individual C&Ts, under this new policy  
19 proposals can be submitted at any time and the Board  
20 will act on the request at the first public meeting  
21 following receipt of the recommendations from the  
22 affected Regional Councils and the Subsistence Resource  
23 Commissions. So this is an action item for the  
24 Council.

25

26 So analysis of C&T requests considers  
27 the same eight factors that are looked at for community  
28 or area-based C&Ts.

29

30 On March 9th of this year the Park  
31 received a request from Kathryn Martin for an  
32 individual customary and traditional use determination  
33 for salmon in the Batzulnetas area of the Copper River  
34 drainage, it's in the Prince William Sound area.  
35 There's a map on Page 189 of the meeting book that  
36 shows the location of Batzulnetas off of the Nabesna  
37 Road in the far northwest corner of the Park.

38

39 Kathryn is the granddaughter of  
40 subsistence rights advocate Katie John and Batzulnetas  
41 is the site of her grandmother's traditional fish camp  
42 at the headwaters of the Copper River. Kathryn grew up  
43 in Mentasta Lake village which has a customary and  
44 traditional use determination for salmon in the  
45 Batzulnetas area and she began harvesting resources at  
46 Batzulnetas in 1992. In 2005 she moved away from  
47 Mentasta for employment and consequently lost her  
48 eligibility to fish for salmon at Batzulnetas under  
49 Federal regulations. Currently lives in Tazlina, which

50

0314

1 is a rural community on the Copper River and a resident  
2 zone community for Wrangell-St. Elias but it doesn't  
3 have C&T for salmon at Batzulnetas.

4

5 If approved, this individual C&T would  
6 allow Kathryn to resume harvesting salmon at the  
7 traditional site where her family has fished for  
8 generations.

9

10 Batzulnetas is an important traditional  
11 salmon fishing site at the headwaters of the Copper  
12 River. The Batzulnetas area was occupied until the  
13 1940 when the occupants relocated so their children  
14 could attend school but they continued to fish there.  
15 Kathryn Martin's family has fished for salmon and  
16 harvested other subsistence resources at Batzulnetas  
17 for many generations including her great-grandfather  
18 Charlie Sanford, her grandmother Katie John and her  
19 mother Eva John. Their ability to fish at this site was  
20 disrupted by a State of Alaska regulation that went  
21 into effect in 1964 prohibiting fishing on the Copper  
22 River tributaries and on the mainstem of the river  
23 above the mouth of the Slana River. Fishing  
24 subsequently resumed following a series of lawsuits in  
25 which Kathryn's grandmother was the lead plaintiff. In  
26 addition to fishing for salmon Ms. Martin has harvested  
27 moose, berries, firewood, roots and steambath rocks in  
28 the Batzulnetas area. Salmon are harvested using a  
29 fishwheel and a dipnet, subsistence methods  
30 characterized by efficiency and economy of effort. And  
31 basically this happens from May to September, which is  
32 when salmon are present in the area.

33

34 She preserves the salmon and she  
35 currently harvests using a family member's fishwheel in  
36 the Tazlina area. She preserves salmon for future use  
37 by her family and other family members by drying,  
38 jarring, and freezing and she shares it with family  
39 members who aren't able to harvest or preserve salmon  
40 themselves. She also makes fermented fishheads which  
41 is something that is rarely made these days. But as  
42 she said, people still eat it. Kathryn learned fishing  
43 skills and values from her grandparents, Katie John and  
44 Fred John, her aunt Ruth Hicks, and her great uncle  
45 Houston Sanford. She shares what she knows about  
46 preserving salmon with her family, including her  
47 children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren as well as  
48 others who want to learn by taking them with her to  
49 harvest, process and put away the fish. An important  
50

0315

1 venue for sharing knowledge is the annual Batzulnetas  
2 Culture Camp which takes place at her grandmother's  
3 Native allotment at Batzulnetas.

4

5 If adopted, this proposal would  
6 recognize Kathryn Martin's customary and traditional  
7 use of salmon at Batzulnetas and would allow her to  
8 resume fishing at a site where her family has fished  
9 for generations.

10

11 Because this customary and traditional  
12 use determination is for a single individual, the  
13 effects on other users should be minimal.

14

15 The NPS preliminary confusin [sic] --  
16 confusion.....

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MS. CELLARIUS: .....conclusion is to  
21 support the request. Ms. Martin exhibits a long-term  
22 pattern of use of salmon at Batzulnetas. This pattern  
23 has been repeated for many generations and through  
24 several generations.

25

26 Methods and means of harvest are  
27 characterized by efficiency and economy of effort.  
28 Knowledge of handling, preparing and preserving salmon  
29 is shared among and between generations. Salmon is  
30 regularly shared with family members. The eight  
31 factors associated with determining customary and  
32 traditional uses are evident. For these reasons there  
33 is substantial evidence to support the issuance of an  
34 individual customary and traditional use determination  
35 for the applicant.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39

40 MS. CELLARIUS: So that completes my  
41 presentation of the analysis and I'd be happy to answer  
42 any questions.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair -- thank you,  
45 Madame Chair, and members of the Council.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
48 welcome Barbara. Any questions of Barbara.

49

50



0316

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
4 you. Any tribal or ANCSA consultations.

5

6 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, this is  
7 Orville, Native Liaison for OSM. Ma'am, there were no  
8 comments or questions on this proposal. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
11 agency comments, ADF&G.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear  
16 anyone from ADF&G.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tribal  
25 comments.

26

27 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
30 Karen.

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. The Ahtna  
33 InterTribal Resource Commission and all eight of its  
34 tribes, Ahtna Incorporated, Chitina Native Corporation,  
35 I believe are all in support of this proposal to grant  
36 individual C&T to Kathryn Martin. Not only is Kathryn  
37 Martin the granddaughter of Katie John, but she was in  
38 attendance at nearly every single court case pertaining  
39 to the Katie John that granted Federal fishing rights  
40 at Batzulnetas as we call it. And she continues to  
41 share and pass on her knowledge, to not only her  
42 children and grandchildren but -- and those of Katie  
43 John, but the children and grandchildren of Doris  
44 Charles and Gene Henry, who were also born -- and  
45 plaintiffs in the first case regarding the fishing at  
46 Batzulnetas. It's a long time in coming for her. And,  
47 you know, she's traveling today and she's unable to  
48 testify on her own behalf but she's saying she sorely  
49 misses being able to fish. She still goes back to

50

0317

1 Batzulnetas every summer when Mentasta has their  
2 culture camp. Her daughter lives in Mentasta and,  
3 therefore, her daughter has a permit and she's able to  
4 help her daughter process food from there but she's not  
5 able to gather herself. And as a former displaced  
6 tribal individual when I had lived further south on the  
7 Copper River near Kenny Lake and Chitina, I was able to  
8 fish at my in-laws place but it's not home and the fish  
9 are different and we need to go home to get that  
10 fulfillment, the cultural fulfillment, the spiritual  
11 fulfillment for our well-being. There's nobody more  
12 deserving than this right for this individual C&T than  
13 Kathryn Martin.

14  
15 I encourage you to support this  
16 proposal.

17  
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
21 Karen. Any other tribal.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, next is  
26 advisory committee groups, other Regional Advisory  
27 Councils. Pippa.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm  
34 sorry, it would be you, wouldn't it be, Barbara, go  
35 ahead.

36  
37 MS. CELLARIUS: So the Southcentral RAC  
38 supported this request and I am reminded that there is  
39 actually a form that is part of the standard operating  
40 procedure and this might actually help the Eastern  
41 Interior RAC as they make their recommendations. The  
42 form has sort of two boxes you can -- you have a choice  
43 of between two boxes. So it says: This RAC has  
44 determined that and you have a choice of there is  
45 sufficient evidence to support an individual customary  
46 and traditional use determination or there is not  
47 evidence to support an individual customary and  
48 traditional use determination, and then the name of the  
49 person, the species, and the location.

50

0318

1                   So that might be helpful when you get  
2 to the point of making a motion.

3

4                   I could give you the SRC comment as  
5 well. So that was the Southcentral RAC which  
6 supported.

7

8                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9

10                  MS. CELLARIUS: And then the SRC also  
11 found that there was sufficient evidence to support the  
12 individual customary and traditional use determination  
13 for Kathryn Martin for salmon at Batzulnetas. And  
14 Kathryn did call in to both the Southcentral RAC  
15 meeting and the SRC meeting and spoke on her own  
16 behalf. And I'll stop there.

17

18                  Thank you.

19

20                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

21

21 Any questions.

22

23                  (No comments)

24

25                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Summary of  
26 written public comments.

27

28                  (No comments)

29

30                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were there  
31 any?

32

33                  MS. CELLARIUS: I have seen no written  
34 public comments.

35

36                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
37 public testimony online.

38

39                  MS. WESSELS: We did not receive any  
40 written public comments on this proposal during your  
41 meeting. Thank you.

42

43                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or anyone who  
44 wishes to speak from the public online.

45

46                  (No comments)

47

48                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Our  
49 recommendation in a form of a motion, and we have two

50

0319

1 choices as Barbara stated, there is sufficient evidence  
2 or there is not. Do I hear a motion.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't make  
7 a motion.....

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I'll make  
10 the motion.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, go  
13 ahead.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don. I don't  
16 know if there was someone else in the background there.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There wasn't,  
19 go ahead.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay, thank you. I move  
22 that we adopt this proposal for C&T for ICTP21-02.  
23 There is sufficient evidence that this person Kathryn  
24 Martin has for, a lifetime, been consciously and very  
25 carefully using the resources.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a  
30 second.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: I'll second the motion,  
33 this is Bill Glanz.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright, I  
36 second that.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
39 been moved and seconded. Donald and Charlie Wright.  
40 Discussion. Further discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may,  
45 Council members, I would like to speak on Kathryn's  
46 behalf. I live 16 miles from the village and I've been  
47 here 44 years. She was 6 years old when I got here.  
48 And I remember her uncle bringing in a stationwagon a  
49 whole bunch of kids up here on her 13th birthday her

50

0320

1 wanting to come up to our house, I've spent a lot of  
2 time with Kathryn, I've spent a lot of time with a lot  
3 of her kids, they've spent the night here often and  
4 I've been to Batzulnetas multiple years, over the  
5 years, and Kathryn is, to me, the epitome of a  
6 subsistence user. She is awesome. She teaches the  
7 kids. She does all the old things that she learned  
8 from her grandma, Katie, she's amazing. She asks me,  
9 hey, Sue, how do I can these -- the strips and so I  
10 helped her, and, man, she cans, she boils out the  
11 stomach and she makes the stinkhead, which I have not  
12 tried yet. One day I will try it. I've tried most of  
13 their stuff but I never tried that. She just does all  
14 the old things and whenever the Covid started, last  
15 year, she was still down at the camp when they  
16 cancelled it and this year she was still down at the  
17 camp when they cancelled it. She's amazing. She  
18 hasn't stopped practicing her lifestyle of going down  
19 to Batzulnetas, she's there every year and she really  
20 supports and uses the resource.

21

22 So is there any other comments.

23

24 MR. IRVIN: Hello, Chair, this is  
25 Bruce.....

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
28 Charlie Wright, can I say something.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
31 Charlie.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Well, as you know there's  
34 been no fishing on the Yukon River and my mother, I  
35 help her, and stay with her right now in Rampart lately  
36 and watching her slip away and be so sad to not be able  
37 to fish and watching the river go by every summer for  
38 the last couple of summers is heartbreaking. It's part  
39 of our mental, physical and spiritual wellness to be  
40 able to fish and subsist in our homelands. So I stand  
41 by her and I vote yes for this. I commend her for  
42 keeping up the traditions and keeping that old stuff  
43 alive. So I'm on her side, thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
46 Charlie. Did I hear someone else want to speak.

47

48 MR. IRVIN: Hi, Chair Sue, sorry, I  
49 missed the public comment period, this is Bruce. Would

50

0321

1 it still be possible for me to say something really  
2 quick.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet,  
5 Bruce, go ahead.

6

7 MR. IRVIN: Thank you, Chair. I just  
8 want to support Kathryn as well. You know it's so  
9 important to have such a culture bearer in the  
10 community and to be able to go back and, you know,  
11 share with the next generation. You know it helps to  
12 be closer to their identity and practice their ways of  
13 life and so I think this is a really great opportunity  
14 and I urge all of you, Council members, and Chair to  
15 support her and, you know, pass this. You know I think  
16 it's really important and I'm really proud of her and  
17 all the amazing things that she's doing and we need  
18 more people like that and this is something that needs  
19 to go ahead. I just want to offer my support and say  
20 thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
23 Bruce. Really appreciate that and ditto. Anyone else,  
24 anything else, any discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,  
29 do I hear someone call for the question.

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I'll call  
32 the question.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
35 the question is called for and I'm going to ask for  
36 unanimous consent for the motion to say there is  
37 sufficient evidence to support Kathryn Martin for her  
38 C&T use on the Batzulnetas area for salmon. And if  
39 anyone opposes say so now.

40

41 (No objection)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It  
44 passes unanimously.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, this is  
47 Vince. With your authorization I can complete the form  
48 that's required for this action and sign as your  
49 designee or if it's up to you if you want to do it.

50

0322

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's  
2 sitting in front of me and I just signed it so if you  
3 do it for me, would you be able to just, with my okay,  
4 use my signature.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Yes, Ma'am.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's do  
9 that, thank you.

10  
11 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, if I might.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Make it short  
14 Karen, yeah.

15  
16 MS. LINNELL: I just want to say thank  
17 you. Hearing all the kind words and all the support  
18 behind this means a lot and I know that Kathryn's very  
19 appreciative of that and so I just want to say thanks.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet. And  
22 yeah she is certainly deserving of it. Okay, the next  
23 thing on the agenda is the review -- or I'm sorry  
24 Fortymile Caribou Herd update. And I did get a message  
25 from -- and BLM's delegation of authority, Jim Herriges  
26 told me that Jeff would be giving that. Jeff Gross in  
27 Tok. Jeff, are you on.

28  
29 MR. GROSS: Hi, Madame Chair, this is  
30 Jeff Gross in Tok. To clarify, I will just be giving  
31 the Fortymile Caribou Herd update, not the BLM  
32 delegation authority letter, just for information.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
35 just what's on the agenda, sorry, I read it out,  
36 so.....

37  
38 MS. JOCHUM: Madame Chair, this is Kim  
39 Jochum.....

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....you  
42 betcha.....

43  
44 MS. JOCHUM: .....this is -- Madame  
45 Chair, this is.....

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....you  
48 can.....

49  
50

0323

1 MS. JOCHUM: .....Kim Jochum with the  
2 National Park Service and I am prepared to just give  
3 the update for the delegation of authority letter  
4 whenever you're ready. Thank you.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
7 ahead, Jeff.

8  
9 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
10 I'll try to keep this fairly short and I'd be happy to  
11 take any questions at the end. I'll give you a little  
12 bit of an update here on the current status of the  
13 herd, nutritional status of the herd and our harvest  
14 management strategies for the herd. Can you hear me  
15 okay there, Sue.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I hear  
18 you fine, go ahead.

19  
20 MR. GROSS: Okay. As everybody knows  
21 the Fortymile Caribou Herd is one of the most  
22 accessible and highly sought after caribou herds in  
23 Alaska. The herd currently ranges from the Elliott  
24 Highway north of Fairbanks east well into the Yukon.

25  
26 The herd reached a low of an estimated  
27 five to 7,000 in the mid-1970s and numerous efforts to  
28 grow the herd has been developed and implemented since  
29 then, including several predator control programs, a  
30 private wolf trapping program and five harvest  
31 management plans that were developed by the Fortymile  
32 Harvest Management Coalition which is a public advisory  
33 group made up of stakeholders of both Alaska and Yukon  
34 and includes representatives from six Fish and Game  
35 Advisory Committees and one member from the Eastern  
36 Interior RAC as well.

37  
38 The herd likely peaked in 2017 with a  
39 model population estimate of over 80,000. " Herd  
40 nutrition has been monitored by collecting vital data  
41 on the herd for the past 30 years. The herd started to  
42 show signs of declining nutrition as it approached and  
43 exceeded 50,000 caribou in the mid-2000s. Assessing  
44 the nutritional status of the increasing Fortymile Herd  
45 was discussed in-depth in a 2012 Department technical  
46 bulletin that was authored by Borch, et al.  
47 Parturition rates, which are also referred to as birth  
48 rates and fall calf weights were identified as two key  
49 indices that should be monitored to address nutritional  
50



1 status of the herd. Other than data collected to  
2 assess herd status has included seasonal herd  
3 movements, newborn calf weights and survival rates.  
4 Age at birth reproduction in the Fortymile herd is  
5 considered to be 36 months, parturition rates among, or  
6 birth rates among 36 month old cows has been identified  
7 in the literature as a more sensitive indicator of the  
8 herd nutrition than parturition rates of older age  
9 classes. Parturition rates of 36 month old cows in the  
10 herd have declined significantly since 1993 and most  
11 notably since the herd exceeded 50,000 caribou in the  
12 late 2000s. Declining calf weights have been  
13 documented in other herds in a reduced nutritional  
14 state as well. Newborn calf rates in the 1990s and  
15 early 2000s were higher than weights observed during  
16 our ongoing calf mortality study in recent years. In  
17 2020 and 2021 we observed the lowest newborn calf  
18 weights ever documented in the Fortymile herd. Fall  
19 weights of four month old female calves in the  
20 Fortymile herd have also declined as the herd has  
21 grown. During 2018 and 2020 we documented near record  
22 low calf weights and just a week ago in 2021, we  
23 documented record low calf weights. In addition,  
24 during recent years survival rates of all age and sex  
25 classes have been the lowest documented in the herd  
26 over the past 30 years. Survival rates of calves born  
27 in 2019 were the lowest ever recorded in the Fortymile  
28 herd, survival rate for calves born in 2020 were the  
29 second lowest on record, and 2021 calf survival so far  
30 has -- is currently similar to the last two years  
31 through October. Of course we won't have final numbers  
32 there until next spring. But it appears to be on track  
33 to the last couple years.

34  
35 Even more important than calf survival  
36 when evaluating herd performance is monitoring adult  
37 survival, especially adult female survival. However,  
38 in our annual variations and a relative robustness of  
39 the adult female segment of the population makes them  
40 unlikely to be a strong predictor of changing herd  
41 performance, rather increasing adult female survival is  
42 more an indicator of a population that is already in  
43 decline. Annual adult female survival in the Fortymile  
44 herd has been relatively low in six of the past seven  
45 years but most notably was significantly below the  
46 long-term average during the last two years between  
47 mid-May 2019 through mid-May of 2021. This low  
48 survival of adult cows was a significant driver of our  
49 July 2020 and July 2021 population models indicating  
50

0325

1 the herd was in decline.

2

3

4                   Although an attempt was made by  
5 Department Staff -- although an attempt was made,  
6 Department Staff was unable to complete a successful  
7 photo census of the Fortymile herd in summer of 2021.  
8 In July of 2021 Department management and research  
9 Staff worked with Yukon biologists to revise a  
10 population model for the herd using current demographic  
11 data collected through mid-summer. Upon completion of  
12 this modeling effort Alaska and Yukon biologists  
13 concluded the Fortymile Caribou Herd is likely  
14 continuing a precipitous decline as a result of its  
15 reduced nutritional condition caused by over grazing of  
16 its range. Based on this new information the  
17 Department's current and retired caribou biologist  
18 concluded the best management strategy to mitigate the  
19 potential for additional impacts to the herds range  
20 from continued over grazing by large numbers of caribou  
21 was to continue to utilize harvest to reduce the herd  
22 to a low enough density to allow for nutritional  
23 condition of the herd to improve enough to help slow or  
24 arrest the decline.

24

25                   The 2019 to 2023 Fortymile herd harvest  
26 plan written by the Harvest Management Coalition  
27 include the deliberate population reduction alternative  
28 calls for setting harvest and implementing tools to  
29 stop or slow herd decline caused by poor, health and  
30 nutritional stress. Because the herd started to show  
31 signs of declining nutrition as it approached and  
32 exceeded 50,000 caribou, the Department's goal will be  
33 to reduce the herd below 50,000 caribou, continue to  
34 monitor key nutritional indices and slow harvest once  
35 these indices begin to rebound to levels that indicate  
36 the herd has been reduced enough for its range to  
37 support it. At that point an interim population  
38 objective could be set to help guide harvest management  
39 of the herd in the short-term until longer term goals  
40 and objectives can be developed.

41

42                   To make progress towards this goal the  
43 Department set the 2021 to 2022 herd harvest quota at  
44 5,000 and increased the bag limit from one to two  
45 caribou for the upcoming winter season in an effort to  
46 quickly reduce the herd below 50,000 caribou.

47

48                   During the 2020 fall Fortymile  
49 registration hunt a total of 17,847 permits were issued

50

0326

1 with 8,075 resident hunters and 651 non-resident  
2 hunters harvesting 5,480 caribou with 39 percent of  
3 these being cows. Although the fall harvest objective  
4 was met in 2020 the large numbers of hunters responding  
5 resulted in hunter crowding along road and trail  
6 systems, heavy roadside harvest and complaints about  
7 hunt quality, trail damage and safety concerns.  
8 However, with the one caribou bag limit, for the recent  
9 fall 2021 season and the presence of additional Alaska  
10 Wildlife Troopers, BLM, Alaska DNR, and Alaska  
11 Department of Fish and Game Staff in the field over the  
12 opening few days of the hunt, far fewer complaints were  
13 received. In addition, less trail damage was observed,  
14 less wounding loss was reported and fewer safety  
15 concerns were observed and reported. The Department is  
16 continuing to work with land management agencies and  
17 Alaska Wildlife Troopers to explore options to mitigate  
18 future concerns.

19

20 During the 2020 to 2021 winter RC867  
21 Fortymile registration hunt, a total of 7,751 permits  
22 were issued with 2,977 resident hunters harvesting  
23 1,793 caribou with 57 percent of these being cows.

24

25 In early October between the fall and  
26 winter hunts we conducted, and this was just about a  
27 week ago, we conducted our annual fall composition  
28 survey and captured and weighed 25 female calves to  
29 further inform us on the current status of the herd. A  
30 result of these efforts indicate the herd remains in  
31 poor condition and further reduction of the herd is  
32 advised.

33

34 2021 fall Fortymile registration hunt a  
35 total of 10,450 permits were issued with 5,167  
36 residents and 609 non-resident hunters harvesting 2,547  
37 caribou with 39 percent of these being cows.

38

39 And I'll just go ahead and conclude  
40 there, Madame Chair, and I'm happy to answer any  
41 questions.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
44 you, Jeff. Are there any questions.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Andy, Madame Chair.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright, I  
49 have a question.

50

0327

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy  
2 first and then Charlie Wright.

3  
4 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

5  
6 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you, Madame  
7 Chair. Thank you very much, Jeff, for that report. I  
8 just had a few things I wanted to ask you. When you  
9 mention that you -- in some of your analysis that the  
10 survival rates of females are way down but yet we have  
11 a program, a harvest program set up to kind of target  
12 more cows, how is that weighted when you start  
13 analyzing that data. If you're using cow survival but  
14 yet you're killing a lot more cows. If you can quickly  
15 explain how that is factored in because you're  
16 artificially taking a lot of cows, it's not natural  
17 mortality. And then if I may a follow-up question --  
18 if I may, Jeff, just to give you a head's up, the next  
19 question I have is do you also do those surveys in the  
20 spring after the caribou have dispersed more. And what  
21 I'm referring to is the last couple years we've been  
22 seeing a lot of caribou going over into the Ogilvie  
23 Range around Eagle and I'm wondering if they're  
24 healthier in the springtime after being over in those  
25 ranges as opposed to their home ranges where they calve  
26 in.

27  
28 Thank you, appreciate your work.

29  
30 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
31 Bassich. The models we utilize do account for, or do  
32 include -- or take into account the harvest of cows as  
33 well as natural mortality of cows to track the  
34 population. And last year, again, the strategy that  
35 was identified and this is -- is pretty -- it was  
36 heavily scrutinized by all the -- both current and past  
37 caribou biologists and international caribou biologists  
38 and was drawing on experience over the past 40 years of  
39 managing caribou in both Alaska and parts of Canada and  
40 the determination made was the quicker we could remove  
41 a certain portion of the herd from the range, the  
42 better in relation to additional impacts to the range  
43 from, you know, extremely large -- or a large number of  
44 caribou. So the strategy has been to utilize heavy  
45 harvest, including fairly heavy female harvest to  
46 reduce the herd below 50,000 as quickly as we can. And  
47 one thing you might have noticed, I didn't give you an  
48 exact population estimate right now because the further  
49 away we get away from our population estimate the more  
50

0328

1 uncertainty there is but we're hoping that we'll get a  
2 photo census next summer as we always hope for and we  
3 are expecting to see under 50,000 caribou this coming  
4 summer based on models and the level of harvest.

5

6 Now last year we had a quota of 10,000,  
7 this year we -- maybe it doesn't seem like it, but we  
8 reduced the -- or considerably with a quota of 5,000,  
9 half as many caribou in the quota.

10

11 As time goes on here I anticipate  
12 eventually we will cease to harvest cows for awhile.  
13 As of right now, though, as long as the models indicate  
14 that we're still at or above 50,000 or close to 50,000  
15 I anticipate we'll continue to take cows for awhile.  
16 It's a step-wise thing, though, we'll keep trying to  
17 back off each year a little bit more especially if we  
18 start seeing improvement in nutritional condition. So  
19 that's kind of the strategy we're looking at right now.

20

21 And as far as the surveys in the  
22 spring, we really don't look at, you know, specific  
23 animals or individual animals that utilize a portion of  
24 the range. There certainly have been caribou utilizing  
25 the Ogilvies however, but really continue to look at  
26 things on a population basis because even if some of  
27 the caribou are finding a little better nutrition in  
28 the winter than others, it's more the overall  
29 demographics of the herd that we're depending on to  
30 guide our management strategy.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy,  
33 anything else.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Well, yeah, I guess maybe  
36 -- I'll get with Jeff and talk to him in private. I  
37 don't want to take up the Council's time. I understand  
38 their strategies and I just have some concerns because  
39 I am seeing personally a lot of caribou go over into  
40 Canada. I don't know what proportion of the herd that  
41 is but I know it's pretty much virgin territory so it's  
42 good habitat for them and in our local area it's good  
43 habitat for them as well. So if everything is being  
44 based just on the area where they're calving or doing  
45 their rearing that's only for a part of the year. So I  
46 just wanted to bring that up and get an answer but if I  
47 have more questions I'll talk with him.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you,

50

0329

1 Jeff.

2

3

MR. GROSS: You bet Andy. And.....

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
you, Andy. Then Charlie.....

7

8

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10

11

12

MR. GROSS: .....yeah, look forward to  
setting up a meeting up there in Eagle. I know we've  
been struggling to hook up so hopefully this winter we  
can do that and I'll be happy to give a presentation  
and we can spend all night chatting.

13

14

15

(Laughter)

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, I  
would like to call on Charlie Wright, he had a  
question.

19

20

21

22

MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, my question  
has been answered. I thank Jeff for his time, I don't  
want to take no more time. Appreciate it, thank you.

23

24

25

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.  
All right. Any other questions of Jeff.

26

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

31

32

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I got a  
question.

33

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
Donald.

36

37

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39

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Jeff, what  
do you perceive as the start date for the winter  
season.

40

41

42

MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. The  
opening date for the winter season is October 27th.

43

44

45

46

47

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Some people  
around Eagle were asking questions about that and I  
told them that for the most part we don't mess with the  
caribou in early October because they're breeding.

48

49

50

MR. GROSS: Correct.

0330

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 questions.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
7 Jeff.

8  
9 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair  
10 and.....

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the  
13 BLM.....

14  
15 MR. GROSS: .....Council members.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
18 right, next is the BLM delegation of authority.

19  
20 MS. JOCHUM: Yeah, this is Kim Jochum,  
21 National Park Service Regional Subsistence Program.  
22 Thank you, Madame Chair. So I just wanted to shortly  
23 present the change request that was adopted by the  
24 Board in the Federal work session.

25  
26 So during the Federal Subsistence Board  
27 work session August 4th through 5th, 2021, the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board voted to support the change request  
29 to the Fortymile caribou delegation of authority letter  
30 by the National Park Service. You can find this letter  
31 on Page 200 of your Board book.

32  
33 The Fortymile caribou delegation of  
34 authority letter delegates specific regulatory  
35 authority to the manager of the Bureau of Land  
36 Management Eastern Interior Field Office in Unit 20E,  
37 20F and 25C. The change added one sentence to the  
38 delegation section. The additional sentence reads as  
39 follows: In preparing special actions the Bureau of  
40 Land Management will consult with the National Park  
41 Service Yukon-Charley Rivers Preserve Superintendent in  
42 attempt to achieve concurrence. We believe this change  
43 better reflects how the BLM, the National -- NPS  
44 collaborate on management decisions regarding Federal  
45 hunting regulations dealing with the Fortymile Caribou  
46 Herd. Further making the language more explicit will  
47 strengthen the collaboration over time as current  
48 personnel changes.

49  
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0331

1                   Thank you, Madame Chair and members of  
2 the Council. I just wanted to provide that update what  
3 the Board voted on and if you have any questions I'm  
4 happy to answer those.

5

6                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
7 questions.

8

9                   (No comments)

10

11                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
12 you, for the report, Kim and Jeff. All right, the next  
13 thing on the agenda is the review of Alaska Board of  
14 Game statewide proposals. And this is going to be hard  
15 because I intended to make some motions here because  
16 thee are the ones I wanted to bring up. And I wanted  
17 to find out from the Council members -- I know that all  
18 of these proposals will go before the ACs and a lot of  
19 you are on the ACs and I know this is crossover  
20 proposals, but there was one that was a joint proposal  
21 on that meat on bone to the State Board of Game. And  
22 I'm just going to say for the effort of just being  
23 efficient with our time I'm not going to hold our feet  
24 to the fire that we take up the Board of Game  
25 proposals. I'm going to leave it up to you guys on how  
26 you feel about it.

27

28                   MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

29

30                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
31 Andy.

32

33                   MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess given some  
34 of our time constraints I think maybe at this point in  
35 time maybe it might be good for just Council members to  
36 work through their local ACs. Most of us are on the  
37 ACs. And since these are State proposals that might be  
38 the appropriate thing. I feel that, you know, the  
39 really important ones we've addressed -- or we can  
40 address if it's really important to someone but I think  
41 the majority of them could be addressed adequately  
42 through the AC process.

43

44                   Thank you.

45

46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I would  
47 love to have taken some up but I think you're right.  
48 We'll do it that way. So -- and, you know, it's  
49 Southcentral and it doesn't affect anyone as much it

50



0332

1 would be somebody like myself in southern Unit 12 so  
2 we're all good with that. So the next with that would  
3 be the Board of Fish too that.....

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, I  
6 think you may want.....

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: .....to thank -- you may  
11 want to thank the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
12 they did arrange for Staff to cover those Board of Game  
13 proposals, so just to note that and they understand  
14 time and all that, but they did make an extra effort to  
15 line up Staff. I just wanted to get that on the  
16 record.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
21 Vince. And, yeah, I am so sorry with the Department  
22 that had to stay online through all this and then find  
23 out we don't have time to do it but appreciate all that  
24 you do for us there. And thank you for -- and sorry  
25 that you had to hold online.

26

27 Okay.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

30

31 MR. BRUNING: This is Darren Bruning  
32 from the Department of Fish and Game. And, Madame  
33 Chair, I just wanted to say thank you for that  
34 acknowledgement and we're glad to be part of the effort  
35 here and we appreciate your recognition.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
40 Yeah, it's hard sometimes to think of everything there  
41 and I'm really sorry, yeah, but appreciate all that you  
42 contribute to our Council.

43

44 Yeah, did someone want to say  
45 something.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Andy, please.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go

50

0333

1 ahead.

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10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. If

11 there's no objection I would entertain the motion.

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MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just moving forward, is it your intention for us to address the proposals that Virgil brought to our attention earlier in the day at this point in time, if so I'm ready to make a motion and bring those to the table.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. If there's no objection I would entertain the motion.

(No objections)

MR. BASSICH: Okay. And just as a point of clarification for procedure, two of these proposals are very similar in dealing with hatchery production so if it works well for you I'm happy to make a motion that would address both of those because they're very similar, just different species and different hatcheries.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, that's fine.

MR. BASSICH: Okay. My motion would be that the Eastern Interior RAC would like to support Proposal 54 and Proposal 55 submitted by Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fish. That's the motion.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I hear a second.

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

MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright, I second that.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Got two seconds again.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair, speaking to the.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

MR. BASSICH: Does that make four seconds.

0334

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds  
2 like it.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Speaking to the  
7 motions. I'll address each one of these individually,  
8 they are slightly different. And I'm just going to  
9 very briefly read this into the record.

10  
11 So on Proposal 54, Prince William Sound  
12 management and salmon enhancement allocation plan.  
13 Amend the Prince William Sound management and salmon  
14 enhancement allocation plan to specify hatchery chum  
15 salmon production as follows: reduce hatchery  
16 production to 25 -- I'm sorry, 24 percent of the year  
17 2000 production as promised in 2000 -- the year 2000.  
18 So that's Proposal 54. In essence, Virgil has spoken  
19 to this Council many, many times over the last 10 or 15  
20 years that he had been on the Board of Fish at the time  
21 and that the hatcheries had promised to reduce and then  
22 as explained to us earlier today as soon as a certain  
23 percentage of the Board members left the hatcheries  
24 actually started producing a tremendous amount, five or  
25 -- 10 or 15-fold what they were producing. So the  
26 concern is that this high production of chum salmon is  
27 impacting the marine environment which is impacting  
28 wild fish. There are many studies that show that wild  
29 fish have a less competitive advantage to food sources  
30 in the marine environment than hatchery fish.

31  
32 The second proposal is Proposal 55, and  
33 this is to amend the private non-profit hatchery  
34 permits, to decrease allowable hatchery production as  
35 follows: The Board of Fish would hold the private non-  
36 profit hatchery production to the 2000 level and  
37 decrease it by 25 percent of what was the level in  
38 2000. So basically what this is saying is that the  
39 non-profit hatcheries are dumping a tremendous amount  
40 of pink salmon into the marine environment which is  
41 also impacting wild stocks that affect Western Alaska  
42 -- well, basically the entire state because they're  
43 also affecting the Gulf regions of Alaska.

44  
45 So these two production -- high  
46 production entities could very potentially be affecting  
47 what is happening to our wild stocks, which is  
48 incredibly important to Federally-qualified users on  
49 the Yukon River, and that's why we're here talking  
50

0335

1 about it. So that's basically a very brief overview,  
2 and if there aren't any questions then I'm willing to  
3 call the question on this.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
6 motion was made to support 54 and 55 and seconded. Is  
7 there any other discussion, Council members.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: I'm good to go on it just  
10 like we got it going here, and move it along.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That  
13 sounds like the question has been called for. And I'm  
14 going to ask for unanimous consent and if there's any  
15 opposition say so now.

16

17 (No opposition)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing  
20 no opposition so the motion passes unanimously.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy go  
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd also like  
28 to add one other thing here, a second point of action  
29 for the Council. I'd like to make a motion to write a  
30 letter to the Board of Game [sic] and the Alaska  
31 Department of Fish and Game requesting that Area M chum  
32 salmon June fisheries genetic sampling be  
33 reinstated.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you  
36 mean.....

37

38 MR. BASSICH: .....and I'll speak to  
39 the motion if there's a second.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you  
42 said Board of Game but you must have meant Board of  
43 Fish.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: I'm sorry, correction,  
46 yeah, Board of Fish. Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49

50

0336

1 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that for Andy.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright, I  
4 second that.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Got a  
7 couple of them.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 In speaking to the motion I just want to reference the  
11 comments made by Virgil Umphenour regarding Area M  
12 earlier in the meeting and the potential high, very  
13 high impact probability for Western Alaska and, in  
14 particular, Yukon River stocks, and I wanted to add  
15 that Canadian stocks, fall chum, are discernible in  
16 genetic sampling of both king salmon and fall chum. So  
17 these fall chum and king salmon that are not showing up  
18 in the upper reaches of the Yukon River, which is the  
19 area that we're representing here and depend on, can be  
20 teased out or seen in genetic studies in the Area M  
21 fisheries and that makes it a very, very important  
22 piece of data for managers and people on the Yukon  
23 River to understand about some of the declining  
24 fisheries on the Yukon River.

25

26 That's all I have to say to support  
27 that and I'd be happy to work with either the Chair or  
28 whomever to help draft a letter to both the Board of  
29 Fish and the Department of Fish and Game. Thank you,  
30 Madame Chair, that's all I have.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: I have a question, Andy,  
33 this is Charlie.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: If I may. Did you want to  
38 add coho to that list also?

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I'm not certain if  
41 coho can be teased out genetically, I know it can for  
42 Western Alaska, I don't know if it can be for the Yukon  
43 River. That's why I left it out. But I'm happy.....

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: .....to add that.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you, Andy.

50

0337

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you guys  
2 talked over each other but I understand that Charlie  
3 wants it added and you'd be happy to do that.

4  
5 MR. BASSICH: Roger. Roger.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does  
8 everybody understand the motion, if not say so.

9  
10 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don.....

11  
12 MS. WESSELS: Yes, can.....

13  
14 MR. WOODRUFF: .....I'd like to.....

15  
16 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, if you.....

17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: .....make a comment.

19  
20 MS. WESSELS: Can -- yeah, if you can  
21 repeat the motion, too, that would be great.

22  
23 MR. BASSICH: Okay, Madame Chair, may I  
24 repeat the motion?

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely.

27  
28 MR. BASSICH: Okay. The motion is to  
29 write a letter to the Board of Fish and the Alaska  
30 Department of Fish and Game requesting that Area M chum  
31 salmon, bycatch or June fisheries genetic sampling be  
32 reinstated for fall chum, chinook and coho.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I heard  
35 another voice, was that you Linda.

36  
37 MS. EVANS: No.

38  
39 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I'd like to  
40 make a comment about the letter.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

43  
44 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, Andy, I think it's  
45 really important that we emphasize that this fishery is  
46 in a disaster state in the letter and not just a  
47 problem for us, you know.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well noted.

50

0338

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I heard  
4 someone else.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If no one  
9 else has -- who was that?

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Andy.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead,  
14 Andy.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess the other  
17 thing I'd like to ask, and I'm not sure about the  
18 procedure, but if we write this letter is it possible  
19 for OSM to bring that letter also for signing by the  
20 other two RACs on the Yukon River, the lower river RAC  
21 and also Western RAC. I know their meetings have  
22 already taken place, I believe, but I'm not sure what  
23 the -- if that can be reviewed or whatever, I just want  
24 to bring that up to give it a little bit more clout  
25 that it's coming from all RACs on the Yukon River, if  
26 possible. It's not a show-stopper for me, I'm happy to  
27 move forward through this RAC only but I think it would  
28 be prudent for us to seek their support as well.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, thank you Andy.  
33 Madame Chair, this is Katya. Unfortunately, because  
34 those RACs already met and they did not discuss this on  
35 record we would not be able to ask them to sign on to  
36 that letter.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And would --  
41 could it be done at their next meeting or is it too  
42 late about the timing?

43

44 MS. WESSELS: I don't know if somebody  
45 could speak on the timing.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: I believe it's.....

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.

50

0339

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let Andy  
2 speak.

3  
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I believe it's  
5 fairly short timing. If I'm not mistaken, I think the  
6 Board of Fish is going to be meeting in late December  
7 -- or I'm sorry, late November or December if I recall  
8 from earlier discussion this morning. So it might be  
9 too late for that, but, yeah, that's fine. I just  
10 wanted to pursue that option if it was there.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
13 other discussion.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 MR. BASSICH: Call for question.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
20 question's been called for. I'm going to, again, ask  
21 for unanimous consent and if there's any opposition,  
22 this is the time to speak against.

23  
24 (No opposition)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
27 none the motion passes to send the letter unanimously.  
28 All right.

29  
30 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair, for the good  
31 of the order.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

34  
35 MR. SIMON: Thank you, this is Jim. I  
36 just -- on the topic you were just having, I do have an  
37 email from a member of the Western Interior RAC that's  
38 discussing the joint letter between the Yukon Kuskokwim  
39 Delta RAC and the WIRAC involving Bering Sea and Area M  
40 bycatch and interception and I believe that that may be  
41 the letter that Andy is referencing is also. And it  
42 then says, I don't know -- this is from Kevin Whitworth  
43 -- I don't know when these letters will be worked on  
44 them but once I get them it's going to be developed by  
45 a number of organizations to help write that letter.  
46 So I don't know -- I just wanted to offer that for the  
47 good of the order in your discussions on the timing.

48  
49 Thank you.

50



0340

1 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
2 Katya.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

5  
6 MS. WESSELS: I think the letter that  
7 was just spoken of, that's the letter that YK Delta  
8 wants to write to the North Pacific Fisheries  
9 Management Council and was asking other RACs to sign on  
10 it. It's regarding the bycatch but it's not  
11 specifically what the motion was that Andy brought up.

12  
13 MR. SIMON: I apologize, sorry.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and  
16 that's on our agenda and I don't know which piece of  
17 paper I got in front of me, now I'm not seeing it,  
18 where it's on our agenda to bring that up.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, it's  
21 towards the -- you took it up earlier and then we were  
22 waiting to get information from the YK -- Yukon  
23 Kuskokwim RAC and I do have that but I don't know if  
24 this is the appropriate time to bring up what that RAC  
25 was requesting in specifics.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I know  
28 we spoke about that request.....

29  
30 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I.....

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....was to  
33 be -- that was to be added to our agenda and right now  
34 as the Chair I can't find it on there. And who was  
35 that, Charlie Wright.

36  
37 MR. BASSICH: Andy.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Andy, go  
40 ahead.

41  
42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just a procedural  
43 thing to ask if we wanted to just show intent of a RAC  
44 in support of anything that YK or Western RAC is doing  
45 in the area of Area M fisheries or bycatch, would a  
46 motion basically stating our general approval in  
47 support of reducing bycatch and any studies done on  
48 Area M or any requests for reduction in Area M bycatch,  
49 would that satisfy OSM that we could then be a part and  
50

0341

1 pull together as one voice to try and address some of  
2 those issues. So I guess in short what I'm trying to  
3 say is if we were to have a motion that basically  
4 stated our intent on those marine fisheries, would that  
5 be sufficient for OSM to then tie us to be a part of  
6 some of these proactive letters regarding bycatch in  
7 both the -- in all the marine environment, whether it's  
8 Area M, or the Bering Sea.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Well, it would probably  
13 be sufficient enough, Member Bassich. I was going to  
14 share with you, or maybe Vince can share the  
15 information that he received from the Coordinator for  
16 YK Delta, so it's on the record, that, you know, what  
17 the gist of the letter that they're proposing is.  
18 Vince, would you be able to very briefly provide the  
19 gist of the letter.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's kind of a  
22 moving target, but basically the paragraph that I got  
23 from the Coordinator for YK, Eva Patton is, and I'm  
24 quoting it: The YK RAC plans to submit their letter to  
25 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and to the  
26 Federal Board asking to elevate to the Secretary of  
27 Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. As noted last  
28 week's -- invites the Western Interior RAC and the  
29 Eastern Interior RAC to join in this effort, and this  
30 is the key point, by submitting their own letters to  
31 the Board to elevate as well.

32

33 That's the latest from it. And  
34 basically the parameters of the letter, again, this is  
35 a moving target, it looks like it'll be based on a  
36 letter that they submitted on May 27th, 2020 to the  
37 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

38

39 So that's the latest I've got.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, and the early  
42 letter, the YK Delta Council, they were saying that in  
43 the new letter, in addition of requesting of chinook  
44 bycatch to be reduced to 16,000 or less, the Council  
45 expressed support for public and tribal comments asking  
46 for less, stated as 16,000, in their motion. They also  
47 want chum salmon bycatch to be reduced by at least  
48 half. They discussed goal for even less due to  
49 emergency situation. Even zero bycatch if subsistence

50

0342

1 is completely closed. Then commercial fisheries that  
2 harvest Western bound salmon stocks should also bear  
3 conservation burden. And drastic reduction in chum  
4 bycatch, at least by half of current levels due to  
5 catastrophically low chum returns. That's kind of  
6 their justification for the letter.

7

8 MS. ROGERS: Madame Chair, Alissa  
9 Rogers.

10

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

MS. WESSELS: Alissa, this is Katya  
Wessels. Maybe Sue dropped off, let's wait a second.

16

17

(Pause)

18

19

20

21

22

MR. MATHEWS: I think she may have  
dropped off, I've gotten a text message from her that  
is related to an earlier topic but hopefully she will  
be back online in a millisecond.

23

24

(Pause)

25

26

27

MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, do you  
happen to be online.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

32

MR. MATHEWS: I'll see who else is  
online. Andy, are you still online.

33

34

MR. BASSICH: Yes, I am.

35

36

MR. MATHEWS: Charlie Wright.

37

38

MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I'm still online.

39

40

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

41

42

(No comments)

43

44

MR. MATHEWS: Linda.

45

46

MS. EVANS: Yes, I'm online.

47

48

49

MR. MATHEWS: Great. That's great to  
here. Mr. Woodruff of Eagle.

50

0343

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: This doesn't look very  
4 positive.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Vince, I'm online.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, that's good. Oh,  
9 let's see, who else am I missing here.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, I'm online.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, I'm  
14 back.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I heard Bill and,  
17 Sue, is that you back on.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, my third  
20 phone went dead.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Sue we have --  
23 Sue, this is Katya.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I'm  
26 back.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: We have Alissa Rogers  
29 online, she's asking for permission to talk.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
32 ahead.

33

34 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 I'll introduce myself. My name is Alissa Nadine  
36 Rogers. I am a seated member on the YK Delta RAC. And  
37 I also have been the previous Chair for the YK Delta  
38 RAC for the past couple seasons. This year I asked to  
39 step down from any official as I'm in recovery.

40

41 I did want to let you guys know I am  
42 online and I was the one who proposed creating this  
43 letter to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council so  
44 if you have any detailed questions you want I'm here at  
45 your disposal.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you

50

0344

1 very much. Any questions.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I guess, Sue, Andy.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: If we were -- I guess I'm  
8 not fully -- nobody really answered my question as to  
9 if we were to just take a broad swipe at this topic, if  
10 we could then be included or at least offer our support  
11 to other RACs letters. So if we could do that, I think  
12 we could do it fairly timely, it would just take a  
13 quick motion and then OSM would have the ability to  
14 include us on some of these other actions that the YK  
15 Delta or Western might take in regards to marine  
16 environment.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Andy, the Council  
19 can do it.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, may I make  
22 a motion.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. The motion  
28 would be that the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
29 Council is in full support of reduction of bycatch of  
30 both chinook and chum salmon in all marine environments  
31 and supports other RACs and other agencies that also  
32 have concern for this.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion on the  
35 floor.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I second.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, and a  
40 second.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And just speaking  
43 to the motion, I think it's already on the record why  
44 we're making this motion so I don't need to speak to it  
45 anymore, I'll just reference our earlier discussions on  
46 marine environment and conservation in both Area M and  
47 in the bycatch.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0345

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 discussion.

3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, one  
5 statement.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

8  
9 MR. WOODRUFF: This is an example of  
10 how the stakeholders are going to solve this issue of  
11 this disaster on the Yukon and I applaud everybody's  
12 participation.

13  
14 MR. REAKOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
15 Jack Reakoff.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead  
18 Jack.

19  
20 MR. REAKOFF: The Western Interior met  
21 on this issue, we adjoined to the Kuskokwim River Yukon  
22 Delta Regional Advisory Council on that letter  
23 regarding bycatch in the Bering Sea. We didn't have a  
24 document before us but we're adjoined to that idea as  
25 you're doing.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.  
30 Thanks, Jack. Is there any other discussion.

31  
32 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, call the  
33 question.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question's  
36 been called for. I'm going to ask again for unanimous  
37 consent, and is there any opposition.

38  
39 (No opposition)

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There  
42 couldn't be, I don't think, but thank you for bringing  
43 that to light for us there, Andy. I probably missed  
44 some of it because I was off but good job everyone.

45  
46 Okay. Next thing on the agenda is the  
47 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

48  
49 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair.

50

0346

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: For the record my name is  
4 Cory Graham. I'm a Fisheries Biologist for the Office  
5 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage and I'm  
6 accompanied today by Pippa Kenner, who is an  
7 Anthropologist for OSM.

8

9 I'm here today to present you with a  
10 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
11 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll give a  
12 short overview of the Monitoring Program, briefly  
13 describe the funding process, give an overview of your  
14 region and finish by requesting Council comments on any  
15 of the projects submitted for the Yukon region. This  
16 is not an action item and there is no motion necessary  
17 for this process. These materials start on Page 229 of  
18 your Council book.

19

20 The mission of the Monitoring Program  
21 is to identify and provide information needed to  
22 sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands  
23 for rural Alaskans through a Multi-Disciplinary  
24 collaborative program.

25

26 The Office of Subsistence Management  
27 administers the Monitoring Program and funds research  
28 and monitoring projects that are strategically  
29 important to the Federal Subsistence Management  
30 Program. The Monitoring Program also supports  
31 collaboration and cooperation among Federal agencies,  
32 the State of Alaska, and Alaska Native and rural  
33 organizations.

34

35 I'll now describe how the Monitoring  
36 Program funding process works.

37

38 The program is divided into six  
39 regions, which are listed on Page 232 of your Council  
40 books. These regions correspond with Federal  
41 subsistence fisheries areas and generally hold stock,  
42 harvest and community issues in common. Some regions  
43 have multiple Councils, such as the Yukon region which  
44 has the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior and  
45 Eastern Interior Councils. During the first step of  
46 the funding process the Regional Advisory Councils with  
47 support from OSM Staff and Federal and State fisheries  
48 and land managers ensure the Monitoring Program focuses  
49 on the highest priority subsistence fisheries  
50

0347

1 information needs for each region. Councils ensure  
2 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to  
3 subsistence fisheries are identified for priority  
4 information need development. And these information  
5 needs influence and guide the rest of the funding  
6 process. Ideally, principal investigators will work  
7 closely with the Councils in order to develop strong  
8 proposals that are responsive to those needs. The  
9 Office of Subsistence Management provides technical  
10 assistance as needed.

11  
12 The second step in the funding process  
13 is requesting new project proposals, which the program  
14 does every two years. Submissions must be complete, on  
15 time, and address the five criteria outlined in the  
16 notice of funding opportunity in order to be  
17 competitive. The five criteria are: strategic  
18 priority, technical and scientific merit, investigator  
19 ability and resources, partnership and capacity  
20 building and cost benefit of the project. A more  
21 detailed description of the criteria can be found on  
22 Page 234 of your books. Once submitted, the Technical  
23 Review Committee evaluates and scores each project  
24 proposal package. The Technical Review Committee is a  
25 standing InterAgency committee of senior technical  
26 experts brought together to evaluate project proposals  
27 and ensure the Monitoring Program is maintaining  
28 consistency with its mission. It is the responsibility  
29 of the Technical Review Committee to develop the  
30 strongest possible draft Monitoring Plan for all  
31 regions across the state.

32  
33 Once a Draft Monitoring Plan is  
34 developed it is brought before the Regional Advisory  
35 Councils for their input and comments. This is where  
36 we are in the current cycle and we'll come back to this  
37 in a moment.

38  
39 Additional comments on the Draft  
40 Monitoring Plan will be provided by the InterAgency  
41 Staff Committee. These, along with comments developed  
42 by the Councils are provided to the Federal Subsistence  
43 Board. The Board takes into consideration comments and  
44 concerns generated by the process and endorses the  
45 Monitoring Plan. Final approval of the Monitoring Plan  
46 is made by the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

47  
48 Now that I've discussed how the  
49 Monitoring Program works, I'll provide an overview of  
50



0348

1 the Yukon region. And you can find the figures I'm  
2 about to reference on Page 238 of your Council books.

3

4 Since 2000 the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management has funded 126 projects costing  
6 approximately \$25 million in the Yukon region. As you  
7 can see from Figure 2 on Page 238 the project leads  
8 have been predominately the Department of Interior  
9 agencies. Because partnerships are important for the  
10 Monitoring Program, also these projects also included  
11 other agencies and Alaska rural organizations as  
12 research partners.

13

14 For the 2022 cycle, there is an  
15 anticipated \$2.25 million available for new projects  
16 statewide. The available funding amount for 2022 is  
17 budgeted for each projects first year, not the total  
18 project request and this is subject to the final budget  
19 determined by the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

20

21 For Yukon region there were seven  
22 projects submitted during the current cycle. These  
23 projects are listed in numerical order by project  
24 number on Page 240. Technical Review Committee  
25 justifications begin on Page 241, and project executive  
26 summaries, which were submitted by the primary  
27 investigators start on Page 247.

28

29 That wraps up the overview of the Yukon  
30 region.

31

32 As a reminder, today, we are asking for  
33 your comments on any of the proposed projects in this  
34 region. Again, there is no action needed for today.  
35 We want to ensure that the selected projects have the  
36 greatest chance at successfully answering the Councils  
37 priority information needs as possible. And we also  
38 want to know if the Councils have any specific concerns  
39 about a project based on the provided materials.

40

41 So that concludes my presentation and  
42 we'll take your comments on proposed projects in the  
43 Yukon region. And, again, as a reminder, the projects  
44 for the Yukon region can be found on Page 240 of your  
45 Council materials.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

50

0349

1 Are there any questions.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have a  
4 question.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
7 Don.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
10 Is this an opportunity to put in some discussion about  
11 the priority information needs?

12

13 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair, this is  
14 Cory. Thank you for your question. So during your  
15 next meeting we're going to call for volunteers for a  
16 working group that will meet sometime in the summer or  
17 fall to develop the next round of priority information  
18 needs, but if you have any right now I'm standing by  
19 and I can record them and then bring them up at the PIN  
20 meeting, again, next summer or fall.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you for answering  
23 my question. I do have one priority information need.  
24 After talking to U.S. Fish and Wildlife fisheries  
25 biologists and State fisheries biologists, it becomes  
26 quite apparent that with the warming of the oceans,  
27 whether it be the Bering Sea or the Chukchi Sea, that  
28 fish stocks are moving north. On the early YRDFA  
29 teleconferences, the YK Delta guys were talking about  
30 catching fish farther north than they've ever caught  
31 chinook in the past. And that flags something that's  
32 really important to me and my wife calls it, those old  
33 guys out there are starting to see some very unusual  
34 things and I explained to her that she and I are old  
35 guys too. So I think it's imperative that we be  
36 flexible enough to see that this is happening and try  
37 to investigate where that's going.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
42 assuming that you heard that Cory.

43

44 MR. GRAHAM: Yes, Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else,  
47 Council members.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0350

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
2 you Cory. Man this is turning.....

3  
4 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....into a  
7 long one, uh. All right, you're welcome. Next on the  
8 agenda is identify issues for the fiscal year 2021  
9 annual report. Are you going to speak to that Vince.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.  
12 There's parameters with the report out of ANILCA, which  
13 is .805, and I'm grabbing that right now. But  
14 basically it's to -- let me pull it up so I can quote  
15 it directly. I apologize for that, I was trying to  
16 look back to your annual report on potential PINs,  
17 priority information needs, so I encourage you when you  
18 do get to that at your next meeting, to look at the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board report back on your 2020  
20 report.

21  
22 But, anyways, the key parameter of the  
23 Regional Advisory Council annual reports is an  
24 identification of current and anticipated subsistence  
25 uses of wildlife populations within the region; so  
26 anticipated uses. The second is; evaluation of current  
27 and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife  
28 populations within the region, so that's number 2.  
29 Number 3 is a recommended strategy for the management  
30 of fish and wildlife populations within the region to  
31 accommodate such subsistence needs and uses; and, four,  
32 recommendations concerning policies, standards,  
33 guidelines, regulations to implement the strategy.

34  
35 So those are the parameters. In  
36 addition, it's best to make sure that you're clear on  
37 what you're asking for, what action do you want to take  
38 from the Board. And you can put in there that you just  
39 want to share information, but basically it's more  
40 powerful to put in there what is the issue, what are  
41 you asking the Board to do. And I'm scrambling with a  
42 bunch of paperwork here but there may be other Staff if  
43 there's some other parameters on the annual report, I  
44 apologize, I'm pulled on some different directions on  
45 some other things that are happening, but those are the  
46 main parameters. And, again, it's usually put together  
47 -- and I need guidance from other Staff, because I  
48 don't know if that's changed, you bring up general  
49 topics now, but if there's other topics that come up,  
50

0351

1 you know, you go back home and think of something that  
2 you would share with your Coordinator and your Chair  
3 and then that would possibly be drafted up and, of  
4 course, then you review all this draft at your next  
5 meeting in the winter of 2022.

6  
7 So I just haven't talked to other Staff  
8 if it's still open after this meeting to, you know, an  
9 individual Council member to bring up additional  
10 topics. And that covers, you know, the annual report  
11 process as I know it.

12  
13 (Teleconference interference -  
14 participants not muted)

15  
16 (Pause)

17  
18 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, question  
19 for Vince.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

22  
23 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I have a  
24 question for Vince, this is Andy.

25  
26 (Teleconference interference -  
27 participants not muted)

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead -- I have a  
30 faint feeling that Sue dropped off again.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,  
33 I'm not dropped off, go ahead, Andy.

34  
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Vince, the  
36 parameters that you were just reading from, are they in  
37 our booklet or is that a separate document. I can't  
38 seem to find them in our booklet.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I was in the same  
41 boat, I apologize Andy, because of -- it is on Page 261  
42 and 262 of your book, and I mainly focused on the  
43 report content and then, you know, try to focus it,  
44 that you want an action, what action do you want from  
45 the Board. You can put in there information stuff, but  
46 it's more to be targeted, you have an issue, this is  
47 what you would like the Board to potentially consider  
48 and I'll leave it at that.

49  
50

0352

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is  
5 about or annual report and in the past I usually  
6 announce, okay, if you have anything you want to put in  
7 the annual report we try to identify it during the  
8 meeting and I failed to do that but I am.....

9  
10 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair.

11  
12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted)

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....certain  
16 that this is the time to maybe throw out some ideas of  
17 the annual report, like what we had just read, and that  
18 we will -- those ideas would be in a draft from at the  
19 next meeting is how it's usually done and then at the  
20 next meeting we go over it and approve what that would  
21 be.

22  
23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody has  
27 their phone off mute -- I would appreciate it -- I'm  
28 hearing background noise and a phone needs to go on  
29 mute. Okay, did I hear someone want to speak.

30  
31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Andy, please  
32 on.....

33  
34 MR. SIMON: Yes, Madame Chair, this is  
35 Jim Simon.

36  
37 MR. BASSICH: .....the -- let Jim go  
38 first.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy go  
41 ahead. Who was that other.....

42  
43 MR. SIMON: I was just asking.....

44  
45 MR. BASSICH: Go ahead, Jim, I'll.....

46  
47 MR. SIMON: .....if there was going to  
48 be an opportunity.....

49  
50

0353

1 MS. WESSELS: I think, Sue -- this is  
2 Katya, I think before we proceed we will need to ask  
3 the court reporter to isolate the -- through the  
4 operator isolate the person who doesn't have us on  
5 mute.

6  
7 (Teleconference interference -  
8 participants not muted)

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a  
11 problem, we all get knocked off when that happens.

12  
13 MR. BASSICH: Sue, try speaking really  
14 loudly to gain their attention.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, who can  
17 whistle hard.

18  
19 (Whistling)

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody has  
22 their phone on mute -- or off mute, I'm sorry -- please  
23 put your phone on mute.

24  
25 (Teleconference interference -  
26 participants not muted)

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Whoever's  
29 talking right now, it's you.

30  
31 MR. BASSICH: That may have done it.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. There  
34 was two people that asked to talk, one was Andy and I  
35 didn't hear who the other was.

36  
37 MR. BASSICH: Jim Simon, I'll defer to  
38 him.

39  
40 MR. SIMON: It was Jim and I'm  
41 asking.....

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're still  
44 talking on top of each other.

45  
46 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Andy. I'm not  
47 sure if you were going to entertain public testimony on  
48 possible discussions to help with your annual report  
49 but I would like to make a brief comment if you would  
50

0354

1 allow it.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jim.....

4

5

6

7

8

9

MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. The annual report is completely within the purview of the Council. That's the Council putting up their ideas for the annual report, there is no public testimony during the Council's annual report discussion.

10

11

12

13

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. That's the way it's always been so thank you for that.

14

15

16

MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, this is Andy.

17

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Andy.

20

21

22

23

24

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31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. BASSICH: I guess I'd just like to put in a draft concern and that is I believe, very strongly, that the solution that may come for Yukon River fisheries is going to depend on the entire fisheries getting together more and so I would encourage YR DFA and OSM to work together. I think YR DFA and was it AVCP, they're both loud voices on the river, but we really need to start getting everybody back together in the same room and quit dividing up into all these different entities and we really need to have some very good discussion. So I'll formulate a little bit more of my thought maybe for an action on that as the winter progresses. But I just wanted to bring that up as a draft topic to bring to people's attention. I think that's going to be really critical for us in the next couple years to unify on the river and to all take the same types of actions. It's really important for fisheries.

38

39

40

41

42

And then, if I may, I'll just say, Jim, if you have some comments or questions, if I can help you, contact me. Thank you.

43

44

45

46

47

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that would be best, thank you. And so noted, that's one of the topics. Any other Council members have other topics that could go in a draft form in a letter at our next meeting.

48

49

50

MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright,

0355

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
4 Charlie.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: The dire need for a better  
7 moose in the Interior around Rampart and it's really  
8 needed because of the lack of kills, people are  
9 struggling with no fish and no moose meat. The Fish  
10 and Game said they go off of reports to count the moose  
11 in my area and I think that needs to get looked at.  
12 People are struggling here. So I just wanted to add  
13 that little bit, so, thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet,  
16 Charlie. And that would be another point on our draft  
17 for the next meeting. Other Council members, does  
18 anyone else have any concerns that you want to bring up  
19 in the annual report.

20

21 MS. EVANS: Chairman this is Linda  
22 Evans.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
25 Linda.

26

27 MS. EVANS: One concern I have is, as  
28 we're going through these proposals on -- there seems  
29 to always be no comment from the public and I just  
30 wonder how we're getting this information to our  
31 constituents, I mean to the people that we represent,  
32 back in the villages. How are they receiving this  
33 information or do they know about it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, that's a  
36 very good topic. Because one of the things that we  
37 hear is this tribal consultation and then there's  
38 nothing happening and I've asked some of the tribes  
39 about it and it sounds like it's probably another  
40 meeting they got to go to and they kind of get used up  
41 and so we need to solve that problem. So I really  
42 appreciate your topic.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you for that  
49 comment. And, maybe what I'll share what we try and do

50



0356

1 in Eagle, as an example. We're obviously a smaller  
2 community so things function a little different than  
3 some of the larger communities, but both Don and I are  
4 also members on our AC and our AC meets anywhere from  
5 two to four times a year, so whenever our AC meets we  
6 bring these topics from the Eastern RAC to the ACs  
7 attention for discussions and also our Chair, current  
8 Chair of the AC is the Chief of Eagle Village, so it's  
9 also being reached, you know, in the village there and  
10 we've also had representatives from Eagle Village on  
11 our AC. But I guess the point I'm trying to make is  
12 one of the jobs of being a RAC member is not just to  
13 show up at these meetings, it's also to try and inform  
14 the public and especially the people in your community  
15 of what you have been learning or working on in this  
16 forum at the RAC and then, you know, people like us  
17 know who the shakers and movers are in our community,  
18 or the people that have those concerns, and so I would  
19 strongly recommend that after this meeting, if you feel  
20 that there are things that you feel are really  
21 important to your community, that you make the attempt  
22 to reach those people personally and then also bring it  
23 up at your local AC level as well.

24  
25 That seems to be what's working for us  
26 in our area so it's kind of a whole unified approach in  
27 our community and that's how the -- many of the village  
28 people get their concerns addressed, is through both  
29 Don and I, either at the RAC level or, me, on the Yukon  
30 River Panel level, so on and so forth.

31  
32 I hope that helps, thank you.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but I  
35 appreciate what Linda's saying and so noted that it's a  
36 topic of concern for our annual report. Any other  
37 Council members have any other -- again, this is going  
38 to be a draft form that we look at again at our next  
39 meeting.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
48 bring up one and it's about the proposal book. As far  
49 as Vince informs me, he asked all the Council members  
50

0357

1 if they got the proposal book, and they had not -- they  
2 had to be sent to us and it was after the deadline of  
3 public comment. So that's a problem for someone like  
4 Linda, if she didn't get a copy of the proposals, how  
5 can she talk to her community about them before the  
6 dead -- if she gets them after the deadline. So I just  
7 want that as a topic.

8  
9 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is  
10 Charlie Wright, I agree.

11  
12 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
15 Charlie.

16  
17 MR. WRIGHT: I got my information late  
18 also. Did you hear me, Madame Chair.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, and I  
21 heard it you get yours late also.

22  
23 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, Ma'am, thank you.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet.

26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. I  
28 have another topic to put on the annual report.

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

32  
33 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Under bullet  
34 1 it says identification of current and anticipated  
35 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations  
36 within the region and I think I'd like to address the  
37 fact that with fisheries collapse on the Yukon River,  
38 it's probably not going to come back in a short period  
39 of time, so the changeover to more dependence on moose  
40 and caribou, this kind of builds on what Charlie Wright  
41 was just saying, but that's going to be extremely  
42 important on the Yukon River. And in addition to that,  
43 on the fisheries side of that, the change for people to  
44 try and harvest non-salmon species during the  
45 summertime for both cultural practices and also for  
46 sustenance is going to be a big part of the education  
47 and a big part of the change that people along the  
48 Yukon River are going to have to deal with. So that's  
49 going to be a topic that's really affecting subsistence  
50

0358

1 users along the Yukon River.

2

3

Thank you.

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(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know there is one that -- I think you guys have heard me say the KISS principle over and over and over again, keep it simple silly, and I feel like OSM should really think about streamlining how this process works because I have to agree with Andy, I didn't like going through all of that stuff that wasn't really working out regarding the community harvest stuff, yeah, I just think that they need to consider streamlining some of this stuff. If something isn't -- you know, even the process of going through and not hearing from different organizations, like is the tribal consultation working, or could it be done differently, I don't know, it's just too many times there's no comments and there probably should be. And I believe that's what you were trying to point out, Linda.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I feel that the information is not getting to the people, the users, the subsistence users. And we need to find some way to do that, to make sure that they have that information.

MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is Charlie. I'd like to say something to Linda, if I can.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet.

MR. WRIGHT: Linda, I'm on a lot of different Boards and that seems to be a problem on all of them, getting the information back so that's a really good topic, I'm happy you brought it up. And I look forward to seeing that fixed, thank you, Linda.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, both.

MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is

0359

1 Don. I'd like to comment on tribal consultation.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: So at the Federal  
6 Subsistence Board meeting that I testified to, Council  
7 Member Rhonda Pitka, mentioned to, I believe his name  
8 is Orville.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: .....that when did the  
13 tribal consultations, emails and contact information go  
14 out and it was during the middle of the hunting season  
15 and then much later at a Council meeting he told us the  
16 same thing and I said, well, that needs to change and  
17 his response was well it is what it is. But it's not  
18 working. And if it's not working then there's a whole  
19 entity of people that are out of the loop and that's a  
20 tragedy. So I think that we really need to look at  
21 that and see if we can't fix that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
24 Donald.

25

26 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Reiterating  
29 what I was trying to get at too, thank you. We'll add  
30 it to it. And, again, I hope you are getting all our  
31 points here, Vince. All right, are there any -- he can  
32 read all this when it's all printed up. Any other.....

33

34 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans, one  
35 more I'd like to bring up.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
38 Linda.

39

40 MS. EVANS: Is the timing of all the  
41 meetings and stuff. You know like everybody's having  
42 these different Councils are meeting at the same time  
43 and we're trying to share the same people and it's not  
44 -- I mean it works, I guess, but I think we should try  
45 to have a calendar ahead of time so we'll know what  
46 meetings are coming up and when they're coming up.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Linda,  
49 I'd like to speak to that. But I still think your

50

0360

1 point of timing is very vital to add to this. But the  
2 Eastern Interior and the Southcentral RAC were  
3 challenged to have a joint meeting over a fisheries  
4 proposal and come up with a compromise, and I'm not  
5 sure you were on the Board then and we ended up  
6 scheduling that meeting to have it joint at this time.  
7 And so Southcentral and Eastern Interior it wasn't  
8 going to be a problem because we were supposed to be  
9 face to face in the same room and then it turned out to  
10 not be that way so they didn't reschedule the meetings.  
11 They usually try -- I'm speaking for OSM right now,  
12 they usually try to have only two Council meetings in  
13 one week. But I still appreciate you adding the timing  
14 to that, that's important.

15

16 Any other topics.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
21 none we'll move to the next agenda item. And if anyone  
22 has anything that comes up in your mind, write it down  
23 and just let us know -- butt in and let us know and  
24 we'll add it. Appointment to the Wrangell-St. Elias  
25 SRC. Barbara.

26

27 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame  
28 Chair. This is Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell-St.  
29 Elias National Park and Preserve. And the handout for  
30 this topic is on Page 263 of your meeting book. And  
31 I'm just going to give you a little background because  
32 you've got some new members.

33

34 So you heard earlier that the Wrangell-  
35 St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission  
36 provides -- it's an advisory committee similar to the  
37 RAC that provides a venue for local subsistence users  
38 to have input into the management of subsistence  
39 resources in Wrangell-St. Elias. Federal Regional  
40 Advisory Councils appoint three members to the SRC.  
41 These members provide an important link between the SRC  
42 and the Federal Subsistence Program. There are three  
43 Regional Advisory Councils who have regions that  
44 overlap with Wrangell-St. Elias, these are  
45 Southcentral, Eastern Interior, and Southeast. So we  
46 have each of those Councils who appoint one member to  
47 the Regional Advisory Council [sic]. Sue Entsminger of  
48 Mentasta Pass is the current Eastern Interior RAC  
49 appointee to the SRC. Her term expires next month.

50

0361

1 And then we also have members who are appointed by the  
2 Governor and who are appointed by the Secretary. There  
3 are some very specific eligibility criteria for this  
4 particular appointment found in ANILCA, Section  
5 .808(a). RAC appointees to the SRC must be a RAC  
6 member or a member of a local AC in the region and also  
7 engage in subsistence uses in the Park.

8

9 So this is an action item. Sue's term  
10 is up in November. And so certainly Sue is eligible  
11 for the appointment and I'm going to stop there and see  
12 if there are any questions.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
15 questions.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Is this an action item?

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: It is an.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: .....action item.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a  
28 nomination that Sue Entsminger be our SRC member to  
29 Wrangell-St. Elias.

30

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

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion.  
37 Sue's done a superb job of being involved and keeping  
38 us informed of that SRC's progress and topics and I  
39 think if she's interested she is our best candidate to  
40 represent our region in that role. Thank you, very  
41 much.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, anything  
44 else. I am perfectly willing to do it but the day will  
45 come I'll say I'm tired, but I'm not there yet.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: If there's no further  
48 comments or questions I call question on the motion,  
49 Madame Chair.

50

0362

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
2 question has been called for, I'm going to go with the  
3 same -- I don't know -- this is about me so  
4 procedurally can I ask Donald to take a roll call,  
5 please.

6  
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Ma'am, I've got it.  
8 So we're voting on Sue Entsminger being renominated for  
9 the SRC Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

10  
11 So Linda Evans.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans, are you on.

16  
17 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I'm on, I was trying  
18 to get my thing off mute. I say, yes, thank you.

19  
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

21  
22 Bill Glanz.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, your phone's on  
27 mute, I can't hear you.

28  
29 MR. GLANZ: What's that.

30  
31 MR. WOODRUFF: We're voting on Sue  
32 being nominated for the SRC. Do you vote in the  
33 positive?

34  
35 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I know that, Don, I  
36 was trying -- I vote yes on it.

37  
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

39  
40 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

41  
42 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

43  
44 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

45  
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

47  
48 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

49  
50

0363

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

2

3 MR. JAGOW: Yes.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Don Woodruff, yes.

6 Let's go see if Nicolas Henry, did you ever join us.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: I don't hear him there.

11 And Timothy McManus has been excused. So Sue do you  
12 get to vote for yourself.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just  
17 say that I prefer it be from you guys and I'll just --  
18 can I not vote or do I have to.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: You don't have to and  
21 it's unanimous, thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: And let me just say  
30 thank you from the Park. And if I could just add one  
31 other thing, we're currently -- the Park is currently  
32 recruiting for Secretarial of Interior appointees to  
33 the SRC. If anyone on the phone is interested in that,  
34 somebody with ties to one of our Park communities, my  
35 contact information is in my agency report and that is  
36 on Page 29(indiscernible - drops off)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
39 you, Barbara. And thank you for the support, Council  
40 members, I appreciate it. All right. Next on the  
41 agenda is the fall 2021 Council application nomination  
42 is open season. Council Coordinator.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, this  
45 is the open time. And it's clear that OSM Staff, you  
46 know, want to thank your Council members for all your  
47 service and time. Your knowledge and experience is the  
48 foundation of the Federal Subsistence Program.

49

50



0364

1                   So as you know, and you've already  
2 mentioned it, these are difficult times during the  
3 pandemic but at the same time, as you know, there needs  
4 to be work on getting a robust Council with full  
5 membership. So we are asking that the Regional Council  
6 members help with that by making connections to your  
7 communities that you represent. And we can help with  
8 that, materials, if there's questions and phone  
9 numbers, call Katya, myself or others if there's any  
10 questions.

11  
12                   So this period, 2022 period was opened  
13 on September 17th so we're encouraging you to help  
14 spread the word in the region and communities and  
15 recruit new applicants throughout your region.  
16 Obviously you guys know the region and you can help  
17 with firsthand experience with that and it's already  
18 been mentioned earlier, to look for young applicants as  
19 well as young Native applicants. But, please, you  
20 know, get the word out and share and if people have any  
21 questions get a hold of us or have them talk to other  
22 Council members.

23  
24                   You could also, as yourself, nominate  
25 someone for it and that goes through the process. And  
26 that sometimes helps people get over the hurdle of  
27 saying, well, I'm kind of interested but I'm not really  
28 sure I want to put my name in, well, if they're  
29 nominated by someone else, to go hey that's going to  
30 push me over. I serve on many panels so I'm speaking  
31 from experience that nominating someone really helps  
32 get them on board as far as applying and possibly  
33 getting appointed.

34  
35                   The application packets are available  
36 on the website at [www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions) and a  
37 fillable copy will be posted as well soon. That's one  
38 where people could do it online. But we also have  
39 paper copies that people can fill out.

40  
41                   The office is planning on mailing a  
42 number of applications packages to the Council member  
43 and Katya can say what the status is on that, I'm not  
44 up to speed on that.

45  
46                   And then they're mailing over 2,000  
47 copies of the application packet to various addresses  
48 across the state. And I can speak personally, I've  
49 talked to individuals -- like any time I get a name I  
50

0365

1 share it with the OSM office and say, hey, this person  
2 is kind of interested, and so that would be key,  
3 whoever your Coordinator is, and especially Katya at  
4 this time, to say, hey, I know so and so down the road  
5 might be really interested and then we can get them the  
6 information. That's the start of getting people  
7 involved.

8  
9 We can fax the stuff also if it's  
10 needed.

11  
12 So anyways that gives you an idea on  
13 that. If I missed something I'm sure Katya will bring  
14 it up. But, you know, we all realize the importance of  
15 having all 10 seats on your Council filled with active  
16 members.

17  
18 So with that I'll stop and see if  
19 there's any questions or additions from other Staff.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
22 questions.

23  
24 MR. BASSICH: Sue, I have a -- this is  
25 Andy.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
28 ahead.

29  
30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I have a  
31 nomination I'd like to make.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
34 guess that can be done.

35  
36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to do this  
37 -- this is something new for the Eastern RAC, we'll  
38 liven it up at the end of a very long day, hopefully,  
39 I'd like to nominate Amanda Pope from Circle City  
40 Alaska and so I would hope that the Eastern Interior  
41 Coordinator could get a hold of her and send her the  
42 information and if there's any kind of letter of  
43 support I would like to do that. I -- her -- and the  
44 reason I'm picking her is because of what she's been  
45 providing us with the hunter liaison report, I find  
46 that to be quite exceptional and I think it shows her  
47 knowledge of the region and her interest in the region  
48 so I'll leave it at that. Since this is a new process  
49 that we haven't worked through. And I don't know if  
50

0366

1 that's something that we could bring up and just get  
2 the full support of the RAC right now or what -- but  
3 whatever we could do to encourage her to be on board, I  
4 think she'd be a great addition.

5

6 Thank you.

7

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

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, Bill Glanz.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
14 Katya.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, thank you, Andy,  
17 for the nomination of Amanda. That's one of the things  
18 I was going to address. That's great that you brought  
19 her name but we definitely would need to reach out to  
20 her and find out if she's agreeable. You know we  
21 cannot just nominate people without asking them if  
22 they're agreeable to be serving on the Council. But  
23 the suggestion is great and I'm sure, you know, we'll  
24 follow through on that and we'll reach out to her and  
25 just say that the Council, you know, wants to nominate  
26 you as a candidate to serve on the Council. So any  
27 other names that the Council members can come up that  
28 would be great.

29

30 You know you are our connection to the  
31 rural communities, you live there, you know people,  
32 you know who might be a good person serving on the  
33 Council, you can also share with the people who are  
34 interested, what it entails to serve on the Council.  
35 What kind of time commitment is there because, you  
36 know, people like they see the ads in the newspapers,  
37 they see the ads on the radio -- they hear the ads on  
38 the radio, but they don't really know sometimes what  
39 it's all about. So, you know, when you talk with  
40 people, when you go on your trips around the region, or  
41 you meet at the ACs, you know, just chat with someone,  
42 just mention to them that we're looking now for  
43 applicants. The application period is open to February  
44 28th.

45

46 So -- and, you know, even if you don't  
47 help them to fill out the applications, send them to  
48 us, we can help them if they're having a hard time. Or  
49 they can fill it out themselves, that doesn't matter.

50

0367

1 We're just looking for more qualified applicants to  
2 represent your region. We always want to have all the  
3 seats filled on the Councils, on all Councils, because  
4 you're the representatives of your user groups,  
5 subsistence and commercial/sport, and with your help we  
6 can, you know, build better regulations that would  
7 satisfy, you know, a majority of the users and will  
8 work for the benefit of the users. But we are  
9 appealing to you, the Council members, because you are  
10 our connection to the communities.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Please add William  
15 Koehler's name to that list.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: What's' that.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

22 Andy.....

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, sorry, Sue.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to add a name  
27 also.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I kind of -- yeah, I just  
30 jumped in there. I wanted William Koehler's name put  
31 back on the list. I'm kind of disappointed that he  
32 lost his seat and I don't know if that was  
33 administrative at the Washington level or whatever but  
34 he was a great member on this Council. I ran into him  
35 this past spring in Fairbanks and he sounded still  
36 interested. So put him back on the list to be  
37 contacted. Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did someone  
40 else.....

41

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

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....want to  
46 -- Charlie, go ahead.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: I got contacted by a lady  
49 that wanted to see if she could get on this RAC also,  
50

0368

1 her name is -- I'd like to nominate Eva Burk, Nenana  
2 Tanana Fisherwoman.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you say  
5 her name.....

6  
7 MS. WESSELS: Can you spell her.....

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....again.

10  
11 MS. WESSELS: .....last name, please.

12  
13 MR. WRIGHT: B-U-R-K. Eva, E-V-A. Eva  
14 Burk. I got her phone number here in front of me.

15  
16 MS. WESSELS: You don't need to provide  
17 it on record, I can contact you later, Charlie.

18  
19 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
22 Charlie, where's she from.

23  
24 MR. WRIGHT: Nenana. She grew up in  
25 fish camp above Manley Hot Springs on the Tanana River.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great. That  
28 sounds great. Okay.

29  
30 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, Bill Glanz.

31  
32 MS. STEVENS: Okay, Madame Chair, this  
33 is.....

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
36 else.....

37  
38 MS. STEVENS: .....Carrie Stevens,  
39 could I make a quick point. This is Carrie Stevens,  
40 Madame Chair.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,  
43 quick.....

44  
45 MS. STEVENS: It's about the application  
46 process. I promise I'll be two seconds. I very much  
47 appreciate the opportunity to share, Madame Chair.  
48 Anyone can nominate anyone on the application. You  
49 don't need the signature of the person you're  
50

0369

1 nominating. The nomination doesn't have to be filled  
2 out by the applicant. All of the people you just  
3 named, all of you can fill out the application for them  
4 and submit it. So it's very clear on the application  
5 that anyone can nominate someone and complete the  
6 application packet for them.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, most of  
11 us.....

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, that's.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....most of  
16 us, I think would.....

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
19 Katya. I would.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:  
22 .....like.....

23

24 MS. WESSELS: .....like to address what  
25 Carrie just said. That was my point.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: .....earlier too, but  
30 from a logical standpoint you should talk with a person  
31 who you are nominating. You know you don't want to  
32 nominate somebody and later they say, we don't want to  
33 serve on the Council, yeah, we were nominated but, you  
34 know, we don't want.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know I  
37 think the process.....

38

39 MS. WESSELS: .....to serve on the  
40 Council. So at least talk to them. Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a  
43 great suggestion and thank you for that. But I think  
44 in the process people should -- if they are nominated  
45 and they don't want to serve they can say, no, I don't  
46 want to serve. I would ask that question if I was  
47 interviewing but let's go on, let's not get carried  
48 away here. Anyone else.

49

50

0370

1 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, Madame Chair, Bill  
2 Glanz.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

5  
6 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, Amanda Pope, I would  
7 have recommended her also but they go to their winter  
8 camp up by Slavins and they go up the -- when they --  
9 they ride their boat up and they stay there until  
10 freeze-up and then they stay there and trap until  
11 winter ends, or whenever they get ready to leave out.  
12 Because her husband applied for the Board one time and  
13 they said probably wouldn't work if they were gone for  
14 six months a year almost. So I mean I'm sure they  
15 could work out something better for them, but her  
16 husband or her would be a perfect match for our Board,  
17 believe me. But that's just me talking, but I really  
18 respect both of them.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay  
21 thanks for the input. Anyone else.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next  
26 on the agenda is the agency reports and I am going -- I  
27 did the math, there's about 10 of them, and that's  
28 about two and a half hours if they get 15 minutes. So  
29 I would prefer all of the.....

30  
31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted)

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....reports  
35 to be very concise and be very considerate of us  
36 Council members, we are volunteers and I don't think we  
37 want to be here until 7:30. So some of these reports  
38 are in the book and the Council members can look at  
39 them and call those agencies any time so I would  
40 appreciate if you could consolidate the report and make  
41 it brief in the essence of respect for the Council  
42 members.

43  
44 The next thing on the agenda is tribal  
45 governments, are there any tribal government reports,  
46 or Native organizations.

47  
48 (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted)

50

0371

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And under  
2 Native organizations.....

3  
4 REPORTER: Can somebody mute their  
5 phone please. Can we remind everybody to put your  
6 phones on mute if you're not speaking we're getting a  
7 lot of feedback and background noise.

8  
9 MR. MCKENNA: Hi, Madame Chair, this is  
10 Brian McKenna with the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Brian. I  
13 hope they muted. Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. MCKENNA: Yeah, I have a brief  
16 report I can share with you and I'll try to keep this  
17 brief for you. Parts of this report are also listed in  
18 the meeting booklet on Pages 264 to 268.

19  
20 We have two Fisheries Resource  
21 Monitoring Program monitoring projects that we've been  
22 operating the last few years. The first project is the  
23 Henshaw Creek weir. This past summer the weir was  
24 installed and operated between June 28th and July 29th.  
25 A flash flood did occur on July 29th which ended the  
26 counting season about five days prior to our scheduled  
27 stop date of August 3rd. We had a total of 130 chinook  
28 salmon and 3,729 chum salmon pass through the weir this  
29 summer. Both of those numbers were record lows for the  
30 21 year history of the project.

31  
32 The next project through the FRMP  
33 Program is titled traditional knowledge of anadromous  
34 fish in the Yukon Flats. This is a joint effort  
35 between YRDFA and TCC and it utilizes a combination of  
36 traditional knowledge and other fishery techniques to  
37 identify and protect critical habitats for spawning and  
38 rearing salmon Draanjik or the Black River drainage.  
39 In early August this past summer, myself and Nate  
40 Cathcart from ADF&G conducted fishery surveys in that  
41 drainage looking for rearing juvenile chinook and coho  
42 salmon. We surveyed four tributaries in the Draanjik  
43 including Drifting Snow Creek, Tetthajik Creek,  
44 Kevinjik Creek and the Grayling Fork Black River.  
45 Juvenile chinook salmon were observed utilizing rearing  
46 habitat in two of these creeks, the Drifting Snow and  
47 the Tetthajik Creeks and juvenile coho salmon were  
48 observed rearing in Kevinjik Creek at a local place  
49 name called Nee'inlii. These observations will result  
50



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1 in nominations to the Anadromous Waters Catalog to help  
2 protect these important juvenile rearing habitats. Next  
3 week we're going to be attempting an aerial survey of  
4 that traditional place Nee'inlil to document spawning  
5 coho salmon and if we're successful in doing so that  
6 will also result in a nomination to the Anadromous  
7 Waters Catalog.

8  
9 We did have one other project this  
10 summer as well outside of those FRMP projects. We  
11 conducted a chinook salmon red survey in the Salcha  
12 River using drones. A red survey counts the number of  
13 nests that are built by female chinook salmon during  
14 the spawning process.

15  
16 (Teleconference interference -  
17 participants not muted)

18  
19 MR. MCKENNA: The survey occurred  
20 during the last week of July and spanned the first 60  
21 river miles of the Salcha River, which is where the  
22 majority of the spawning occurs for chinook salmon in  
23 that system. This was the third time in the last four  
24 years that we've been able to complete a red survey and  
25 in doing so we were able to generate an index of  
26 abundance that compliments the Salcha River counting  
27 tower project, in years 2018, '19 and '21. This summer  
28 we counted a total of 210 chinook salmon reds, and  
29 using a chinook to red ratio metric we're able to  
30 estimate that our survey of the reds represents about  
31 500 chinook salmon, or roughly 25 percent of the tower  
32 count, which this year was 2013.

33  
34 And that concludes this brief report to  
35 the Council and I'm happy to answer any questions that  
36 you may have at this time.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you so  
39 much, Brian. Council members, are there any questions.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
44 you very much Brian. And, Karen, wanted to add one  
45 from AITRC and she said she'd be very brief and she has  
46 a nice report that could be mailed to us so go ahead  
47 Karen.

48  
49 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0373

1 Real briefly, thank you for the opportunity. I just  
2 wanted to say that we concluded a project on the Town  
3 Lake restoration planning, we concluded the data  
4 collection. We're looking to restore salmon to Towne  
5 Lake in Chitina. We work with Alaska Department of  
6 Fish and Game on otolith sampling collection looking at  
7 the Gulkana hatchery and their dispersement and see if  
8 any have gone up river further than Gakona.

9  
10 And then also we partnered with the  
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of  
12 Alaska-Fairbanks and Ahtna Incorporated on a carnivore  
13 study, a continuation of that bear study. This year  
14 we've collected over 500 samples at 13 different  
15 clusters of hair snares, where they move the hair  
16 snares every week so that the animal wasn't looking at  
17 the same location and we got the samples sent out and  
18 we hope to get those back early spring so that we can  
19 get a look at bear density, population density for all  
20 of GMU 13.

21  
22 And, again, looking at other projects  
23 and moving forward we would love and are talking with  
24 ADF&G on -- and UAA on a habitat study for caribou  
25 range in GMU -- in their calving grounds and in their  
26 wintering grounds. So just to look at information  
27 gaps, again, to try and put more out there.

28  
29 And we did finish our Partners in  
30 Fisheries Management grant this year and the final  
31 report was submitted at the end of July. That was the  
32 project that brought us our anthropologist on Staff.  
33 It's a good program. I think we've put in for several  
34 FRMP proposals and it's our desire that this tribal  
35 organization has expertise in fisheries biology and  
36 wildlife biology and anthropology and that tribal  
37 organizations are able to participate in the  
38 InterAgency Staff Committee review of those FRMP  
39 proposals. Just bringing balance to the program. We  
40 don't think that the FRMP should be used to supplement  
41 or subsidize State or Federal budgets as they continue  
42 to get cut. The program was originally intended to get  
43 some more local work done by tribal organizations and  
44 that's what we would like to see improve.

45  
46 Again, thank you for the opportunity to  
47 report. I know you guys have been at it for a long  
48 time today and I do appreciate all that you do.

49  
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0374

1 So, thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, very much, Karen and thank you for the brief report. If you did have anything you wanted to send send it to the Coordinator and it'll be sent out to the Council members.

Thank you.

MS. LINNELL: Thank you, much, Ma'am. I will do that.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions of Karen.

MR. IRVIN: Bruce.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bruce Irvin.

MR. IRVIN: Sorry, Chair, this is Bruce Irvin from Tanana Chiefs Conference, I just wanted to wrap it up with our TCC report and pass it over to Ben.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go ahead.

MR. STEVENS: Madame Chair, we apologize, our agenda has been a little cross-ways. Anyway, just really briefly, Madame Chair, you heard part of our (indiscernible - breaking up)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Bruce, you're breaking up really bad.

MR. IRVIN: Oh, yeah, this is Ben.

MR. STEVENS: Oh, Madame Chair.

MR. IRVIN: If it's okay, I could read your part Ben.

MR. STEVENS: Okay, go ahead, or can you hear me?

MR. IRVIN: Yeah, we could hear you now.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this Bruce now? Yeah, we hear you way better now.

0375

1 MR. STEVENS: Okay. Madame Chair. The  
2 Tanana Chiefs have been listening to the concerns of  
3 the tribes throughout the region and we're determined  
4 to ensure that they have representation, a strong voice  
5 and a seat at the table to protect our ways of life.  
6 Recently we went through the strategic planning process  
7 to reorganize our operations and created a Tribal  
8 Resources Stewardship Program. That's basically an  
9 umbrella that brings in the Fish Commission and the  
10 Task Force to allow for better advocacy, better  
11 communication, outreach and responsiveness to those  
12 concerned. Part of that is building capacity and  
13 capability. We're adding the Human Resources to the  
14 Stewardship Program that's going to include a wildlife  
15 biologist and a programs coordinator. We're also going  
16 to be procuring various specific types of technical  
17 expertise to help us advance our efforts. We're also  
18 looking at data collection. We've heard over and over  
19 again the State saying that collecting data is  
20 extremely difficult. Well, I'm pretty sure that we can  
21 help with that. And our intent is to provide them with  
22 quality and accurate data to help them formulate policy  
23 and regulation.

24  
25 In terms of assessment programs that  
26 we're expanding. I think that you just heard the  
27 Henshaw weir project by our lead fisheries biologist  
28 Mr. Brian McKenna. He's also working with our  
29 Partners, with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the  
30 Gisasa weir. And, in addition, long-term, we're  
31 looking to develop with our partners a mid-river sonar  
32 that's going to maybe cut the gap between the Pilot  
33 Station sonar down river and the Eagle sonar up there.  
34 So we've got quite a few large things in mind and we're  
35 going to continue monitor our situation out here in  
36 terms of how our folks have access to our traditional  
37 foods.

38  
39 And so with that I'll just whip it over  
40 to Bruce, he'll be brief. Thank you, Madame Chair, for  
41 your indulgence.

42  
43 MR. IRVIN: Thank you, Ben. This is  
44 Bruce Irvin. And just echoing what Ben has explained,  
45 you know, our current plan is to have Brooke Woods lead  
46 the efforts with the Yukon River and myself leading the  
47 effort with the Hunting and Fishing Task Force. And we  
48 also team up with TCC's Deborah Lind who helps with the  
49 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.  
50

0376

1                   And, you know, some of our plans this  
2 year we've been doing a lot of research, contacting  
3 ADF&G and FSB looking for ways to help extend the moose  
4 season. You know it's important for us to advocate for  
5 more opportunities for rural Alaskans and we've already  
6 reached out to ADF&G and FSB and we really appreciate  
7 their help so we're just trying to look for alternative  
8 ways for food security.

9  
10                   And also the TRSP is -- we're currently  
11 updating our website and look forward to checking that  
12 out in the future.

13  
14                   And also we're looking more into the  
15 Dennison headwaters of the Taylor Highway project and  
16 trying to advocate for tribes up there for their way of  
17 life.

18  
19                   I'll go ahead and pass it on to Brooke,  
20 thank you.

21  
22                   MS. WOODS: Thank you, Bruce, can you  
23 hear me okay.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we can.

26  
27                   MS. WOODS: Great, thank you. So in  
28 the spring of 2021 Fish Commission Executive Council  
29 members were elected and we operated weekly meetings  
30 throughout the dismal fishing season. And we actually  
31 have an Executive Council member on the EIRAC. The  
32 meetings consisted primarily of local fishing reports  
33 and management recommendations to the State and Federal  
34 managers. As the run developed in the summer and fall  
35 chum were not -- apparently not going to be coming in  
36 and provide the expected subsistence opportunity, I did  
37 get approval to request a river-wide Yukon opener as a  
38 foundation to food security. This request went all the  
39 way to the Governor. Ultimately the Federal manager  
40 called to inform me that the Fish Commission request  
41 was denied. The Fish Commission continues to expand  
42 its capacity and involvement in the Yukon River salmon  
43 management and decisionmaking. We are currently  
44 finalizing dates for our post-season meeting, a salmon  
45 summit and outreach efforts with the tribes prior to  
46 these meeting mentioned, to better prepare for another  
47 poor run.

48  
49                   The Fish Commission partnered with  
50

0377

1 YRDFA and we completed a month long advocacy series to  
2 prepare for the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
3 Council. The Tribal Resource Stewardship Program had  
4 heavy involvement in this October North Pacific  
5 Fisheries Management Council meeting. I personally  
6 testified three times as many of the 20 plus testifiers  
7 from the Kusko and the Yukon River. Our strong  
8 partnership with the sister organization, Kuskokwim  
9 River InterTribal Fish Commission and our Tribal  
10 Stewardship Program Staff met with one of the North  
11 Pacific Fisheries Management Council voting members and  
12 ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang on the Fish  
13 Commission's request for the October 2021 meeting. We  
14 requested emergency action to limit chinook and chum  
15 bycatch to zero for 2022, support an amendment to the  
16 Magnuson-Stevens Act to include two tribal seats,  
17 provide a letter of support to NMFS for disaster  
18 declaration and research and to better utilize NOAA's  
19 tribal consultation. Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
20 was cordial and respectful during our consultation,  
21 however it appears that the State of Alaska may be  
22 reluctant to support zero bycatch without additional  
23 information about how such an action might affect other  
24 resources. AP Member Melissa put forward a motion that  
25 was ultimately amended but struck out the language for  
26 emergency action to limit chinook chum and also struck  
27 the language for two tribal seats. The Council took  
28 testimony and action this morning, or this afternoon on  
29 our request and ultimately they passed a very weak and  
30 unhelpful motion. So currently with the caps, 45,000  
31 kings will be able to be caught as bycatch and there is  
32 no cap for chum. So very disappointed with the amount  
33 of work we put into being a part of the process and the  
34 action that came out of it.

35

36 With that I will end my presentation.  
37 Thank you so much for the time.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
40 very much. That was Brooke.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, this is  
47 Andy, I had a quick question for Brooke.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go

50

0378

1 ahead, Andy.

2

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Brooke, thank  
5 you for that report. I'm just curious, the resolution  
6 that was passed, or not the resolution, but the bycatch  
7 quota that was passed, is that for all chinook or is  
8 that Western Alaska or is that also broken down to  
9 Canadian stocks, since they're identifiable through  
10 genetic analysis. Do you have a breakdown of that at  
11 all?

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MS. WOODS: Are you referring to the  
draft Council motion from today?

MR. BASSICH: Correct. So the 45,000,  
if I may, 45,000.....

MS. WOODS: Yeah, so that's.....

MR. BASSICH: .....is that just 45,000  
in total or is that Western Alaska or is that -- how is  
that broken down?

MS. WOODS: It would be total. And the  
motion that they put forward is analysis which would  
include current genetic stock identification. That's  
the opening sentence to the motion.

MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess if I may  
just quickly follow-up, Madame Chair. My time spent  
doing exactly what you're doing, what I learned was is  
that the genetic stocks are broken down into different  
entities and they all compromise a percentage of that  
45,000 so when you hear the number 45,000 were caught,  
that doesn't necessarily mean those were all returning  
to the Yukon River. That could be spread out through  
the Kuskokwim, the Yukon, Norton Sound, whatever. So  
I'm just kind of always curious about what the  
breakdown is of the bycatch. But I.....

MS. WOODS: Thank you.

MR. BASSICH: .....applaud keeping  
pressure on them, I think it.....

MS. WOODS: Yes. They would like to do  
a stock status update on Western Alaska chinook and  
chum salmon stock. I do have information on bycatch,  
numbers from the pollock industry but I cannot -- I

0379

1 don't have the time to do that at this very moment  
2 since it is after 5:00.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: That's fine, thank you.  
5 Thank you for the report.

6

7 MS. WOODS: Yes.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
10 you. Any other questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it might  
15 be good if there are some long answers needed, to get  
16 with the people directly after the meeting. Okay. I  
17 don't want to miss any other Native or tribal groups  
18 that had a report and thank you, all of you from TCC.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were there  
23 any other Native organization reports.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
28 none, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National  
29 Wildlife Refuge update.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair, I just  
32 need to see if Steve Berendzen, Refuge Manager is  
33 online. I don't believe he is but I wanted to make  
34 sure.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, he's not.  
39 Basically I met with the Deputy Refuge Manager and  
40 basically due to the, you know, you have had a long  
41 meeting, we'll just refer to Pages 269 and through 283  
42 and when you -- if you have any questions on that I'll  
43 attempt to answer them or later on you can get a hold  
44 of the Refuge Manager or myself and we can explain more  
45 or answer any questions. So that is the, you know,  
46 it's there in your book so if you have any questions  
47 ask now or get back to us.

48

49 Thank you.

50



0380

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
2 Vince, appreciate that. Yeah, the Council members,  
3 this information is in your book, so great suggestion  
4 if you have anything get back with the Refuge after the  
5 meeting. Is there any questions.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Tetlin  
10 National Wildlife Refuge update.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, you have  
13 Yukon Flats, I don't want to.....

14  
15 MR. JAMISON: Yes, Madame Chair.  
16 Council.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

19  
20 MR. JAMISON: This is Brent Jamison,  
21 Wildlife Biologist for Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. In the  
22 interest of time I'll direct you to Page 286 for our  
23 brief three page report. I do want to add one thing to  
24 that, some numbers from our 2020 hunts.

25  
26 We issued 149 permits for FC1202. We  
27 had 56 harvest reported, 23 bulls and 33 cows. For the  
28 moose hunt we issued 98 permits for FM1203 we had two  
29 bulls harvested. We will be meeting next week to  
30 determine bag limits and set season dates for the 2021  
31 FC1202 and we expect the results of that discussion,  
32 the season to be announced middle to late next week.

33  
34 That concludes our report, thank you.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
37 Any questions of Tetlin Refuge.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
42 right, I know why Vince was speaking, I overlooked the  
43 Yukon Flats. If you want to.....

44  
45 MR. FOX: Madame Chair. Council  
46 members. This is Jimmy Fox, the Refuge manager, can  
47 you hear me okay?

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
50

0381

1 MR. FOX: Oh, excellent. Thank you for  
2 your patience. I've been listening the last two days  
3 and just really do appreciate all of your efforts. I  
4 won't keep you longer. I will refer you to Page 284  
5 and 285 for a very brief summary of our activities over  
6 the last year. And, please, don't hesitate to call or  
7 email me at any time, any of the Council members, happy  
8 to answer any questions, have discussions. You know I  
9 think if we were together we might be in the hallway  
10 and having some conversations about some of the topics  
11 that have been discussed over the last two days.

12

13 But I will leave it at that and see if  
14 there are any questions. Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank  
17 you, Jimmy, I really appreciate that. Council members  
18 are there any questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I miss  
23 Andrew. Oh, my gosh, yes. No questions, all right,  
24 thank you so much, Jimmy.

25

26 MR. FOX: Yeah, I miss him too.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he  
29 would have had a question, I bet. Next is National  
30 Park Service. Denali National Park and Preserve. Amy.

31

32 MS. OWEN: Yes, good afternoon, Madame  
33 Chair. Members of the Council. This is Pat Owen,  
34 Wildlife Biologist at Denali and I'll be giving our  
35 very brief wildlife update today. I will refer you to  
36 the written material that's in your meeting book  
37 starting on Page 290. I'll just hit on a couple of  
38 quick things, again, as others, in the interest of  
39 time.

40

41 Our bear monitoring with a couple of  
42 collared bears continues in the northeast corner of the  
43 Park looking at movements of bears in relation to the  
44 road and in and out of the Park boundary. Right now  
45 there are only four bears wearing radio collars and  
46 those collars will release in 2022. At that time we'll  
47 finish up that project and do all the final data  
48 analysis. I did a poster for the International Bear  
49 Association Conference that I presented a couple of

50

0382

1 weeks ago showing some of the movements of those bears  
2 so far as we know it with the data that we've collected  
3 so far.

4  
5 Our DNA, our bear DNA and citizen  
6 science project has been on hold for a couple of years  
7 due to a lack of funding. We will have funding  
8 available this year in FY22 and we will analyze  
9 remaining samples. Probably not collect any additional  
10 samples because we do have samples from the bear  
11 monitoring project that we might try to throw into the  
12 mix for getting some DNA analysis done rather than  
13 collecting more scat samples, which is what we were  
14 using before this project.

15  
16 On the bear management front, all of  
17 the typical stuff that we deal with every year, visitor  
18 education, trying to reduce human/bear conflicts in the  
19 Park. It was another busy season for us with all of  
20 the usual things happening in all of the usual spots in  
21 the Park. One thing that you probably read or heard on  
22 the news is that we did have a mauling at near the  
23 Elieson Visitor Center, We assessed what happened out  
24 there and determined that it was a surprise encounter  
25 between a sow and a couple of cubs and an individual in  
26 fog near a river with lots of water noise and the  
27 action that we took there was to close the area down  
28 for a few days and that was the extent of what we did  
29 out there.

30  
31 Moose monitoring. Our moose surveys  
32 are still on hold due to an evaluation of the protocol.  
33 We do every year along the Park Road implement a  
34 closure where people are not allowed to leave the road  
35 for a five mile section for hiking or photography  
36 because it's a really popular area for moose rutting  
37 and we implemented that again this year and we usually  
38 end up dealing with traffic jams back there which is  
39 exactly what happened.

40  
41 Not much new on the front of caribou  
42 monitoring. Fall '20 numbers showed a bit of a  
43 decrease likely due to relative low snow and low calf  
44 recruitment last year.

45  
46 Let's see, sheep surveys, we did not do  
47 any aerial sheep surveys this past year but we did some  
48 abbreviated ground surveys and we were able to estimate  
49 about 27 lambs per ewe like sheep. Most likely heavy  
50

0383

1 late season snowfall probably caused a bit of that  
2 decrease that we've seen from recent years.

3

4 Wolf monitoring, as usual we're  
5 collaring wolves typically twice a year. We've got an  
6 operation -- capture operation coming up the first part  
7 of November to add some new collars and replace some  
8 radio collars in packs that spend the majority of their  
9 time within the Park. Last year 10 resident wolves  
10 died, that was in '20. Three of those were legal  
11 harvests, one of those was an illegal harvest, it was a  
12 snare set that we found in August that had been left  
13 open and caught a collared wolf. Three wolves were  
14 killed by other wolves and three from other natural  
15 causes. If you want some updates, in that report that  
16 is in your book, there is a link to our wolf pages on  
17 the Denali Park website.

18

19 The Alpine wildlife project which is  
20 looking at the impacts of climate change on Alpine  
21 wildlife species resumed last year. I won't give you  
22 all the numbers but the folks that were working on that  
23 project covered a lot of miles, a lot of sites. 85  
24 percent of the sites that they visited had target  
25 species that they were looking for, which were pika,  
26 marmot and ground squirrels and in there you can also  
27 see the number of sites -- the percentage of each one  
28 of those sites that contained those species.

29

30 Avian projects, Golden Eagle nesting  
31 occupancy surveys were done in April, productivity  
32 surveys were done in July. Occupancy was -- of no  
33 nesting territories was relatively high, reproductive  
34 success was low, however, and that is probably due to  
35 low prey abundance basically because we are on the low  
36 of the hare cycle.

37

38 Breeding surveys were done in June.  
39 The numbers of birds and species was as we would  
40 expect. But here's an interesting note and I would be  
41 interested to see if anybody else in any of these  
42 places that are being affected are seeing anything  
43 along these lines, we're getting lots of reports in  
44 areas that are being affected by Spruce bark beetles,  
45 that there's been an influx of woodpecker species as  
46 well as nuthatches and browncreepers (ph). So we're  
47 just kind of so far collecting some anecdotal stuff but  
48 interesting change in some species composition in some  
49 of those places.

50

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1                   One of the other things that we had  
2 going on this year was a USGS nest predation study.  
3 They did some site visits and camera traps at upwards  
4 of I think 95 different next locations of a wide  
5 variety of species documenting predation rates and  
6 predation events at avian nests around the Park. And  
7 we are expecting -- I originally said in the write up  
8 that we would expect the report from that in September,  
9 we have not received that yet but I would imagine that  
10 we're going to be getting it pretty soon.

11  
12                   One of the things that I would just  
13 really like to mention because she is a friend and  
14 colleague of mine and some of you might know, Carol  
15 McIntyre, who is our other wildlife biologist who does  
16 all of our avian work, Carol was just the recipient of  
17 the Raptor Research Foundation Fran and Frederick  
18 Hamerstrom award, which is -- and I just have to say it  
19 just because I'm really proud of her and I think it's  
20 really quite an achievement and for anybody that knows  
21 Carol you might give her a little pat on the back or  
22 tell her congrats when you talk to her or see her, it's  
23 a prestigious award and we're mighty proud of her.

24  
25                   The only other thing that I would just  
26 mention is that you may have seen a press release that  
27 came out yesterday that the Park Road is going to be  
28 closed at Mile 43 due to a landslide at  
29 (Indiscernible)PrettyRock starting -- well, it's  
30 already closed, it closed in August. But the road will  
31 not be opening beyond Mile 43 next year so that will  
32 probably have a bit of an impact on a lot of the  
33 wildlife work that we typically do and also a lot of  
34 the impacts because we're going to have a whole lot of  
35 visitors on basically half of the road.

36  
37                   So that's it, if anybody's got any  
38 questions my information, my contact information is in  
39 that report, please feel free to contact me unless you  
40 have any questions now.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
45 Pat.

46  
47                   MS. OWEN: You're welcome.

48  
49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Too bad we  
50

0385

1 can't be together, uh-huh. All right, any questions of  
2 Pat.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
7 none, next would be the Wrangell-St. Elias.

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame  
10 Chair. This is Barbara Cellarius. And my report is on  
11 Page -- starts on Page 293. We've got some really  
12 preliminary numbers on number of Federal subsistence  
13 permits issued and talks about some of the projects  
14 that I've got going on. And I'm just going to leave it  
15 at that and my contact information is on the report.  
16 And I'd like to turn it over to Dave Sarafin to talk  
17 about fisheries.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
20 Barbara. Dave.

21

22 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, good evening, Madame  
23 Chair. This is Dave Sarafin, the Fisheries Biologist  
24 at Wrangell-St. Elias. I'll try to provide a very  
25 brief summary of the fish report for Wrangell-St. Elias  
26 that you should have in your meeting book materials  
27 beginning on Page 298.

28

29 So we do have ongoing FRMP projects,  
30 the Tananda Creek weir, and also burbot studies. And  
31 both of these we plan to operate in 2022 again.

32

33 The 2021 Copper River salmon returns  
34 started with low numbers of both sockeye and chinook  
35 salmon. In response, Alaska Department of Fish and  
36 Game limited early season commercial fishing  
37 opportunities. This late start of the run was then  
38 followed by an increasing strength of the sockeye  
39 return with the final estimate from Miles Lake sonar  
40 exceeding the cumulative in-river management objective,  
41 however, total return estimates are likely to end up  
42 well below average for the past 10 years.

43

44 King salmon, once, again, returned in  
45 very low numbers. Managers believe that the 24,000  
46 fish sustainable escapement goal is likely not  
47 achieved. If so, this will be the fourth time in the  
48 last 10 years. During the season the Alaska Department  
49 of Fish and Game enacted king salmon closures in all up

50

0386

1 river State fisheries. There were no actions taken in  
2 the Federal fishery. Although no special actions were  
3 issued by the in-season manager during the 2021 season,  
4 Federal managers take an active role throughout the  
5 season in monitoring run strength indices while  
6 considering anticipated harvest and escapement goals to  
7 evaluate the need for appropriate fisheries management  
8 actions in the Federal waters of the Copper River  
9 drainage. Throughout the season, the Wrangell-St.  
10 Elias management teams strives to maintain thorough  
11 routine communication with State managers as well as  
12 with all interested stakeholders. The in-season  
13 manager recently submitted an agenda change request to  
14 addressed a perceived discrepancy in king salmon  
15 escapement goals found in two specific State management  
16 plans that guide the Department of Fish and Game in  
17 managing both the commercial and up river salmon  
18 fishery. This was considered an in-cycle request so it  
19 won't be treated as an agenda change request but will  
20 be -- it is on the list for discussion at the Board of  
21 Fisheries work session coming up next week.

22

23 Additionally, Wrangell-St. Elias has  
24 recently collaborated with researchers of various  
25 agencies in development of successfully funded  
26 proposals for Copper River salmon research. These  
27 projects seek to gain scientific information which may  
28 be applied to management decisions for making long-term  
29 sustainability. They are scheduled for 2022 through  
30 2025 with a total combined NPS funding of \$819,000.

31

32 And that's a little bit of extra  
33 information that's included in my summary here that  
34 wasn't in the actual fishery report.

35

36 So that concludes my summary anyway.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
41 Dave, appreciate it. Any questions of Barbara or Dave.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
46 Thank you, very much, you guys. Next on the agenda --  
47 hey, so -- but I see underneath this report, Barbara,  
48 where you referred to subsistence, you already did that  
49 because it's underneath you guys -- I'm not missing  
50

0387

1 anything, right, Barbara.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: That's all that  
4 Wrangell's planning to present today. We'll have.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

7

8 MS. CELLARIUS: .....some more  
9 information for you at your next meeting. Thanks.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
12 Yukon-Charley. Marcy.

13

14 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
15 This is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon-  
16 Charley Rivers National Preserve. I'll just provide a  
17 quick update on the Eagle Subsistence Working Group  
18 meeting that we had in May and then I'll pass it on to  
19 our Wildlife Biologist, Matt Sorum, for the rest of the  
20 update. I'd like to refer you to Page 306 and 307 in  
21 your meeting book for this update.

22

23 So we continue to meet with the Eagle  
24 Subsistence Working Group to have open dialogue with  
25 subsistence users in Eagle and Eagle Village. It's a  
26 good opportunity to provide wildlife updates and then  
27 also management that's been going on in the Preserve  
28 Unit. Our next meeting is going to be later this month  
29 via teleconference.

30

31 I'll pass it on to Matt for the  
32 wildlife update.

33

34 MR. SORUM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 I'll first talk about moose. We have a -- currently we  
36 have a five year moose collaring study going on and  
37 we're looking at moose movement, habitat use, and calf  
38 survival and recruitment. Of the calves from the 2020  
39 arrived this summer all survived this winter, so we had  
40 100 percent calf survival over the winter which is  
41 pretty amazing. This spring calving was lower than  
42 last year. Our calving rate was only 66 percent  
43 compared to last year it was 95 percent so there was a  
44 considerable drop in calving success this spring and we  
45 noticed that -- that similar patterns were observed  
46 across neighboring moose populations. So something to  
47 keep an eye on. Interestingly the timing of calving  
48 was similar to that of last year, even though we had  
49 what felt like a later spring this year, in that, the

50



0388

1 average calving date was only one day later. So we  
2 plan to radio track our collared moose in November to  
3 count how many calves survive this summer.

4  
5 For wolves, in Yukon-Charley, we're  
6 currently monitoring eight packs within the Preserves.  
7 This year all packs denned during the summer in the  
8 Preserve. The spring pack count was only 3.5 wolves,  
9 which is much lower than the long-term average of 5.7  
10 and over the biological 20 year, which is May 2020 to  
11 May 2021 we tracked 24 GPS collared wolves. Of the 24  
12 wolves 12 died and two dispersed outside of the Park --  
13 or the Preserve, which is nearly half the wolves -- or  
14 I guess half the wolves died, which is unusually high  
15 so we're keeping an eye on that as well. This year we  
16 completed a study on the patterns disease transmission  
17 in grey wolves across North America and we're really  
18 excited that that paper came out. I think it's timely  
19 considering the times we're in right now.

20  
21 And then for dall sheep, we are  
22 planning to conduct our next dall sheep survey in the  
23 Preserve in 2022. There's a lot of chatter about  
24 decreases of dall sheep population across Alaska  
25 including neighboring populations on Glacier Mountain  
26 and so we are going to conduct that next year and the  
27 last survey was conducted in 2018.

28  
29 And then with caribou, I guess I think  
30 ADF&G did a good job covering that. I guess what I'll  
31 add with caribou is that we are planning a caribou,  
32 muskox, dall sheep, moose, reindeer conference in  
33 Alaska in 2023 and we're putting a call out for input.  
34 This is the first announcement. It is a joint meeting  
35 between North American Caribou Workshop and the Arctic  
36 Ungulate Conference is scheduled to be held in  
37 Anchorage in May 2023. This meeting brings together  
38 international groups of managers, researchers,  
39 indigenous and local knowledge holders and other  
40 stakeholders who want to share their knowledge of  
41 caribou, muskox, and dall sheep, et cetera. In  
42 addition to sharing research this meeting seeks to  
43 bring people together to provide opportunities for  
44 exchanging viewpoints, concerns, recommendations and so  
45 forth. So planning for this event is still in the  
46 early stages but at this time the organization  
47 committee is actively seeking peoples who would like to  
48 participate and in the planning process and that could  
49 happen at any level. And also there's a call for a  
50

0389

1 logo, development of a logo, so we are looking for  
2 artists or anyone who would like to submit a logo for  
3 that. So we'll provide that information to Vince so he  
4 can share with the Committee -- the Council.

5

6 And that is it, thank you so much for  
7 your time and staying late tonight.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
10 very much. Council members, any questions.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy, briefly.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
15 ahead, Andy.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so just a quick  
18 comment. You might -- if moose calf survival is fairly  
19 low you might start looking at grizzly bear  
20 populations. My time spent down in the Preserve this  
21 year that's all I saw on the sand bars and along the  
22 shoreline, nothing but grizzly bear tracks, very few  
23 black bear tracks and no, or very few moose tracks that  
24 were fresh, anyway, during the hunting season. So  
25 there might be an increased population in that area.

26

27 Thank you, Madame Chair, that's all.

28

29 MR. SORUM: Great, thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
32 you, Andy. Any other questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I really  
37 appreciate you keeping it brief, thank you very much  
38 Marcy and Matt. Next on the agenda is BLM report.

39

40 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you, Madame Chair  
41 and Council members. My name is Tim Hammond and I just  
42 want to briefly introduce myself as the new manager for  
43 the BLM's Eastern Interior Field Office. I wish we  
44 could be at a venue where you could put a face with a  
45 name but unfortunately we've got to deal with what  
46 we've got. I have had the privilege with working with  
47 the Western Interior RAC and the Northwest Arctic RAC  
48 and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group over  
49 the past 15 years and I definitely look forward to

50

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1 building a strong relationship and earning your trust  
2 with the Eastern Interior RAC as well. I do think one  
3 of the most important parts of my job is listening to  
4 the people who use the lands we manage so I'll always  
5 welcome conversations with Council members and I hope  
6 you don't hesitate to reach out if you field need. So  
7 anyway I just wanted to, like I said, briefly introduce  
8 myself and I'm going to turn it over to Jim HERRIGES to  
9 give an abbreviated agency report.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

12

13 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, this is  
14 Jim HERRIGES with the Eastern Interior Field Office.  
15 And very briefly I'll mention some bullets from the BLM  
16 report which you can find on the meeting materials  
17 webpage for this meeting.

18

19 BLM and ADF&G began Arctic grayling  
20 studies this summer in Beaver and Nome Creek which will  
21 eventually yield population estimates and inform.....

22

23 REPORTER: Excuse me, hang on a minute.  
24 Whoever is speaking right now, could I have you speak  
25 up just a little bit more, you're like barely  
26 registering on the recorder.

27

28 MR. HERRIGES: I'm sorry, how is this?

29

30 REPORTER: A little better.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It could be  
33 better, Jim.

34

35 REPORTER: It could be a lot better,  
36 thank you.

37

38 MR. HERRIGES: I'm sorry, is this  
39 acceptable here?

40

41 REPORTER: Are you speaking directly  
42 into a phone?

43

44 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'm talking  
45 directly into it, how's this?

46

47 REPORTER: That's much better, thank  
48 you so much.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's  
2 better.

3  
4 MR. HERRIGES: Okay.

5  
6 REPORTER: Okay, so go ahead.

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

10  
11 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, so just some brief  
12 bullets and please look at the BLM report on the  
13 meeting materials webpage if you'd like to look at more  
14 details.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
17 page number.

18  
19 MR. HERRIGES: BLM and ADF&G began  
20 Arctic grayling studies in Beaver and Nome Creek this  
21 summer which will eventually yield population estimates  
22 and inform Nome Creek harvest management decisions.

23  
24 Another effort that was initiated, BLM  
25 with the collaboration with Yukon-Charley Preserve  
26 initiated a study of Draanjik moose with the capture  
27 and GPS radio collaring of 11 adult female moose and an  
28 additional 18 moose will be collared this coming March.

29  
30 Rehabilitation of OHV damage to the  
31 Pinnell National Recreation Trail near Eagle Summit was  
32 a major activity this year along with preparations to  
33 minimize future damage, to this and to other trails,  
34 through extensive public outreach and education for and  
35 during the hunting season. Also relating to trails and  
36 OHVs our office is preparing travel management plans  
37 for the Steese Conservation Area and the White  
38 Mountains Recreation Area. This spring and summer we  
39 prepared two environmental assessments to evaluate four  
40 alternatives in each travel management plan. Each has  
41 a different balance of OHVs and resource protection.  
42 Draft ANILCA Section .810 analysis found that some  
43 alternatives may result in a significant restriction to  
44 subsistence uses for some of the local communities.  
45 And the Field Office will be working with the State of  
46 Alaska over the next few months to further examine some  
47 State concerns about access and wildlife management  
48 before selecting a preferred alternative and then  
49 developing a decision about the final travel management  
50

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1 plan.

2

3

4 And then, finally, after consulting  
5 with the Park Service and other agencies, BLM is ready  
6 to move forward with setting the Federal winter season  
7 for the Fortymile Caribou at October 27th through March  
8 31st with a harvest limit of two caribou. This is  
9 identical to the winter season that the State has  
10 announced and to last year's Federal winter season.

10

11

12 And so if you wanted to provide any  
13 input on that or any questions or anything that I've  
14 talked about then please ask now or get a hold of me  
15 later.

15

16

Thank you.

17

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

20

21

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Jim. Any questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
next is Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

MR. BRUNING: Madame Chair, this is  
Darren Bruning with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
the Regional Supervisor for the Division of Wildlife  
Conservation in the Interior and Eastern Arctic. And  
I'd like to introduce you and members of the Council to  
the Galena Assistant Area Biologist Sara Longson and  
Sara is going to provide a report on the 21Delta and 24  
Delta Units moose season extensions and is also going  
to follow up on the request from yesterday for moose  
survey and population information from 21Bravo.

Thank you, Sara.

MS. LONGSON: Thank you, Darren. Thank  
you, Madame Chair. Again, my name is Sara Longson. I  
am the Assistant Area Biologist for the Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game. Can everybody hear me  
okay?

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe so.

MS. LONGSON: Excellent. Okay, I'll  
briefly go over the Unit 21D and 24B moose season  
extension. It went from October 4th through October

0393

1 8th and the bag limit was one bull. The areas that  
2 were extended in the season were Unit 24D west of the  
3 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and in 21D south of the  
4 south bank of the Yukon River down stream of the up  
5 river entrance of Colis Slough and west of CollarCreek.  
6 Low level harvest was expected because preliminary  
7 reports indicated that most residents were successful  
8 in harvesting a moose during the regular season and  
9 with reporting nearly complete, so far zero moose were  
10 harvested during this extension.

11  
12 And next I will briefly present the  
13 Unit 21B Nowitna survey data that was requested  
14 yesterday.

15  
16 I'll start off by saying over the long-  
17 term the Nowitna moose population has been fairly  
18 stable at a low density. The lower Nowitna River  
19 combined trend count areas were last surveyed last  
20 November and these units are surveyed in cooperation  
21 with Fish and Wildlife annually when weather and  
22 resources allow. Over the last three years we've  
23 observed relatively low moose abundance and in 2020  
24 specifically a total of 239 moose were observed which  
25 were made up of 35 bulls and 181 cows and 23 calves  
26 which is a decrease in overall numbers. The number of  
27 cows has increased.....

28  
29 (Teleconference interference -  
30 participants not muted)

31  
32 MS. LONGSON: .....slightly from the  
33 previous year, however, the number of bulls has  
34 decreased. The bull/cow ratio was decreased to 19  
35 bulls per 100 cows, calf production also decreased  
36 slightly from 2019 and it was down to 13 calves per 100  
37 cows. The last noted composition data varied within  
38 the range of the values observed.....

39  
40 (Teleconference interference -  
41 participants not muted)

42  
43 MS. LONGSON: .....previously within  
44 the trend count areas but many of the total counts were  
45 below long-term averages.

46  
47 Thank you, that's all I have.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
50

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1 Sara.

2

3

MS. LONGSON: You're welcome.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any questions from the Council members.

7

8

9

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

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Charlie.

13

14

15

16

MR. WRIGHT: I have a question for Sara. Sara, is this moose count done primarily in the mouth area.....

17

18

19

MS. LONGSON: It's made up of.....

20

21

MR. WRIGHT: .....of the Nowitna?

22

23

24

25

MS. LONGSON: .....two trend count areas, which it does include the Nowitna River mouth and also the Nowitna/Slatna confluence. So when we talk about the lower.....

26

27

28

MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MS. LONGSON: .....Nowitna River combined trend count areas we're combining those two trend count areas that have been pretty much surveyed since about the year 2000 annually, if the weather cooperated with us. So we have a good long history with these two trend count areas.

36

37

38

MR. WRIGHT: So do you have kill numbers for the river this fall, by any chance yet?

39

40

41

42

MS. LONGSON: Not -- no, most of the -- some of the harvest records are still coming in, we're still compiling that data.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I was just curious because I hunted there this fall and there was hardly any movement and no tracks in the first 30 miles hardly. I couldn't say no tracks but very few. We seen a lot of bulls coming from way up but there was not very many moose being killed when I was there for about a week. I was there into the extension a little

0395

1 bit even. So I was just curious about any management  
2 plans because in the last 10 years it has changed it  
3 seems like to me. There used to be moose tracks  
4 running back and forth across that river all over the  
5 place and now you rarely see a track. So I was just  
6 curious about management in the future that's why I  
7 asked for the number because.....

8

9 MS. LONGSON: Yep.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: .....because it sure has  
12 changed or either the weather's changed, there was no  
13 cows bellowing so I was thinking maybe it was the  
14 weather being warm. There was still a lot of ducks and  
15 swans, I even seen some cranes and that's not normal  
16 for the end of September going into October. So I was  
17 just curious what's going to happen in the future or if  
18 there's any plans of change of hunt dates or anything  
19 like that.

20

21 Thank you. Thank you for your numbers.

22

23 MS. LONGSON: You're welcome. Thank  
24 you for that additional information, Charlie, I  
25 appreciate it.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything  
28 else.

29

30 MR. BRUNING: Madame Chair and members  
31 of the Council. Darren Bruning from Fish and Game.  
32 That concludes the report from the Division of Wildlife  
33 Conservation. I do not know if ADF&G from either  
34 fisheries or subsistence might be on the line, I do not  
35 know.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
38 you. Was there any other reports from Fish and Game.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, good evening, Madame  
41 Chair and Council members. This is Brooke McDavid with  
42 the Subsistence Division. Can you all hear me okay.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe so.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: All right, thank you. I  
47 just have a really brief update for you all. We sent  
48 a couple of slides that made it on to your website and  
49 they were not in your meeting material book.

50



0396

1 But we just wanted to give you a quick  
2 update on a project that was funded by OSM that we just  
3 wrapped up. It was involved three communities on the  
4 Yukon River, Pilot Station, Nulato and Beaver. Beaver,  
5 of course, is in the EIRAC region. And this was a  
6 study about salmon exchange networks. It largely  
7 focused on the sharing of salmon and how sharing of  
8 salmon and exchange of salmon are impacted as there are  
9 declines in harvest. The -- you know, one of the main  
10 things that the study showed was that, you know,  
11 reduction in harvest opportunity and reduction in  
12 harvest has far reaching impacts beyond just the  
13 harvesting households in a community, the households  
14 that rely on salmon receive from others are also  
15 impacted and the exchange network that connects  
16 communities across the state are impacted as people  
17 have to make the tough decisions to not be able to  
18 share as they normally would.

19  
20 This report is not yet published. It  
21 will -- it's in the final stages and as soon as we have  
22 it available I could definitely send you guys a link or  
23 provide additional information at your winter meeting.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
28 Any questions, Council members.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
33 assume that concludes ADF&G reports.

34  
35 MR. BRUNING: Madame Chair, this is  
36 Darren.....

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,  
39 next.....

40  
41 MR. BRUNING: .....I believe that is  
42 correct. I believe that should conclude them, thank  
43 you.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
46 Darren, appreciate it. Next is the Office of  
47 Subsistence Management.

48  
49 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0397

1 Members of the Council. For the record, Katya Wessels.

2

3

4 And on behalf of OSM I want to thank  
5 all of you Council members for your exceptional work  
6 that you do on behalf of your communities and user  
7 groups during these trying times. We value your  
8 expertise and contribution of your knowledge and  
9 experience to the regulatory process. It has been a  
10 very difficult year for all of us dealing with the  
11 Covid19 environment.

11

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0398

1 I was promoted from Council Coordinator  
2 to Supervisor of the Council Coordination Division.

3

4 Additional good news is that three  
5 wildlife biologist positions at OSM were filled. Tom  
6 Plank, whom you had the pleasure to meet during this  
7 meeting came to us from the Bureau of Land Management  
8 in Utah. Bryan Ubelaker came to OSM from BLM in  
9 Anchorage. Kendra Holman came to OSM from the U.S.  
10 Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage.

11

12 We also had some departures at OSM  
13 through retirement and new opportunities.

14

15 We bid a fond farewell to Donald Mike,  
16 Caron McKee and Zach Stevenson.

17

18 The OSM team is diligently working on  
19 building capacity and will be filling several new  
20 positions in our Anthropology, Council Coordination,  
21 Fisheries and Regulatory Divisions, along with adding  
22 additional administrative support. Right now the  
23 application period is open for two Council Coordination  
24 positions with OSM but that announcement is closing  
25 today at 8:00 p.m., Alaska time. So these are GS12  
26 positions, the job announcements are posted on  
27 USAjobs.gov. If you have any questions or still have  
28 -- well, two hours to apply, which is almost  
29 impossible, but if you have any questions please call  
30 me. We're going to announce another position for a --  
31 that will be developed, performance level 12 for  
32 another Council Coordinator position with OSM. You can  
33 also call me at 907-786-3885 if you have any questions.

34

35 That concludes the Staffing update.

36

37 And then I just want to remind the  
38 Council members about the RealID requirement. So  
39 beginning May 3rd, 2023 every air traveler will need to  
40 present a RealID compliant driver's license or other  
41 acceptable form of identification, for example,  
42 passport, to fly within the United States. So please  
43 make sure you have some form of RealID by May 3rd 2023.

44

45 And also short update on the lawsuit  
46 from the State of Alaska.

47

48 As you were previously briefed, on  
49 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit

50

0399

1 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted  
2 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action  
3 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community  
4 harvest of two antlered moose and five male Sitka  
5 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was  
6 temporary special action WSA20-03 which closed Federal  
7 public lands in Units 13A and 13B to non-Federally-  
8 qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part of the  
9 lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two  
10 preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13  
11 closure from taking effect and another vacating the  
12 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any  
13 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of  
14 Covid19. On September 18th the U.S. District Court  
15 denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction  
16 on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, "because  
17 the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of  
18 success or serious questions on the merits of its  
19 claims, the court need not consider the remaining  
20 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis."

21  
22 Two months later on November the 18th,  
23 the Court also denied the State's motion for a  
24 preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge  
25 Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a  
26 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious  
27 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated  
28 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

29  
30 While these rulings on preliminary  
31 injunction are encouraging, they did not resolve the  
32 litigation. Recent developments are that settlement  
33 negotiations between the Department of Justice, the DOI  
34 Solicitor's Office, the USDA Office of General Counsel,  
35 and the State proved unsuccessful. A briefing was  
36 completed at the end of August 2021 and we are now  
37 awaiting the Court's decision.

38  
39 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff  
40 does not comment on any active litigation directed  
41 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what we  
42 have reported here.

43  
44 I would be happy to answer questions  
45 and thank you, Madame Chair and Council members.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
48 Katya, for the report. Are there any questions.

49  
50

0400

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear  
4 any questions, thank you, Katya. Next on the agenda is  
5 future meeting dates. Okay.

6

7

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.....

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got to  
10 confirm our winter 2022 meeting. Yes.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I feel like  
we need to know all of these items because I had  
suggested and I want to know what's going on, the  
possibility of a working group before we get together  
and are they planning on two meetings. We have our own

0401

1 meeting and then we have a joint meeting for one day,  
2 is that what they're planning.

3

4 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
5 Katya.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: So the idea is that  
10 Southcentral will have their separate meeting. Eastern  
11 Interior will have their separate meeting. Then there  
12 will be one day teleconference meeting which will be  
13 separate from both Council's meeting, which  
14 teleconference will be a joint meeting between Eastern  
15 Interior and Southcentral specifically to talk about  
16 FP21-10 and a possible compromise. The Southcentral,  
17 you know, already met so the week that they were  
18 choosing the dates for the joint teleconference is the  
19 week of March 14th through 18th. We asked them to  
20 choose three possible dates so the dates in order of  
21 priority that they chose is March 14th, 16th and 18th,  
22 one of these dates would work for the Southcentral  
23 Council so we hope that the Eastern Interior members  
24 can choose one of these dates that will work for them  
25 for one day teleconference meeting regarding FP21-10.

26

27 Also I wanted to let you know that  
28 Southcentral did not have a chance to talk about the  
29 working group for this proposal. They ran out of time  
30 discussing their regulatory proposals so they never  
31 talked about that, so they did not vote on having a  
32 working group, they did not select any members to be on  
33 that working group.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, as the  
36 Chair of this group, first of all I want to ask are you  
37 saying that the meeting on March 14th to the 18th, it  
38 is only going to be by teleconference of the two?

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, see,  
43 that, to me, without a working group with information,  
44 I just feel like everybody's going to be so frustrated  
45 and can we push for a working group prior to so they  
46 gather information so there's something that they're  
47 working on -- oh, gosh, it just seems that's the only  
48 possible way, a small working group of both Councils,  
49 to me. For your -- as the Chair, here, I would

50

0402

1 request that.

2

3

MS. WESSELS: Well, Eastern Interior  
4 can vote to have a working group made up of Council  
5 members but what I'm saying is, is that Southcentral  
6 did not vote to have a working group so we cannot do it  
7 now off the record, to get them to join the working  
8 group.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's a  
11 no, we can't do it, just because they ran out of time.  
12 All of this is just so frustrating and it's not  
13 workable, I'm sorry. Council members, do you agree  
14 with me.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Sue, this is Andy.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
19 Andy.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, let me ask this as  
22 procedural, if members of the Southeast [sic] Council  
23 and members of our Council were to meet privately, not  
24 taking any action but basically having discussions, is  
25 that a possibility without causing shock waves through  
26 the system?

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Are you talking, you  
29 know, Council members from the Eastern Interior talking  
30 with members of Southcentral Council?

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Sure, why not. Like if  
33 we just do this on our own, why do we need the blessing  
34 of OSM for this if you guys aren't paying for it or  
35 whatever, if a bunch of private individuals within the  
36 state want to get together and have a talk there's no  
37 reason why they can't. And we can just set up our own  
38 Zoom or whatever, or if you guys -- if you guys can't,  
39 because of legal things, then we'll just set up our own  
40 Zoom or our won teleconference and have the discussion.  
41 But I support my Chair, it's absolutely ludicrous to  
42 try and tackle something of that magnitude without  
43 having a little bit of back and forth to understand the  
44 two positions so that we can come together. You can't  
45 just have a teleconference with 80 people in a room and  
46 expect to get anything productive done without prior  
47 contact with each other.

48

49 That's all I have. Thank you, Madame

50

0403

1 Chair, and I appreciate you and I support you in  
2 anything we can do.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I  
5 mean.....

6  
7 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright,  
8 Madame Chair.

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

12  
13 MR. WRIGHT: I support you also. I  
14 think we need to talk about this before that meeting.  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I do  
18 appreciate the support and I will report to you all  
19 that at the SRC meeting Barbara Cellarius, bless her  
20 heart and soul, she came up with a, you know, just a  
21 report showing what has happened over time in hopes  
22 that the SRC would come up with maybe some ideas to  
23 present us and.....

24  
25 (Teleconference interference -  
26 participants not muted)

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....Gloria  
29 was not going to do that and she said let's just wait  
30 until the Councils meet. So I just feel like we're  
31 just spinning our wheels and I'm sick of it. I'm ready  
32 to do something, even if we have to do it on our own.

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

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38  
39 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, of course, we  
40 cannot tell you private citizens that you can't meet  
41 and talk about something but you cannot report them  
42 back to the Councils as an official working group,  
43 being you can only talk about solutions and then  
44 propose them as the members of the Council during the  
45 meetings but it won't be like the working group.  
46 Because the way working groups work, they meet, they  
47 discuss possible solutions and then they report on the  
48 -- you know, what the working group has come up with.  
49 And.....

50



0404

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,  
2 Katya.....

3  
4 MS. WESSELS: .....you know if you meet  
5 separately, you know, we.....

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya.

8  
9 MS. WESSELS: ....cannot stop you from  
10 doing that.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So my  
13 question is this, can we create a working group of the  
14 Eastern Interior and go through some of this to report  
15 to our meeting, our next meeting, or to report to this  
16 teleconference.

17  
18 MS. WESSELS: Can you repeat your  
19 question, can we create a working group of the Eastern  
20 Interior and what was the rest of it?

21  
22 (Teleconference interference -  
23 participants not muted)

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, can we  
26 create a working group of the Eastern Interior to go  
27 over some of this stuff and see.....

28  
29 MS. WESSELS: Yes, you can create.....

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....if there  
32 really is a compromise.

33  
34 MS. WESSELS: .....a working group of  
35 the Eastern Interior that needs to be consisting of all  
36 the Eastern Interior members.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
39 members that's what I would suggest. And then we can  
40 -- can we ask for somebody for information at our  
41 working group?

42  
43 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Even a  
46 public member.....

47  
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair. Madame  
49 Chair, I have a suggestion.

50

0405

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
2 Donald.

3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. What about  
5 we move our meeting a week forward between the 14th and  
6 the 18th so that they can be interacting with us.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They being  
9 who?

10  
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Southcentral, because  
12 that's when they were willing to teleconference with  
13 us.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, they were  
16 willing to teleconference with us the 14th, the 16th or  
17 18th.

18  
19 MS. WESSELS: Yes, they already will  
20 meet on February 10th and 11th to discuss their regular  
21 Council business, and on March 8th and 9th Eastern  
22 Interior will meet, if you're agreeable to these dates,  
23 and then after that you're going to meet together in a  
24 joint meeting and discuss FP21-10 and try to find a  
25 compromise at the Board's request.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As your  
28 Chair, Donald, I don't think moving our Council meeting  
29 is important. I think -- unless you got some idea I'm  
30 not picking up on.

31  
32 MR. WOODRUFF: No, I don't.

33  
34 MR. STEVENS: Excuse me. Excuse me,  
35 Madame Chair, Ben Stevens here. Would it be okay if we  
36 sponsored a teleconference or a Zoom just to allow the  
37 members to get together to toss ideas around, is that  
38 -- is there any way that we could help with our  
39 capacity?

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
42 a question to our Coord -- to our Staff.

43  
44 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I mean -- this is  
45 Katya, Ben, you can sponsor any kind of meeting for  
46 Council members, public, I'm just saying that this  
47 group, later, cannot.....

48  
49 (Teleconference interference -  
50

0406

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MS. WESSELS: .....report to the  
4 Council as an official working group. That's all I'm  
5 saying.

6

7 MR. STEVENS: Okay. I -- okay, Katya, I  
8 think I heard that loud and clear and I understand that  
9 clearly. I think that what we need right now is we  
10 need a group of Council members from this RAC and from  
11 the Southcentral RAC to clearly understand the issue  
12 and discuss it and, you know, how that comes out in the  
13 end, I'm sure they'll abide by your rules. But I'm  
14 just saying that if -- if -- if they want to get  
15 together, we'll be willing to try to make that happen.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I want  
18 to.....

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Ben.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....get  
23 together and -- is that Andy.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Yes, Ma'am. If I may, I  
26 think that's a good solution and from what I'm hearing  
27 from Katya is we can't report back to OSM on that but  
28 certainly whatever the results of our official meeting  
29 together with the Southeast [sic] will be the final  
30 outcome that needs to be reported back to OSM under  
31 this. So I think that's a workable solution and I  
32 would appreciate if we can set that working group  
33 meeting up, informally, to have that discussion. So  
34 what I'm hearing from Katya and correct me if I'm  
35 wrong, is that that working group can't report back to  
36 you, but certainly the joint meeting where actions take  
37 place are valid and will be reported back and recorded  
38 publicly.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: This is correct.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and  
43 see.....

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Problem solved.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And see.....

48

49 MR. BASSICH: And.....

50

0407

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy -- Andy,  
2 I see two solutions. One is we go through that with  
3 Tanana Chiefs or whoever else wants to get involved,  
4 and then we, we have our own working group and that  
5 report comes to our own working group or do you think  
6 it's redundant?

7  
8 MR. BASSICH: I think that's redundant,  
9 let's just meet, let's have a Zoom a meeting or  
10 teleconference.....

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13  
14 MR. BASSICH: .....whatever works for  
15 our members and their members and then when we meet --  
16 we'll just make some headway so hopefully when we meet  
17 together we're not starting from scratch and then we  
18 can report and make our final decisions that will then  
19 become on the record, public record, and I think that's  
20 the most efficient way, time-wise for people to be  
21 involved and solve this.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm  
24 willing to be on it and I don't think we need any  
25 motions or anything, do we, if this is something in the  
26 public.

27  
28 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, you just need to  
29 decide on the joint meeting date between March 14th,  
30 16th and 18th and you also need to confirm the March  
31 8th and 9th and the proposed meeting place was Fort  
32 Yukon, again, we don't know if we can meet in person,  
33 we'll put our best foot forward to make sure meetings  
34 are in person but it will probably depend on the  
35 situation in the state at that moment, and DOI health  
36 requirements.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just  
39 want to report to the Council, I went through a two day  
40 meeting with the Subsistence Resource Commission and  
41 one of the Commission members says she thinks it's the  
42 most horrible way to have a meeting and it's --  
43 well, these are not her words, but it's how I  
44 interpreted it, you just feel totally disengaged, was  
45 her words. And with all of the modern technology  
46 there's got to be a better way for us to meet than just  
47 a phone teleconference meeting, it's just crazy. And  
48 for me, personally, I feel like we should be given the  
49 option if we want to meet in a location and we should  
50

0408

1 be able to go there and if people choose not to go  
2 there that's their choice, they can call in. But I  
3 feel like it's a different option than what we're going  
4 through right now.

5

6 So the first thing to do is pick one  
7 day of the March 14th, 16th or 18th for a joint  
8 teleconference, unfortunately, I hope there's another  
9 way, with Southcentral -- and it is Southcentral, Andy,  
10 not Southeast.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: All right.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
15 going to suggest March 16th, middle of the week.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Sounds good to me.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone have a  
20 problem with that?

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, I don't have  
23 any problem with that either.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone.  
26 Okay, I'm hearing.....

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Sold.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....no  
33 objection to March 16th -- go ahead, did somebody.....

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Sold. March 16th.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Got it, okay.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I agree with the  
42 16th. I said that earlier but you must not have copied  
43 me.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I did I  
46 was just asking everybody else. Thanks, guys -- thanks  
47 guys and girls. All right, now, March 8th and 9th, or  
48 Eastern Interior meeting, are we all good with those  
49 dates.

50

0409

1 MR. BASSICH: Sold.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: At this time I'm good with  
6 those dates, Madame Chair, this is Charlie.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
11 objections.

12

13 (No objections)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing  
16 none, our meeting will be the 8th and 9th of March.  
17 Meeting place.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 REPORTER: Pick one.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been on  
24 the record here to go to Fort Yukon, is there any  
25 problem with that.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: That was me, I'd be happy  
28 to go there.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm not  
31 hearing any objections. But I would suggest that in  
32 the event that they don't want us to go to Fort Yukon  
33 we have an alternative. We always run into these  
34 problems.

35

36 MR. WRIGHT: We talked about Arctic  
37 Village before.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, is that  
40 the alternative?

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Please.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
45 objections.

46

47 (No objections)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

50

0410

1 And now I guess maybe we just ought to identify who  
2 would love to be part of our little public group.

3  
4 MS. WESSELS: Well, you don't need to  
5 decide it on record, Madame Chair, you can decide it  
6 outside of this meeting.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then  
9 I'm going to ask Ben Stevens to call or send an email  
10 to folks and see what he gets from it and he and I will  
11 talk, okay, Ben.

12  
13 MR. STEVENS: Yes, Ma'am. We probably  
14 should talk first and that way I can know what to  
15 expect and start some planning.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, well,  
18 give me a call later, okay.

19  
20 MR. STEVENS: Okay. Well, thank you  
21 very kindly. It'll very likely be tomorrow or.....

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
24 fine.

25  
26 MR. STEVENS: .....Monday or whatever's  
27 good for you.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That'll be  
30 fine.

31  
32 MR. STEVENS: All right, thank you,  
33 very much, Madame Chair. I appreciate your help.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That'll be  
36 fine.

37  
38 MR. STEVENS: All right, bye.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,  
41 Ben. All right, I guess next is fall 2022 meeting  
42 dates. Suggestions.

43  
44 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, the open window for  
45 the fall '22 meetings is August 8th through November  
46 4th.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I  
49 was sent this, just to help Council members out, this  
50

0411

1 is what's in front of me right now. On September 20th  
2 and 21st is Kodiak/Aleutians in Cold Bay, and if you  
3 can write this in your book it might help you, because  
4 this tells you where we're overlapping.

5

6 And then Southcentral October 13th and  
7 14th. If I'm going too fast tell me.

8

9 And then October 19th and 20th is  
10 Western Interior.

11

12 And Southeast Alaska, they have 25th,  
13 26th and 27th and then also it says TBD.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: To be determined.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: To be determined their  
20 meeting place.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: So should we go in August?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. I'm  
27 hunting.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, I hear you.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, how  
32 about.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. The  
35 later in the.....

36

37 MR. BASSICH: .....October 6th and  
38 October 7th.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....the  
41 later in that thing is the better for me just to let  
42 you know. Okay, Andy, you usually have input here.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Well, I see Columbus Day  
45 kind of screws up doing the October 11th and October  
46 12th that time unless they're chartered so I'd say  
47 either the week before that or the week after and they  
48 look pretty full the week after. I have no problem  
49 with late October except for the fact that I may not be  
50



0412

1 able to attend in person at a meeting but my  
2 communications seem to be working so I'll defer to  
3 whatever works for Council members.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Andy  
6 the.....

7  
8 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, this is Katya.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....the week  
11 of.....

12  
13 MS. WESSELS: You cannot do it the week  
14 of October 24th because there's already two Councils  
15 meeting that week. We try not to schedule more than  
16 two Council meetings each week. So the week of October  
17 24th is out.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the week  
20 of the 3rd through the 7th is all open.

21  
22 MR. BASSICH: So that puts us.....

23  
24 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

25  
26 MR. BASSICH: All right, how about  
27 October 5th and October 6th.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
30 objections.

31  
32 MR. WRIGHT: No objection.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 5th  
35 and 6th of October. Meeting place. Suggestions.

36  
37 MR. WRIGHT: We never meet down in your  
38 area.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tok is a hub.

41  
42 MR. WRIGHT: Tok sounds good to me.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want  
45 to make sure it's not fisheries proposals because  
46 they're mostly interested, in Tok area, around there,  
47 in wildlife stuff.

48  
49 MR. WRIGHT: That's true.

50

0413

1 MS. WESSELS: It will be fisheries  
2 proposals, it'll be the call for fisheries proposals  
3 that will open early next year.

4  
5 MR. BASSICH: So why not swap.....

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we  
8 would.....

9  
10 MR. BASSICH: .....the destinations,  
11 Madame Chair, and just do Arctic Village in the  
12 falltime and for the winter do Tok. Just switch our  
13 two destinations.

14  
15 (Pause)

16  
17 REPORTER: Yes.

18  
19 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, that's a good idea.

20  
21 REPORTER: Good idea.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are  
24 you telling me.....

25  
26 MR. BASSICH: I'm saying instead of  
27 Arctic Village.....

28  
29 MR. WRIGHT: But Forth Yukon  
30 (indiscernible - breaking up)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Tok for  
33 March 8th and 9th of 2022 is what you're suggesting.

34  
35 (Pause)

36  
37 REPORTER: Yes.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because it  
40 was Fort Yukon.....

41  
42 MR. WRIGHT: That'll work.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we had  
45 Fort Yukon as No. 1 and then we had Arctic Village as a  
46 second choice. So what you're saying is not have it in  
47 Fort Yukon and have it in Tok.

48  
49 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Correct. So if  
50

0414

1 our fall meetings are mostly fisheries then Fort Yukon  
2 would be much more interested in our fishery issues  
3 than the game and then Tok would be much more  
4 interested in our game issues at that time, the later  
5 time.

6  
7 MR. WRIGHT: I agree.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, got it.

10  
11 MR. BASSICH: The winter.

12  
13 MS. WESSELS: Well, members of the  
14 Council, actually it's going to be the call for the  
15 fisheries proposals during the winter meeting and then  
16 at the fall you will be providing recommendations on  
17 the fisheries proposals that are submitted. So next  
18 year is sort of fisheries all the way.

19  
20 MR. BASSICH: Oh.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
23 the thing. It would be better to have Tok a year  
24 later. So if it's okay with the Council we're going to  
25 keep with Fort Yukon and then an alternate at Arctic  
26 Village. And maybe if it doesn't happen just have  
27 Arctic Village -- what would be better for taking up  
28 fishery proposals.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: Fort Yukon.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Taking up in  
33 the fall.

34  
35 MR. WRIGHT: Fort Yukon, Charlie.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That  
38 would be the fall and not the winter?

39  
40 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then  
43 what do we want to put for winter, being March 8th and  
44 March 9th, where will we meet, and then we'll have Fort  
45 Yukon on 5th and 6th of October.

46  
47 (Pause)

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not good

50

0415

1 to have Tok, so we need to have another place on March  
2 8th and 9th, .

3  
4 MR. BASSICH: Tanana.

5  
6 MR. WRIGHT: How about Tanana. Tanana.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard  
9 Tanana, did I hear something else -- what was the other  
10 one?

11  
12 MR. WRIGHT: Well, Tanana is at the end  
13 of our range so you couldn't be no further down river  
14 than that.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pick one.

17  
18 MR. BASSICH: Tanana is always  
19 interested in fisheries issues. If we're going to be  
20 talking a lot of fisheries issues next year then that  
21 would be a good place.

22  
23 MR. WRIGHT: Nenana also has a nice big  
24 hall.

25  
26 REPORTER: Yes, it does.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, which  
29 one's number 1, and which one's number 2.

30  
31 MR. WRIGHT: It's easier to get to  
32 Nenana, I don't mind both.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nenana is the  
35 first choice and then Tanana second.

36  
37 MR. WRIGHT: There you go.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, are  
40 there any objections.

41  
42 (No objections)

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I scribbled a  
45 lot on my paper here but I got March 8th and 9th, 2022  
46 winter meeting in Nenana, second choice Tanana. And  
47 then fall 2022 October 5th and 6th in Fort Yukon. All  
48 agree.

49  
50

0416

1 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Agree.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
6 objections.

7

8 (No objections)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got it.  
11 All right, we got our meeting dates and now we have  
12 some closing comments. Council members, are there any  
13 closing comments.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I have one Sue.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy  
20 and then Charlie can.....

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, all right. Thanks  
25 to everyone. I know this has been a very difficult  
26 meeting with doing it in this manner. A lot of  
27 patience but it is important and I appreciate the  
28 effort by the Chair to accommodate some of these  
29 fishery issues. And, Bill -- Bill Glanz, I'm hoping  
30 that you have a beer in your hand right about now,  
31 that's the one advantage to being able to be at home.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. BASSICH: So thanks to all the  
36 Council members, I appreciate hearing people's opinions  
37 and I think we got a lot of good work done and I look  
38 forward to meeting with you guys as soon as we safely  
39 can in person.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie Wright,  
42 Madame Chair. I'd like to echo what Andy said. I thank  
43 you guys for working through this terrible, difficult  
44 meeting on the phone with all the drops, losing  
45 connection, it's real tough. Thank you for the hard  
46 work and digging in and working through all the issues.  
47 I really appreciate all of you and I look forward to  
48 seeing you in person also. It makes a world of  
49 difference to meet in person. You can really see that  
50

0417

1 now and see the difference, and I look forward to  
2 seeing you all again.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
7 Charlie. Any other closing comments from the Council  
8 members.

9

10 MR. JAGOW: This is the other Charlie.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff.

13

14 MR. JAGOW: I just want to echo what  
15 the other guys said and thank everybody for putting up  
16 with teleconference also reiterate the fact that it is  
17 really difficult to do this via teleconference  
18 especially for those of us that are pretty new to all  
19 this and are trying to learn the ropes. It kind of  
20 feels like a step back for me, at least, and not, you  
21 know, not having good phone service and not being good  
22 with a computer makes it just about impossible to be a  
23 really contributing member. So I sure hope that in the  
24 future we're in a place where we can actually meet in  
25 person.

26

27 All right, thanks.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks so  
30 much, Charlie, I really appreciate your comments.

31

32 Anyone else.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don Woodruff.

35

36 MS. EVANS: This is Linda.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'll  
39 have Linda go first and then you Don.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

42

43 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I'd just like to say  
44 thank you for all the participation and everything.  
45 it's really informative and I learned a lot this time.  
46 I appreciate everybody's input. And I hope that the  
47 people who are affected by these proposals that we  
48 discuss and make recommendations on are notified in a  
49 timely manner so we can have more -- more input from  
50

0418

1 our constituents. And I think education is another  
2 part where somehow we have to start educating our  
3 constituents and making sure that they know what's  
4 going on, I believe, about these proposals and  
5 regulations.

6  
7 I'm really concerned about this  
8 hatchery -- fish hatchery issue. I think we did good  
9 work in trying to find out the genetic composition of  
10 these fish and I hope that corresponding agency will  
11 look into that or find ways to get some of those  
12 studies funded.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
17 Linda. I really appreciate you so much. I feel like  
18 you have been thrown a huge pile of stuff to wrap your  
19 head around and I think you're doing a great job and I  
20 really appreciate it.

21  
22 Donald.

23  
24 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Madame Chair, thank  
25 you. I want to thank everyone on the Council for their  
26 patience in this meeting and the Staff and the court  
27 recorder for getting the background noise suppressed.  
28 And I think this is a good example of a lot of hard  
29 work, I mean this is like 300 pages to read in a couple  
30 weeks, when we got our Council books and I find that  
31 kind of onerous but we got through it and I think we  
32 did a lot of good work. I really respect Linda's  
33 opinion about keeping us on task and keeping a  
34 reinformation of where we are with the motions because  
35 sometimes that can be very confusing, and I think she  
36 did a good job of asking a lot of questions which is  
37 important. And I hope that we can get our Council  
38 seats all filled. I'm kind of in the dark about my  
39 Council seat. But I look forward to meeting with you  
40 all again and I really respect all of your opinions.

41  
42 So I think that we'll get through these  
43 teleconferences, I hope there are not a whole lot more  
44 of them.

45  
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, ditto  
49 about what you said about Linda. I love it when she  
50

0419

1 asks questions to clarify things, that's awesome. Hey,  
2 Bill, did you have anything, or are you having your  
3 beer.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't tell  
8 if that was Bill who laughed or you, Andy.

9  
10 MR. BASSICH: It was me, Andy.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.  
13 Well, Bill, you still have a chance if you can unmute  
14 your phone -- go ahead.

15  
16 MR. BASSICH: Sue, I was just going to  
17 say -- this is Andy -- I was just going to say, you  
18 know, after 10 or 15 years of working with everybody on  
19 the Council here, the one really nice benefit of that  
20 is you get to know people personally too, and so that  
21 -- you know understanding each other and knowing each  
22 others habits and knowing the things that we all kind  
23 of hold dear and passionate is kind of the fun part of  
24 this for me, anyway.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm  
29 ready for my glass of wine and I'm lucky I have a  
30 husband who's cooking me dinner right now.

31  
32 So I want to thank all of you Council  
33 members over, and over and over and over again for  
34 serving on the Council and being patient on this whole  
35 meeting process and I hope you can stay engaged and I  
36 hope we don't have to have another meeting like this.  
37 There's got to be a better way. So, yes, it seemed like  
38 Vince had some closing comment.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Vince,  
43 before we go -- Vince -- Vince, can I ask.....

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: I'm announcing I'm going  
46 to be retiring in the near future with the date to be  
47 worked out. I started with you in 1995 as your  
48 Coordinator all the way through 2010 and I remained  
49 connected through my Refuge position. So I really

50



0420

1 appreciate your patience on that and I just want to  
2 share this one paragraph with you because it's what I  
3 hope I followed in all those years.

4

5 The key to the success of your next  
6 Coordinator and your Refuge Subsistence Coordinator is  
7 understanding and honoring the mission and purposes of  
8 ANILCA, respecting the importance of subsistence and  
9 his or her central focus will be on these priorities  
10 when working with the various government bureaucracies  
11 involved.

12

13 So, again, I really learned a lot from  
14 you. I know I could learn a lot more but it's time for  
15 me to move on a different path.

16

17 REPORTER: Congrats.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: So I'll just conclude  
20 with that. And, yes, this was a very difficult meeting  
21 but because of your friendship and dedication you made  
22 it through. So with that I'll stop.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, Vince,  
25 congratulations on your future retirement and, yes,  
26 you've been at it a long time. I started on this RAC  
27 20 years ago so you and I worked nine years together  
28 and I think Andy you were '02 so we probably -- we know  
29 Vince pretty well.

30

31 And I just wanted to mention just one  
32 more thing before we close, Southcentral RAC Chair of  
33 over 20 years had left his Council five years ago and  
34 he recently got cancer and passed away, Ralph Lohse. I  
35 don't know that anybody would know him.

36

37 REPORTER: I do.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I worked  
40 with him for many, many years, going to the Federal  
41 Board meetings, and I deeply appreciated Ralph and I am  
42 very sad to also hear of his passing. So I just wanted  
43 to honor him at this moment.

44

45 And thank you all for all your work and  
46 patience, and is there anything else -- I'll entertain  
47 a motion to adjourn.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: God Bless his family.

50

0421

1 MR. BASSICH: This is Andy, I'll make a  
2 motion to adjourn the Eastern RAC meeting.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion to  
5 adjourn and second.....

6

7 MS. EVANS: This is Linda, I'll second.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
10 Linda. Okay, all in favor aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Aye, yai, yai.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Aye, yai,  
21 yai.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks  
26 everybody.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

31

32

33

34

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41

42

43

44

45

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0422

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 II taken electronically on the  
15 15th 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 12th  
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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