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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, Alaska
October 5, 2022
9:02 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andrew Bassich
Linda Evans
Charles Jagow
Will Koehler
Jody Potts Joseph
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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0002

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/5/2022)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're first going to start with some housekeeping.

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, good morning everyone. Welcome to the Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. It looks like everybody's taken their seats so we'll get started here in a few minutes. I did just want to let folks on the phone know that if they could please remember to mute their phones. You can do that with your mute button or pressing star six, you can also press star six to unmute. If there is distraction on the line the operator may mute you.

Also folks on the phone can find the meeting materials on the OSM website and that address is www.doi.gov/subsistence. And then go to the regions tab to Eastern Interior and to meeting materials.

I also would like to remind everyone to please sign in on the sign in sheet by the door for each day of the meeting and there's also forms for public comment opportunities at the meeting today.

This is a regulatory meeting. The Council will be discussing and deliberating on Federal fisheries proposals. If folks would like to make a public comment on proposals there are blue public comment cards over on the public information table. You can fill one of those out with your name and the proposal you'd like to comment on, just bring them up here, you can give them to me or put them in the basket. You can also fill one of these out to provide a comment on non-agenda items. There'll be an opportunity to comment on non-agenda items during the morning of each meeting day. Written comments may also be submitted. You can give those to me if you're here in person or you can email those to subsistence@fws.gov. Again, please include your name, affiliation and the proposal that you would like to comment on if it is for a proposal.

Folks on the phone, the Chair will also

0003

1 give you all an opportunity to provide comments after
2 folks in the room have commented during those times.

3
4 And that's all I had.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 And I think Tina had one other
9 announcement to make.

10
11 REPORTER: So the announcement I want
12 to make is it's been a couple of years since we've met
13 in person and I just want to remind everybody you need
14 to use the microphone in order for the meeting to be
15 recorded. So when you're going to speak, turn the
16 microphone on, off. If you're just chit-chatting it's
17 not going on the record. And that goes also for the
18 public as well. Please come up to the table, get the
19 Chair's attention, and use the microphone.

20
21 Thanks.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Tina.

24
25 REPORTER: You bet.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Will
28 we all rise, please, and have an invocation. Linda
29 turn your mic on.

30
31 (Invocation)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll call the
34 meeting to order. Roll call. We did have a secretary
35 and that is Don. Don, do you feel good about doing
36 that, do a roll call.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Please answer in the
44 affirmative if you are here.

45
46 Sue Entsminger.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

49
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1 MR. WOODRUFF: Jody Potts.

2

3 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Here.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Linda Evans.

6

7 MS. EVANS: Here.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Nicholas Henry.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Nicholas Henry, are you
14 here?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Andy Bassich.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Here.

25

26 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

31

32 MR. JAGOW: Here.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm here, Don Woodruff.

35 And Will Koehler.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait, Will,
40 are you on line, you might have to press unmute.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did talk to
45 him this morning and he did say he was going to be
46 online so maybe you could send him a text and just have
47 him tell us when he gets online.

48

49 All right, so go ahead, Donald, that

50

0005

1 means we have a quorum with seven members present.

2

3 So moving rapidly along. This is the
4 welcome and introductions. So I would welcome
5 everybody to our meeting and I might need some help,
6 are we going to go around the room and do the
7 introductions and then ask people -- we'll start that
8 way. I'm going to start with, Brooke, introduce
9 yourself.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning everyone.

12 My name is Brooke McDavid and I am the new Council

13 Coordinator for the Eastern Interior RAC with OSM.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And let's

16 just go around the room, Charlie, could you say a

17 little bit about yourself.

18

19 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, hello, I'm Charlie
20 Jagow. I was raised on the Porcupine River and I still
21 spend about half the year up there. Big Game guide,
22 operate up there and trap during the wintertime. And
23 I'm happy to be part of the meeting.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Andy Bassich. I'm
26 a representative from Eagle, Alaska. I live a
27 subsistence lifestyle there. I've been on the RAC, I
28 don't know, 15, 20 years, something like that, along
29 with Sue and a number of other members. It's nice to
30 be able to meet in person again, it's nice to see some
31 faces and I'm hoping we have a really productive
32 meeting and there's a lot of really important things
33 going on that are affecting people out in the Bush and
34 we need to address them because it's becoming pretty
35 critical.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Charlie Wright.
40 I grew up on the Yukon River between Tanana and Rampart
41 living a subsistence lifestyle, hunting, fishing,
42 trapping. I'm very happy to be here. And I also
43 wanted to say that things are getting hard for people
44 along the river and this meeting is very important to
45 me and I look forward to conversation and reports going
46 on today. Thank you. Thank you for all of you being
47 here.

48

49 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Good morning

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0006

1 everyone. My name is Jody Potts Joseph. I was born in
2 and raised in Eagle living a subsistence lifestyle.
3 when I first got on the Board last year I was living in
4 Stevens Village, my husband's village, and I just
5 recently moved home to Eagle over the summer and so now
6 I'm an Eagle resident and living a subsistence
7 lifestyle in Eagle as well so I'm thankful for this
8 opportunity and we do have a lot of important things to
9 cover today.

10

11 I'm really disappointed I have to leave
12 later this morning, just for the afternoon, as I have a
13 conflict with another meeting that's equally as
14 important. So I will return for the full day tomorrow.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello, I'm Don Woodruff
17 and I'm from Eagle and I've been living a subsistence
18 lifestyle for 45 years so I have some experience with
19 this process and I've been on the Council for about 15
20 years.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. EVANS: Linda Evans.

25

26 REPORTER: Linda, your mic.

27

28 MS. EVANS: Linda Evans born in Tanana,
29 raised in Manley Hot Springs and spent probably most of
30 my life in Rampart. I now live in North Pole during
31 the wintertimes and Rampart in the summertimes. My
32 area of work was in education. I was a teacher aide,
33 principal, superintendent of the Yukon Flats area for
34 several years and now I'm retired and enjoying my
35 retirement. Just got back from Rampart not long ago,
36 spent a whole month over there, it was very nice. I
37 really -- going through this book and agenda that we
38 have here, we do have some issues that we need to
39 discuss. I think it's very important that we speak out
40 for our people. You know that there's hard times along
41 the river, all over where people are not getting their
42 subsistence needs met.

43

44 And, you know, the animals are just not
45 there and the fish is not there, so, we really have to
46 consider what we can do.....

47

48 (Teleconference interruption -
49 participants not muted)

50

0007

1 MS. EVANS:to replenish those
2 subsistence needs, subsistence animals and fish that we
3 need to live off of. You know, even though I might
4 live in the city half the year I still subsist, you
5 know.

6
7 When I was in Rampart not long ago I
8 went looking for berries, cranberries, I couldn't find
9 cranberries, I couldn't find blueberries, you know, so
10 there's not only animals and stuff that's diminishing,
11 there's also our fruit and other things that we live
12 off of that are diminishing.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
17 Linda. And, Sue Entsminger, I live near Mentasta
18 Village and we call it Mentasta Pass, I've been there
19 45 years. And in the early years we were pretty poor
20 and we just made our living with taxidermy and me
21 selling furs and over time, after my son grew up, he
22 became a guide and we helped him with his business and
23 still doing that, it's part of our livelihood. You
24 have to -- when you live out in the woods you come up
25 with any way to make a living and also commercial
26 fished for about 15, 20 years also.

27
28 So it's been really good to be part of
29 this process. Sometimes you feel like it takes a long
30 time to get something done but we all have to stay in
31 here and work for the future, especially you young
32 people, Charlie, it will be your turn when we're done
33 here.

34
35 But thank you everyone for that.

36
37 We'll go around the room and start with
38 Katya and introduce yourselves, then we'll go to the
39 people online. And before Katya, I'm going to ask,
40 Will Koehler, did you call in?

41
42 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I'm in, can you hear
43 me?

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we got
46 you, so we've got you as present. Thank you.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Council
49 Members. My name is Katya Wessels and I'm the Council
50

0008

1 Coordination Division Supervisor. I used to be your
2 coordinator for the Eastern Interior and I'm still
3 happy we're having this meeting in person and I'm
4 seeing you in person here.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Thank
9 you. I failed to have Will introduce himself. Will,
10 could you just -- you probably heard us all introducing
11 ourselves, do you want to do that for us now.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, are you
16 still there Will.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm
22 hearing a lot of I do not know what.

23

24 REPORTER: People not muted.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it
27 sounds like somebody's not muted. We're hearing some
28 whispering and voices. Hit star, six.

29

30 Okay, let's go on. I'm sure Will is
31 there somewhere.

32

33 Do they need to come up to the mic or
34 can we just go around the room?

35

36 REPORTER: I'll turn the mics on and
37 we'll see how it goes.

38

39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I hear
43 a child talking, somebody needs to mute their phone.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 REPORTER: So if people could come up
48 to the mic and state your name but if you're going to
49 say anything more than just their name, or if you just

50

0009

1 want to stand up and say your name I think I can pick
2 it up.

3

4 MR. VICKERS: Okay, I'll just stand up.
5 Good morning, Ms. Chair, Council Members. I'm Brent
6 Vickers. I'm the Division Supervisor for Anthropology
7 at OSM. I will be the leadership team representative
8 today. I've been with OSM for two years so this is my
9 first opportunity at an in person meeting. Thank you
10 very much, I'm very excited for it.

11

12 MR. PLANK: Good morning, Madame Chair.
13 Members of the Council. Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist
14 for OSM.

15

16 MR. BARRETTE: Good morning, Al
17 Barrette, Fairbanks. Also Alaska Board of Game member,
18 but I'm just here to listen and representing myself.

19

20 MR. SIMON: Good morning. Jim Simon,
21 I'm a consultant with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and
22 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission for the purposes
23 of this meeting. Thank you. From Salcha.

24

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame
26 Chair and members of the Council. I'm Liz Williams.
27 I'm an anthropologist with OSM.

28

29 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. I'm Dave
30 Sarafin, the Fisheries Biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias
31 National Park and Preserve and have been a resident of
32 Tazlina since 1999.

33

34 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning, Madame Chair
35 and Members of the Council. My name is Cory Graham.
36 I'm a Fish Biologist at OSM. I've also been here for
37 two years now so it's nice to finally be here in
38 person.

39

40 DR. JOCHUM: Good morning, Madame
41 Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Kim Jochum. I
42 work at the National Park Service, Regional Office,
43 Subsistence Team and I'm a Staff Committee member also.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Madame Chair.
48 Council Members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm a
49 Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers

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1 National Preserve.

2

3 MR. DOWDLE: Good morning, Madame Chair
4 and Council Members. My name is Mark Dowdle. I'm with
5 the National Park Service and I'm the Superintendent of
6 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the
7 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

8

9 MR. HERRIGES: Good morning. I'm Jim
10 Herriges. I'm the Wildlife Biologist for the Eastern
11 Interior Field Office of BLM here in Fairbanks.

12

13 MR. RASIC: Good morning. I'm Jeff
14 Rasic. I work for the National Park Service. I'm the
15 Resource Program Manager for Yukon-Charley Rivers.

16

17 MR. CAMERON: Good morning, Madame
18 Chair. Council Members. My name is Matt Cameron. I'm
19 a Wildlife Biologist for the Yukon-Charley Rivers and
20 Gates of the Arctic, and it's really great to see you
21 all.

22

23 MR. CUTTING*: Good morning. My name
24 is Kyle Cutting. I am a new Wildlife Biologist at
25 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. And I look forward
26 to listening and learning from you all.

27

28 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning. My name
29 is Barbara Cellarius. I am the Subsistence Coordinator
30 and Cultural Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias
31 National Park and Preserve based in Copper Center.

32

33 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. I'm Holly
34 Carroll, Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Yukon
35 River Federal Subsistence Fishery Manager and I'm so
36 excited to see you guys again in person.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. MONCRIEFF: Good morning, Madame
41 Chair and Council Members. I'm Catherine Moncrieff. I
42 am the Staff Anthropologist for the Yukon River
43 Drainage Fisheries Association. I'm so excited to be
44 back at a meeting in person with you again.

45

46 MS. FARNHAM: Good morning, Madame
47 Chair and Members of the Council. I'm Nicole Farnham.
48 I work with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and I'm one of
49 the Fisheries Biologists there.

50

0011

1 MS. CANFIELD: Good morning. My name
2 is Gabe Canfield. I am the new Project Coordinator at
3 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. It's so
4 nice to be here.

5
6 MS. WOODRUFF: My name is Jan Woodruff.
7 I'm a resident of Eagle living a subsistence lifestyle.
8 I'm also on the YRDFA Board.

9
10 MS. FITKA: Good morning, Madame Chair
11 and Council Members. My name is Serena Fitka. I'm the
12 Executive Director for the Yukon River Drainage
13 Fisheries Association.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. MASCHMANN: Good morning. I'm
18 Gerald Maschmann. I'm a Fish Biologist with the U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service.

20
21 MR. HERRON IVY: Good morning. My name
22 is Keith Herron Ivy. I'm a Fish Biologist and Tribal
23 Liaison for fisheries on the Yukon River and it's
24 really good to be here in person.

25
26 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning. I'm Mark
27 Richards. I'm representing Resident Hunters of Alaska.
28 I spent 35 years living in the remote Bush north of
29 Eagle and I currently live in Fairbanks and it's really
30 wonderful to see everybody in person again.

31
32 MR. FOX: Good to see you all. I am
33 Jimmy Fox. I am the Refuge Manager for Yukon Flats
34 National Wildlife Refuge.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that's
37 everybody in the room. If we can, those on line, let's
38 do OSM first and then we'll go to each agency and then
39 the public.

40
41 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair
42 and Council Members. This is Orville Lind, Native
43 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. Good
44 morning to everyone.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,
47 Orville. Next.

48
49 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Madame Chair.
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0012

1 This is Scott Ayers, the Fisheries Division Supervisor
2 at OSM. Thank you for the opportunity to listen in
3 today and hear the guidance of the Council.
4

5 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning everyone
6 this is Jason Roberts, Anthropologist at OSM.
7

8 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
9 Chair. Members of the Council. George Pappas, the OSM
10 State Subsistence Liaison stationed in Anchorage.
11

12 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair. My name is Justin Koller, I'm a Fisheries
14 Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management mostly
15 for Kodiak/Aleutians and Southcentral regions. So
16 looking forward to hearing your discussion today.
17

18 Thank you.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
21 from OSM?
22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)
25

26 REPORTER: Somebody's working.
27

28 (Laughter)
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Please mute
31 your phones. Okay, next would be the Park Service.
32 Anyone online from the Park Service.
33

34 MS. OWEN: This is Pat Owen. I'm a
35 Wildlife Biologist at Denali National Park. And good
36 morning, I'll be listening in today but I'll be able to
37 see everyone in person tomorrow, looking forward to it.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
40 from Park Service.
41

42 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning everyone.
43 This is Dylan Patterson at the Alaska Regional Office
44 Subsistence Program in Anchorage.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
47

48 (No comments)
49
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0013

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next BLM.

2

3 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
4 Chris McKee, Statewide Subsistence Coordinator for the
5 Bureau of Land Management out of Anchorage.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, next is
12 Fish and Wildlife Service. Anyone online.

13

14 MR. BROWN: This is Randy Brown.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have a
17 title, Randy.

18

19 MR. BROWN: Oh, yeah, so I'm a Fish
20 Biologist here in Fairbanks working along the Yukon
21 River mostly.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
24 Anyone else.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
29 anyone else online, now is the time to introduce
30 yourself.

31

32 MS. STUBY: Good morning everyone.
33 Lisa Stuby with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
34 I'm the Yukon Area Sportfish Division Management
35 Biologist excluding the Tanana River.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

38

39 MS. JALLEN: Good morning, Madame
40 Chair. This is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department
41 of Fish and Game. The Yukon River Summer Season
42 Manager. Thanks.

43

44 MR. RANSBURY: Good morning everyone.
45 This is Shane Ransbury. I'm the Assistant Area Manager
46 for fall season out of the Yukon.

47

48 MR. GRYSKA: Good morning. This is
49 Andy Gryska, Tanana Area Management Biologist for

50

0014

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 MS. DECKER: Good morning, Madame
4 Chair. This is Sam Decker. I'm with the Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Yukon River
6 Summer Season Assistant Manager.

7

8 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
9 from the Department of Fish and Game from the Palmer
10 Office.

11

12 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. This is
13 Todd Rinaldi. I'm the Regional Wildlife Management
14 Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
15 Southwest Region.

16

17 MS. COLEMAN: Hello. This is Jesse
18 Coleman. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
19 Game, Division of Subsistence. I'm the Specialist for
20 the Yukon Region.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that
23 sounds like all of you from Fish and Game. Anyone else
24 online.

25

26 MS. POPE: Hello everyone. My name is
27 Amanda Pope. I'm a local subsistence hunter, fisher,
28 trapper and I live in Circle.

29

30 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. This is Amy
31 Craver. I think I had the telephone on mute before.
32 Amy Craver from Denali National Park.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
35 online.

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We didn't
40 understand you, could you come with that again, please.

41

42 MS. FIELDS: My name is Sonja Fields.
43 I was the Hunter Liaison for Circle this year with
44 CATG.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
47 you.

48

49 MR. ERVIN: Good afternoon, Madame

50

0015

1 Chair and Council Members.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

4

5

6

MR. ERVIN: Good morning. This is
Bruce Ervin, Northway Tribal Member, Native People's
Action Board Member and (Indiscernible) Board Member.
Good morning, good to hear you all.

9

10

11

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
Anyone else online.

12

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MR. KOEHLER: Sue, this is Will
Koehler. I've been on the RAC since, I think 2021, I
guess was my appointment this time and then I was on
the RAC for a couple of terms, I believe, before that.
Took a little hiatus and I'm back here seeing if I can
be useful now. Sorry I can't be with you guys in
person today but I'll be on the phone and looking
forward to hearing from everyone.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Will.
Is there anyone else online.

MS. ADAMS: Hi, I just joined.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And your
name.

MS. ADAMS: Rochelle Adams from Beaver
and Fort Yukon.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
else.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, welcome
everyone. That's a lot of people to get through but we
did it. The next thing on the agenda would be to
review and adopt the agenda.

MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. For the
record, Brooke McDavid. I just wanted to point out a
couple of things to Council members that changed since
the agenda that got mailed out with your supplemental
materials.

0016

1 Agenda Item 11N as in November was
2 added. That's Wildlife Special Action Update from a
3 recent emergency special action that the Board took up.
4

5 There is also a change to the Park
6 Service presentation, which is 11i. That is no longer
7 an action item. It does still say that on the agenda
8 but it will just be an update at this point. But the
9 Park Service will have one action item during their
10 agency report and that will be to reappoint or to
11 appoint a new member for the Denali -- a representative
12 for the Denali SRC from our Council.
13

14 That's all I have, thanks.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just to help
17 us out, is that in this new agenda that we have in
18 front of us?
19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. All these changes
21 are on here except that 11i is no longer an action item
22 and that notes that it is on this copy.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
25 questions. We need to approve this.
26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion to move
28 to approve the agenda.
29

30 MR. BASSICH: Second it.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So as
33 was told to us, okay, the changes -- with the changes.
34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Concur.
38

39 MR. BASSICH: Concur.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Jody
42 -- oh, you have your mic on, I thought you wanted
43 to.....
44

45 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Well, I thought we
46 were going to vote.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Well,
49 you called for the question then, right?
50

0017

1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: No.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Is there
4 any discussion on this.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
9 I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to approve the
10 agenda. Is there anyone opposed.

11

12 (No opposition)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It is
15 approved. So next is review and approve the minutes.
16 We have two sets it looks like. Our winter meeting
17 2022 meeting minutes, and we can do them one at a time,
18 and the other one would be the joint meeting that we
19 had in March.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: You want a motion.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: (Nods
24 affirmatively)

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I make a
27 motion that we adopt the winter meeting minutes from
28 2022 as presented to us.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
33 moved and seconded to approve the winter minutes of
34 2022. Any discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nobody saw
39 any changes.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Nope.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
44 doing a good job. All right, I'm going to ask the
45 same, unanimous consent to approve the 2022 minutes of
46 the winter meeting. Is there any objection.

47

48 (No objections)

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And next
2 would be the March 16, 2022.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
5 make a motion that the Council adopt the March 16, 2022
6 joint Southcentral Eastern Interior meeting minutes as
7 presented to us.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
12 been moved and seconded, is there any discussion.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other than
17 Brooke did a good job, uh, okay. All right. And,
18 again, I'll ask for unanimous consent to approve those
19 minutes March 16, 2022 joint meeting with Eastern and
20 Southcentral. Is there any objection.

21

22 (No objections)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
25 none, it passes. All right, next is our reports.
26 Council member reports.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: You want to go around the
29 room?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Do
32 you want to start, Charlie.

33

34 MR. JAGOW: Okay. Charlie Jagow here.
35 As normal I don't have a lot to report. But a couple
36 highlights here, we started our season off with a
37 really hot and dry summer. Had quite a few fires on
38 the Porcupine. Most of them below the Coleen, really
39 thankful that they're not in our neck of the woods.
40 And by mid-July it seemed like the weather did a
41 complete switch and it got pretty cold and we got a
42 little bit of rain, enough to put the fires out. Our
43 fall season started off with really low water levels in
44 most lakes. It came as a bit of a surprise for me, you
45 know, we had quite a bit of snow last winter and then
46 rain at the end of the summer season so I thought water
47 levels would be up. It's kind of been a trend over the
48 last few years. And then about September 10th we had a
49 really intense rain event and the Sheenjek, Coleen

50

0019

1 flash flooded, the Porcupine came up a couple days
2 behind those rivers and it was some of the highest
3 water I've ever seen in the fall, it was really
4 something else. This made for some pretty hard hunting
5 for folks along the Porcupine and the Yukon, it was
6 really difficult to find moose when all the gravel bars
7 and everything's covered in water.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MR. JAGOW: Just water literally
13 running into the trees. So I think it was a pretty
14 difficult fall for folks.

15
16 And then lastly everybody knows it was
17 poor salmon returns, and I'm sure others have a lot
18 more to speak on that than I do. But one observation,
19 or testament that I'd like to share is just yesterday I
20 was up on the Sheenjek and stopped and talked with some
21 folks that had been living up there about 15 years and
22 asked them what they had been seeing this fall and they
23 say they've seen literally three spawned out salmon
24 just in the last couple of weeks and this is an area
25 where you can literally see the.....

26
27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29
30 MR. JAGOW:(indiscernible) dead
31 fish on the gravel bars in a normal year. Just a
32 really drastic change. And unlike the Porcupine, the
33 ecosystem, it's very salmon dependent and there's just
34 not much out there anymore without the big fish runs so
35 just really, really large change in a short period of
36 time. I wanted to share that.

37
38 That's all I've got.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Yes, bear with me, Madame
41 Chair, it might take a little while. It's been a
42 couple of meetings since we've all been in person but I
43 think it's really important to have so many biologists
44 and managers in the room with us right now to hear
45 firsthand from the people out there on the land what's
46 going on. We see it first hand, we live it, we depend
47 on it, and I just want to preface all my comments with
48 something that I've been saying every single meeting
49 since I've been on this Council, and that is the only
50

0020

1 way you can live subsistence is to have consistent
2 reliable access to the resource. That's the only way
3 it works.

4
5 So these declines that we're seeing,
6 this up and down that we see is very disruptive to
7 subsistence living and I think it's something that we
8 try and address through this Council but it's a two
9 step process. You have to hear our recommendations and
10 then we have to move in positive ways to ensure that
11 those resources are available to people out in the
12 rural areas.

13
14 So starting with fall chum. In my
15 region, and I guess I will speak from Tanana River all
16 the way up to the Canadian Border, in Alaska, fall chum
17 is the life blood of the subsistence lifestyle. It's
18 one of the few places where dog teams are still viable,
19 are still heavily depended on and it's a very integral
20 part of the culture of living out in that part of
21 Alaska. The loss of fall chum is devastating to people
22 who want to live that lifestyle and continue that long
23 history which, quite frankly, there aren't too many
24 places left in the state of Alaska where that is a
25 viable lifestyle and the loss of fall chum is putting
26 the nail in the coffin on that lifestyle.

27
28 I know that there's a lot of reasons
29 why this is happening. I know that climate change is
30 probably one of the greatest impacts, or one of the
31 greatest newest impacts but I just want to really make
32 powerful statements and make people understand that
33 this is an actual -- it is the most important resource
34 to the people who live along the river up there. We
35 can live without king salmon, maybe we don't want to,
36 everybody loves king salmon, but we must have fall
37 chum. And especially -- I was talking with Charlie
38 this morning at breakfast, the farther up you go from
39 basically Rampart up river, you don't find very many
40 non-salmon species fish. We don't have large numbers
41 of sheefish or burbot or pike, humpbacks, whitefish,
42 they're there but they're not in large enough numbers
43 to try and put them up in replacement for fall chum so
44 very few options.

45
46 King salmon, well, we're all struggling
47 with that.

48
49 I've been a very strong proponent of
50

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1 conservation for a long time. I've seen a lot of this
2 coming down the pipe if you look at long-term trends,
3 they tell you what's going on. I don't want to place
4 blame on anybody because I think we're all responsible
5 for it, but I do want to point out that the trends have
6 been there and we haven't been responding to them. The
7 fish are getting smaller, they're carrying less eggs,
8 and we haven't been increasing escapement goals to
9 compensate for that yet we expect the same amount of
10 salmon or more salmon to come back and that's counter-
11 intuitive to any logic that I possess. So that's a
12 fundamental flaw and I think if we really want to pull
13 ourselves out of the fisheries issues that we have, we
14 have to manage long-term. We tend to manage like
15 people run stock markets. They want short-term gains.
16 They want to gain a profit in the next quarter and
17 that's not the way to manage for subsistence, you have
18 to look at long-term trends. You have to look at five,
19 10 year trends and ensure that those resources are at
20 least available for some subsistence harvest. So the
21 lesson that I'm learning and the message that I'm going
22 to keep bringing to managers and to biologists is let's
23 stop looking at year by year management and let's start
24 setting ourselves up for long-term management goals.
25 That's the way we can ensure that access to the
26 resource consistently, which is important.

27
28 Caribou. I saw five caribou last year.
29 Early in the season five caribou were trying to cross
30 over into Canada. They're trying to expand. But what
31 are we doing, we're taking higher numbers, we're trying
32 to reduce the size of the herd just when they're trying
33 to expand into new areas. People in Eagle and
34 subsistence data will back this up, all subsistence
35 data backs this up, people in Eagle live on salmon and
36 caribou and we now have neither one of those. So
37 people in my region, and there's now -- we're kind of
38 over represented on this Council -- maybe not over
39 represented but we're represented very well now, we
40 rely on salmon in the past and we've relied on caribou.
41 And I think you've heard quite a bit of testimony and
42 recommendations from people from this Council and also
43 on the Fortymile Coalition to be patient, not to react
44 too quickly, and biologists have been wanting to reduce
45 the herd and it's my feeling, through my observations
46 living on the land that the caribou want to expand,
47 they want to go back over into Canada. They want to
48 expand their region and we're not letting them do that
49 because we're going to harvest them back down to maybe
50

0022

1 levels where we won't even be able to have an opening
2 again or maybe really reduced. So that's, in my view,
3 pretty poor management, long-term.

4

5 We have some of the lowest moose
6 population densities in the area, or in the state
7 actually, I should say, so moose, although it's there
8 it's very difficult to find. It's not something that
9 you can count on every year as a subsistence user so
10 it's there and people are working to try and get them
11 but the other thing that's happening with climate
12 change is the seasons aren't really working quite right
13 anymore because the seasons are staying warmer longer
14 and the moose aren't going into rut during what the
15 seasons are set up for so it's making it difficult for
16 people there.

17

18 The other thing that I've noticed, and
19 this is probably mostly due to climate change, is I've
20 been seeing very few birds out on the land. Almost no
21 song birds were present at my homestead this year other
22 than the resident grayjays and ravens. Very few song
23 birds of any species came through this year. To me,
24 that's an alarm. That's a red flag.

25

26 I've been watching peregrine falcons
27 for a lot of years and this year I really started
28 paying a lot more attention to them and I had a chance
29 to spend some time with Skip Ambrose, the biologist
30 that has been studying them for over 50 years. And
31 this is something that I want the National Park
32 Service, from ground level all the way up to the top in
33 Washington, D.C., to hear loud and clear, that man has
34 created one of the most incredible data sets that I've
35 ever seen on any species of animals. There are 50
36 years of extremely detailed observations on peregrine
37 falcon. And the reason why that started was because of
38 the decline of peregrine falcons due to DDT*. And the
39 studies that people in the state of Alaska and,
40 particularly, him, have done over the last 50 years led
41 to the outline of the use of DDT, which affects many
42 different types of wildlife. The point I'm trying to
43 make is that these birds, these migratory birds are the
44 messengers, they tell us how healthy the land is, they
45 tell us how things are going. Not just locally, but
46 around the world where they're traveling. These
47 peregrine falcons fly all the way down to Argentina.
48 The ones from Yukon-Charley go all the way down to
49 Argentina, very well documented. I want to very

50

0023

1 strongly support that National Park Service continue to
2 fully fund that program because this is a program that
3 may also help us answer more questions about climate
4 change, not just here in Alaska, but everywhere, so
5 it's a very powerful study that they do, and there are
6 a lot of people involved in it and I think it has the
7 potential for giving us some of those ah-ha moments as
8 biologists and as people on the river, people on the
9 land as to how we're going to have to adapt. So I
10 really want to strongly support the NPS continue to
11 fund his programs. I think this is a vitally important
12 thing and I really think that these migratory birds,
13 which we're not seeing, are telling us something and we
14 don't know what it is yet but we need to pay attention
15 to that.

16
17 Thanks for bearing with me on kind of a
18 long report but sometimes during these meetings we
19 don't have an opportunity to really address the things
20 that are really concerning us and I want everyone in
21 this room who I know everybody here cares or they
22 wouldn't be here, I see a lot of faces that I've seen
23 for 20 years sitting on this Council and I know
24 everybody cares, I know we all have our own mind sets,
25 or our own tracks, our own concerns, our own pet
26 projects, but if there's ever a time that the people
27 need to pull together, not only the people on the land
28 but the managers and the biologists need to pull
29 together, is now, because it's getting tough to live
30 out there. And the future of living out on the land is
31 dependent upon young people replacing all of us old
32 farts that are out there.

33
34 So this lifestyle, right now, it's
35 getting hard for those of us who know how to do it,
36 it's even harder for the young people who want to start
37 to do it and it's going to disappear if we don't make
38 it a little bit easier for those young people to take
39 over where those of us that are going to be moving on
40 in years to come, because it's a life cycle. It's
41 going to ebb and flow and right now we're in a pretty
42 deep ebb and we need to make it attractive for young
43 people, not only to be out on the land but to be
44 sitting at this table to help foster their future.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next would be
49 Charlie Wright.

50

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. I'd also like to
2 echo what Andy said. With climate change, the last
3 couple winters the snow has been very deep, it's been
4 very hard on our moose population along the Yukon in
5 the Interior. The wolves, when the snow gets deep eat
6 them at will and kill them, kill large numbers of
7 moose. So in our area in Rampart/Tanana the moose
8 population is way down and I haven't been -- haven't
9 seen nor heard of really good accurate moose counts in
10 a long time.

11
12 I hunt all the way down to the Novi
13 River in the fall for moose hunting because of the lack
14 of moose around the Interior. Two years there was only
15 four bulls shot out of two fall seasons in Rampart, two
16 moose per year. This year a couple more were shot from
17 hard hunting and I said that they must have come from
18 the Minto Flats because they're nice and fat and
19 Rampart doesn't have a lot of lily lakes so the moose
20 don't ever get fat like that so there's been a couple
21 of more nice moose shot.

22
23 But the trapping, it's been very poor
24 through the deep snow. Nobody's really able to even do
25 it last winter because the snow is up to my nose deep
26 and so that's settled down from a lot of snow and it's
27 really hard on the animals.

28
29 I'd also like to talk about fishing a
30 little bit. We all know what's going on. King salmon
31 numbers are very low. I work for the Tanana Chiefs
32 Conference, Executive Board, so I travel to all the
33 villages through the sub-regional meetings and I hear
34 all the people's cries for salmon, all the elders, the
35 people, what do we do, there's no moose, there's no
36 fish, there's no berries, there's hardly any berries in
37 the Interior. As Linda said people are having to try
38 to buy them from other places and I don't hear very
39 good berry numbers from much places in the Interior.

40
41 Salmon being gone on the Yukon River,
42 kings and chums is very hard on everything. Not only
43 the people, the animals, the birds, right down to the
44 flies because it's creating a problem for the whole
45 ecosystem. For people, for humans it's our wellness,
46 what keeps people healthy, that's our main food. So I
47 really, really stress that we work hard and take off
48 our hats and bear down and try to do the best we can
49 going into the future and make really good sound
50

0025

1 management decisions. It's really affecting a lot, not
2 only people, not only people's wallets but their
3 lifestyles, the culture, the animals. Like I said
4 everything is affected, everybody is. All of us in
5 Alaska are connected through salmon. All the people,
6 all the animals, all the birds. Like Andy said a lot
7 of birds not coming back. I used to see huge flocks of
8 seagulls, they'd float by the village on the driftwood
9 all lined up, it was always cool to see but this year I
10 think I've only seen maybe four at the most in a pile
11 and every once in awhile you see one.

12
13 So there's big things going on that is
14 really hard to put our finger on right away because
15 it's such a vast area that our birds and animals live
16 in and the migration.

17
18 I'd also like to bring up a little bit
19 about caribou. The caribou migrated back to Rampart
20 last year for the first time as a herd in 100 years
21 plus so that was really promising and we talked about
22 that the last -- I think the last in person meeting we
23 had before the management change up on the Steese when
24 they allowed more kills because of the lack of food.
25 We said that caribou will manage themselves and they
26 have for thousands and thousands of years, they adapt
27 and they'll move for food, they don't need to be
28 slaughtered. I'm going to say that one time, they will
29 move, they will adjust. So we got to be very careful.
30 We have no fish and the moose numbers are down, and the
31 caribou numbers are going down so we really need to
32 manage well and do the best that we can. So many
33 people are affected, so many animals.

34
35 So for time I'd just like to cut my
36 report short right there. It's been said by Andy and I
37 really appreciate his wisdom and his time on this
38 board, his knowledge and I respect him a lot.

39
40 But here we go, go ahead, thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
43 everyone. Jody.

44
45 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So there's a saying
46 that our people of Interior Alaska, Athabascan people
47 say and it's: Our land speaks, and it's one of our
48 traditional values and I think it's like one of our
49 responsibilities as Native people to listen to the land
50

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1 and part of that is, you know, of course the animals.
2 And what, I think, you know, has been already said very
3 well by Andy and Charlie, I'm going to kind of
4 reiterate also but from my perspective as an indigenous
5 woman living a subsistence lifestyle.

6
7 You know, my husband and I have five
8 kids and both of us raised our kids, you know, in
9 today's modern times with as much subsistence and
10 traditional life ways and ways of knowing as possible
11 in this century and they're all pretty skilled and one
12 of the reasons we taught them is because our elders
13 always said that, you know, this world is changing,
14 there's going to come a time where living in cities and
15 this whole life way is going to change and we're going
16 to have to return to the land and you're going to have
17 to know how to live off of the land. And, you know, as
18 Native people have adapted over the years, you know,
19 there's been this really important part of our culture
20 is knowing how to live off the land and passing that
21 down to our children and right now that's being very
22 challenged by everything that we're facing out on the
23 land and it's impacting people's food security, our
24 wellness and, you know, I think for those of you that,
25 you know, are here as decisionmakers, you know, that
26 needs to be an important part of, you know,
27 understanding your part is how this is impacting our
28 families.

29
30 So, you know, as the resources have
31 diminished over the years and in the case of our
32 chinook salmon being decimated, you know, the hardship
33 it has put on our people and, you know, as Charlie said
34 it's hard to see our elders cry. You know a lot of our
35 elders can't eat, in their systems, modern foods that,
36 you know, most of us in this room can enjoy and digest,
37 a lot of our elders it's not part of their DNA, they
38 need their traditional foods for their wellness, for
39 their health and thriving. And, you know, our
40 traditional foods are being decimated and challenged
41 definitely by climate change but I also don't always
42 use climate change is like something out of our control
43 that we can't change like we're just going to have to
44 adapt to. I think that there's a lot of other factors
45 that play into these species but most definitely
46 climate change is a factor that I'm seeing, you know, I
47 see it daily when I'm out on the land. You know a lot
48 of land slides on the Upper Yukon Valley, massive
49 landslides that I'm seeing, and other changes as well.
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So for the last three years caribou, the Fortymile herd hasn't really come through Eagle and most definitely hasn't come through during the open season. Some of the herd has come through in July in the last few years, which is really unusual, and so folks in Eagle haven't really got caribou I believe in the last three years, right.

MR. WOODRUFF: Nope.

MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yeah. And so, you know, as Andy said, you know, having grown up there, my family lived off of the salmon. You know we caught the fall chum for our dog team, you know, we always got hunting caribou and sometimes a moose and this year my family's going into winter with no caribou, no salmon and no moose. We still thankfully have a little bit of an opportunity until the 7th thanks to advocates like Don, 25D (ph) Federal down in the Park and so we have until Friday. So as soon as I'm home we're spending Friday in the Park, in 25D hoping for that elusive bull.

And also the berries, just like Linda said, you know, there's very few blueberries this year. And so, you know, had this been 100 years ago our people would cease to exist, we would starve out. You know, today, you know, it definitely has an impact, a huge impact. And, you know, I also want to add that this past spring before my family moved from the Yukon Flats to Eagle, the upper Yukon, we saw very few migratory birds. My husband, having grown up in the Yukon Flats, there was always plentiful birds, you know, more birds than you could even aim to try to harvest, you know, just plentiful, plentiful birds and there were just very few. It was really kind of -- it was pretty shocking and alarming to see so few birds and, you know, we didn't even get enough birds for a meal a day in the spring and we ran out of our moose by March from last fall, you know. And then no salmon. So it's just making it really hard.

Then if you, you know, I know that Andy had mentioned, you know, really having a long-term management plan, you know, our people traditionally always looked into the future. We planned ahead for our grandchildren's grandchildren. And, you know, I can't even think about my children who are young adults

0028

1 like, you know, how are they going to be able to
2 continue this way of life, you know, it's a loss of
3 opportunity for our children to continue this
4 traditional knowledge and learning and life ways and,
5 you know, I -- our family really -- our traditional
6 values and this way of life is really important to us
7 and, you know, really listening to our elders and
8 making sure that we do this, return to the land, in a
9 responsible way and, you know, it's really challenging
10 for our family right now and for our whole village, you
11 know, without moose -- my uncle is known as one of the
12 best moose hunters, he hasn't got a moose in three
13 years so, you know, and I also haven't even seen any
14 bears all summer and, you know, I'm out on the land, on
15 the rivers a lot. We tried -- we used our whitefish
16 net for small species this summer and sometimes only
17 got one fish, a sucker, or one whitefish and they're
18 small and so it's just like -- it's heartbreaking and
19 it's so challenging.

20

21 So I hope that those of you that work
22 with us on these proposals really take to heart what
23 we, boots on the ground, people, living off the land
24 are experiencing.

25

26 Mahsi'.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Jody.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: For the record this is
31 Don Woodruff from Eagle. And from my observations the
32 hare cycle is still very low so that directly impacts
33 the trapping season for lynx, martin. And I have a few
34 fish left from 2017 and that's what I'm eating. And
35 like Andy said it's pretty limited resources.

36

37 Last year I did have my whitefish net
38 in for 10 days and I managed to feed our family for
39 those 10 days and a few after. But it's not a crises,
40 I think that the salmon are in a state of threatened,
41 and I think we need to think about that a little bit
42 stronger, that we could designate these fish, the
43 chinook, as a threatened species and move down that
44 road to protect them all the way through the system.

45

46 I know that previously in Eagle we
47 advocated for a pulse protection throughout the whole
48 system for the first pulse and somehow that got changed
49 to where the harvest was spread out through all the

50

0029

1 different pulses. And I think from my observation, it
2 worked, it was something positive, and I mean we have
3 to set these goals for recovery for the salmon. And I
4 think that's one of them, is to persist with this pulse
5 protection. I know there was no fishing on the whole
6 river this year but when we do get fish coming back in
7 any numbers I think that's a critical, critical factor.
8 In Eagle they did an ichthyophonous study this summer
9 and the Commissioner of Oceans and Fishes from Canada
10 came down and visited the sonar site and he asked them
11 to stop sampling. They got 50 samples and they wanted
12 like 160 and since it's an international project, the
13 Canadians come down and they're part of the working
14 group at the sonar, I think that that indicates how
15 strongly our neighbors revere the fish.

16
17 And I think that I will conclude right
18 there, thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

21
22 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I'd
23 just like to reiterate what everyone else has said, you
24 know, the lack of our resources that we all use and
25 need along the Yukon River.

26
27 You know as a grandmother and an aunt
28 it's my job to teach my nephews, nieces what I can
29 about our way of life, you know, to carry on our Native
30 ways of knowing, living and it's pretty hard when you
31 don't have the resources to do that. You know my
32 children, they're big now, they're grown up, they have
33 families of their own. My son lives in Albuquerque and
34 comes up here every summer and tries to fish or tries
35 to subsist, you know, take food back home with him.
36 And this year they went to Kenai and were able to get
37 fish there but that's a long way to drive, a long way
38 to travel but we did get some fish from Kenai. And,
39 you know, as a Native way of doing things we've been
40 giving it to people, you know, elders, passing the food
41 on.

42
43 It's, I don't know, a pretty sad
44 situation that we're in. And we really need to figure
45 out ways to start replenishing our resources and I
46 don't know the -- I know there's lots of changes like
47 they said, no birds, you know, seagulls, bears and
48 those kind of things really make a difference and
49 things are changing and we don't know what to do about
50

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1 it. But I think, you know, as we all work together and
2 really think about the future. In our Native way we
3 plan for the seventh generation, you know. So that's
4 what we need to do here, we need to sit down and work
5 together and come up with the best solutions.

6
7 You know, I really think -- you know we
8 haven't been fishing on the Yukon River for, what,
9 three years now, yeah. So we can't fish no there no
10 more for awhile so they replenish.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
15 Linda. Will Koehler, do you have a report.

16
17 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, thank you Sue. For
18 the record, this is Will Koehler. I represent the
19 Delta Junction area where I mostly -- where I spend
20 most of my time is in the Wrangell-St.Elias Park so
21 Chisana, south and east of Tok.

22
23 You know for my immediate region, I
24 think the two resources that I see drying up the most
25 are the wildlife for sheep. Sheep are definitely --
26 the sheep populations have definitely been compromised
27 particularly in the last three years, the last three
28 winters have been pretty noticeable, particularly this
29 last winter with the amount of snow and our sheep are
30 definitely struggling. And then the other resource
31 that I see as being really compromised is people,
32 particularly young people, that want to come out there
33 and live that life, maybe not full-time, but at least
34 have a strong connection to the land and we don't have
35 -- I think we struggle with that statewide, there are
36 fewer and fewer people, particularly fewer young people
37 that are interested in, you know, being out on the
38 land, be it the Park or -- certainly the most
39 influential parts of my life has been the Bush and I'm
40 really appreciative of that and it's very difficult to
41 find other people, young people that want to include
42 that as part of their life. So I hire people in the
43 fall, hunting guides, and this past season, let's see I
44 don't believe I had a single Alaskan working for me out
45 there in my hunting area, I had all young people from
46 out of state, really good solid people. Maybe they
47 appreciate it a little bit more because it's not right
48 out their back door, but, regardless, it's unfortunate.
49 And I have made some efforts to try to find local young
50

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1 people and so far it's been unsuccessful.

2

3

4 And I think that the important thing to
5 mention because, yes, our resources are compromised,
6 but there's also quite a few open seats on these RACs
7 usually. I think we've got a full forum now, but it
8 seems like we're always looking for young people to get
9 involved and it gets harder and harder to find some
10 interest and if there's no interest from the people,
11 there's not going to be much interest in conserving and
12 bringing the resources back.

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So those are the two things.

But in the immediate, I think our dall
sheep are certainly compromised. I think it's
something that can come back with the combination of
management and, you know, hopefully some better
weather. But over the more long-term concern is I find
it unfortunate and I don't exactly know what to do
about it but I think it is worth mentioning there are
fewer young people getting involved in our subsistence
resources and in this process and I think that's
unfortunate.

But other than that there's never been
a better time to be out in the Bush. On one hand
there's fewer people out there than ever before and
it's pretty quiet and nice out there so I guess that's
the bright side.

That's all I got, thanks.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Will.
Well, it's my turn. I was just looking for the Eastern
Interior map for the region, we used to have those, it
might be nice to have them.

MS. MCDAVID: It's there.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are they
here? Anyway, the Eastern Interior is unique in that
we have the river system and we have the road system
and what I'm hearing from, the river system and even
though Will is in Unit 12 he is remote, I live on the
road system and it -- one of the things I saw this fall
that I could not believe is the amount of people that
were out hunting in the areas and then I find out
there's this -- there's a website call OnXHunt and it

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1 has everything on it. It has all the trails, it has
2 all the land status and people are knowing, especially
3 on the road system where there's these seasons that
4 they can go take advantage of and there are just, I
5 mean the amount of people that were in these areas that
6 weren't there has doubled or tripled in one year. And
7 then another thing is there's another website that you
8 pay to have it but it has every landing strip that they
9 can find on it. And it even has the one by our house,
10 which is on an old road system, my son keeps it clean
11 so he can land right in front of his house and they
12 call it private, but everything that's -- that there is
13 this guy has it. And it's unbelievable where people
14 are getting into that they didn't get into before.
15 It's nice, Will, that you don't have the competition
16 but boy it sure is in places, it's unbelievable.

17
18 I just wanted to bring those up.

19
20 And then another thing I saw is we have
21 hunters that come up from Anchorage and they park at
22 our place, we've known them for 45 years and, oh, sure,
23 well some of them got older they're not going and it's
24 younger and now it's two generations later and we were
25 out cutting firewood and we weren't there when they
26 came and then whenever we came face to face with them,
27 before they went into the woods, one of them's got a
28 Sherp, has anybody ever seen a Sherp? It's the most
29 incredible thing you ever saw in your life. It's this
30 giant fourwheels, probably this wide, with one pound of
31 pressure in them and they can go anywhere, they can
32 float, they can go across water and they can -- and two
33 of them, maybe three in our area have gone up these
34 trails where you've never seen them before and they
35 could probably carry out six moose. I mean it's
36 unbelievable how -- and I was a little upset, they
37 parked their rig in my yard and then I run into them
38 and I go that thing should be outlawed. I didn't make
39 any points with the dude. But those kinds of things I
40 think that we all, the State, the Federal, you got to
41 look at situations, are these appropriate to have in
42 Alaska, you know, it just -- I don't have the answer.
43 I just feel like the more and more people, the more and
44 more access, they get into more and more areas that
45 they couldn't get into, it does create more and more
46 competition with animals.

47
48 Those were issues I wanted to bring up.

49
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1 I want to say that the weather. The
2 weather has been interesting. The amount of snowfall
3 last year and maybe a couple three years now, it has
4 taken an affect on the animals. We're not seeing the
5 old age class sheep anymore, and I'm not going to blame
6 it all on weather and I'm not going to blame it all on
7 hunting. I'm thinking that there's other things going
8 on that we don't have a handle on and we need to get a
9 handle on.

10

11 And it's interesting, Linda, since you
12 guys say that, no berries. Our berries are mostly from
13 rain at the right time so they can grow, and we didn't
14 have near the blueberries but people were able to go to
15 other areas and get their blueberries but, man, the
16 cranberries were incredible. I bet it was the best
17 I've ever seen. The cranberries, it was amazing. I
18 want to take you down to my house and have you pick
19 them before they all get snowed over, it's
20 unbelievable.

21

22 MS. EVANS: I'll go down there.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
25 you're saying now bear, that's interesting, because
26 there's plenty of bears where we are, plenty of bears.
27 And thank God for, you know, my income through bear
28 hunting in the spring, over bait, that's my income,
29 because Frank and I never planned our retirement so
30 we're still working. And it's -- they seem like -- the
31 black bears, in particular, they're like squirrels and
32 another two comes in. It's just amazing.

33

34 And my son has been trapping wolves
35 around Mentasta Village a 20, 50 mile radius for
36 probably 30 years and I believe the people in Mentasta,
37 they tell us all the time, man, it's a good thing
38 you're shooting those bears, it's a good thing Matt's
39 getting those wolves because they have moose around the
40 village and I think those are the kinds of things we
41 need to think about more. Because sometimes in the
42 Federal system they want to get rid of bear baiting
43 which disturbs me to no end but not actually -- I'll
44 pick on the Park Service on that one because of what we
45 went through. But those are just the concerns I have.

46

47 And I think you hit the nail on the
48 head about young people, Andy. Thank God you're here
49 Charlie, more young people need to be here. And you

50

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1 guys, too, to me are young, so, yeah, it's your future
2 and it's your kids and your next generation's future,
3 you need to be involved. They need to be involved.
4 Because I might -- I think I won't put in for another
5 term. I lost a brother, 68 years old this year, three
6 years younger than me and I'm thinking, man, I need
7 some of my personal time back.

8
9 So, yeah, this makes you think. But at
10 the same time I'm very interested in seeing people
11 working together. The biggest thing is all user groups
12 have to be working together because I think we all have
13 the same concern and that is the animals in Alaska. So
14 that's where we all got to keep our mind set good.

15
16 All right, I don't have anything else
17 to report other than meetings.

18
19 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, this is Will.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Will, go
22 ahead.

23
24 MR. KOEHLER: This is Will. Could I
25 just make a quick clarification on my report. You know
26 when I say -- when I was talking about the fewer -- you
27 know, the lack of young people, the lack of people
28 getting involved, I wasn't just saying that we didn't
29 have any hunters, but as far as competition I think we
30 faced -- particularly on sheep we faced more hunters
31 than ever before. I think I make a distinction between
32 people that come up for a 10 day hunt once a year and
33 people that are really interested in having the Bush be
34 a significant part of their lifestyle, you know,
35 whether they're commercial fishing or subsistence
36 fishing or hunting or guiding, you know, they're
37 willing to spend -- they're willing to make it a large
38 part of their life, they're willing to spend, if not
39 year-round, a large portion of the year out in the
40 Bush. And that is what I see. I don't see that the
41 hunters, which we certainly have a lot more of than
42 ever before, you know, they're taking from the resource
43 but I don't know that they have a real strong
44 connection to the land.

45
46 So I guess just for clarification, I
47 just wanted to say that's what I see as the thing that
48 is scarce, is that people -- we have fewer and fewer
49 people that have that close connection to the land and
50

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1 I think that's unfortunate. So I just wanted to make
2 that clarification there.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Sue, can I make one quick
9 comment. Very quick.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Quick. Okay.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, I just
14 wanted to add one point that I think Sue brought up
15 that I'd like to support and elaborate on. I spend a
16 lot of time reading and trying to look into the future
17 because if you can understand what direction you're
18 going in then you can hopefully prepare for it. One of
19 the things that I was seeing with climate change and
20 this is all NASA, it's National Weather Service, all of
21 this, the predictors are that many people are going to
22 be migrating north in the next decade to decade and a
23 half, that means Alaska's population is going to grow
24 expeditiously in the next few decades. That means that
25 the impacts that you just heard testimony on are going
26 to go up expeditiously in the next two decades and
27 that's why we have to start setting goals and
28 management strategies in place right now through the
29 Federal Program to protect people who live in rural
30 Alaska. This is the program that's going to do it
31 because the State's not. So this Federal Program is
32 the only hope that people in the Bush have to have any
33 chance for harvest of any wildlife because of what you
34 just heard through all these different Council members
35 personal experiences.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
40 thank all of you for all of your reports here today,
41 very heartfelt. I'm going to report that two members
42 have to leave at 11:00 so I would like us to go to
43 11:00 without a break and take a break then, and if you
44 do need to step out for a second, go.

45

46 Next on the agenda is service awards.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Yeah, today we have a few service awards to give out to
50

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1 Council members. And we try to recognize Council
2 members for every five years of service on the Council.
3 Dr. Kim Jochum is a team member with the National Park
4 Service Alaska Regional Office, the Subsistence Team
5 there and she's also an InterAgency Staff Committee
6 member. She's kindly offered to help pass out those
7 awards today. Thanks a bunch for joining us Kim.

8
9 MS. JOCHUM: Of course. Good morning
10 again. I am honored to present awards to some of you
11 today on behalf of the Federal Subsistence Management
12 Program. There's quite a few. I'm excited about that
13 too.

14
15 So first we'd like to recognize Council
16 Member Robert Charlie Wright for five years of service
17 on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

18
19 Mr. Wright is from the community of
20 Rampart which is located on the Yukon River down stream
21 of the bridge from up river of the rapids. Mr. Wright
22 grew up in a family that actively participated in many
23 subsistence activities including fishing, hunting and
24 trapping. He learned customary and traditional
25 practices from a young age and now works hard to make
26 sure those traditions are passed on to the next
27 generation.

28
29 Mr. Wright is an active leader involved
30 in many regional resource management and tribal
31 organizations. In addition to serving on the Council
32 he serves on the Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive
33 Board of Directors, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
34 Association Board, the Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game Tanana/Rampart/Manley Fish and Game Advisory
36 Committee, the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission,
37 Rampart Village Council and Rampart Village
38 Cooperation. Mr. Wright is also an alternate to the
39 Yukon River Panel.

40
41 Mr. Wright, Charlie, the Federal
42 Subsistence Management Program thanks you for your five
43 years of service on the Council and all the work you do
44 for subsistence users in the region.

45
46 Is that okay.

47
48 (Applause)

49
50

0037

1 (Photos)

2

3 MS. JOCHUM: Another Council member we
4 would like to recognize for serving five years on the
5 Council is Mr. Charlie Jagow.

6

7 Mr. Jagow was born in Fairbanks but was
8 raised on the family trap line along the Porcupine
9 River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Mr.
10 Jagow is an active subsistence hunter and fisherman and
11 is also a commercial hunting guide and pilot. Through
12 his guide outfit, DoubleShovel Outfitters, Mr. Jagow,
13 helps clients experience the beauty and ruggedness of
14 the Yukon Flats and Arctic Refuges on guided hunting
15 trips. The Eastern Interior Council, so I'm told I'm
16 allowed to speak on your behalf, wants Mr. Jagow to
17 know how much they appreciate his perspectives as a
18 younger Council member and his enthusiasm for
19 continuing subsistence traditions.

20

21 Mr. Jagow, the Federal Subsistence
22 Management Program thanks you for your five years of
23 service on the Council and all the work you do for
24 rural residents and users in the region.

25

26 (Applause)

27

28 (Photo)

29

30 MS. JOCHUM: The next person we want to
31 recognize is Mr. Andy Bassich who has reached a major
32 milestone of serving 20 years on the Council.

33

34 Mr. Bassich lived in the region and
35 maintained a subsistence lifestyle for several decades.
36 He lives along the Yukon River down river from the
37 community of Eagle along the boundary of Yukon-Charley
38 Rivers National Preserve. Mr. Bassich learned to hunt,
39 fish and trap and run dogs from the residents of Eagle
40 and Eagle Village when he first moved to the area.

41

42 He's an active subsistence hunter and
43 fisherman and who's passionate about teaching
44 traditional skills to others as they were taught to
45 him.

46

47 Mr. Bassich has a long history of
48 involvement of several Councils and committees that
49 allowed him to develop a broad perspective about

50

0038

1 subsistence and resource management issues and to be a
2 strong advocate for the subsistence users throughout
3 the region and state. Mr. Bassich serves on the Yukon
4 River Panel and Fortymile Harvest Management Coalition.
5 He's also an advisor of the North Pacific Anadromous
6 Fish Commission and served for 20 years as Chair of the
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Eagle Advisory
8 Committee. Mr. Bassich has also spearheaded the
9 Council's Hunter Ethics and Education Outreach
10 Initiative.

11

12 Mr. Bassich, the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program thanks you for your 20 years of
14 service on the Council and all the work you do for
15 subsistence users in your region.

16

17 (Applause)

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you very much,
20 appreciate that. Come on Sue. Come on Brooke.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
23 selfie. You got a long arm?

24

25 MR. BASSICH: No, I don't but we're
26 going to do it.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Do you want me to do it?

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, you do it, you're
31 younger you probably can do that better.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 (Photo)

36

37 MR. BASSICH: You got it Katya.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I got one, that's a
40 cute one.

41

42 MS. JOCHUM: Well, this is definitely
43 the fun part of the agenda for me, thank you. All
44 right, we have another award.

45

46 We have two Council members who were
47 previously recognized for service awards during the
48 meetings that were held during the teleconferences,
49 during the Covid pandemic so we weren't meeting in
50

0039

1 person that's why we do want to, today, give another
2 award to Sue Entsminger, Madame Chair.
3

4 Mrs. Entsminger lives in Mentasta Pass
5 and has served on the Council since 2001 as a
6 commercial/sport representative. Over the years Mrs.
7 Entsminger has been a strong voice for all user groups
8 in her region, an advocate for the subsistence way of
9 life for rural residents.

10

11 As the long-term Council Chair of this
12 Council, Mrs. Entsminger has provided consistent and
13 passionate leadership to the Council during complex
14 discussions and challenging times. The Council
15 benefits from her extensive on the ground knowledge of
16 resource issues and users in the upper Tanana and
17 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve area.
18

19 Mrs. Chair, Entsminger, the Federal
20 Subsistence Management Program and the Eastern Interior
21 Alaska Regional Advisory Council thank you for your
22 dedicated 20-plus years of service and all the work you
23 do for rural residents and subsistence users in the
24 region.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 (Applause)

29

30 (Photo)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: I think everyone with the
35 awards should like get in with the picture.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
38 members we'd like all of you.

39

40 (Photo)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
43 Very nice, but very humbling too, because I got one a
44 year ago, I believe, but I think we were all on
45 teleconference. So that was really nice, appreciate
46 it.

47

48 All right, next on the agenda, this
49 would be the time for public and tribal comments on
50

0040

1 non-agenda items. So bear with me public, I know we
2 went through a lot of things here and that's the first
3 thing that we take up business. Is there any public or
4 tribal comments on non-agenda items, this would just be
5 non-agenda items, nothing on the agenda.

6
7 Go ahead.

8
9 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record
10 my name is Jim Simon. I just want to extend my
11 appreciation for the Council member reports, it's often
12 times the best part of these meetings.

13
14 You know a lot of the issues that were
15 mentioned have been long on my mind, you know, more
16 than 50 years ago, starting to watch these growing up
17 as a kid in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory right
18 near Eureka Summit, you know, which used to be very
19 easy for us to catch our caribou, et cetera, it's now a
20 State recreational use area so it's been a long time
21 since we've eaten off of our path of our front yard.
22 I'm afraid that, you know, my extended family, my
23 grandparents, my uncles and my father, step-mother, et
24 cetera, were all guides or assisted guides and that
25 really had to shift basically our family's economy to
26 my dad ended up becoming a hog farmer, you know, after
27 he had stopped guiding any ungulate species and only
28 focused on brown bears, you know, to try to protect
29 local subsistence uses. When all Alaskans became
30 eligible subsistence user that's when we became farmers
31 because we really weren't able to make a living anymore
32 off of wild resources. I'm afraid that this is the
33 future that Andy spoke to, you know, in future decades
34 for much of the Eastern Interior and other parts of
35 Alaska. You know under Tier II management I never
36 could get a permit growing up, you know, for caribou or
37 moose in that area when it was under Tier II. The --
38 our neighbors and Joe Second Chief and his wife, Morey,
39 they're late Ahtna elders who have been gone for quite
40 some time now mentored my dad quite a bit, and they
41 spoke about climate change in the '70s and early '80s
42 about how the tundra of that area was becoming
43 increasingly shrubby and how it was affecting the
44 animals. I can't remember his name but a Point Hope
45 tribal representative testified to Congress about
46 climate change in 1975. You know it's nice now that
47 Western scientists and agency Staff are recognizing
48 that the climate is changing, wake up, yeah, good,
49 they're awake. You know but this ecosystem impacts
50

0041

1 that we're talking about now, you know, tribal
2 representatives have been looking at the ecosystem
3 services provided by these various systems for
4 generations. I'm really appreciative that the Federal
5 government is now looking to expand tribal co-
6 management initiatives and cooperative management
7 initiatives on Federal public lands or waters with
8 tribal organizations to bring back ecosystem based
9 holistic approach to Western science.

10

11 The comments about song birds, it's
12 very unfortunate that this meeting is conflicting with
13 the Alaska Migratory Bird CoManagement statewide
14 meeting today and tomorrow. I just had a meeting with
15 Denakkanaaga elder representatives and they're about
16 migratory birds and trying to ensure the documentation
17 of the cultural heritage and what everyone focused on
18 at the most recent TCC comanagement -- bird
19 comanagement council meeting and at this meeting with
20 Denakkanaaga was the song birds. And I think the
21 Federal bird biologist were sort of surprised that
22 there was so much focus and concern about song birds
23 because I think he assumed that people were only
24 concerned about the birds that they eat. But the
25 indicators that those song birds provide and the
26 comments from the various elders about how the absence
27 of song birds at fish camp and just the dire
28 circumstances that this all represents is something
29 that I think Federal agencies, and in particular the
30 Fish and Wildlife Service needs to take to heart.

31

32 And I also want to express my
33 appreciation to the Federal Subsistence Management
34 Program for finally, in this past year, actually
35 defending the rural subsistence use priority and by
36 taking efforts to sue the Department of Fish and Game
37 who has been blatantly violating that rural priority on
38 the Kuskokwim and elsewhere. Because I think that the
39 true stewards are the Native and non-Native rural
40 residents who are connected to these ecosystem services
41 and that agency Staff need to start communicating among
42 themselves such that Yukon and Kuskokwim State managers
43 start communicating with Area M State managers and to
44 try to meet these escapement goals. Because pointing
45 the finger, that that doesn't have anything to do with
46 me, the interception of Yukon and Kuskokwim and other
47 Western and Coastal Alaska salmon species on the Alaska
48 Peninsula is no longer a viable excuse, given the dire
49 circumstances, the failure to meet Treaty obligations

50

0042

1 to Canada and to sustainably manage these resources.

2

3 Thank you very much Council.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
6 Jim. I believe I might have heard someone wanted to
7 talk about the non-agenda items, online.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm
12 going to make a.....

13

14 MS. POPE: Yes, hello.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead.

17

18 MS. POPE: Hi, my name is amanda Pope.
19 First of all I wanted to say thank you for the service
20 and hard work to those Board members through the
21 service awards, I appreciate your hard work that you
22 have done.

23

24 My name is Amanda Pope. I advocate to
25 protect the subsistence way of life in and around my
26 community and region. I'm a Board member of the Yukon
27 Flats Advisory Council and look forward to meeting in
28 the near future. I took this year off from doing the
29 hunter liaison position because I wanted to go out
30 hunting and spend more time out along the Yukon in
31 Birch Creek with my family.

32

33 We had an overwhelming amount of
34 outsiders hunting in and around the community creating
35 a lot of competition with the locals. Everybody is
36 frustrated because the price of gasoline and the food
37 in town in Fairbanks is extremely high. It is
38 important to get an animal this year because of food
39 security. There was some tension between the local
40 hunters and the outside hunters who don't live here.
41 There was also some game violations by outside hunters
42 which made the locals angry because of the high
43 competition. People aren't seeing any caribou and
44 there is a large concern that there is an over harvest
45 over the last couple of years with the Fortymile
46 Caribou Herd. The Federal fall hunt starts for the
47 Fortymile Caribou Herd 10 days before the State hunt
48 excluding the youth State hunt, which starts at the
49 same time, that doesn't give us much time to hunt.

50

0043

1 I have applied to sit on the EIRAC
2 Board and look forward to hearing the final decision
3 this winter so I can have a chance to better represent
4 my region. I think there needs to be more of a diverse
5 representation on the Board instead of just one
6 community. It is almost half the Board members right
7 now. I just think it doesn't represent the whole
8 Eastern Interior equally.

9
10 I appreciate your guys' time and the
11 change to speak. Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
14 Amanda. Is there anyone else that would like to speak
15 to non-agenda items from the public or tribal.

16
17 Go ahead.

18
19 MR. PETER: Thank you. Thank you for
20 your services Andy, Charlie, Charlie and Susan. Yeah,
21 hi, my name is Michael Peter, I'm the Gwich'in Tribal
22 Government Second Chief, past former First Chief, also
23 sitting on the Alaska Migratory Bird Council, also the
24 Hunting and Fishing Taskforce with TCC.

25
26 I'd like to reiterate what Andy
27 mentioned, it is true, we're seeing a high influx of
28 hunters from outside that usually never come down the
29 river and now they're starting to because they're
30 getting to know the country more and more. And then
31 there's some other sightings of different species.
32 There's been a cougar sighting a few years ago and
33 there was a turkey buzzard that was spotted last fall
34 in Chalkyitsik. I don't know if you guys have seen the
35 picture, but it's been posted.

36
37 Anyway, other than that I notice the
38 animals are moving a lot different. On my way in
39 yesterday, flying in, you could tell, you know, further
40 north is winter, which is usually not normal and once I
41 got over the White Mountains it's like summertime here,
42 you know, and the animals are moving a lot different
43 and the birds are showing up later. And I talked to
44 one of the elders that maybe they're going back to
45 their old migratory routes because a friend of mine at
46 Old Crow got a goose last year before we did and
47 usually we get them first, and that's further north,
48 you know, in the Yukon Territories up in Canada.

49
50

0044

1 But other than that, then the moose are
2 moving a lot later. There's been quite a bit of bears
3 that have been harvested this year around our area and
4 also, too, I think the moose population is actually
5 making a rebound, it's coming back so -- because
6 there's been a lot of cow sightings and people have
7 been harvesting but not as much as last year where
8 there was a good number of people that were getting
9 moose, not as much this year as there wasn't as much as
10 harvested last year.

11
12 Other than that, the water's changing.
13 The water's pretty low now and it's even starting to
14 clear up which is unusual for this time of the year
15 also and I think people need to realize that things are
16 changing and it's happening and we need to start
17 protecting what resources we have for our people in the
18 rural areas and in our villages. And like you
19 mentioned, getting our young people more involved in
20 some of the stuff that we're doing here. You know it's
21 kind of hard, you know, but a lot of them are on the
22 land though, that's for sure, I know that because I see
23 them. But other than that, we need to try to get more
24 of our people involved and I think we need to start
25 more like in the school systems, start advocating and
26 adding some of this to the curriculum, to their
27 programs in the schools so they do know what's going on
28 and what we have left and we can protect and preserve
29 for their kids, kids.

30
31 But other than that I'd like to thank
32 you all for your service and, yes, things are changing
33 and they're happening at a rapid rate.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
38 Is there anyone else.

39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: This is Kathleen
41 Demientieff.

42
43 MS. FIELDS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
44 is Sonja Fields. I just -- hello.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds
47 like there are two people talking.

48
49 MS. FIELDS: Hello.

50

0045

1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Kathleen
2 Demientieff out of Nenana.

3
4 MS. FIELDS: This is Sonja Fields, I
5 can wait.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're both
8 talking over each other.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was it
13 Catherine.

14
15 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Kathleen Demientieff.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you go
18 ahead and then the other person go next, okay.

19
20 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I am on the Yukon
21 Drainage Fisheries, just recent, last year, just
22 learning the system and then I just got on the
23 Watershed. I'm a subsistence fisherwoman out of
24 Nenana, Alaska, born and raised here all my life.

25
26 I have a question. I don't know if
27 someone can answer it but, you know, our Tanana River
28 that runs by Nenana, we have the -- the Tanana River
29 goes by Nenana, goes up towards Fairbanks to Chena and
30 then you have the Nenana River, Nenana -- is it two
31 rivers that meet. So I'm wondering, you know, they
32 always said we can't catch our king salmon, you know,
33 I'm starving for our fish, we have to go to Fred Meyers
34 and buy it, it's expensive but it's worth it.

35
36 The other thing is that why are we held
37 accountable for all the bycatch, and all of our
38 villages are suffering. I 'm wondering how come we're
39 shut down so much when the fish are not going to really
40 spawn this far up, it's mainly the Yukon. But our
41 people here, we lost a lot of subsistence fisheries and
42 we only have -- I just counted five this year that go
43 and get their subsistence, they just quit. They didn't
44 want to deal with the laws or anything and now people
45 are just going to the store to buy stuff. I'm just
46 kind of trying to figure out how to help them get their
47 stable fish that they're used to eating. Plus I know
48 it's a hard job, everybody's got different agendas and
49 it's really hard to work with different boards that
50

0046

1 have different views, and I'm wondering how we can come
2 to just one issue and work on that.

3

4 And I don't know if it's Area M, or if
5 it's the trawlers or, you know, we don't catch that
6 much on this river. They got to -- Fish and Game needs
7 to help us fill our freezers. All we have -- I just
8 want to thank the State of Alaska and Tanana Chiefs for
9 giving us some fish, which we're not used to eating, or
10 know how to cook, but I heard it was good. So I just
11 want to figure out how we all can get together and
12 figure out what is the issue. There's so many boards,
13 someone's got to have an issue that knows what -- how
14 we can fix this. And it's been like over two years
15 since we -- two years since they shut us down, that's a
16 long time without our fish.

17

18 Thank you Federal Subsistence for all
19 your services and helping our people. Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
22 Yeah, I have to apologize, I guess I could have asked
23 if anybody had any questions and I feel bad that I
24 didn't now. But if anyone did have any questions or
25 anyone wants to bring it up so I could address it, but
26 did you want to.....

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Real quick.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay,
31 Andy.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 Yeah, thank you for bringing up those concerns. I
35 think you brought up the concerns of everybody at this
36 table has been talking about and I think, you know, the
37 biggest problem that we're dealing with is that there's
38 not one answer to this problem. It's a very broad
39 ranged problem that starts in the Bering Sea with the
40 pollock, it's affected by Area M, it's affected by the
41 use of salmon harvest and the needs of the people on
42 the river, it has to do with the change of -- climate
43 change and the changing size of fish and they're
44 returning at younger ages with less eggs so to sum it
45 up there's really no one answer and so there's no one
46 entity that's going to fix it. And so it really takes
47 a lot of different boards, a lot of different entities
48 that can really focus on those individual issues to try
49 and come up with the best solutions for those

50

0047

1 individual issues and then bring them to the collective
2 of everyone. So the hard answer to you is that there
3 are a lot of people who are trying to work on these
4 issues and it's going to take a lot of different boards
5 and it's going to take a lot of time and the people on
6 the Yukon River are going to have to be very patient
7 because some of these issues are not going to be solved
8 in a year or two, it may be a life cycle or two with
9 some of these fish species to really start bringing
10 them back so it's going to take patience, it's going to
11 take a lot more sacrifice but most importantly it takes
12 people being educated and involved.

13

14 I hope that helps. Thank you, Madame
15 Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I felt
18 some of her frustration though, in that, there's so
19 many meetings to go to that they're overlapping so it
20 just -- yeah, it's hard to keep it going. But thank
21 you so much for your comments. And there was one other
22 person.

23

24 MS. FIELDS: Yes, hello, Madame Council
25 Members. My name is Sonja Fields and I live in Circle.
26 I'm a Tribal member. I was a Council member before.
27 I hear a lot of concerns but, you know, I think at the
28 local level. We have the launch here, the launch pad
29 for all these boats going up river to hunt and it is
30 owned by the tribal lands. So I think just at a local
31 level the tribes have to step up and say, hey, you
32 know, where are you going, you know, I mean I was the
33 hunter liaison and I seen a lot of people outsiders
34 coming through there without just -- I mean after my
35 job was over there were people coming out with big
36 racks, I mean we need to start doing something and take
37 action now. I mean I'm just so frustrated myself, I'm
38 sorry but I've seen a lot of stuff that was done, you
39 know, illegally and, yeah, I just wish some of the
40 tribes would step up together and meet, every tribal
41 council in every village that have concerns about the
42 Yukon and the fish, because they're taking away our
43 resources. You know I mean they launch out of our
44 village and they come back to our village and during
45 the night and leave. I see it all the time. So I
46 think it's up to our tribal councils to start stepping
47 up.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0048

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2 Is there anyone else that would like to speak.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the last
7 speaker, we share your frustration, yeah, very much so.
8 Any other -- Amanda Pope, I wish you luck getting on
9 the Council, you would be a great addition and, yeah,
10 other people are shaking their heads on that.

11
12 So all right.....

13
14 MR. WRIGHT: Can I just say something.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: I wanted to just add
19 something to my report. With the lack of moose numbers
20 and meat animals in the Rampart/Tanana area last summer
21 wolves were coming into town in Tanana and taking dogs
22 off the chains, ripping them off and running away with
23 them, eating them, and many dogs got killed. So they
24 put a bounty out of \$500 per wolf and they cleaned up a
25 whole bunch of them last winter. So Rampart followed
26 suit and put the bounty on wolves and brown bear and
27 grizzly, also, \$500 per head, so that's been working
28 pretty well. And so we're trying locally to do things
29 to help the population also.

30
31 But another thing that I learned that's
32 not in our area, the Western area, is that the locals
33 do all this hard work to knock down the predator
34 numbers and then the managers open up the area for
35 hunts, special hunts, so I think that the locals and
36 the managers need to work really hard together and
37 start looking at that, that it's not an opportunity for
38 them to make money, that's opportunity for those hard
39 working people to eat. So I just wanted to put that
40 out there, that's something to think about going into
41 the future for the managers.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
46 Charlie.

47
48 MS. ADAMS: Can I make a public
49 comment, please.

50

0049

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is
2 speaking.

3
4 MS. ADAMS: Rochelle Adams, Beaver and
5 Fort Yukon,

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
8 ahead.

9
10 MS. ADAMS: Yeah, I just wanted to say
11 Mahsi'Choo to the Council members. I really appreciate
12 all the things that they're bringing up, it's so good
13 to hear Charlie, Jody and everyone and the young people
14 who are calling in, Amanda. I just want to acknowledge
15 that we are all on indigenous lands and the land that
16 you're sitting on in Fairbanks is Lower Dena'ina and
17 (indiscernible - background noise) to them for being
18 the original stewards of the land and indigenous people
19 are the original stewards of the land. And so I want
20 to uplift the Council members and thank you for all of
21 the things you're bringing up because this is our real
22 life. The people who are the villages, this is what we
23 are facing and I know that it's not easy to do this
24 work and so I just want to uplift you and say that I
25 appreciate all that you're bringing and it's not easy
26 to navigate this system. I mean we have all kinds of
27 meetings happening right now. A lot of people don't
28 understand, you know, the management and all of these
29 -- this other way of life. And so it's -- thank you
30 for being the warriors that we need right now and this
31 is sacred work. This is our land and our water and
32 indigenous people are connected to this on a whole
33 'nother level, you know, it's our spirituality, it's
34 more than just putting food in our freezer and food to
35 our mouth. So it's very, very important and I wish
36 that the words and the things that are shared here are
37 really taken seriously and I hope that these words
38 reach the right people and changes are made because our
39 people are starving. Our people are going through a
40 really hard time and it is the times that our elders
41 have talked about. You know it is those hard times.

42
43 So I just wanted to say Mahsi'Choo to
44 the Council members and please let these words reach
45 the right ears.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
50

0050

1 very much. So this would be the last call for any
2 public or tribal comments on non-agenda items. One
3 more.

4

5 MR. PETER: Yeah, Michael Peter.
6 Gwich'in Tribal Government. I just wanted to add as a
7 comment, that at our tribe we did sponsor a couple
8 derbies. We had a black bear derby and we had a pike
9 derby because we know that a lot of them are -- have an
10 effect, you know, on land and water. But other than
11 that, yeah, we're paying like 9.53 a gallon now, too,
12 so not everybody's always out there, only a very few.

13

14 And I just want to mention, too, this
15 last week, my mom she's almost 80, and I took her out
16 hunting and we actually got a little bull and she's
17 kind of getting older and I'd just like to mention that
18 our traditional people still like to get out there when
19 they can and with the help of our younger people, they
20 sure do enjoy it and she sure had fun.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
25 sharing that. Okay, I think we're going to go on a 15
26 minute break. We'll come back at 11:15 to 17, and Jody
27 you'll be leaving and you won't be able to come back
28 until you call in.

29

30 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I'll be calling in,
31 yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sometime
34 after 4:00?

35

36 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: No, I'll be calling
37 in at 11:15 until I depart at noon and then once I land
38 in Eagle I'm going to call in until my meeting's
39 scheduled.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
42 sounds great. So just let us know, okay.

43

44 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yeah.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we'll
47 go take a break.

48

49 (Off record)

50

0051

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, let's
4 get back.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't want
9 to start slapping the mic so if all could come back to
10 our seats please.

11

12 REPORTER: Yeah, don't slap the mic.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm missing
17 Charlie -- two Charlies.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's see
22 now, I probably need to -- and something else, I
23 apologize, I didn't mention it to right away because I
24 didn't learn, in our book on Page 4, the offices were
25 wrong, Robert Charlie Wright is the Vice-Chair and Jody
26 Potts is the Secretary. This was an old roster I was
27 told that got stuck in the book, I guess by mistake.
28 So Jody you said you were calling in, are you on?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jody, Jody
33 Potts Joseph, are you on?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will Koehler,
38 are you on?

39

40 MR. KOEHLER: I am.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
43 that marks -- do I need six, Staff, because I only have
44 five here?

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got six of
49 us here, Charlie Jagow is here. So the next thing on

50

0052

1 the agenda is the .805(c) report summary from Brooke.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 For the record, Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator. I
5 just have a brief overview of the .805(c) report for
6 you all today.

7

8 On Page 24 of your meeting books you
9 will find a cover letter for the .805(c) report
10 followed by the .805(c) report. This cover letter and
11 the report provides detailed information about how
12 Board actions aligned with your Council's
13 recommendations at the April 2022 wildlife regulatory
14 meeting.

15

16 And to summarize, there were five
17 proposals and one closure review that appeared on the
18 consensus agenda at that meeting and for which the
19 Board adopted your Council's recommendations. The
20 remaining four wildlife proposals affecting the Eastern
21 Interior region appeared on the non-consensus agenda.
22 For one of those proposals the Board took action
23 consistent with the Council's recommendations. The
24 Board adopted statewide Proposal WP22-01 which
25 clarified who is and who is not a participant in the
26 community harvest system and how that affects community
27 and individual harvest limits.

28

29 For three proposals, WP22-35, 36 and
30 02, Board action was partially consistent with the
31 Eastern Interior Council's recommendations. The Board
32 adopted these proposals but did not adopt certain
33 modifications suggested by the Council. The Board's
34 actions on these proposals are explained in detail in
35 the .805(c) report and that begins on Page 27.

36

37 Finally, the Board took action on the
38 deferred Fisheries Proposal FP21-10 of interest to the
39 Council at their April meeting. The Board's action and
40 justification on that proposal is also explained in the
41 .805(c) report.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair. That
44 concludes my summary.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
47 Council members.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0053

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And let the
2 record reflect that Charlie Wright is with us.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
5 next thing on the agenda then is the Board's fiscal
6 year 2021 annual report reply.

7
8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator again. I would
10 like to point you to Page 31 of your meeting books and
11 actually I apologize because there are not page numbers
12 at the bottom of the annual report reply in your
13 meeting book, at least not in the version that was
14 mailed out to you all.

15
16 But on Page 31 you'll find the Board's
17 reply. And first off, the Board would like to let you
18 know that they appreciate your effort to communicate
19 through your annual report on issues outside of the
20 regulatory process that affects subsistence users in
21 your region. And in FY'21 there were seven topics of
22 concern that the Council brought to the Board.

23
24 Board members and OSM Staff read your
25 topics of concern and discussed them during the Board's
26 summer 2022 work session. And there are a couple of
27 points that I want to highlight for you guys in the
28 reply and then if there's other things you want to
29 discuss you're welcome to do so.

30
31 For topics Nos 1 and No. 7 which are
32 about salmon bycatch in the BSAI groundfish fisheries
33 and regarding HR47-16, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping
34 Act, I just wanted to remind you that your Council also
35 sent direct correspondence to the Board separate from
36 your annual report on those two topics and I'll have a
37 little more details during the Council correspondence
38 update, which is the next item on the agenda. But do
39 note that the Board did take action to elevate your
40 concerns on those two topics.

41
42 Topic No. 2 about moose counts around
43 Rampart and the Nowitna River region. I know this is
44 of interest to ,ember Wright, note that the most recent
45 moose survey data collected by Fish and Wildlife
46 Service is included in the annual report reply for the
47 Nowitna River region. The report notes that current
48 population estimates and bull/cow ratios for Nowitna
49 moose were a continuation of conservative harvest
50

0054

1 strategies. The report also notes that it is Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game that conducts the moose
3 surveys for GMU20F around Rampart and at this time OSM
4 has not received any updated moose survey information
5 for that area from the State.

6
7 For Topics 3, 4 and 6, the Board and
8 OSM Staff want you to know that we appreciate your
9 constructive feedback and that it helps evaluate how we
10 can effectively and efficiently support the Council and
11 rural subsistence users.

12
13 And, finally, thank you, for your
14 continued involvement and diligence in matters
15 regarding the Federal Subsistence Management Program
16 and the Board expresses their appreciation for your
17 efforts representing subsistence users in the Eastern
18 Interior.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: That concludes my
24 summary, Madame Chair. Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
27 Brooke. Any questions, Council members. Does that
28 little giggle mean you do?

29
30 MR. BASSICH: No, I don't, I'll keep my
31 mouth shut.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
34 All right, next thing.....

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: I do have one.....

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:on the
39 agenda -- oh, there is one.....

40
41 MR. WRIGHT:I have one thing to
42 say.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
45 Charlie.

46
47 MR. WRIGHT: I just wanted to make a
48 small comment on the Nowitna River count. I was told
49 by the biologist there last -- every year I say, well,
50

0055

1 I'm not seeing as much tracks this last year or the
2 year before and I've been hunting there about 20 years,
3 so the last 10 years there's been a downhill spiral of
4 tracks and animals that I see with my eye. I don't see
5 them all, of course, because I'm not up in the air like
6 an airplane, but the tracks crossing the river, the hot
7 spots, they don't exist anymore. And I was in the
8 Nowitna this fall hunting again, it was very hard with
9 high water to find moose. The cows were not gathering
10 up, there was no bellowing, no calling. You had to
11 keep moving to find a moose, you had to -- persistence
12 paid off. And according to the biologist when I was
13 checking out, it's the lowest kill number ever since
14 it's been monitored, or check station in Nowitna so you
15 got to figure that in somewhere.

16

17 That's all I wanted to say, thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
20 Andy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 I think from my perspective these annual reports and
24 these concerns are really good to bring to the Board
25 and I guess sometimes I question what actions can be
26 taking place because of these comments, you know, we
27 all know the Federal Program takes a fairly long time
28 to move, it's not really fast unless it's maybe a
29 special action request. But I think Charlie's point
30 brings up a really good point and that is that we bring
31 these concerns to the Subsistence Board, but what
32 actions are taken to try and address these. They
33 understand our concerns but what are we doing about it
34 is I guess the question that I'm asking and how can we
35 maybe modify the system, if it's possible to, or at
36 least make the system become a little bit more
37 efficient at taking action based upon, not only this
38 Council, but any Council that state a request for
39 something that is a food security concern or a cultural
40 concern. And so I guess I'm -- it's not a criticism,
41 it's maybe a recommendation that OSM start to take
42 maybe a little bit more introspective look at itself
43 and say what can we do to help this process move along
44 a little bit quicker to help meet the needs of the
45 people because as you're hearing so far at this
46 meeting, there are a lot of concerns and a lot of
47 really tough times coming ahead and so we need to make
48 actions happen a little bit quicker. You know, our
49 moose populations, our caribou populations can drop
50

0056

1 pretty dramatically and that really impacts people so
2 how can we take actions maybe a little bit more -- a
3 little bit quicker.
4

5 That's all I want to say. I just -- I
6 feel, and, you know, when you brought this up a year or
7 so ago, Charlie, I was hoping that there'd be some
8 action taken and it's great for the Council to
9 understand but let's take some action and try and
10 protect those resources for the people that need them.
11 That's the point I'm trying to make.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Sue had to step
16 out to do some phone calls and stuff so I'll take over.
17 So if anybody else have any more comments on that, any
18 other Council members.
19

20 (No comments)
21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If not I guess
23 we'll move on. Council correspondence update.
24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Vice Chair
26 Wright. So, yes, we are on Agenda Item 10C and I would
27 like to direct the Council to their supplemental
28 materials binder to Tab No. 1.
29

30 On the first page of Tab 1 you'll find
31 a simple summary of all the correspondence that the
32 Council elected to send at the last meeting. There
33 were six letters in total, two were joint letters with
34 the other three Yukon River region Councils, and four
35 were sent by your Council separately.
36

37 Following the winter 2022 meeting I
38 worked with the Chair and other members of the Council
39 to draft and send these letters. The Council did not
40 receive replies from any of the addressees but please
41 note that the two letters that were sent to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board, that the Board took action based on
43 your requests in the letters about bycatch and the
44 trapping bill. Following the Board's receipt of the
45 joint Council letter on salmon bycatch, I was asked to
46 present on the bycatch issue at the Council -- and the
47 Council's request at the Board's July work session.
48 And at that meeting the Board voted to elevate the
49 joint Council concerns to the Secretaries of Interior
50

0057

1 and Secretary of Agriculture.

2

3

4 The letter that was sent by the Board
5 to the Secretaries was not available in time to make
6 into your meeting books but Katya just passed that out
7 to you now. And just a real quick summary. The first
8 part of the letter it relays the concerns and the
9 requests made by the four Councils. And then I did
10 want to read you the second half of the next to the
11 last paragraph, which states:

12

13 Many Alaskans, including the Councils,
14 have opined that it is inequitable for commercial
15 fishers in marine waters to harvest salmon bound for
16 AYK drainages when subsistence fishing in those river
17 systems by those who need it most is completely or
18 severely restricted. Accordingly, the Board
19 respectfully requests you to liaise with the Department
20 of Commerce to explore engagement and relationship
21 building between our agencies with the goal of
22 addressing salmon migratory life cycles and bycatch
23 holistically. In addition, the Board plans to invite
24 North Pacific Fishery Management Council members and
25 Staff to its next meeting in January to discuss this
26 issue.

27

28 I did also reach out to North Pacific
29 Fishery Management Council to see if they would be
30 willing to present at this meeting to give an update
31 but they're having a concurrent meeting right now so
32 they weren't available. But if the Council wishes, I
33 can reach out to them for the winter meeting to see if
34 they would give an update. Dr. Diana Stram with North
35 Pacific Fishery Management Council did also send some
36 information, which I included, just for you to look
37 through at your leisure about updates from their past
38 meeting. They will -- the North Pacific Fishery
39 Management Council will be meeting in December and
40 salmon will be on the agenda at that time just as an
41 FYI.

42

43 Moving on, the Board is in the process
44 of finalizing a letter to the Secretary of Interior and
45 the other requested recipients that passes along
46 Council concerns regarding the Refuge from Cruel
47 Trapping Bill. The Bristol Bay RAC also wrote to the
48 Board on this issue and both Council concerns are being
49 elevated together. And as soon as those letters are
50 available you will receive a copy. Fish and Wildlife

0058

1 Service also provided a brief update on the status of
2 that bill and that was just passed out to you by Katya
3 along with the letter regarding the bycatch.
4

5 Very quickly, the Bill has not moved
6 forward but Fish and Wildlife Service did provide
7 technical assistance to the Bill's sponsor which
8 included an exemption for Alaska's Refuges.
9 Representative Nadler, the sponsor also proposed an
10 amendment to another Bill Recovering American Wildlife
11 Act, RAWA, to prohibit the use of body gripping traps
12 in the Lower 48 but his amendment also did not move
13 forward for that Act, so that's good news for the
14 Council. There is some additional information on RAWA
15 on that handout and I won't go over it at this time but
16 it's there if you're interested.
17

18 And, Mr. Vice-Chair, that concludes my
19 update -- oh, no, sorry, it doesn't. There's two other
20 things I wanted to point out.
21

22 About the Dennison Headwaters Cabin
23 Staking Program. That is the staking program that they
24 were thinking about doing off of the Taylor Highway and
25 I reached out to DNR and they said that that project is
26 not moving forward. They received a lot of public
27 feedback about that and they are exploring alternative
28 options in different areas.
29

30 MR. BASSICH: Montana would be good.
31

32 (Laughter)
33

34 MS. MCDAVID: And then I also wanted to
35 let you know, because the Council wrote a letter to
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game advocating for
37 genetic sampling to resume of especially chum salmon
38 harvested in Area M commercial fisheries. And they did
39 do sampling this summer and they're hoping to be able
40 to continue that through 2025 but funding is kind of
41 the deciding factor on that.
42

43 And now that is the conclusion of my
44 summary, Mr. Vice Chair.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
47 much. Next is Section 10D, special action updates, OSM
48 Fisheries. And if we could go back a bit to see,
49 Council correspondence, I better make sure that nobody
50

0059

1 had any questions before we move on.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I guess
8 it doesn't have to happen right now but I know there's
9 been a lot of efforts put into beginning to address the
10 Area M June fisheries bycatch issue and also bycatch in
11 the pollock fleet and if at some point in time someone
12 in the audience who might have some information on the
13 entities that are getting involved in trying to push
14 that, to try and update the Council, that would be
15 helpful. We've been talking about that for, well, 15
16 or 20 years and it feels good to me to hear people
17 address that. But I think the other issue that's been
18 brought up for 15 or 20 years, I still hear no mention
19 of, is the high production of hatchery fish and the
20 impacts on wild stocks due to that high production. So
21 it's another one of those things that I'd like to keep
22 on the radar for this Council and for all biologists
23 that are dealing with all of our fish problems. It's
24 my opinion, after more than 35 or 40 years of
25 observing, that especially during this climate change,
26 things are tipping, and I think those impacts are
27 having a much greater effect on wild stocks that we
28 depend on in the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River,
29 so that needs to be addressed as well.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So that was a
34 question that you'd like to have answered now if
35 possible.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Well, I mean if someone
38 in the audience can just update us. I apologize I had
39 no outside communications, my internet went down this
40 late summer and fall and so I'm sure that there's
41 entities that are working on some of those and if I
42 could just get a brief update on who's doing what that
43 would be helpful to me because it's a big concern for
44 this Council and has been for a long time and I'm not
45 sure all Council members are up to date on that so is
46 there anybody who can come to the table and just kind
47 of update us on what's going on as far as looking into
48 Area M and the Bering Sea bycatch and the efforts and
49 what entities are addressing that through tribal
50

0060

1 governments and/or other entities.

2

3 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record,
4 my name is Jim Simon, consultant with Tanana Chiefs
5 Conference and now Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
6 Commission. I was only able to -- my printer ran out
7 of toner so I was only able to give a copy to Council
8 Members Andy and Jody and Charlie W right today but
9 yesterday the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
10 Commission completed its 2022 situation report in order
11 to be able to present that at today's joint tribal
12 consultation with the Department of Interior and the
13 National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration
14 meeting in Bethel. There will be a similar joint
15 tribal consultation with Tanana Chiefs Conference on
16 Friday. In that 2022 Kusko InterTribal situation
17 report there is some extensive information provided on
18 the impacts of the Area M interception of Coastal
19 Western stocks as well as bycatch that may be useful.

20

21 The -- and actually I missed some of
22 your question because I was working on getting ready
23 for the Friday joint consultation and some information
24 that Tanana Chiefs Conference will be providing there
25 -- was that the extent of your question, Andy, bycatch
26 in Area M?

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm just -- I just
29 wanted kind of an update on what entities are
30 furthering the cause, and I think you've answered that,
31 that there is action being taken and that's what I
32 wanted to mainly hear and wanted the Council to hear,
33 that these concerns are being addressed by TCC and
34 InterTribal Fish Commissions through consultations.

35

36 MR. SIMON: And, yeah, just through the
37 Vice Chair, just to add on, there is the -- you know
38 about 20 years ago the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Coalition
39 of Tanana Chiefs Conference, Association of Village
40 Council Presidents and Kawarek, you know, helped
41 developed the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative. That
42 coalition has recently been expanded to include the
43 Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission and the
44 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission and that
45 coalition meets weekly and it is also why we have these
46 joint NOAA and Department of Interior consultations
47 this week occurring. There was one also scheduled for
48 tomorrow in Nome but because of the typhoon that
49 consultation has been either cancelled or postponed.

50

0061

1 I'm not sure exactly who all is going to be at these
2 consultations but I believe -- I do know that Assistant
3 Secretary Newland will be in attendance as well as a
4 lot of D.C. representatives from those two departments,
5 the Department of Commerce and Department of Interior.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Follow up.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Mr. Simon, I
12 really appreciate your longstanding knowledge of how
13 things work here. Do you have any information on what
14 Federal entity would be the entity to address in
15 regards to reduction of hatchery production in Bering
16 Sea and Pacific Rim countries? You know we have the
17 North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission but they're
18 basically a research entity, they don't have any
19 authority to do any regulations, so what is the treaty
20 or what would the entity be within the United States
21 government that would then bring up the issue of
22 hatchery production and try and develop a treaty
23 amongst Bering Sea and Pacific Rim countries to reduce
24 bycatch -- or to reduce hatchery production in the
25 Bering Sea; can you answer that?

26
27 MR. SIMON: No, I can't, but perhaps
28 Holly Carroll might know. What I can share with you
29 with respect to that concern is Tanana Chiefs
30 Conference recently participated in an Alaska insight
31 episode here two weeks ago -- two or three weeks ago
32 that Holly Carroll also attended as well as Dr. Katie
33 Howard from the Department of Fish and Game and that
34 was discussed somewhat and I -- it had been the first
35 time that I had heard Dr. Howard speak to the fact that
36 it's -- and I think I have this right, is that those
37 hatchery fish, those juveniles and stuff that are
38 released, don't spend a lot of time in the Bering Sea
39 and so that some of the concerns that we're facing may
40 not have the hatchery concerns being really a major
41 contributor to the declines that we're seeing but I
42 would defer to Holly Carroll to correct any misspeaking
43 that I just did and to maybe address your other
44 question.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Quick followup. So to
49 clarify that, is that Alaska hatcheries and Canadian
50

0062

1 hatcheries, because we have the impacts of Russian,
2 Japanese, Korean, and I'm not sure how much the Chinese
3 are involved in it but I'm just saying -- the point I'm
4 making is that it's not just Alaska hatcheries, which I
5 understand is more in the Gulf of Alaska but there are
6 contributors and I'm just curious, are those affecting
7 salmon rearing areas from Western Alaska, from Russia
8 or whatever?

9
10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Jim.
11 Holly.

12
13 MS. CARROLL: For the record, Mr. Vice
14 Chair, I'm Holly Carroll with the Fish and Wildlife
15 Service. Again, I'm not really an expert in this area
16 but I know you guys kind of brought up, you know, who
17 does what, and what is the agency and you've brought up
18 a lot of really good questions so I just wanted to give
19 you a couple resources to help answer some of those
20 questions. So I'm going to start with your latest
21 question about hatchery.

22
23 And, again, I want to highlight the
24 fact that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a
25 really good team of folks that are working on
26 connecting all the ocean piece, they have a statewide
27 team, Bill Templin, Dr. Katie Howard, Sabrina Garcia,
28 Ben Gray, and so whenever you have questions about kind
29 of that ocean engagement, that ocean involvement, it
30 really is good to seek out updates from them. I want
31 to parrot what Jim said that, you know, what Katie has
32 made clear from her studies is that a lot of our Yukon
33 specific salmon are spending a lot of their time, I
34 mean other than chum, who do go down to the Gulf of
35 Alaska. Most of our salmon are spending their time in
36 the Bering Sea and we don't have hatcheries in the
37 Bering Sea. You did mention the Canadian hatchery,
38 there's been a hatchery associated with that Whitehorse
39 dam for decades and decades, and what we've seen is
40 that that's been around as long as we've had really
41 high runs and poor runs so I don't think there's any
42 indication that that species is competing with our
43 chinook. In fact it doesn't really contribute to large
44 returns of any kind, it's just a mitigation factor
45 essentially for that dam that was put in place, you
46 know, like I said decades ago.

47
48 I also want to remind you guys that you
49 have the resource of -- you have Mark Burch, who's
50

0063

1 probably on the line and can follow up on this as your
2 State Liaison. And so when you have questions about
3 Area M, again, that is a State managed fishery and so
4 they can -- if you request in advance, I'm sure they
5 can provide you updates on their genetic sampling
6 programs, updates on what their catches are. And so
7 reaching out to Fish and Game to give updates on that
8 at these meetings, I'm sure they'd absolutely do that.
9 I know that Forest Bowers was giving Area M updates on
10 our YRDFA calls in-season. And so they're who you
11 want to talk to about that.

12
13 Let's see so, yeah, just kind of
14 reminding you guys that there is a statewide team of
15 experts to talk to about hatchery issues, ocean issues,
16 interaction issues, and then also that, you know, the
17 State is going to be able to get you the information
18 you need on their Area M sampling or their catches in
19 that State managed fisheries.

20
21 Did I cover all your question -- oh,
22 the global. So how do we address hatcheries that are
23 coming from other nations. I've got to look into that
24 actually. I don't really know the answer for that
25 because I don't know if the North Pacific Fishery
26 Management Council deals with those international
27 issues. I don't believe they do so I'm definitely
28 going to have to go back, talk to some folks and figure
29 out what the answer is on what kind of folks we need to
30 reach out to to answer that question for you so we'll
31 just make a note and get the answer back to Brooke.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
36 much Holly. Okay, what's going on with lunch.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, are they
41 going to bring it in here or -- or, okay, we're just
42 off for the.....

43
44 MS. MCDAVID: We're on our own.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, I was just
47 wondering because it's getting to be about 12:00
48 o'clock and since we're -- oh, okay.

49
50

0064

1 MS. FITKA: Hi, my name's.....

2

3 MR. ERVIN: Hello, Co-Chair Charlie.

4

5 MS. FITKA:Serena Fitka for the
6 record. Thank you, Co-Chair Wright. Just to let you
7 know that the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
8 Association has also been working on the Area M fishery
9 issue. We've been talking about Area M for the last 40
10 years with little to no movement so we've been working
11 closely with Bering Sea Fisherman's Association and we
12 wrote letters, joint letters to the Area M Seiners
13 Association to ask them to voluntarily stand down for
14 their June fishery in hopes to replenish the chum
15 stocks to the AYK region. We did get a response, they
16 said they'd do what they can and pretty much said that
17 the fishery is not contributing to the low runs in the
18 AYK region. So we did write a joint letter to the
19 Commissioner asking him to use his authority to help
20 the Area M fisheries to stand down, lessen the fishing
21 opportunities in the region, with no response. We then
22 moved to request a meeting with the Governor and that
23 took place on August 29th. We had 15 organizations
24 from Norton Sound to Bristol Bay attend the meeting.
25 We had the different regions express their concerns
26 directly to the Governor primarily asking the Governor
27 to use his authority to help reduce the fishing time in
28 Area M to replenish the stocks in the AYK region. He
29 did not give any directives during that meeting. He
30 said he'll take the information and see what they can
31 do. He did mention that we can submit projects as the
32 budgets are going to be talked about which would be
33 great to get the genetic sampling done again for the
34 upcoming season. We are still keeping -- trying to
35 keep the conversation going. We do meet biweekly as a
36 group to discuss ways we can address the concerns so we
37 did request a second meeting with the Governor with no
38 response.

39

40 So we are having a reception in
41 Anchorage on October 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at
42 the BP Energy Center to talk about the salmon crises in
43 the AYK region. About 350 invitations have been sent
44 out. I'm going to be posting that on our website. We
45 are getting presentations from Joe Slater and -- on
46 some of the research that's -- some research that he's
47 been looking in to. We have people from the three
48 different regions presenting. We have Native Peoples
49 Action distributing information on how to make your
50

0065

1 voice heard at the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting.

2

3 And I'll leave it at that since it's
4 getting close to lunch, thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
7 Serena. Anybody else.

8

9 Jim.

10

11 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Through the
12 Chair, and thank you Holly for reminding me of
13 something that we did not mention just a moment ago.

14

15 The Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal
16 Resource Stewardship Program as well as the Kuskokwim
17 River InterTribal Fish Commission did submit a proposal
18 regarding imposing restrictions on the Area M Fishery
19 to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which will be taking
20 up the Area M allocation and management decisions at
21 their February 13th, sorry, Brooke, I can't read that,
22 but at their February meeting in Anchorage. And so
23 that would be a good opportunity for others to
24 participate actively in that public process. The
25 Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee spearheaded
26 by Virgil Umphenour, who was on the Board of Fish in
27 the early 2000s, who put some restrictions on the Area
28 M fishery after those salmon disaster years back in the
29 '90s and 2000, I think it was, and so that's a much
30 more detailed proposal than that submitted by the
31 Tribal Resource Stewardship Program or Kuskokwim
32 InterTribal Fish Commission.

33

34 So that is something that I will then
35 differ to your Coordinator because I couldn't read her
36 note to me.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Jim, sorry, I was just
39 hoping if you know the number of those proposals in the
40 State book, it might help the Council look those up.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. SIMON: I do have that but it's in
45 my car in the parking lot so I will go get those and at
46 your call I can share that information, Mr. Vice Chair.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0066

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, anybody
2 else have anything to say. Anybody online.

3
4 MR. ERVIN: Hello, Co-Chair Charlie.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

7
8 MR. ERVIN: Hello, can you hear me
9 okay?

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, who are you?

12
13 MR. ERVIN: Hi. For the record this is
14 Bruce Ervin. I just want to say a big thank you to the
15 Eastern Interior RAC Chair and Council members that
16 hearing about the Dennison it really made my day today.
17 It really means a lot to us here in the Upper Tanana
18 and to be able to continue to practice their way of
19 life and, you know, not be threatened by losing our
20 land up at the Dennison. I just want to say a really
21 big thank you to all of you, you know, I'm so thankful
22 that we're able to talk to all of you and to voice our
23 concerns and to have somebody there to fight for us.
24 So I just want to say thank you very much, from the
25 bottom of my heart, it really means a lot to me.

26
27 So thank you again and I appreciate all
28 of you. Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Bruce,
31 for the kind words. Anybody else.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing nothing,
36 I guess we could break for lunch. What time is it --
37 it's 12:01, I guess I'll see you all at 1:00.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hello, Will, are
44 you on the phone?

45
46 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I am.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. So I think
49 we're going to get started now.

50

0067

1 (Pause)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We are on 10D
4 special action updates. You have the floor.

5

6 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair, Members of
7 the Council. My name is Cory Graham and I'm a
8 Fisheries Biologist at the Office of Subsistence
9 Management. Materials relevant to this presentation
10 can be found on Page 43 of your Council book. I'm here
11 today to present a brief update on four fisheries
12 temporary special action requests, FSA22-01, 02, 03 and
13 04 that were submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board
14 last spring.

15

16 All four actions, special action
17 requests were identical and each requested the Federal
18 Subsistence Board close Federal public waters of the
19 Yukon River drainage to the harvest of chinook and
20 summer and fall chum salmon except by Federally-
21 qualified subsistence users and further reduce the pool
22 of eligible harvesters based on the Alaska National
23 Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section .804,
24 subsistence user prioritization analysis.

25

26 The Federal Subsistence Board met on
27 May 4th, 2022 and adopted Temporary Special Action
28 FSA22-01 for conservation purposes. The Board took no
29 action on the other requests because of the adoption of
30 22-01.

31

32 So specifically the Board closed
33 Federal public waters of the drainage to the harvest of
34 chinook, summer and fall chum and coho salmon except by
35 Federally-qualified subsistence users from June 1
36 through September 30th with harvest opportunities to be
37 determined by the Federal fisheries manager should
38 fisheries run strength be sufficient to allow a Federal
39 subsistence fishery. And as you all know the returns
40 this summer were so poor that no directed opportunities
41 to harvest chinook or chum salmon were provided. Holly
42 Carroll who is the Federal fisheries manager for the
43 Yukon River implemented the Board's action. Holly
44 will be updating the Council on Yukon River salmon
45 management and can answer questions related to the
46 implementation of this action at that time.

47

48 That concludes my update on the
49 temporary special action requests that we received and
50

0068

1 I'll standby to answer any questions the Council might
2 have.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Any
5 questions Council members.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody on the
10 phone.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, we
15 could move on. So we're moving on to 10E.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, this one.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Oh, I thought he
20 covered this one -- okay, I think we're on 10Dii,
21 FSA22-05.

22

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Mr.
24 Vice-Chair, Madame Chair and members of the Council.
25 I'm Liz Williams, I'm an Anthropologist with the Office
26 of Subsistence Management. And this analysis was
27 written by Justin Koller, a Fisheries Biologist at the
28 Office of Subsistence Management.

29

30 There was one special action in the
31 Southcentral Region that was a temporary special
32 action, it's FSA22-05 concerning the Lower Copper River
33 Subsistence Salmon Fishery. It was administrative in
34 nature and did not request changes to the Lower Copper
35 River subsistence salmon fishery. The Federal
36 Subsistence Board adopted the Lower Copper River
37 subsistence salmon fishery at their April wildlife
38 regulatory meeting. Due to the unusual timing of this
39 Board action, the rule did not publish in the Federal
40 Register in time for the 2022 fishery. The temporary
41 special action request asks that the Board temporarily
42 enact this newly authorized subsistence fishery and to
43 delegate the authority for it to the in-season manager
44 to implement the fishery in time for the 2022 season.

45

46 The special action and the delegation
47 of authority both expired when the actual Federal rule
48 was published in the Federal Register in July.

49

50

0069

1 So this temporary special action
2 request was necessary to enact and implement the new
3 fishery for the 2022 fishing season until the final
4 rule was published.

5

6 That's the end of the summary of that
7 special action. I believe Justin might be on the phone
8 if there are questions.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Do we have any
14 questions, Council members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: On the phone.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

23 Okay, now we'll be moving on to 10E, FR22-01 request
24 for reconsideration.

25

26 MR. VICKERS: Good afternoon, Madame
27 Chair. Mr. Vice-Chair. Council members. For the
28 record my name is Brent Vickers and I am the
29 Anthropology Division Supervisor at OSM.

30

31 I am presenting on request for
32 reconsideration, RFR22-01 and the recent establishment
33 of the Lower Copper River Federal subsistence salmon
34 fishery. You can find the RFR on Page 45 of your
35 meeting book. This is a briefing and not an action
36 item for the Council.

37

38 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
39 accepting written public comments leading up to their
40 January meeting and public testimony at that meeting.
41 I'll begin by explaining the request for
42 reconsideration or RFR process.

43

44 An RFR can be submitted in response to
45 a Federal Subsistence Board determination and action
46 regarding the subsistence take of fish and wildlife.
47 After a proponent submits an RFR, the first step of the
48 process is for OSM to conduct a threshold analysis that
49 will be considered by the Board. The threshold

50

0070

1 analysis is an administrative and legal step in which
2 we evaluate whether any of the claims in the RFR meet
3 the criteria for acceptance as noted in regulation.
4 These criteria are:

5

6 1. The request provides information
7 not previously considered by the Board.

8

9 2. The request demonstrates that
10 existing information used by the Board is incorrect.

11

12 3. The request demonstrates that the
13 Board's interpretation of information, applicable law
14 or regulation is in error or contrary to existing law.

15

16 The Board will accept an RFR only if
17 the threshold analysis demonstrates that the request
18 meets at least one of these criteria. If the Board
19 determines that the claims do not fit any of the
20 threshold criteria, the RFR is closed and the original
21 Board action is final. If the Board accepts that if
22 any of the claims meet one or more threshold criteria
23 then OSM conducts a full analysis of the claims. Also
24 OSM notifies the affected Councils of the Board
25 decision so that they can make recommendations on the
26 draft analysis at their meetings.

27

28 Finally, the Board will consider the
29 full analysis and Council recommendations when making a
30 final action on the RFR.

31

32 That brings us to RFR22-01, which is a
33 request to reconsider Fisheries Proposal FP21-10. The
34 Federal Subsistence Board initially adopted FP21-10 at
35 its April 2022 regulatory meeting. The action
36 established a Federal subsistence salmon fishery in the
37 Lower Copper River. OSM is currently at the first step
38 of the RFR process, the threshold analysis. Reviewing
39 the request, identifying substantive claims and
40 drafting an assessment of the merit of those claims.
41 The results from the threshold analysis will be
42 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in January
43 at which time they will determine if any of the claims
44 meet the threshold for full -- further full analysis.

45

46 Since we are in the middle of the
47 threshold analysis phase I do not have any specifics to
48 share but I can answer any questions that the Council
49 has related to the RFR process.

50

0071

1 Thank you, Madame Chair. Mr. Vice
2 Chair and Council members.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions,
5 Councilmen.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody on the
10 phone.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.
13 Have you made any decisions on any of those points you
14 made?

15
16 MR. VICKERS: We're in the draft
17 analysis phase so we are at -- at this point we don't
18 even have that complete to make a comment on it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
21 you.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, no further
24 questions, thank you.

25
26 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We'll be moving
29 on to 10F Hunter Ethics Education and Outreach
30 Initiative.

31
32 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Vice-
33 Chair. For the record this is Brooke McDavid, Council
34 Coordinator. As you are all aware the Hunter Ethics
35 Education and Outreach Initiative, it's been a
36 longstanding priority for this Council and there was a
37 lot of great work done prior to the Covid19 pandemic to
38 start moving things forward, including several
39 workshops with other stakeholders that have been
40 interested in this effort.

41
42 As the new Council Coordinator, I've
43 been working to get up to speed on the previous work
44 done on this initiative and I've met with the Arctic
45 and Yukon Flats Refuge Managers to talk about the
46 hunter liaison work in Circle and Fort Yukon and
47 recently Katya Wessels, your previous Coordinator, and
48 now my supervisor, met with the Assistant Regional
49 Director of OSM, Sue Detwiler, to update her on the
50

0072

1 initiative. If the Council would like to see this
2 initiative pick back up, since it has been awhile, and
3 there's a lot of new folks involved in OSM and on the
4 Board, the Council may want to consider asking the
5 Board to reaffirm their support for this initiative
6 and, yeah, we would potentially then be able to present
7 to the Board on this.

8
9 Under Tab 2 of your supplemental
10 materials there's a report from Amanda Pope for last
11 fall, fall 2021, and I realize you may have already
12 seen this report. Amanda, as she mentioned earlier
13 when she called in, said that she stepped down this
14 fall as the hunter liaison, but her mother Sonja Fields
15 has filled the position. Sonja has prepared a draft
16 report for this fall season and we should be able to
17 provide that to you at your upcoming winter meeting.

18
19 And, Mr. Chair, that concludes my
20 update.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
23 much. Any questions. Go ahead, Andy.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 think I'd like to make a motion for the Council to
27 consider. The motion I'd like to make is that the
28 Eastern Interior RAC having developed and initiated
29 this Hunter Ethics Program, ask that OSM and the Board
30 consider funding this into the future so that we can
31 begin to build on it. Unfortunately -- well, I'll just
32 leave that as my motion and then I'll speak to it.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 So I'll restate the motion. The motion
37 is that the Eastern Regional Advisory Council would
38 like to ask OSM and the Board to fully support the
39 Hunter Education Program and help us to develop that
40 within our region.

41
42 MS. EVANS: Second the motion.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, we got a
45 second. Any questions.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'll just speak to
48 it real briefly. Speaking to the motion, this -- we
49 had a really good start with this program and then
50

0073

1 Covid hit and it kind of -- I'm not going to say it
2 died because we're obviously getting good reports from
3 Amanda Pope last year and hopefully we'll see some good
4 reports. I did also want to say that the Eagle AC has
5 taken this up and we've made some initial contacts with
6 the Tok AC and we're hoping that maybe we can develop
7 some kind of a liaison or some position within the
8 Taylor Highway District to help educate hunters that
9 are going up the Taylor Highway. And speaking to that
10 I just want to reference my comments earlier about
11 increased populations that will be coming into the
12 state into the future, I think this program is going to
13 be absolutely essential to have good communications
14 amongst all user groups for the resources within our
15 region. And I think it's a very valuable tool that we
16 can use moving forward and hopefully stay ahead of the
17 game when it comes to competition for game and fair use
18 by all participants out in the field, whether it be
19 hunting, photography, whatever you want to do. But I
20 think all people need to come to the table and we need
21 to develop some really good plans and there certainly
22 is a need for some education on hunting ethics and meat
23 salvage techniques.

24
25 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Sue.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
32 totally support this program but I will say I'm
33 extremely frustrated. I believe it kind of died even
34 before Covid. And it just -- it seems like we do all
35 of this work, you take time out of yourself and -- like
36 we did all the times we did meet, absent these
37 meetings, we met days that we took out of our lives to
38 go to other meetings and it just -- I'm a little
39 frustrated that things are so cumbersome and slow. I
40 just want to say that. But I still support it and I
41 hope that it won't go as slow as it had before and I
42 think some of the problems was OSM Staff, people not --
43 you know one moved out, and this one moved out and this
44 one had to move in and some of that was going on at the
45 same time. But it's definitely something that we could
46 build bridges with people and user groups.

47
48 So I support the motion.

49
50

0074

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'd like to say
2 that I support it also. The Elliott Highway down
3 towards Manley Hot Springs and past out into the mining
4 district, it turns into a long road city. There's up
5 to a dozen campers in one little parking spot just
6 stuffed full. Fourwheelers flying up and down the
7 roads, so it's really necessary and so I just want to
8 add that and say that I support it also.

9

10 Any other comments Councilmen.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If none I think
15 we'll ask for a full consent on this. Any opposition.

16

17 (No opposition)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, the
20 motion passes. Thank you.

21

22 Okay, we'll move on then to 11, new
23 business, A, 2022 Yukon River salmon reports. 2022
24 Salmon Management update.

25

26 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair. Council.
27 This is Holly Carroll, I'm the U.S. -- Yukon River
28 Subsistence Fishery Manager for the Fish and Wildlife
29 Service. But I'll be referencing a preliminary Yukon
30 River salmon fisheries review that was in your
31 supplemental packet, I don't know the tab number, sorry
32 -- in Tab 3. So that's way more detailed so I'm not
33 going to cover all the numbers and stuff. I think a
34 lot of you know that we did compile this report in
35 coordination with the Fish and Game managers so I will
36 give that report on behalf of both agencies for both
37 the summer and fall season but there might also be
38 someone online at the end who could add anything from
39 Fish and Game if I don't cover something for them. But
40 in the interest of time I'm just going to kind of
41 summarize the season.

42

43 It sounds like all of you here know how
44 terrible it was. We had very poor returns that we were
45 expecting so we were able to at least let people know
46 pre-season that we were expecting poor returns for both
47 summer chum and chinook, and going into the fall season
48 that the closures might be necessary for most of the
49 season. And true to form the runs came in poorly and

50

0075

1 we had to keep fishing closed all season. We -- the
2 only opportunity we were really able to provide was
3 non-salmon fishing with four inch and smaller mesh
4 gillnets. We did restrict even those nets to 60 feet
5 in length in order to keep those nets targeting the
6 non-salmon.

7
8 So many of you here have given
9 heartfelt testimony on what the experience of that was
10 like this summer.

11
12 So in reviewing, you know, how those
13 runs fared, you know, we had -- for instance, we had
14 the lowest chinook run that we've ever recorded as far
15 as since agencies have been enumerating the salmon so
16 we counted about 45,000 chinook in the river, so that's
17 the drainage-wide total. We had slightly better than
18 last year summer chum and fall chum runs, that's the
19 only bright spot even though we couldn't fish those,
20 they both came in a little bit higher than we expected,
21 still too small to fish on but better than those lowest
22 returns we saw in '21 -- 2021.

23
24 So, you know, we still have some
25 projects in the water, although those are wrapping up,
26 so Eagle Sonar, last day of counting is I believe
27 tomorrow at noon and, you know, we've seen about 20,000
28 chum there. Many of you know that the minimum
29 escapement goal for fall chum into Canada is 70,000.
30 So we have a long way to go on these runs.

31
32 As many of you said, you're not seeing
33 these fish in the escapement grounds, in streams and
34 all of our assessment projects showed that as well,
35 that we're not going to be meeting any escapement goals
36 this year, even despite these closures.

37
38 And so at this time from a management
39 standpoint, basically all of the fall chum and most of
40 the coho have finished entering the river in large
41 groups and so we are removing the fishing restrictions
42 on salmon in the main stem. A lot of those have
43 started being removed effective October 1 and they'll
44 work their way up river but because the fall chum do
45 actively spawn in certain streams like the Koyukuk, the
46 Porcupine those closures will need to remain in place
47 likely through December, like last year, because we
48 need to protect those fall chum that are going to be
49 actively spawning in there. And so keep your eye out
50

0076

1 on those fishery announcements from the Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game if you are still going out
3 fishing.

4
5 So, you know, I think I wanted to
6 address a couple comments that came up earlier and I'm
7 going completely off script here now. But, you know, I
8 heard, I think it was Rochelle Adams say, you know, I
9 really hope the right people are listening and I heard
10 a couple of you others say that it's really important
11 that agencies are listening and I guess I can't impress
12 upon you enough that, you know, I've only been doing
13 this for about 20 years but I know that you as the --
14 the Chairs that lead these and the members of the RACs
15 you have been my trainers for 20 years. I mean some of
16 you literally in your boats, have taken me out and
17 trained me and I know one of you knows what I'm talking
18 about, sometimes you don't even know how to run a boat
19 and you're a biologist so I've been learning from all
20 of you for 20 years. And, you know, many years ago I
21 heard you talking about bycatch at YRDFA meetings, I
22 didn't know what that was and I have become very well
23 educated by the things you bring up at these meetings.
24 Bycatch is one of them, salmon size is another,
25 ichthyophonous is a huge one. And so you guys bring up
26 these issues and I recognize it can be very frustrating
27 when agencies don't learn fast enough or don't pick up
28 that research fast enough and I want to apologize for
29 that as one of the biologist who's trying to manage
30 this river and doesn't know enough to answer all the
31 questions it is very frustrating.

32
33 But I did want to highlight something
34 that we are working on right now and we brought
35 together some of the best experts in the field. Stan
36 Zuray, one of the fishermen that brought up the
37 ichthyophonous problem decades ago, Dr. Kocan got
38 involved, we brought him on board, we're working with
39 Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife
40 Service to study ichthyophonous. And there's a flier
41 that we put out on the table, it's one of the only ones
42 over there with pictures so it's nice to look at except
43 unfortunately what you're looking at is diseased fish.
44 Ichthyophonous is a disease that comes and goes in our
45 salmon. It's a particular problem to the Yukon
46 chinook. And for some years it was really bad and it
47 was local fishermen that told us about it, we started
48 looking at it and studying it and then it kind of waned
49 a little bit, well now it's back. It's back and it's
50

0077

1 very prevalent in the population so a lot of the fish
2 have it. And sometimes it makes them so sick that they
3 don't make it even to up river villages and so we're
4 trying to study that over three years.

5
6 I know that Mr. Woodruff brought up the
7 sampling and it's a tough one because here we have
8 people who can't fish for salmon and I acknowledge that
9 that's a hardship through traditional loss, food loss,
10 it's really hard to have fisheries be closed. But on
11 the one hand we also need to figure out what's killing
12 these salmon. And this is one of the things on this
13 one river that might be stopping them from spawning
14 successfully or making it to their spawning grounds and
15 so we are taking samples down in the lower river at
16 Pilot Station, we're taking samples at the Rapids, and
17 then at Eagle. And we hope to take samples in Fort
18 Yukon if we can get community support for that work.
19 And you know it's controversial because each one of
20 those fish does have to die for us to study that heart
21 and find that disease in those tissues. But in the
22 three communities where we were sampling, you know, I
23 don't think that the people that received those fish
24 saw that as a sacrifice. I mean there were elders that
25 got to have fish they would not have had. There were
26 youth that got to give those fish to the elders. And I
27 wish we could do that in every community, we can't.
28 But my hope is that through studying this disease and
29 understanding what percent of the population might be
30 dying we can be more effective managers in the future
31 when they do come back and we do have a fishable
32 amount. We need to know how many are sick and how many
33 might not make it, we need to factor that in.

34
35 So I just wanted to let you guys know
36 about the importance of that study, what we're trying
37 to achieve there.

38
39 And then the final point I wanted to
40 make is that, you know, I know you guys have all
41 mentioned that it's really hard to know what are the
42 meetings to attend, what are the agencies that manage
43 this and that and we're trying to be everywhere all the
44 time and, you know, the Fish and Wildlife Service has
45 tried to do a better job recently to engage with tribal
46 governments and to offer tribal consultations about
47 management. So we started offering meetings last
48 winter, in the fall, and then also pre-season to let
49 tribal governments know what to expect with the fishing
50

0078

1 runs and to be able to discuss our strategies. So this
2 coming winter, in order to be available to any tribal
3 government that wants to meet with us we are offering
4 post-season tribal consultations in November. If a
5 government wants to meet one on one with the Federal
6 management team they just need to call my office and
7 arrange that. We're going to send out notices about
8 that. And then in the spring we're going to give just
9 district-wide tribal consultations and we'll set them
10 up like we did last year where people can call in based
11 on their district and we can give the update on what we
12 expect for run sizes and what our management strategy
13 might look like. So we're hoping that people will
14 engage in that process, that tribal governments will
15 reach out to us if they have time and they want to talk
16 to us about their concerns, that's totally at their
17 purview.

18
19 I guess, with that, I just want to
20 acknowledge all the stewardship of the people who have
21 been making these sacrifices, conserving salmon for
22 long since before we came along and started managing.
23 Your continued stewardship is -- I mean especially even
24 the people at this table, I mean the work you're doing
25 to conserve salmon has been incredible. I have seen it
26 in my entire career and been really inspired by you
27 guys and I know that a lot of the tribes along this
28 river have been doing this for far longer than any of
29 us in this room have even existed. So I do hope that
30 we can continue these conversations and keep working
31 together to try to do what we can to get us fishing
32 again.

33
34 And, with that, I'll just standby for
35 if the Department of Fish and Game wanted to add
36 anything about management or also for any questions
37 that you guys are going to have.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. I'd
40 like to add a little bit, if I may. I was part of the
41 ichthyophonous sampling done in the Rapids this summer.
42 I wasn't part of the sampling itself but I picked up
43 the salmon that was donated to Rampart and I'll tell
44 you that the people of Rampart really appreciated those
45 fish. Some bigger families got three and some got two.
46 At least every household got two fish and they were
47 very appreciative of that fish. Like you said it's --
48 try to keep it -- and get every fish on the spawning
49 ground but it was much appreciated and people thank you
50

0079

1 very much.

2

3 Any other questions or comments from
4 the Council. Go ahead Andy.

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: This is Kathleen
7 Demientieff out of Nenana.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Kathleen, you'll
10 be next right after Andy. Thank you.

11

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Thank
15 you, Holly. I know you've been a long time involved in
16 this and I can remember taking you out on my boat when
17 you first showed up to Eagle when we were trying to
18 develop the sonar site at Eagle, trying to find that.
19 And I've got some stories about Holly but I can't say
20 them on the record here.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. BASSICH: I guess -- I understand a
25 lot of the science and the importance of the science
26 and I support it. But the one thing I do want to
27 caution is that the issues that we're dealing with
28 right here, there's no one reason why it's happening
29 and I think when we get into the ichthyophonous and you
30 get more information and a year or two's time my guess
31 is you're going to discover that the reason why we're
32 having this isn't because of the water temperatures
33 like it was a number of years ago, it's because the
34 fish are smaller, they don't have the ability to have
35 the fat reserves and so they're under a lot more stress
36 now than they were 10 and 15 years ago when we used to
37 have 30, 40, 60 pound fish in the river. That's what
38 it takes to go 1,700 miles up the Yukon River. When
39 you have fish that are coming back as four or five
40 years old, they're smaller, they don't have the fat
41 reserves they're going to be under stress it doesn't
42 matter what the water temperature is and that's going
43 to make them more prone to disease just like any human
44 when your system goes down and you're not strong,
45 you're more subjected to those types of diseases. So
46 although I think it's a really critical component of
47 what the problem is, what I want to caution is that we
48 don't focus just on that, and say, ah, ha, that's what
49 the problem is because it's a much bigger problem than
50

0080

1 that and that's something we've been talking about for
2 a long time, is the changing size of fish and the
3 fecundity issues, the quality of escapement. So just a
4 word of caution. But I do support it.

5
6 I guess the other thing that I really
7 want to state and this isn't meant to be a criticism,
8 it's just an observation, but I think that in this day
9 and age with the science we have a lot of times we
10 think we have a much better understanding of a resource
11 than we really do. Every resource, right down to the
12 bees, is so much more complicated than we humans have
13 the ability to really understand or quantify and so
14 when you get into a species like salmon that have such
15 a long migration and such a long life history and such
16 a long reproductive cycle there are so many variables
17 involved that it's impossible to take into account all
18 of them. So I guess what I'm trying to say is that I
19 think managers need to be cautious. I think they like
20 to crunch numbers, they like to build graphs, and they
21 like to look at those graphs and ponder what the issues
22 are or what the solutions are but from my experience
23 living along the Yukon River it's much more complex
24 than that. And I hear the word, we're going to take a
25 cautious approach, or a conservative approach, but I
26 want to point out that we've been taking cautious and
27 conservative approaches for better than 12 years now
28 and our escapement goal record is not very good. We're
29 60 percent of the -- 60 percent of the time we've
30 reached escapement goals that may not even be adequate
31 considering the loss of fecundity.

32
33 So these are topics I bring up and I
34 mentioned at the very beginning of my statement on my
35 report that I really think what needs to happen is we
36 really need to start taking a more long term approach
37 towards management. And I think building tools like
38 the ichthyophonous understanding is a very valuable
39 aspect of that but I really think the only way we're
40 out of this for the long term for the people on the
41 river is we have to -- we're going to have to take some
42 tough sacrifices for years to come and we're going to
43 have to take a really truly long-term approach to
44 rebuilding salmon stocks. And what I have noticed is
45 that many of the people that are biologists now have
46 been involved for 10 years or so but -- and I hear the
47 term we had a good run in let's say, 2017, or whatever,
48 but from my perspective they were piss-poor runs
49 because I can remember when we had full blown
50

0081

1 commercial fisheries where a vast majority of the fish
2 on the river were 30 to 40 pound and some were up
3 around 60 pounds at times and now we're down to, if you
4 look at what's going by Eagle it's rare to see a fish
5 over 20 and 25 pounds so there is a perspective there.
6 You may look at numbers but when you look at what the
7 quality is I cringe when I hear people say we had a
8 good run within the last 15 years. And I think Charlie
9 would probably -- he's shaking his head, yes, but I
10 would say that pretty much that's of our generation
11 that saw what it was would concur with those
12 statements.

13
14 So I do support managers, I've always
15 supported managers, sometimes I have critical words for
16 them but I know their hearts are into it and I know
17 everybody's trying to do the best they can but that's
18 why I want to bring up these cautions because I have a
19 long track record of seeing these scenarios take place
20 where we say we're going to do something, we think
21 we're doing a good job, and then we find out 15 years
22 later that, oh, well, maybe we should have done this or
23 maybe we should have done that and so let's all work
24 together but let's share ideas and let's not try and pin
25 anything on one thing because that's a mistake we're
26 making.

27
28 And most importantly, I just want to
29 close with, let's start taking a long-term approach,
30 and I don't know how to do that for you managers
31 because of the way the system's structured but that's
32 something, I think, ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife need to
33 start having some internal discussions and maybe it
34 goes much higher than the levels that you're at but I
35 really think that we need to start thinking about
36 changing how we manage fish on a more long-term
37 holistic approach as opposed to season by season.

38
39 And thank you for letting me ramble on
40 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.
43 And Kathleen next.

44
45 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I just want to thank
46 the Board and, Holly, I want to thank you for just
47 being down to earth and explaining, simple ways, of how
48 everything's going.

49
50

0082

1 The other thing I just wanted to
2 mention, I went to Alaska Institute, the First Alaskans
3 Training, and there was a lot of people there talking
4 about the elders wisdom. These elders that live in the
5 villages and were born and raised there know exactly
6 how the fish run, if it's poor, or only take what they
7 need, and if it's, you know, a lot of fish they'll
8 supply the families. But I just want to thank
9 everybody for, you know, everything that you do.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
14 Kathleen. Now I wanted to make sure that if they
15 wanted to, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
16 might want to comment on Holly's report.

17

18 MS. DECKER: Hello, this is Sam Decker
19 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I just
20 want to thank Holly for all of her great information
21 and all of her comments. If you have any questions let
22 me know. Thanks a lot.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions
25 Board members.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody on the
30 phone.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was just
37 looking at Page -- I don't know which page number, but
38 the Figure 1 in your report, the cumulative passage of
39 chinook salmon at Pilot Station sonar. And I see a
40 really low year 22 years ago is there any explanation
41 to that?

42

43 MS. CARROLL: Through the Chair. Sue,
44 you're asking a great question, so you're touching on
45 -- if you actually look at all those graphs, actually
46 all of the salmon runs crashed in 2000.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was
49 going to be my next question.

50

0083

1 MS. CARROLL: Yeah, and so we are
2 seeing a very similar pattern, the only difference is
3 that I think in that year the coho didn't -- they
4 weren't poor then for some reason, it was just the chum
5 and the chinook, both types of chum. And we're seeing
6 that again now. If you're asking why is it happening
7 exactly 20 years later, that I couldn't answer. I know
8 that we are coming off of a warm cycle in the Bering
9 Sea and during that cycle, you know, they had very poor
10 food quality so it's going to take us a little while.
11 What I normally like to point out for people as a way
12 of providing some hope is that when you look at that
13 low bar that you pointed out, you see that for each
14 species within three, four years we seen record returns
15 after that. And so while I never want to say that we
16 should ever fail to meet an escapement goal and, of
17 course, we're failing at a pretty monumental level
18 right now, my only positive glimmering of hope is that
19 when we have seen this in the past, we do see that
20 these salmon will increase their productivity as a
21 result of this and my hope is that in four years time
22 we will see bigger returns again. Like Andy's saying
23 there's a lot more factors at play now so I don't want
24 to make promises that we're going to see huge rebounds
25 but we did see it after this crash before. So I try to
26 find some silver lining to keep me going.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I really
29 wanted to ask, was something going on with the sonar or
30 the water or something that would have caused it to be
31 that low?

32
33 MS. CARROLL: No. We think that that
34 crash was real, that the runs were terrible. I'm
35 pretty sure that any locals in the room may remember
36 how that went and whether they were seeing a lot less
37 fish in the river. You know, typically what will
38 happen with sonars, if you have a problem estimating
39 one species it might be due to really high water or
40 really low water but that's rarely going to last all
41 season. And so, you know, we do have years where
42 sometimes there's sonar issues and a lot of times we'll
43 leave those off the charts but this is not like an
44 anomaly from the sonar. Usually we'll remove those
45 years from comparison, that was just a crash across the
46 board. And I think those of you that were on the river
47 will remember that it was tough times back then too.
48 It was the first time we ever had major restrictions in
49 place on subsistence.
50

0084

1 So Mr. Simon also commented that crash
2 was probably Western Alaska, just like it is now, it
3 was across other rivers as well.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, any other
8 questions. Andy.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Just a quick comment.
11 Holly, when managers start talking, is there any focus
12 on any particular aspect that they'd really like to try
13 and focus on for rebuilding? I guess I'd like to --
14 where my mind is at with that is that the Canadian
15 component used to be 50 percent of the run, I think
16 it's down 42 or 43 percent now, but the Chena and the
17 Salcha combined, add another 25 percent of the run so
18 basically 70 percent of the entire Yukon chinook run in
19 the Yukon River is between those three passages or
20 three escapement areas. Yet I still continue to see a
21 lot of numbers based on Henshaw Creek or Andreafsky or
22 whatever but those don't really contribute that much
23 and people don't really fish that hard on those I don't
24 think. So is there any discussion within the agencies
25 on what we can do to try and maybe jump start
26 rebuilding plans focusing on Canadian chinook and Chena
27 Salcha, given that those are, combined, make up 75
28 percent. So it just seems to me, as a layman, that's
29 what you want to focus on, focus on where your
30 production normally takes place. I'm just curious if
31 there's any discussion. Or maybe if you don't have an
32 answer right now but if you can even just update us
33 later on at later meetings, or whatever, I think that's
34 really important for the people on the river to hear
35 where the focus is and where the efforts need to be
36 placed to get the best bang for our buck and our time
37 and energy spent on this.

38
39 MS. CARROLL: Yeah, thanks for that.
40 So as far as rebuilding, you know, there is the
41 Comprehensive Salmon Management -- or Comprehensive
42 Salmon Plan that I know Fish and Game was working on,
43 it was a public document and Bering Sea Fisheries was,
44 you know, asking for public comment on that. That's
45 more of a plan that involves like would they ever use
46 hatcheries, things like that on the Yukon, so that was
47 a big plan. I don't know where that's at, I think Fish
48 and Game would be better to speak to that so I know we
49 could provide that information at a future meeting.
50

0085

1 But I get exactly what you're saying,
2 you know, what's being done to focus on the Tanana
3 drainage or Chena and Salcha. There is a lot of focus
4 on the Canadian drainage as you know because we have
5 the Yukon River Panel which is a bilateral meeting
6 process that involves a scientific group called the
7 Joint Technical Committee so any focus on Canadian
8 origin chinook, that's happening all the time every
9 year and there's a huge research fund of nearly \$2
10 million that anyone could submit research proposals to,
11 so in that sense, we're getting a lot of focus on the
12 Canadian stock but not much focus actually on the Chena
13 and Salcha. So, you know, one thing I'd like to point
14 out is so at Fish and Wildlife Service, for instance,
15 we have a single guy, Mitch Osburne, who is working
16 with restoration, stream bank restoration with local
17 Native organizations, local business owners and local
18 government to just fix the banks of the Chena River to
19 make it suitable habitat for salmon. So that's one
20 small thing that -- one small part of the Fairbanks
21 Fish and Wildlife Service office is working on.

22
23 But as far as a rebuilding plan and how
24 to focus, either research or stuff like that, I don't
25 know that anything like that is happening and I think
26 it's a great -- I'd like to see you keep bringing that
27 up at meetings and we'll go back and talk with our
28 leadership about what does that mean. How do we focus
29 -- where should we be focusing our research and stuff.
30 Because as we all work to compete for these sources of
31 money, I've seen a shift for us to start working
32 together way more across agencies, across partnering
33 with tribal organizations because we can't all keep
34 doing it separately, we need to work together instead
35 of competing for funds, and so I like the thought of
36 having to go back and talk amongst ourselves about like
37 who's doing what on the Chena. I do know that
38 Sportfish runs a lot of good assessment, Sportfish at
39 Fish and Game is running the assessment on the Chena
40 and Salcha and I know they struggle for funding and
41 they always have to go in to some different grants for
42 that funding just to assess that run, just to see what
43 the escapement is.

44
45 So, yeah, there's probably more work we
46 can do. So thanks for bringing that up.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, any more
49 questions.
50

0086

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody on the
4 phone.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Next would
9 be 11Aii, Bering Sea Salmon Research Update with
10 Sabrina Garcia on the phone. Are you there Sabrina?

11

12 MS. GARCIA: Hello, Mr. Chair, can you
13 hear me -- yes, you can you hear me okay?

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yep, we can hear
16 you good. Thank you.

17

18 MS. GARCIA: Wonderful. Hello, Mr.
19 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Sabrina
20 Garcia and I am the Marine Research Biologist for the
21 Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim region and part of the Salmon
22 Ocean Ecology Program for the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game. The presentation I'm giving today should be
24 on Tab 4 of your packet.

25

26 Today I'd like to introduce you all to
27 this relatively new research program within the
28 Department. I'm also going to provide updates on
29 research focus on Yukon River chinook and chum salmon
30 and I'll also introduce some new and ongoing projects
31 aimed at understanding the marine life phase of our
32 Western Alaska salmon.

33

34 Next slide please.

35

36 Hopefully you're on the next slide.

37

38 The Salmon Ocean Ecology Program, or
39 SOEP, was initiated about one year ago within the
40 Department.

41

42 REPORTER: Sabrina. Sabrina, hold up.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Sabrina.

45

46 MS. GARCIA: Yes.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Can you hold up
49 one second please, we need to get rid of some light so
50

0087

1 we can see your presentation.

2

3 MS. GARCIA: Sure thing.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Give us one
6 minute please.

7

8 MS. GARCIA: Okay, let me know when I
9 should start up.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

12

13 MS. GARCIA: Okay.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MS. GARCIA: Should I continue, Mr.
18 Chair.

19

20 REPORTER: No, not yet.

21

22 MS. GARCIA: Mr. Chair, should I
23 continue.

24

25 REPORTER: Sabrina, hold on, we'll let
26 you know.

27

28 MS. GARCIA: Okay.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the way
33 the Vice Chair and I switch roles is we leave the room.
34 So Sabrina we have the slide show going now and we can
35 see it. There was so much sun on it we couldn't see
36 it. So this is Sue Entsminger, Chair. You can go
37 ahead.

38

39 MS. GARCIA: Okay, wonderful. And
40 you're on Slide 2.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we are.

43

44 MS. GARCIA: Excellent. So the Salmon
45 Ocean Ecology Program, or SOEP, was initiated about two
46 years ago and it's currently made up of three
47 biologists. Two from statewide and myself from the
48 Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim region. And the goals of this
49 program are to understand the marine life of Alaskan
50

0088

1 salmon, use this information to assist in
2 decisionmaking and answer pressing questions about what
3 drives salmon population dynamics. And these are lofty
4 goals for just three people so I will show in the
5 upcoming slides we rely heavily on collaborations with
6 State, Federal, non-governmental organizations,
7 universities and international agencies to fulfill our
8 mission.

9

10 Next slide, please.

11

12 So one of our long-term projects is the
13 Northern Bering Sea Juvenile Salmon and Ecosystem
14 Survey. This project was initiated by NOAA in 2002 and
15 Fish and Game joined as project partners in 2010. For
16 the last 20 years the survey has occurred in the
17 shallow shelf habitat indicated by the white box on the
18 screen. This area is the primary habitat for juvenile
19 salmon from the Yukon River. And on that photo on the
20 left there I've put the juvenile life stage that we're
21 catching so you can see the difference and size for the
22 five species. Surface trawl gear is used to fish the
23 upper 70 feet of the water column across a standardized
24 grid station. And this platform issued to study the
25 distribution, abundance, stock composition, diet and
26 health of juvenile salmon, specifically of chinook and
27 chum salmon. And this survey occurs in September, so
28 this is after juvenile salmon have spent a few months
29 in the ocean and just before their first winter at sea
30 and the timing of the survey is very important in the
31 slides that I'm about to show. So just to remind you,
32 the survey's occurring in September, so just after the
33 first summer in the ocean.

34

35 Next slide please.

36

37 So one of the most important pieces of
38 information we get from these surveys is an estimate of
39 juvenile salmon abundance. And as I mentioned in the
40 previous slide most of the juvenile chinook salmon we
41 catch during the survey are from the Yukon River,
42 therefore, we can estimate the abundance of juvenile
43 Yukon River chinook salmon. This figure shows the
44 abundance of juvenile Yukon River chinook salmon over
45 time. So when the survey started in 2003 up to 2021.
46 So we don't have 2022 up there just yet. the black bar
47 running across the figure is the average juvenile
48 abundance across the entire 20 years of the survey.
49 Juvenile Yukon River chinook salmon abundance has

50

0089

1 changed over the history of the survey but you can see
2 that their abundance has steadily declined since
3 reaching a high in 2013 and it has been below average
4 since 2017. We did see a slight increase in juvenile
5 chinook salmon abundance in 2021 relative to 2019.

6
7 Next slide please.

8
9 Juvenile abundance is a key part of the
10 survey objective because it provides us with two very
11 important pieces of information. The first is an
12 estimate of marine survival and the second is this
13 juvenile abundance tells us what life stage is most
14 important to determining whether run sizes will be good
15 or poor in the future. So this figure up on the
16 screen, it shows the relationship between juvenile
17 chinook salmon abundance and then the adult abundance
18 for Yukon River chinook salmon that return from those
19 juveniles. So juvenile abundance is on the bottom
20 axis, and adult returns are on the left axis. And this
21 relationship indicates that as we see more juvenile
22 chinook salmon in our survey we tend to see a higher
23 number of adults returning to the Yukon River a few
24 years later. This strong relationship between the
25 number of juvenile and the number of adults shows that
26 survival after the survival is relatively stable year
27 to year. This tells us that while chinook salmon are
28 experiencing mortality after we catch them in the
29 survey, so after their first summer in the ocean, the
30 mortality that they experience after that first summer
31 is stable year to year and does not substantially
32 change future run sizes. It is this stability and this
33 relationship that allows us to provide pre-season
34 estimates of run size for Yukon River chinook salmon.

35
36 Next slide.

37
38 So using the juvenile chinook salmon
39 abundance that I just showed, we can predict the number
40 of adult chinook salmon that will return to the Yukon
41 River up to three years in the future. On this grey
42 figure the grey bars show the actual run abundance in
43 each year, and then the black dotted lines and the
44 black bar, those show what our juvenile based forecast
45 run was for those years. Our expectations for the 2022
46 run size was for another poor abundance year, similar
47 to what we saw in 2021. However, as everybody in the
48 room knows the chinook salmon run size to the Yukon
49 River in 2022 was the lowest on record and came in well
50

0090

1 below our pre-season forecast.

2

3

Next slide.

4

5

6 So you've heard me say this already but
7 it's so important and if there's any one message that
8 you take away from this presentation is what I'm about
9 to say right now so I really want -- I really want to
10 make this very clear. The data from these Northern
11 Bering Sea surveys suggest that whatever is causing
12 good or bad future run sizes of Yukon River chinook
13 salmon is occurring very early in the life stage of
14 these fish. So for chinook, it's either happening
15 during the year they spend in the fresh water, their
16 first few months in the ocean or a combination of those
17 two life stages. This means that later marine
18 mortality, whether that's competition, predation,
19 bycatch or other factors -- I really like what Andy
20 said earlier, there's so many things in these long
21 lived fish that we may not be considering that are
22 important, those things are not substantially affecting
23 future run sizes but while these factors do not appear
24 to be driving the decline, there are still concerns
25 about whether there is the right management balance
26 among different fisheries; for chinook, we tend to hear
27 a lot about bycatch, to provide equitable access to
28 salmon, particularly for subsistence use. So it is
29 important that we continue to gather information on the
30 harvest characteristics of those fisheries so that we
31 can use it for informed decisionmaking.

31

32

Next slide.

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So now I'm going to switch gears a
little bit from chinook and talk about fall chum
salmon.

So in the same way that we can
calculate a juvenile abundance for Yukon River chinook,
we can also do the same thing to understand the
population dynamics and critical periods in Yukon River
fall chum salmon. And we're focusing on Yukon River
fall chum salmon because they're genetically distinct
from other Western Alaska chum stock. So when we're
catching these juvenile chum salmon in the Northern
Bering Sea they're mixed in with other stocks like
those from Norton Sound, and we can't pull apart summer
chum salmon from Norton Sound chum salmon, but we can
pull out fall chum salmon. So that's why for right now

0091

1 we're going to focus on fall chum salmon.

2

3

4 On this figure, the grey bars indicate
5 fall chum salmon abundance and that black dotted line
6 is the average across the time series. Juvenile fall
7 chum salmon abundance has been variable throughout the
8 20 years of the survey but we did see above average
9 abundance in both 2019 and we had the highest abundance
10 on record in 2021. There's a gap in 2020 because
11 unfortunately we did not have a survey in 2020.

11

12

Next slide please.

13

14

15 So for most of the data set when we
16 plot the juvenile fall chum salmon abundance with the
17 number of adults fall chum salmon that return from
18 those juvenile we see something similar to what we saw
19 for chinook salmon. The more juvenile chum salmon we
20 see in the Northern Bering Sea the more adults we see
21 returning from those juveniles. So here we can see
22 juvenile fall chum abundance on the bottom axis and the
23 adult returns on the left axis and you can see that
24 that line going across shows that increase. But I have
25 highlighted two years in red triangles, in 2016 and
26 2017, so these are the juveniles that we caught during
27 the 2016 survey and the 2017 survey, these juvenile are
28 -- they're falling away from the lines than the other
29 -- than the other point. And so this -- these two
30 points are telling us that something's changed starting
31 in 2016.

31

32

Next slide please.

33

34

35 So what we think these data are
36 illustrating, that for most of the data set, whatever
37 factors determined adult abundance of Yukon River fall
38 chum salmon were occurring some time before we caught
39 those juveniles in September of the first year in the
40 ocean. So we saw something similar to what we saw with
41 chinook, that whatever was affecting future run sizes
42 was happening in their life period before we catch them
43 in the survey in September. But in 2016 something
44 shifted such that later marine mortality became more
45 important to determining future adults return
46 abundance.

46

47

Next slide.

48

49

So we know something dramatically

50

0092

1 different happened in 2016 in the Bering Sea. That
2 year marks the beginning of a major multi-year marine
3 heatwave in the Bering Sea that lasted through 2019.
4 On this map the red colors are showing extremely warm
5 sea surface temperatures that build over time in 20219.
6 So some of you may remember the blob that -- the marine
7 heatwave in the Gulf of Alaska, this Bering Sea marine
8 heatwave was unprecedented in its scale, in its
9 magnitude and its duration. So unlike Yukon River
10 chinook salmon which spend their entire marine life in
11 the Bering Sea, chinook from the Yukon do not leave the
12 Bering Sea. Fall chum salmon use the Bering Sea in
13 their first summer in the ocean but then they move to
14 marine habitats in the Gulf of Alaska and the North
15 Pacific and migrate seasonally between those habitats
16 and the Bering Sea for the rest of their life. So chum
17 salmon that entered the Bering Sea in 2016 were faced
18 with a marine heatwave condition in the Bering Sea and
19 in the Gulf of Alaska, so in both of their marine
20 habitats.

21

22 Next slide.

23

24 So we know that temperature can change
25 aspects of juvenile salmon ecology. For example, in
26 warmer years we tend to see higher proportions of
27 juvenile chinook salmon from the Southern Bering Sea
28 migrating into the Northern Bering Sea so we can see
29 that when we -- every -- you know, every year we do the
30 survey we catch these juveniles, we run the genetics,
31 we can see the stock compositions and when waters are
32 warmer we see higher proportions of juvenile chinook
33 salmon from the Southern Bering Sea that have migrated
34 north into the Northern Bering Sea. We also see
35 changes in the prey items eaten by salmon depending on
36 whether they're warm or cold years. For chinook we
37 tend to see different fish species, so we tend to see
38 more sandlan when the waters are warmer and we tend to
39 see capelin when waters are cooler. For chum salmon we
40 tend to see that their stomach contains lower
41 proportions of less high quality food in warmer years.
42 For both juvenile and chinook salmon when waters are
43 warm we tend to see a higher proportion of empty
44 stomachs. And finally when the -- the temperature can
45 also affect the health, the condition of juvenile
46 salmon, both chinook and chum salmon have lower
47 condition in very warm years.

48

49 So with that -- that wraps up my

50

0093

1 juvenile work and I'm going to transition now into some
2 of the research that we are -- that are some of our new
3 projects and some ongoing projects and just let you
4 know some of the things that we're working on.

5

6 Next slide please.

7

8 So one of our ongoing projects which
9 utilizes the Northern Bering Sea platform in addition
10 to other marine research surveys is trying to
11 understand the role of predation during the marine life
12 stage of salmon. This research has three components.
13 The first is a salmon shark satellite tagging program
14 where we opportunistically tag sharks that are caught
15 during our salmon surveys. And those tags, you can see
16 them in that -- in the bottom left picture there. That
17 black tag is recording depth and temperature
18 information and that tag on the shark's fin is
19 recording where that shark is for three years. So we
20 can use the information collected by these tags to find
21 out when and where salmon sharks are overlapping with
22 Pacific salmon. The second is to document predator
23 wounds and scars during our salmon surveys. Wounds and
24 scars give us information on who likely predators are
25 and where predation is most likely to occur. We tend
26 to think of big predators when we think of salmon
27 predators but I always like to point out that lamprey
28 are also a predator on juvenile salmon so these photos
29 are two pink salmon that we caught in the Northern
30 Bering Sea survey and those are lamprey marks, lamprey
31 wounds on those juvenile pink salmon. And finally
32 we're using environmental DNA, or eDNA to look for
33 predators. The surface trawl gear that we use for our
34 surveys are really good at catching salmon and not so
35 good at capturing their predators. So what this eDNA
36 technology lets us do is test ocean water for DNA left
37 behind by predators such as lamprey, sharks and marine
38 mammals and eDNA has been -- we've been conducting eDNA
39 analysis for two years now on the Northern Bering Sea
40 survey and will continue that sampling into the future.

41

42 Next slide.

43

44 So some of you may have heard about the
45 International Year of the Salmon Initiative. This is a
46 project that was led by the North Pacific Anadromous
47 Fish Commission. Through this Initiative there were
48 three high seas winter expeditions that occurred to
49 study the winter ecology of Pacific salmon. So most
50

0094

1 salmon surveys are occurring in the summer and these
2 surveys were specifically designed to study salmon in
3 the winter. And the last of these surveys occurred
4 earlier this year. Four research vessels sampled a
5 huge swath of the North Pacific Ocean that's marked by
6 those white polygons on the screen. Each country was
7 assigned one of those polygons. So Russian colleagues
8 sampled the western most polygon. The U.S. sampled
9 that middle polygon and the Canadians sampled the
10 Eastern most polygon. And the goal of these surveys
11 was to understand the winter distribution, abundance,
12 stock composition and ecology of Pacific salmon. And
13 so one of the things that our program did was we
14 submitted a proposal to fund analysis using chum salmon
15 sampled during these surveys. And so some of the
16 things that we want to look at is to use genetics to
17 see where AYK Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim chum salmon, where
18 were they caught, you know, in this area of the North
19 Pacific, where do they overlap with hatchery fish and
20 other salmon species, and what is their diet and
21 condition like in the winter. And luckily our proposal
22 was submitted to the North Pacific Research Board and
23 we were selected for funding. We just found out about
24 two weeks ago so we will begin analyzing samples from
25 this international effort this winter.

26

27 Next slide.

28

29 As part of my PHD dissertation I am
30 planning to build a habitat model for chinook salmon at
31 the Bering Sea. This model is going to incorporate
32 many different data types, including environmental
33 variables with the ultimate goal being where and when
34 chinook occur in the Bering Sea. Because if we can
35 successfully where and when chinook occur, we can
36 provide that information to marine fisheries such as
37 the pollock fishery in the Bering Sea so they can avoid
38 fishing in areas where chinook salmon are likely to be
39 present and therefore we can reduce bycatch. So the
40 left photo on the screen shows an immature chinook
41 salmon in the cradle and it is getting tagged with a
42 satellite tag, hopefully you can see it, there's a
43 little black tag just right in front of those yellow
44 sponges. This tag will record the chinook's depth and
45 temperature every 10 minutes. And that tag is
46 scheduled to collect data for nine months and once nine
47 months are up the tag will pop off, float to the
48 surface and send me all that data. And then the figure
49 on the right shows what an example out put from the

50

0095

1 model. So this figure uses sea surface temperature
2 that's SST, sea surface temperature and chlorophyll A
3 to predict chinook salmon abundance on May 5th, 2019.
4 So the areas of bright red indicate areas with higher
5 probability of encountering chinook salmon. So ideally
6 the goal is to create a model for every day of the year
7 for where and when we expect chinook to be in the
8 Bering Sea.

9

10 Next slide.

11

12 We're also using salmon boning
13 structures like vertebrae and operculum to recreate the
14 life history of fall chum salmon using new
15 technologies. So essentially these bony structures,
16 they act as time capsules that record hormone level and
17 chemical concentration experienced by the fish for its
18 entire life. So we can use the hormone and chemical
19 concentrations over the fish's life to look at things
20 like growth, stress, reproduction, and seeing if those
21 things might be affected by the environmental
22 conditions experienced by the fish. And so this new
23 technology is allowing us to learn about the marine
24 life stage of salmon without having to go out and catch
25 them in the open ocean which is extremely difficult and
26 extremely costly. So this figure is just for -- this
27 was chinook salmon operculum, what they did is they run
28 a laser across that black line and then they measure --
29 in this instance it was three different hormone levels.
30 The distance here that you see on the bottom of the
31 figure just tells you how far along the operculum was
32 measured so here on the left side, it's the earliest
33 side of the fish's life and the fish gets older as you
34 move across that bottom axis. So you can see that
35 there are spikes in the three hormone levels that we
36 are testing, cortisol is shown in grey is one that we
37 use for stress so we can see some spikes in that stress
38 hormone and our goal is to figure out what could be
39 happening in their environment that is triggering these
40 stress responses.

41

42 Next slide.

43

44 So this is the last one.

45

46 While the majority of our research
47 occurs in the marine environment we have a new project
48 that aims to tie together conditions, experience in the
49 marine environment with those experienced during their
50

0096

1 fresh water migration. So the goal of this research is
2 to figure out if female chinook salmon are less
3 equipped to make it to their spawning grounds, or are
4 producing eggs that are less equipped to survive
5 because of changes in food, heat stress experienced
6 during their long migration or disease. And
7 particularly for chinook salmon that migrate to the
8 upper part of the Yukon, I'd like to explain it like
9 they're running an ultra marathon every day to get to
10 their spawning grounds and these chinook are running
11 this ultra marathon without eating. And if that's not
12 hard enough the females have to lay eggs, and if those
13 eggs are to survive those eggs need to have lots of fat
14 and vitamins. So this spawning run, it's an incredible
15 journey. And if these fish are contracting diseases in
16 the ocean that makes that journey even harder and if
17 they don't get the right nutrition that journey is
18 harder and if the water temperatures in the river are
19 warmer than they should be and they run through their
20 energy reserves faster, that makes their journey
21 harder. So we believe that changes in chinook diet may
22 be causing these female chinook to have reduced
23 nutrient levels at the start of their migration, which
24 means that by the time they reach their spawning
25 grounds they might not have enough nutrients to make it
26 to their spawning grounds, and if they do to pass it on
27 to their eggs and things like increasing river
28 temperatures and diseases like ichthyophonus are
29 causing further stress. So we're working both in
30 Alaska and in the Canadian Yukon to sample female
31 chinook salmon and their eggs to assess their nutrient
32 content and their heat stress levels. And I want to
33 point out that this project is designed to avoid
34 additional chinook salmon mortality so we're collecting
35 samples at projects where fish are already being used
36 for other samples or from chinook salmon that are on
37 their spawning grounds and have already spawned. And
38 this proposal was selected for funding. Again, we just
39 found out very recently so we're going to be starting
40 this work next summer. And we hope that this research
41 will pinpoint some of the factors that are affecting
42 our chinook salmon productivity.

43

44 Next slide.

45

46 With that, I know that was a lot of
47 information. Thank you for inviting me to speak today.
48 I'm happy to take questions on what I've presented but
49 I can also take some time to address comments I heard
50

0097

1 earlier about international hatcheries and hatchery
2 overlaps with our salmon.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Sabrina. This is Sue Entsminger, Chair. Are there any
8 questions from the Council members.

9
10 Andy.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, hi Sabrina, Andy
13 Bassich. On Slide -- I don't have a number for it, I
14 think it's 16, the one that has the environmental
15 histories of fall chum salmon. I missed what it is
16 you're measuring on that particular part. Is that an
17 otolith or is that some other part of the fish that you
18 are doing that analysis on?

19
20 MS. GARCIA: Thanks for the question,
21 Andy, nice to hear your voice. So this project is
22 looking specifically at vertebrae and operculum so
23 we're not looking at otoliths. The operculum is a
24 fancy name for that flap that covers the fish's gills
25 and it also grows incrementally similar how to an
26 otolith does. So what we're looking to do is use the
27 operculum and the vertebrae to recreate these life
28 histories of both hormone levels and chemical
29 concentrations.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Perfect, thank you. The
32 other question I had and it's more of a quick comment.
33 When you do start to figure out where fall chum are
34 spending their adult life in the marine environment,
35 that would be really, really great information to have
36 for, especially us people up in the upper Yukon that
37 depend on that fall chum. You know thinking about it
38 with the summer chum and fall chum relationship,
39 they're living and rearing in the ocean environment in
40 two different areas so trying to figure out how they
41 can still have that relationship but yet live and raise
42 in different parts of the marine environment is going
43 to open up some really valuable insights but I really
44 want to thank you for the work you're doing and the
45 forethought and the really innovative science that
46 you're creating. I guess my final question to you is
47 how confident are you in the fall chum juvenile
48 information, is it to the point where you feel it's as
49 confident as the chinook or is it still under
50

0098

1 development?

2

3

MS. GARCIA: Yeah, all great questions.

4 Probably the big -- I think one of our biggest data

5 gaps is figuring out where salmon are going in the

6 ocean so that's definitely high on the priority list.

7 The surveys that went out in the winter are going to

8 start to answer some of those questions of where are

9 fish going in the ocean and who are we catching in the

10 same area, so I'll agree that it's definitely a big

11 data gap. And in terms of the juvenile chum model I do

12 not have confidence yet for using it in the same way

13 that we're using the juvenile chinook model. So we're

14 a few years out from being able to forecast fall chum

15 salmon returns. And for the reason for that, because

16 the difference of that relationship between the

17 juveniles and the adults has that really great strong

18 positive relationship, which is telling us that

19 mortality after the survey is stable, it doesn't really

20 change year to year and that's what gives us the

21 ability to forecast. So with the fall chum model we've

22 seen that in 2016 and 2017 something happened to these

23 fish after the survey so we couldn't predict their

24 marine mortality and so that doesn't give us the

25 ability to forecast adult returns for fall chum like we

26 can do with juvenile chinook. So while we don't have

27 confidence in it yet, what it tells us is that we need

28 to start thinking about other variables to put into the

29 model that may help account for that mortality that

30 they're experiencing after the survey so that

31 eventually we can forecast fall chum like we do for

32 chinook.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Great. One final

35 question in regards to other fish caught in these

36 marine surveys. Are you seeing Asian fall chum -- or,

37 I'm sorry, Asian chum stocks or Russian chum or pink

38 stocks in these trawls in these surveys?

39

40 MS. GARCIA: Sure, that's a great

41 question. So I'll speak to the survey separately. So

42 in the Northern Bering Sea where we catch our juvenile

43 fish, again, these are the fish that earlier in the

44 summer have just entered the marine environment and

45 they spend a few months in the ocean, the only time

46 that we encounter Russian chum is in the Northern

47 latitude so North of 64 degrees. So basically Norton

48 Sound and north, that's where we tend to find Asian

49 chum, but those Asian chum, they're wild stock from

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1 Russia.

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MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you very much.

MS. GARCIA: And then in the open ocean surveys, the winter ones, we don't have that information just yet but we're planning to run the genetics for all the chum that were caught in that international survey that I showed the map on on Slide 14. And once we run the genetics we'll be able to tell in what trawl did we catch chum from different regions and if they were hatchery or wild. So hopefully the next time I present to you I'll have some more information on that.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any other questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, that was a.....

MR. LORD: Victor here.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead, Victor.

MR. LORD: At one of the meetings I have a book by the University of Alaska and it was talking about the oceans out there and it's an old book published in the '70s and it said as the fish come out of the Yukon River they know that the abundance of food is down below the Aleutian Chain and it would migrate down there that way because there was more food for them to live on, I don't know if that's true after all the hatcheries and stuff. Has it changed, Sabrina, and it's good to hear you Sabrina.

MS. GARCIA: Yeah, nice to hear your voice too, Victor. I don't know about that historic data set but I can tell you that from this recent international survey that we did, we also did stomach content so all the salmon that we caught, we looked inside their stomachs to see what they were eating and we don't have specific detailed data yet but all five species tend to eat kind of different things and it seems like they tend to eat whatever's most abundant in

0100

1 their area. So our salmon aren't -- they're not
2 specializing on certain food items but more like
3 they're eating whatever's available. But there are
4 some theories that species of salmon might compete with
5 each other and so, you know, these types of open ocean
6 surveys are probably the bet way that we have to try to
7 answer some of those questions.

8
9 MR. LORD: Yeah, the reason I brought
10 that up is the intercept -- there was some --
11 assumptions that there's interception of the Yukon,
12 there had been in the '80s and going back in the Fish
13 and Game meetings way back in the '80s down in
14 Anchorage down there by the Aleutian, bypass by Area M
15 so was that a lie or does that actually happens or.....

16
17 MS. GARCIA: If chinook are caught as
18 bycatch -- as interception in the Area M fishery?

19
20 MR. LORD: Yes.

21
22 MS. GARCIA: I don't know about chinook
23 because the big genetic effort that happened for chum
24 happened 10 years, that WASSIP program, that program
25 was mostly focused on chum salmon.

26
27 MR. LORD: Okay.

28
29 MS. GARCIA: Yeah, so I'm not aware of
30 any genetic stock composition for chinook salmon but I
31 will say that of the five species that are caught in
32 those Area M fisheries very few chinook salmon relative
33 to the other species are caught. So I think that's why
34 that WASSIP program really focused on chum salmon
35 because that's the species that tends to be caught the
36 most, chum and sockeye, actually.

37
38 MR. LORD: Okay. And also you stated
39 that the fatality was in the earlier stages up on the
40 rivers here and later out in the ocean, it looks like
41 we both got work to do.

42
43 MS. GARCIA: Yeah, I think.....

44
45 MR. LORD: Here -- go ahead.

46
47 MS. GARCIA: Sorry, Victor, there's a
48 bit of a lag, I apologize. Yeah, I think the next
49 thing that we need to do is figure out, you know, for
50

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1 chinook, those chinook spend a year in the fresh water
2 and then a couple of months in the ocean before we
3 catch them in the survey so I think the next step is
4 figuring out is it happening in that year in the
5 fresh water or is it happening in those three months
6 and that new project that I mentioned that's looking at
7 the female chinook salmon, is it happening with the
8 spawners. So I think that the most important thing to
9 figure out next is which life stage is the most
10 important for determining adult -- future adult
11 returns. Because if we can pinpoint that life stage
12 then we can really focus our efforts on that life stage
13 because right now we've got a few life stages to work
14 on and so we're spreading ourselves out instead of
15 really focusing on the life stage that's the most
16 important to determining future adult run sizes.

17
18 MR. LORD: I do have some concerns about
19 the up river spawning grounds, one is the energy plants
20 up in the river in the Chena -- or further up the Chena
21 and further up the Chena, there's three of them, I
22 believe. Somewhere around 10 years ago, maybe a little
23 less -- increase the water temperature on the water and
24 I don't know if anybody ever looked into that but that
25 was in the Daily New Miner. And when you're talking
26 about the heat changes, and after all that way, coming
27 a thousand miles and then hitting that just for your --
28 their glory day, for spawning, is concerning. And also
29 these jet boats that the guy from Anvik brought up,
30 Roberts, he's concerned for his area, seen them go by
31 more and more, these modern jet boats, and I see them
32 around here, lots of them, they're increasing every
33 year, and them -- those things against the shallow
34 water and most of those guys -- they need education
35 too, to behave.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Victor,
38 this is Sue, the Chair. If I can interrupt, I really
39 appreciate all of this dialogue. I think you being
40 from Nenana, that's important stuff that we should hear
41 here, but I do want the public to know who you are so I
42 didn't get you -- I didn't interrupt -- I need to
43 interrupt and tell you, please introduce yourself and
44 then if we could wind it up I'd appreciate it.

45
46 MR. LORD: Victor Lord, Chairman of the
47 YR DFA, long time Advisory Committee member way back
48 with Lester and all the guys. Okay, good luck.
49 Nenana, Alaska.
50

0102

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we
2 appreciate you.....

3
4 MR. LORD: Thank you. Thank you for
5 listening to me.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
8 Victor, really appreciate it. Miss you being in the
9 room.

10
11 Okay, thank you so much, that was very
12 informative. Is there any other questions from the
13 Council members.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
18 thank you so much Sabrina.

19
20 MS. GARCIA: Yes, thank you so much for
21 having me and please feel free to email me with any
22 other questions. Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda, she
25 has a question.

26
27 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I was wondering.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, your mic.

30
31 MS. EVANS: I was wondering about the
32 pollution, if there's any studies going on how the
33 pollution is affecting these salmon.

34
35 MS. GARCIA: All right, I think I
36 heard, it was a question about pollution and salmon.
37 So I don't -- we're not doing any work specifically on
38 pollution and salmon but the survey.....

39
40 MS. EVANS: Yes.

41
42 MS. GARCIA:that I've mentioned a
43 few times, the international survey, we were taking
44 muscle samples from all the salmon and we were looking
45 at micro plastics. So that's stuff that's -- those
46 analysis are ongoing but I'd be happy to report back to
47 the RAC once we get results from those surveys.

48
49 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

50

0103

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think the
2 short answer is no. Go ahead.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, building on that,
5 Sabrina, I'm wondering in those surveys are you looking
6 at any type of radiation due to the Fukushima event a
7 number of years ago. Is anybody looking into the
8 impacts of that?

9

10 MS. GARCIA: We aren't looking at that
11 specifically but the agency within the State that is
12 testing fish for Fukushima radiation is the DEC so the
13 Department of Environmental Conservation. So I think
14 they have those reports on their website, I don't have
15 them in front of me but that would be the go to spot
16 for Fukushima radiation updates. But the few results
17 that I've seen since those -- since they started doing
18 that testing was that the salmon did not have evidence
19 of radiation.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Anything else.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
27 members.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
32 you again. All right, what do you want to.....

33

34 MS. GARCIA: Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
37 Council members, do you want to get started or have a
38 short break because this comes up to the proposals.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Let's do one.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
43 we'll do a couple and then I will turn it over to the
44 Vice Chair to do a few, it's good practice.

45

46 Okay.

47

48 Staff. This would be FP23-02, are we
49 ready.

50

0104

1 MS. WILLIAMS: I forgot. Okay, before
2 you start. Will Koehler we have no quorum if you are
3 not there, so we need to verify that you're still with
4 us.

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I am here.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, good.
9 And Jody Potts, did you have a chance to call back in.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I forgot the
14 Joseph part. Jody Potts Joseph, I've known her for so
15 long it's Potts. Okay, Jody I don't hear you but she
16 told me she would let us know when she got called back
17 in. So go ahead.

18
19 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Madame
20 Chair, and members of the Council. I'm Liz Williams,
21 Cultural Anthropologist at OSM. And we are going to be
22 talking about a cross over proposal right now. And it
23 starts on Page 73 of your book. It was submitted by
24 the Chevak Native Village and requests the Federal
25 Subsistence Board recognize the customary and
26 traditional uses of chinook, summer chum, coho, sockeye
27 and pink salmon by residents of Chevak, Hooper Bay and
28 Scammon Bay. Currently these three communities have a
29 customary and traditional use determination for and are
30 eligible to harvest fall chum salmon only.

31
32 And so the reason they submitted this
33 proposal was that in spring 2022 the Federal
34 Subsistence Board closed Federal public waters of the
35 Yukon River drainage to the harvest of salmon from June
36 1st through September 30th, 2022. So any subsistence
37 fishing opportunity on Federal public waters was
38 announced by the Federal manager. This highlighted an
39 issue that Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay residents
40 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
41 was fall chum only. So when the manager provided the
42 opportunity to harvest salmon these communities were
43 not eligible to harvest those species under Federal
44 regs. They were harvesting them under State regs. So
45 they wanted to have their customary and traditional use
46 determination of those species recognized.

47
48 And so just as a review, the criteria
49 for customary and traditional use is a long-term
50

0105

1 consistent pattern of use recurring for many years;
2 using methods of processing and preserving used by past
3 generations but also more contemporary ways of
4 processing; generational transmission of skills and
5 sharing harvests with others and, of course, relying on
6 a wide variety of subsistence foods.

7

8 The ancestors of the people living in
9 the area that are now called Chevak, Hooper Bay and
10 Scammon Bay have relied on a seasonal round of wild
11 resource harvesting and salmon has been the prominent
12 resource for at least several thousand years. The act
13 of processing the foods and fixing them up for storage
14 in the Arctic climate has been perfected. People
15 describe the subsistence way of life taking only what
16 is needed, not wasting, and teaching children the
17 importance of these values and the sharing is a
18 predominate feature in these rural subsistence
19 economies.

20

21 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 support this proposal, FP23-02.

23

24 And that concludes my summary of the
25 analysis.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
28 questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
33 you. Actually before you go, is there any reason why
34 it was separated out, the chinook and just not salmon?

35

36 MS. WILLIAMS: We were not able to
37 determine anything in the historic record. It may have
38 been an administrative oversight, we don't really know.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay,
41 thank you. Because there's a bunch of these in here
42 like this. Uh-huh. All right, introduction, and now
43 do we have a -- I hope I'm on the right -- it's been a
44 long time guys, No. 2 on the back of these things, is,
45 report on Board consultation, tribes and ANCSA
46 Corporations.

47

48 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Madame
49 Chair. Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison

50

0106

1 for OSM. During the consultation session there was no
2 questions or comments on this proposal.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Orville. Next is agency comments. Does Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game have any?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Each time we
13 go over a proposal this is the procedure. Next would
14 be Federal agencies.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And next
19 would be tribal entities.

20

21 MS. CARROLL: Sorry, Madame Chair,
22 you're so fast. I'm Holly Carroll, I'm here speaking
23 on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm
24 the Manager for the Yukon River. I just wanted to
25 briefly let you guys know that this proposal, we
26 actually helped the communities submit. We had
27 consultations with the coastal communities. This
28 oversight or lack of the traditional and cultural use
29 determination was an issue. We couldn't figure out why
30 it was there since the data clearly showed they have a
31 use of these species so we definitely encouraged them
32 to put in this proposal. But it would definitely
33 improve our ability to manage the resource more fairly
34 for these communities.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
37 questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
42 you. Again, I'll just ask, is there any tribal
43 entities. Yeah, okay, go ahead.

44

45 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 We are on FP23-02, right?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Correct.

49

50

0107

1 MR. SIMON: Okay, thank you. For the
2 record my name is Jim Simon. I'm a consultant with the
3 Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Resource Stewardship
4 Program and we'd like to offer our support for this
5 proposal. We recognize had there been Federal
6 subsistence fishing opportunities in the 2022 season
7 that these communities who do utilize Yukon River
8 salmon would not have been able to participate. And my
9 understanding from Ben Stevens, the Director of the
10 Tribal Resource Stewardship Program is that he wants to
11 express support for the neighbors in this coastal area.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 Jim. Any others, tribal entities.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Were
21 there any Advisory Group comments.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
26 Regional Advisory Councils, have they met yet, because
27 this is a crossover.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Fish
32 and Game Advisory Committees or Subsistence Resource
33 Commissions.

34

35 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, identify
38 yourself.

39

40 MR. AYERS: Sorry to interrupt there.
41 This is Scott Ayers, the Fisheries Division Supervisor
42 at OSM. I just wanted to let you know that the Seward
43 Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee took up this
44 proposal yesterday and recommended supporting it.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
49 that.

50

0108

1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
4 ahead.

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I'm on the Board --
7 Native Council Board and I support the TCC proposal.
8 Please take a look at it, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you say
11 your name again, I'm sorry we didn't get it.

12

13 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Kathleen Demientieff.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 Kathleen. So any other Advisory Committees or agency
17 comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, next
22 would be the summary of written public comment and
23 before going into public comment.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm
28 informed there was no written public comment so now is
29 the time for public testimony.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone online
34 want to testify to the proposal or anyone in the room.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
43 Hearing none, this is the time for a motion. Go ahead
44 Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
47 I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior RAC
48 support FP23-02 as presented to us.

49

50

0109

1 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been
4 a motion and a second to adopt.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to go through
11 the Vince Mathews list here.

12

13 Is there a conservation concern,
14 potentially there could be but it's a concern that we
15 all share on the river. So as the Federal wildlife
16 [sic] manager said, this is an opportunity to manage as
17 fairly as possible across all user groups.

18

19 Is the recommendation supported by
20 substantial evidence such as biological or traditional
21 knowledge, yes, our anthropologist has stated that they
22 have a long-term practice utilizing this resource in
23 their region.

24

25 Will the recommendation be beneficial
26 or detrimental to subsistence needs and uses.
27 Certainly not to those, if this passes, so it will
28 benefit them.

29

30 And will the recommendation
31 unnecessarily restrict other users. I think here
32 potentially it could depending on how managers manage
33 the resource but once again the most important thing is
34 that all user groups are included in the process and
35 that's up to the managers to manage as they see most
36 fairly.

37

38 So to restate the motion for the
39 record, the motion is that the Eastern Interior RAC
40 support FP23-02 as presented to us.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
43 other discussion on the motion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question

50

0110

1 has been called for. And I have been asked for a
2 unanimous consent, and if anyone opposes for a
3 unanimous consent to approve that C&T for Chevak,
4 Proposal 23-02, now is your time to object.

5

6 (No objections)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
9 objection.

10

11 (No objections)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
14 proposal passes unanimously.

15

16 Still want to break.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, let's do another
19 one.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
22 on a roll, we're doing one more.

23

24 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, Madame Chair.
25 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Cory
26 Graham and, again, I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.
27 I'll present the Fisheries Closure Review 23-05 [sic],
28 which can be found starting on Page 135 of your Council
29 book.

30

31 FCR23-05 is the standard review of a
32 Federal subsistence fishery closure to the harvest of
33 all fish in the Delta River. It's the Board's policy
34 that Federal public lands and waters should be reopened
35 when closures are no longer necessary. The purpose of
36 this closure review is to determine if the closure is
37 still warranted.

38

39 Under Federal regulations, subsistence
40 harvests of all fish is prohibited in the Delta River.
41 The Federal Subsistence Board adopted this closure from
42 State regulations at the beginning of the Federal
43 Program and it has not been reviewed or modified since.
44 Under State regulations the Delta River is closed to
45 subsistence fishing, but sportfishing is allowed. The
46 Delta River begins at the outlet of Lower Tangle Lake
47 in the Alaska Range about 60 miles south, southwest of
48 Delta Junction. The upper portion of the Delta River
49 is a component of the National Wild and Scenic River

50

0111

1 system which is administered by the Bureau of Land
2 Management. The lower section of the closure area is
3 on general domain land which is also managed by BLM.

4

5 Chum and coho salmon spawn in the lower
6 section of the river but salmon do not inhabit the
7 closure area. The non-salmon fish community is
8 compromised of Arctic grayling, burbot, round
9 whitefish, long nose sucker, lake trout and Dolly
10 Varden. Arctic grayling is the predominate member of
11 the non-salmon fish community and limited information
12 exists for the other species. Arctic grayling
13 abundance and seasonal movements were assessed within
14 an approximate 10.5 mile portion of the closure area in
15 the late 2000s. In 2008 the estimated number of Arctic
16 grayling.....

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 REPORTER: Go ahead Cory.

22

23 MR. GRAHAM:grater than 270
24 millimeter fork length was approximately 23,000 fish
25 and the resulting density estimates were among the
26 highest ever documented for the species in Alaska.

27

28 Big Delta and Delta Junction are the
29 communities most likely to subsistence fish in the
30 Delta River if the closure is rescinded due to their
31 close proximity to the drainage. Unfortunately there
32 are no readily available data on fishing by residents
33 of these communities in the Delta River because they
34 are located in the State of Alaska Fairbanks non-
35 subsistence use area and ADF&G's Division of
36 Subsistence has never conducted subsistence surveys for
37 either of these communities.

38

39 Subsistence fishing, again, is
40 prohibited in the river under both State and Federal
41 regulations so there's no legal subsistence harvest in
42 the system but harvest is allowed under sportfishing
43 regulations. Sportfish harvest estimates for the Delta
44 River are provided by the Alaska Sportfishing survey.
45 Estimates for the Delta River below Tangle Lakes are
46 available from '96 to 2006 and the median estimated
47 sportfish harvest of Arctic grayling over this time
48 period was approximately 300 fish and ranged from 159
49 fish in 1998 to 770 fish in 1997. Sportfish harvest

50

0112

1 estimates are not available for this section of the
2 river after 2006 because fewer than 12 surveyor
3 responses were received annually.
4

5 If the closure is rescinded Federal
6 subsistence regulations for the Yukon Northern Area
7 would apply. Non-salmon fish could be taken with any
8 gear listed on Page 136 of your Council book.
9 Subsistence rod and reel harvest limits would match the
10 State sportfish harvest and possession limits. Harvest
11 would be unrestricted for all other legal gear types.
12

13 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
14 rescind the closure. Currently Federal public waters
15 of the Delta River are closed to the harvest of all
16 fish by Federally-qualified subsistence users but open
17 to sportfishing under State regulations. Rescinding
18 the closure would establish a Federal subsistence
19 priority in the area. Previous research indicates the
20 closure area contains an abundant population of Arctic
21 grayling with one of the highest densities in the state
22 of Alaska. However allowing unrestricted harvest for
23 gear types other than rod and reel may lead to over
24 harvest and local depletion of stocks. While
25 populations may be protected by limiting subsistence
26 harvest to rod and reel only or modifying harvest
27 limits. These modifications are not possible through
28 the closure review process and would require a
29 fisheries proposal be submitted. Until a proposal can
30 be submitted the Federal in-season manager could use
31 their delegated authority to restrict gear types or
32 harvest limits up to 60 days to protect the populations
33 in the closure area. Actions exceeding 60 days would
34 require a temporary special action be implemented by
35 the Board.
36

37 And that concludes my presentation.
38 I'll be standing by for any questions you may have
39 regarding the analysis.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.
42 Andy.
43

44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I think
45 it's really important what you were saying towards the
46 end in regards to if this is rescinded then there's
47 really no measures to either monitor or regulate
48 harvest. So how is OSM thinking about moving in the
49 future on that because that's a really important thing,
50

0113

1 grayling are highly susceptible to over harvest?

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Absolutely. So our tools
4 that we kind of have; before a proposal can be
5 submitted to restrict harvest would be working with the
6 in-season manager, Holly Carroll, to have to -- to
7 implement harvest or possession limits lower than would
8 be unrestricted, or to go through the Board and have a
9 temporary special action request to say limit to rod
10 and reel only and to match State harvest and possession
11 limits. The longer term, what we would want to do is
12 to have a proposal be submitted that would, if you
13 wanted to restrict gear types or harvest limits, and
14 then that would deal with the problem longer term.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: And if the Board was to
17 do the special action, are there time limits to that?

18

19 MR. GRAHAM: I think -- through the
20 Chair. I think there are usually within the
21 regulatory, like within one.....

22

23 MR. BASSICH: A year?

24

25 MR. GRAHAM:regulatory cycle.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

28

29 MR. VICKERS: To confirm that's
30 correct, a temporary special action is that regulatory
31 cycle. So theoretically the last two seasons, because
32 if it's within that then.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Without a
35 mic, you're not on the record.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. GRAHAM: Brent Vickers, who is at
40 OSM, confirmed that the temporary special action
41 request would last through up until the next proposal
42 period.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
47 questions -- any other questions Council members.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0114

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
2 thank you.

3
4 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that is
7 the introduction of the proposal 23-03 [sic]. Going
8 through the process, is there any reports on tribal
9 consultation.

10

11 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Council
12 Members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM. There
13 were no questions or comments on Proposal 23-03.

14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
18 Next, agency comments. First on.....

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: He said 23-03 and so did
21 you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's 3 --
24 it's 05?

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
29 brain is freezing. It was 23-05 Orville, sorry.

30

31 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might have
34 said it once myself, go ahead.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were there
39 any comments on that one.

40

41 MR. LIND: No questions or comments on
42 that proposal, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
45 And next is the agency comments, Alaska Department of
46 Fish and Game, any comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0115

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We used to
2 have their liaison here and now we don't. Any Federal
3 agencies have any comments on this proposal.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal
8 entities, Native Village or other.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to
13 unmute your phone if you're out there online.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is
18 Advisory Committee groups, or Advisory Group comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 Regional Advisory Councils have any comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game
28 Advisory or Subsistence Resource Commissions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
33 Now we're at summary of written public comments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there
38 weren't any -- oh, okay, uh-huh. Open to public
39 comment in the room or online -- Jim.

40
41 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record
42 Jim Simon. The Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission
43 has not been able to meet to discuss this Federal
44 closure review, nor its Hunting and Fishing Committee.
45 But I can -- so I'm just providing my personal
46 comments.

47
48 I'm familiar with the Tangle Lakes area
49 and land mark cap. I know that from Ahtna oral
50

0116

1 history, archives, research I have done that this area
2 has customarily and traditionally been used to take
3 non-salmon fish particularly when residents of like
4 Gakona and some of the old villages that no longer
5 exist would go up into this area, they would also take
6 non-salmon fish during efforts to go get caribou. And
7 I think that this is a good idea. There definitely
8 could be conservation concerns. It's my understanding
9 that it's just been in the past 10 or 15 years that the
10 State Board of Fish established non-salmon subsistence
11 fishing permit opportunities to take non-salmon fish in
12 this area, in the Ahtna Traditional Use Area and so as
13 far as the C&T determinations for these opportunities,
14 I think it's just important that this is an area where
15 Ahtna communities also have a long-term pattern of use
16 that date back generations before the Delta and Delta
17 Junction communities even existed. And it would be
18 important to include them in a C&T determination. It
19 would be my understanding that, 1, when this now closed
20 area is opened that unless there is action taken by the
21 Board to identify communities with customary and
22 traditional use that would require subsequent proposals
23 to the Federal Subsistence Board in order to establish
24 those communities with the customary and traditional
25 use history and I just want to make sure the Ahtna
26 communities are not forgotten. Given that this is a
27 Yukon area, but it is also -- you know, the Ahtna
28 Traditional Use Territory includes the Copper River
29 drainage, the Upper Susitna as well as the Upper Tanana
30 area.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

35 Any questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
40 other public comment of people online or here.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I don't
45 hear any more comments from the public. Now is our
46 motion.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'd like to make a
49 motion that the Eastern RAC support FCR23-05.

50

0117

1 MS. EVANS: I'll second it.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Katya Wessels for
4 the record. For closure reviews there's no motion to
5 support. The closure reviews is a motion to maintain
6 status quo, or lift the closure or, you know, maintain
7 the clos -- I mean you can maintain the closure with
8 modification. But there's only certain modifications
9 that can be made.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: So what you need for a
12 motion is to support the to rescind this?

13

14 MS. WESSELS: It would be a motion to
15 rescind.....

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

18

19 MS. WESSELS:if you want to lift
20 it completely.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Maybe I'll try
23 this again then. Thank you for that clarification. I
24 know we got to go by the book here.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Eastern Interior RAC --
29 the motion is the Eastern Interior RAC supports to
30 rescind the closures on the Delta River as specified in
31 RC -- FCR23-05. Does that work?

32

33 MR. JAGOW: Second.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it's
36 been moved and seconded to rescind the closure.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Okay, I'll speak to the
39 motion briefly.

40

41 Is there a conservation concern.
42 Potentially there is and I guess my concern would be
43 that measures are put in place by managers until such
44 time that proposals can be drawn up to limit the
45 rescindation, I guess you would call it, to rod and
46 reel. So there is a conservation concern potentially.

47

48 Is there a recommendation to support by
49 substantial evidence. I think what I'm kind of

50

0118

1 interpreting this as is it's open in State so we need
2 to also open it up Federally just so we get things in
3 alignment.

4

5 Will the recommendation be beneficial
6 or detrimental to subsistence needs and users. I think
7 obviously people that live in the area and those
8 identified by Jim Simon in the Ahtna area have been
9 using the area so it will be used for subsistence uses
10 by rural Alaska residents.

11

12 And will the recommendation
13 unnecessarily restrict other users uses. Probably not.

14

15 So I guess to restate the motion, the
16 motion is that the Eastern Interior RAC supports the
17 rescinding the closure on the Delta River as stated in
18 FCR23-05.

19

20 Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
23 So is there any other discussion.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Briefly.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I guess I need a little
30 bit more clarification on what the next steps are and
31 maybe what we need to do is put kind of a bookmark in
32 our future agendas to make sure that proposals are put
33 in place to make sure that rod and reel is put in the
34 regulations for this, you know. I don't think we need
35 to do it right now but obviously I think that's
36 something we need to take up as soon as possible. And
37 then the other thing -- the only other question I have
38 is is there any -- I wasn't real clear on what type of
39 monitoring is being taken place right now on those fish
40 populations. Obviously it looks like there's been some
41 over the years but will there be continuing efforts to
42 monitor what the impacts of rescinding this will be
43 because that's something you need to make sure is in
44 place so that we don't end up with some kind of
45 catastrophic failure of harvest -- over harvest.

46

47 MS. BAKER: Madame Chair, this is
48 Brandy Baker with the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, Division of Sportfish. I'm the Assistant Area

50

0119

1 Management Biologist for the Tanana River Drainage.
2 And I came here specifically to listen to the
3 discussion that was going to be on this proposal.
4

5 I was unclear that this would have been
6 the time to give ADF&G comments as I have higher ups
7 that I need to speak with before we usually give
8 comment so I figured there's an opportunity after this
9 meeting that ADF&G would get the agency review for
10 comments so I guess I was unclear on that.
11

12 But since I'm here now, the monitoring
13 that is done is the statewide fish -- or the statewide
14 harvest survey.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One minute.
17 Our problem is we have a motion on the floor.
18

19 MS. WESSELS: Is there a second to the
20 motion?
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There was a
23 second, Charlie seconded it, unless he wants to rescind
24 it. You want to hear this? Yeah.
25

26 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, rescinding the
27 second.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
30 going to allow you to speak because I think it's
31 important for us to hear it. I do so go ahead.
32

33 MS. BAKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 So I really was going to come up and actually answer
35 Andy's question as to what monitoring is occurring
36 currently. For the Delta River specifically it's kind
37 of looking at the map, it's very broke up, in the
38 description, the bottom two miles is closed to all
39 sportfishing and subsistence fishing. Then you get
40 into the section between Delta Junction and where you
41 can see on the map border One Mile Creek, that's pretty
42 much within the Donley Training Area so the whole Delta
43 River Corridor there is closed for any kind of use
44 really, recreational. You have to get a permit through
45 the military called a recreational access pass to enter
46 onto the military training grounds so you wouldn't be
47 able to fish in there and that's why the Delta River
48 Wild and Scenic Float area ends at a certain spot
49 because you can't go through the impact area where
50

0120

1 there's live ammunition shot across the river.

2

3 So the sportfishing is monitored from
4 the Tangle Lakes, basically, drainage, which is the
5 upper headwaters of the Delta River up above Wildhorse
6 Creek. We have one section in the statewide harvest
7 survey that codes that out so we, as sportfish
8 managers, understand that that effort is taking place
9 on that lake system and that lower section above
10 Wildhorse Creek, below Wildhorse Creek on the next part
11 of the Delta River where most people finish out the
12 float which is near the Top of the World Trail where
13 people will go caribou hunting, they have access to
14 those clear waters of the Delta River for grayling
15 fishing along their float but as you get to Eureka
16 Creek you start getting into the glacial fed part of
17 the stream and the fishing pretty much deteriorates
18 because it becomes a glacial fed river for the most
19 part all the way rest through the Delta drainage
20 corridor. Of course, in the wintertime, like the
21 Tanana, it clears up for fall and chum coho spawning,
22 but in the summertime most of the sportfishing effort
23 occurs, it's usually in the Tangle Lakes drainage above
24 Wildhorse Creek and then there's that little small
25 portion between the take out on this map and Wildhorse
26 Creek. So the monitoring is broke up and that's why
27 Cory was having a hard time finding information because
28 people are only usually coding to that one spot.

29

30 And the Delta Fish and Game Advisory
31 Committee has not met yet, they meet in October, so
32 they would more than likely definitely take this up for
33 comment because it is in their backyard but they
34 haven't had a chance to meet yet. So just to know that
35 the Delta residents do recreate in the area but not,
36 you know, to the same degree. So -- and then the
37 population estimate was done as a coordinated effort
38 because of all the mining activity in the Alphabet
39 Hills and associated mountain drainages so you kind of
40 have a combination of things going on. But as far as
41 monitoring goes we only have the statewide harvest
42 survey really to rely on at this point for sportfish
43 management through the State.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
46 That's a lot of information. Did you have any more
47 questions.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: No, it just complicates

50

0121

1 everything.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. But
4 it's good, we need to hear it. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Well, it seems Ahtna
7 hasn't had their meetings, they haven't had their
8 meetings so why not table it until we have everything
9 on the table so we can make a better decision.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
12 just our -- what -- our opinion would go to the Board,
13 right.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if we
18 table it then they're not getting much from us.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Yes, if you table it the
21 Board is supposed to meet to discuss that in January --
22 end of January, beginning of February, they're not
23 going to get feedback from the Council. They're not
24 going to get your recommendation on this. You might,
25 you know, consider deferring it and then the Board
26 might agree to defer it as well but there's no
27 guarantee that that would happen, of course.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
30 it's very important to state what we're discussing here
31 and it needs a lot more discussion and that the Board
32 hears what we're thinking. Since the meeting is in
33 January we won't have a meeting until after and that's
34 why these proposals come up for us this time of year.
35 So we need to really state what concerns we're hearing
36 now once you heard that if you had any more questions
37 of them, that would be the proper time.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just
42 discussion, yeah. Linda.

43

44 MS. EVANS: I'm.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Put your mic
47 on Linda.

48

49 MS. EVANS: I think I'm getting a

50

0122

1 little mixed up here. There is 23-03 for the Bonanza
2 Creek thing and then there's a 23-05 for the Delta
3 River so we're talking about two different things here.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Just 05.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Just 05.

8
9 MS. EVANS: Oh, we skipped those three
10 then?

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, they jump around on
13 you.

14
15 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think they
18 jumped around in my brain too so.....

19
20 MS. EVANS: Oh, all right.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: They didn't follow the
23 book, they jumped around a little bit with the
24 proposals.

25
26 MS. EVANS: Okay. I feel I don't have
27 enough information to -- and I feel that there's not
28 enough input from other people affected by this.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
31 it's actually not in my backyard but it's definitely on
32 the road system where I wish I had more information.
33 I've been to Tangle Lakes and all that, and I know the
34 Delta River, been across it and done a lot of things,
35 but I'm not a sport fisherman over there. But Randy --
36 I almost called you Randy, sorry -- Andy, go ahead.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Katya, is
39 there a method that we have within our means to give a
40 position, a general position of our Council to the
41 Federal Board without taking a stand on a motion? Is
42 there a way to make a statement or, based on our
43 concerns, without either supporting or opposing a
44 motion?

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Well, you can take no
47 action and kind of have a justification for taking no
48 action, which will make it into the analysis that will
49 be provided to the Board. Then it will be, you know,
50

0123

1 up to the Board to figure out what to do. Because this
2 closure review, it's not going to be taken by any other
3 Regional Advisory Councils because it's just your
4 regional closure review so they won't get any feedback
5 from any other Councils.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
8 shaking of a head next to you.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Oh, which ones?

11
12 MR. GRAHAM: Madame Chair.....

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic's
15 not on.

16
17 MR. GRAHAM: So none of the other
18 Regional Advisory Councils that would consider this
19 have met yet but Western Interior will and Yukon
20 Kuskokwim Delta will as well, and I believe.....

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind
23 of way out of their.....

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Southcentral.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Southcentral would be the
28 one that it would be.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That doesn't
31 sound right to me.

32
33 MR. GRAHAM: Well, they have a
34 customary and traditional use determination for non-
35 salmon fish within the drainage so because.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the Delta
38 River?

39
40 MR. GRAHAM: It's in the -- it's within
41 the Yukon River drainage so all members are residents
42 -- rural residents of the drainage would have a
43 customary and traditional use determination so they
44 could fish in that area were the closure rescinded.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they'd
47 even be more unfamiliar with it than us.

48
49 REPORTER: Sue.

50

0124

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. I
2 said they'd be more unfamiliar with it than us it's so
3 far away. Yeah, I hear your thinking.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: I guess from my
6 perspective maybe the way to do this is to defer at
7 this point in time to taking a position on it. But
8 maybe make a comment as to our concerns for monitoring
9 and that we would want to see a proposal that would put
10 into regulation rod and reel only into the future. And
11 then I think it also would be very important for the
12 Delta -- people in Delta to express their concerns on
13 it and then, you know, let the Board make their
14 decision based upon that.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
17 just got to have enough information -- I like this
18 discussion and I don't want it lost and so -- what
19 Andy's saying, because, you know, I know a lot of
20 people on that Delta Advisory Committee and they're
21 going to have a lot to say about it and I think it's --
22 there's so many meetings and so much goes on that some
23 of this gets lost and this is one of those examples
24 where this is getting lost and I don't think it should
25 be lost and I want all of these comments put on the
26 record and put in to go to OSM that this was too
27 rapidly done and more -- the entities involved in it,
28 that live in the region, that know it, they should be
29 involved in it more and I think they suffer with the
30 same thing that we all do, too dang many meetings. So
31 -- but I don't like to see something like this happen
32 so quick and it's not the right way.

33

34 So the first thing is I.....

35

36 MR. BASSICH: So.....

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:guess
39 you got to make the motion and then add our comments so
40 it'll be on the record to take to the Board.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Well, I guess I'd be a
43 little bit confused as to what's the motion, is it just
44 to defer?

45

46 MS. EVANS: There's already a motion.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I'm not sure what the
49 wording would be.

50

0125

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The second
2 rescinded.

3
4 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay.
5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, you could take a
7 motion to defer to receive more public input because,
8 you know, like ACs were not able to discuss the
9 proposal and you don't really know what people in the
10 area are thinking about it. So we have done that in
11 the other regions, like Kodiak/Aleutians deferred some
12 of the closure reviews because they need more public
13 input before they made a decision. And in regards to
14 putting a proposal in, you know, to change the
15 regulations, it will be only in 2024 when you would be
16 able to put in a proposal to change fisheries
17 regulations.
18

19 MR. BASSICH: I'll make an attempt at
20 this, Madame Chair. I'd like to make a motion that the
21 Eastern Interior RAC defer FCR23-05 due to the need for
22 more public input and information from the people
23 affected by this.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need a
26 second.
27

28 MS. EVANS: Second.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By Linda.
31 It's been moved and seconded, Andy and Linda. And.....
32

33 MR. BASSICH: So I'll maybe speak to
34 the motion. Speaking to the motion I want to reference
35 some of the earlier comments but in my -- the main
36 concern that I'm hearing from our RAC is that we want
37 to support the rescinding this so that there is more
38 opportunity for people to harvest in the area but we're
39 concerned about the impacts to the people who live in
40 the area as well as the potential for overharvest of
41 non-salmon species in these streams. So we would also
42 like to support comments made by the Delta AC, who are
43 the people living in the area affected by this and that
44 the Board consider those recommendations from that AC
45 in regards to this, I guess, proposal.
46

47 Madame Chair.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
50

0126

1 Andy. I'm going to ask Staff, is that enough? Is that
2 enough discussion?

3
4 MS. WESSELS: I think so.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
7 Linda seconded. Any more questions or any more input
8 on it, anybody want to say anything else?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
13 think you just mentally called for the question.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Unanimous.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy
18 is asking for unanimous consent for this. I can't
19 restate it, sorry. I know you understand it. Is there
20 any opposition.

21
22 (No objections.)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none
25 it passes unanimously.

26
27 Will, you're still there, right?

28
29 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I am.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
32 And Jody, did you get called back in?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's
37 traveling to Eagle so I think it's not going to be
38 until 4:00. All right, now.....

39
40 MR. BASSICH: 10 minute break.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:10
43 minute break.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
48 42, we go to 52.

49
50

0127

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
6 turn the Chair over to Charlie Wright and we'll
7 continue on.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If everybody
10 could come back to their seats we're going to get
11 started. You have the floor.

12

13 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
14 Council. Again, for the record my name is Cory Graham
15 and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
16 Subsistence Management. I'll now present Fisheries
17 Proposal 23-01, which can be found on Page 54 of your
18 Council book.

19 Proposal FP23-01 was submitted by the
20 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and requests
21 the Federal Subsistence Board rescind the closure to
22 the harvest of non-salmon fish in the Jim River
23 drainage by Federally-qualified subsistence users and
24 modify regulations to allow rod and reel gear only and
25 an Arctic grayling harvest and possession limit of 10
26 per day.

27

28 The proponents state that this proposal
29 would continue subsistence uses by allowing harvest of
30 non-salmon fish by Federally-qualified subsistence
31 users in an area that is currently closed. The Council
32 believes it is a verifiable traditional use of non-
33 salmon fish in this drainage and a limited harvest by
34 rod and reel should be allowed. The proponent adds if
35 subsistence users are going to travel for Arctic
36 grayling the harvest should be increased -- the harvest
37 limit should be increased to justify time and expense.
38 Allowing for reasonable harvest of Arctic grayling
39 would reestablish a subsistence priority use of fish.
40 Limiting harvest to rod and reel gear only would ensure
41 viability of fish in the area. While the Council also
42 believes there is a verifiable traditional use of
43 salmon in this drainage it is not believed the salmon
44 runs can support any harvest at this time and the
45 closure should be rescinded only for non-salmon fish.

46

47 The Jim River drainage which is located
48 in the Western Interior region is closed to subsistence
49 fishing under both Federal and State regulations,

50

0128

1 however, sportfishing is allowed under State
2 regulations. The Federal closure was reviewed during
3 the 2021 through 2023 fisheries regulatory cycle. The
4 Western Interior and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
5 Councils recommended eliminating the closure to the
6 harvest of all fish and modifying regulations to allow
7 rod and reel only and an Arctic grayling harvest and
8 possession limit of 10 per day.

9
10 The Eastern Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim
11 Delta and North Slope Regional Advisory Councils
12 deferred to Western Interior. However, during the
13 Board's fisheries regulatory meeting the Board
14 determined that any action beyond simply eliminating or
15 maintaining the closure would not allow appropriate
16 notice and opportunity for public comment, therefore,
17 the Board voted to maintain the closure with the
18 expectation that a proposal could be submitted by
19 Western Interior to eliminate the closure, and that is
20 the proposal that is currently before you.

21
22 Approximately three miles of the Jim
23 River exists within the Kanuti Refuge boundary managed
24 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the remainder of
25 the Jim River drainage is general domain land, managed
26 by the Bureau of Land Management. Chinook, chum and
27 coho salmon spawn and rear in the Jim River but aerial
28 surveys indicate low numbers in the drainage. The
29 predominate non-salmon fishes include Arctic grayling,
30 burbot, humpback and round whitefish, long nose sucker
31 and northern pike. Stock assessments of Arctic
32 grayling were conducted in 1995, 1997 in a 13 mile
33 stretch of the Jim River near the Dalton Highway. In
34 1995 there were an estimated 5,100 Arctic grayling and
35 a density of 387 fish per mile. In 1997 the estimated
36 abundance and density of Arctic grayling was 12,000
37 fish and 914 fish per mile respectively. Wiseman and
38 Coldfoot are the communities most likely to subsistence
39 fish in the area if the closure is rescinded due to
40 their close proximity of the drainage. Wiseman and
41 Coldfoot are very small communities located on the
42 Dalton Highway. As of 2018 there were an estimated 8
43 full-time residents in Cold Foot and 11 in Wiseman.
44 ADF&G Division of Subsistence conducted its only
45 subsistence survey of these communities for the 2011
46 calendar year. For Wiseman all households used fish,
47 although in small quantities. Four of the five
48 households fished for non-salmon species resulting in
49 an estimated 13 pounds of non-salmon per person or 5
50

0129

1 percent of Wiseman's total wild food harvest in weight.
2 For Coldfoot no residents of the community fished for
3 either salmon or non-salmon fish and no use of non-
4 salmon fish was documented in Cold Foot during the
5 study period.

6
7 So, again, harvest is allowed under
8 State sportfishing regulations and Arctic grayling make
9 up the majority of sportfish harvest along the Dalton
10 Highway Corridor. During 2009 to 2018 an average of
11 122 Arctic grayling were harvested for the Jim River.

12
13 If Proposal FP23-01 is adopted
14 subsistence fishing for salmon would remain closed
15 under Federal regulations in the Jim River drainage,
16 non-salmon fish could be taken by rod and reel only.
17 Subsistence rod and reel harvest would match State
18 sportfishing harvest and possession limits except for
19 Arctic grayling which would have a harvest and
20 possession limit of 10 per day instead of the current
21 sportfish harvest and possession limit of five per day.
22 This proposal would increase harvest opportunity for
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users and provide a
24 subsistence priority as mandated by ANILCA. No
25 conservation concerns exist for this proposal as salmon
26 fishing would remain closed and non-salmon fishing
27 would be restricted to rod and reel gear only.

28
29 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
30 support Proposal FP23-01. The drainage is currently
31 closed to subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users but open to other uses. There's
33 likely a small amount of harvest under State
34 sportfishing harvest regulations predominately near the
35 Dalton Highway. Allowing a limited harvest using rod
36 and reel only would provide subsistence opportunity in
37 an area that is currently closed and protect
38 populations from overharvest. If this system is open
39 to rod and reel only State sportfish harvest and
40 possession limits would apply. Increasing harvest and
41 possession limits of Arctic grayling would provide a
42 subsistence priority for Federally-qualified users.
43 And maintaining the closure to salmon would protect
44 small populations within the drainage.

45
46 And that concludes my presentation and
47 I'll standby for any questions you may have regarding
48 the analysis.

49
50

0130

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.
2 Report on Board consultation is next, I guess. Tribes.

3
4 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Orville Lind,
5 Native Liaison for OSM. There were no questions or
6 comments on 23-01.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.
11 Council members, do you have any questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody else,
16 anybody on the phone.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Moving on
21 to ANCSA corporations.

22
23 MR. LIND: Again, Mr. Chair, there were
24 no comments or questions during the consultations.
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Okay,
28 we'll move on to agency comments, ADF&G.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none,
33 Federal agencies.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tribal entities.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any of the tribal
42 entities or village.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Advisory group
47 comments.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0131

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Other Regional
2 Councils.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Fish and Game
7 Advisory Committees.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.
12 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Written public
17 comments.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: None. We'll move
22 on to public testimony, is there any -- okay, Jim.

23
24 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
25 the record, Jim Simon. At Tanana Chiefs Conference we
26 -- and some members of the Yukon River InterTribal Fish
27 Commission we have discussed this proposal. The fact
28 of the matter is you see these written tribal comments
29 and tribal consultations, a lot of information not
30 being presented and it's not for the lack of trying,
31 it's simply tribal consultations are like ongoing all
32 the time with this Administration, which is great, you
33 know, but it's difficult to keep up with everything
34 right now, with all of the meetings.

35
36 You know these proposals got submitted
37 in the spring, written comments were due in July, your
38 meeting is happening, no Advisory Committees meet in
39 the summer for the most part so a lot of this silence
40 is more related to the challenges of the process than
41 it is lack of interest.

42
43 My personal comments on this proposal
44 is that it's a great idea. It demonstrates the
45 difference between an actual fishery -- Federal
46 fisheries proposal to remove a closure and establish
47 methods and means and bag limits, et cetera, which is
48 very different than the Federal closure review process
49 which is relatively new within the Federal system. You
50

0132

1 know like the previous closure, that was put into place
2 to protect the Delta River while the Pipeline was being
3 constructed and then the Federal Program just ended up
4 adopting that closure years later because the Board of
5 Fish had never removed that closure.

6
7 This particular proposal seems pretty
8 clear, sportfishing, non-Federal subsistence uses are
9 provided here. With the bag limit being proposed to
10 open this up for Federal subsistence uses, that should
11 create no conservation concern and I support providing
12 this Federal subsistence opportunity.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Jim.
17 Any more public testimony -- go ahead, Katya.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
20 Wessels. I don't have a public testimony. I just
21 wanted to clarify a point on the comments to this
22 Council on these proposal and closure reviews.

23
24 You might recall that last time we met
25 that we were asking Councils how they want to receive
26 the comments and majority of the Councils wanted to
27 receive comments from the public and hear from the
28 public as much as possible. So we actually, you know,
29 we post it on our website, the instructions, on how
30 there are various opportunities for the public to
31 submit oral or written comments so they could submit any
32 public comments, anyone can submit any written public
33 comments to the Council up to the point when the
34 analyst presents you the analysis or the proposal or
35 closure reviews. And, of course, there's always the
36 possibility to call into the meeting and present the
37 comments to the Council as well.

38
39 So I just want to make this
40 clarification.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you so
45 much. Okay, any more public testimony.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. We'll move
50

0133

1 on to the Regional Council recommendations. Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.
4 I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior RAC
5 support the proposal FP23-01 to rescind the closures to
6 harvest of non-salmon fish in the Jim River drainage by
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users and to modify
8 regulations to allow rod and reel gear only and Arctic
9 grayling harvest and possession limit of 10 per day.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I second it.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion.

14

15 Is there conservation concerns. There
16 has been no mention of there being a conservation
17 concern.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22

23 REPORTER: Tell them to mute, Andy,
24 just say could you please mute.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Pardon?

27

28 REPORTER: I'll do it, that's okay.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody
31 needs to mute their phone, we're hearing some really
32 low clunking and it's breaking our eardrums here.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Can I continue?

35

36 REPORTER: Yes.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Is the
39 recommendation supported by substantial evidence such
40 as biological and traditional -- biologically it
41 doesn't seem to be -- appear to be any kind of an issue
42 with this. Will the recommendation be beneficial or
43 detrimental to subsistence needs. I think it will
44 benefit people in the area to allow for an additional
45 subsistence harvest of Arctic grayling in their region.
46 And will the recommendation unnecessarily restrict
47 other users. It doesn't appear to be.

48

49 So the final motion for the record is

50

0134

1 that the Eastern RAC would like to support to rescind
2 the closure to the harvest of non-salmon fish in the
3 Jim River drainage by Federally-qualified subsistence
4 users and modify regulations to allow rod and reel gear
5 only and Arctic grayling harvest and possession limit
6 of 10 per day as stated in Proposal FP23-01.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just
9 like to add one thing if I understand this correctly.
10 When the Federal system was put in place they just took
11 all the State C&Ts and everything and this is probably
12 one of those cases where there never was a C&T for --
13 or whatever, there never was something and it didn't
14 get adopted. Am I correct in saying that, Staff? This
15 is just one of those oversights -- yeah, okay -- the
16 answer is yes. Thank you. So I just wanted to put that
17 on the record, this is why this stuff comes up.

18
19 I'll call for the question.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So we'll ask for
22 a full consent, any opposition.

23
24 (No opposition)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, it passes,
27 not hearing any. Thank you. Okay, we're going to move
28 on to FP23-02.

29
30 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Council. Again, for the record my name is Cory Graham
32 and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM. I'll now
33 present Fisheries Closure Review 23-02 which can be
34 found starting on Page 99 of your Council book.

35
36 This is a standard review of a Federal
37 subsistence fishery closure to the harvest of all fish
38 in the Kanuti River drainage and the purpose of this
39 closure review is to determine if the closure is still
40 warranted.

41
42 Under Federal regulations subsistence
43 harvest of all fish is prohibited in the Kanuti River
44 closure area. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted
45 this closure from State regulations at the beginning of
46 the Federal Program and it has not been reviewed or
47 modified since. Under State regulations the Kanuti
48 River is closed to subsistence fishing but sportfishing
49 is allowed. The closure area, which is located in the
50

0135

1 Western Interior region crosses the Dalton Highway and
2 it's located on general domain land managed by the
3 Bureau of Land Management. According to local
4 knowledge and the Anadromous Waters Catalog chinook and
5 summer chum salmon are present in the Kanuti River down
6 stream of the closure area. Aerial surveys indicate
7 few salmon inhabit the Kanuti River. Non-salmon fish
8 species such as Arctic grayling, burbot, round
9 whitefish, northern pike and long nose sucker have been
10 observed in the Kanuti River but no information in the
11 closure -- but information in the closure area is
12 limited.

13
14 Wiseman and Coldfoot are the
15 communities most likely to subsistence fish in the area
16 if the closure is rescinded. And the same subsistence
17 use information that I presented during the last
18 proposal applies here as well.

19
20 If the closure is rescinded, Federal
21 subsistence regulations for the Yukon Northern area
22 would apply. Federal subsistence fishing schedules,
23 openings, closings and methods would be the same as
24 those issued by State emergency order unless superseded
25 by a Federal special action. Harvest of salmon would
26 be allowed, non-salmon fish could be taken with any
27 gear listed at the top of Page 101 of your Council
28 book. Subsistence rod and reel harvest limits would
29 match State sportfish harvest and possession limits,
30 harvest would be unrestricted for all other legal gear
31 types.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 rescind the closure.

35
36 Currently a portion of the Kanuti River
37 is closed to the harvest of all fish by Federally-
38 qualified subsistence users but open to sportfishing
39 under State regulations and rescinding the closure
40 would establish a Federal subsistence priority in the
41 area. Like we discussed earlier, however, allowing
42 unrestricted harvest for gear types other than rod and
43 reel in an easily accessible system may lead to
44 overharvest of stocks and while populations may be
45 protected by limiting subsistence harvest to rod and
46 reel only or modifying harvest limits, these
47 modifications are not possible through the closure
48 review process and would require a fisheries proposal
49 be submitted. Until a proposal can be submitted, the
50

0136

1 Federal in-season manager may use their delegated
2 authority to restrict gear types or harvest limits for
3 up to 60 days to protect populations. Actions
4 exceeding 60 days would require a temporary special
5 action be implemented by the Board.

6
7 And that concludes my presentation and
8 I'll standby to answer any questions you have regarding
9 the analysis.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. You
14 know reading in this, under State regulation, sport,
15 they're allowed to catch king salmon 20 inches or
16 greater in length and a bag possession limit is three
17 fish of which only two fish may be 28 inches or greater
18 in length. So currently in the state of alaska under
19 those regs you're allowed to catch to salmon with a rod
20 and reel?

21
22 MR. GRAHAM: The State regulations that
23 are listed in the analysis are correct. I believe
24 there is a further limitation of where a salmon cannot
25 be harvested within the Dalton Highway Corridor and
26 that should be listed as well, but I'll confirm that.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess my concern
29 is there should be.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I know we can't
34 modify it -- sorry -- I know we can't modify this but
35 in my view there should be no -- this should be for
36 non-salmon species so it -- does the Federal manager
37 right now have the ability to make that determination,
38 that you would not be able to retain salmon. I know
39 you can change gear type but can you change bag limits
40 or species?

41
42 MS. CARROLL: Through the Chair, this
43 is Holly Carroll, Fishery Manager. Can you repeat your
44 question, Andy.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: So I guess the concern is
47 under State sport right now they're allowed to harvest
48 salmon species and so as -- do you have the authority
49 as the manager to rescind that -- when this is
50

0137

1 rescinded, to not only change the gear type used but
2 also change a bag limit, such as restricting it to non-
3 salmon species only?

4
5 MS. CARROLL: My understanding is that
6 I could restrict fishing in Federal waters, it would
7 only apply to Federal waters and I can change gear
8 types and, yeah, if subsistence is closed or restricted
9 then sportfishing would not be allowed. So I can -- I
10 can do things like that. I'm just not entirely sure.
11 I mean some of these things we'd have to look into
12 because it hasn't been managed that way in a long time
13 but my understanding is I would have the authority in
14 the delegated letter of authority. What sometimes
15 becomes an issue is if it's for a whole salmon season,
16 as the fishery manager, my delegated authority limits
17 me to emergency special actions, which are only 30 days
18 long. So that could make it challenging to manage for
19 an entire season or multiple salmon species for longer.
20 I would need temporary special -- or temporary action
21 authority.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you. And,
24 Mr. Chair, I have a question for OSM then for
25 procedures. If we were to not take this up, if we were
26 to table this -- I guess -- let me give you my
27 thinking, what's the hurry on this and why can't we
28 just defer, not take action on this and make a
29 recommendation that this not be rescinded until such
30 time as protection for salmon species are put in place
31 before its rescinded through the Federal process. Is
32 that a possibility or what would be the mechanism to do
33 that because it seems kind of silly for us to go
34 through this motion, we all know that we want to
35 protect -- I would hope, we want to protect, especially
36 king salmon so why is there such a hurry to rescind
37 this right now in an area where it could potentially be
38 open to salmon harvest? And I think if that was to
39 take place, maybe, we'd be able to get the State to
40 align with the Federal for once to protect king salmon
41 and other species of salmon as opposed to us always
42 trying to match what the State is doing.

43
44 That's my thought process and I'm just
45 wondering if we can move in that direction. And now
46 that this has been introduced, do we have to go through
47 the entire process here before we make a motion?

48
49 I need some help on how we move forward
50

0138

1 on this.

2

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MR. GRAHAM: So through the Chair, thank you for your question. I'll speak to the why we're doing this. The goal is to provide, you know, a subsistence priority in a system that's closed and using the tools that we have, which is the manager using their delegated in-season authority or temporary special actions. So it's to provide a Federal subsistence priority and, again, to use what we have at our disposal now until a proposal can be submitted. I'll defer questions about kind of process to Katya.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and while Katya's coming up, I guess what I want to clarify is the difference between this and the other proposals is they were rescinding for non-salmon species take, whereas in this particular proposal the ability to take salmon would still be put into place -- would still be allowed, and that's something that I think most of us would probably be opposed to given the salmon situation on the Yukon River.

MS. STUBY: Through the Chair. This is Lisa Stuby with the Division of Sportfish, Yukon Area Management Biologist. Just as an FYI for both the Kanuti and Bonanza Creeks, which are easily accessed off of the Dalton Highway along the TransAlaska Pipeline Corridor which pretty much follows the Dalton, there is on a a -- a 10 mile radius -- or I'm sorry, 10 mile diameter, a five mile radius on each side of the TransAlaska Pipeline Corridor is closed to salmon fishing, and there's also restrictions regarding lake trout and northern pike.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Okay, let's move on.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Okay, report on Board consultation is where we're at, I think. Tribes.

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. And during the consultations conducted on August 22, we did not have any questions or comments on the proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

0139

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. ANCSA
2 Corporations.

3
4 MR. LIND: Same thing, Mr. Chair. No
5 comments or questions.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.
8 Agency comments. ADF&G.

9
10 MS. STUBY: Yes, the only -- the -- I'm
11 sorry, through the Chair, Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department
12 of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish is just a kind
13 of recommendation. That any regulation should mirror
14 those of Sportfish Division as far as limits of Arctic
15 grayling. Can -- these two rivers are not as
16 productive with Arctic grayling as the Jim River. And
17 northern pike -- and of course, you know, the regs that
18 are along the TransAlaska Pipeline Corridor just --
19 just for the sake of sustainability because this is off
20 the road system and also for regulatory consistency.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

23
24 Federal agencies.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tribal entities.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Native tribal

33 village. Other.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Advisory group
38 comments. Other Regional Councils.

39
40 MR. LORD: This is Nenana, no comments.

41 No comments.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Fish
44 and Game Advisory Committees.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Subsistence

49 Resource Commissions.
50

0140

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Summary of
4 written public comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Public testimony.

9

10 Jim.

11

12 MR. SIMON: Thank you. For the record,
13 Jim Simon. Again, this is a situation where Federal --
14 non-subsistence uses are being provided but there is no
15 Federal priority so I support rescinding this closure.
16 I think that this is sort of a repeat of some of the
17 challenges with these Federal closure reviews, which is
18 relatively a new process within the Federal system.

19

20 Kim Jochum, who is sitting behind me
21 and is a member of the InterAgency Staff Committee and
22 I have been discussing process here and she has been
23 texting other ISC members and Chris McKee had a really
24 good idea for presenting these closure reviews at your
25 spring meeting so that then it's a head's up so that
26 then there can be more opportunities to discuss, then
27 at your fall meeting before the regulation meeting
28 happens, in order to get this feedback and get local
29 users aware of what's going on. Because in this
30 particular situation you -- because otherwise, as Sue
31 has said, it takes forever to make anything happen. So
32 one other option that I present to you is that you
33 could support rescinding the closure but defer
34 implementation until some of these issues are worked
35 out because if you -- a lot of times these closure
36 reviews have just been keep the closure in place, keep
37 the closure in place, these are examples of where other
38 people are fishing but priority Federal subsistence
39 fishing isn't allowed and it's, again, all related to
40 the Pipeline, right.

41

42 And so my recommendation to you would
43 be to support rescinding the closure pending, you know,
44 with delayed implementation until some of these details
45 can be worked out and maybe that is a work group, you
46 know, I don't know, or maybe it can be worked at the
47 January Federal Subsistence Board meeting, or simply
48 support rescinding it pending an additional proposal to
49 address the methods and means who are qualified users,
50

0141

1 et cetera.

2

3 Thank you. I hope that might give the
4 Program and your Council some ideas.

5

6 Thanks.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Jim.

9

10 Andy.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Jim, for
13 that. That helps me tremendously. I guess I -- maybe
14 I'm going back. One of the things I need a little bit
15 of help with on this is the wording's a little bit
16 different on this. I don't see anything that says
17 rescind the closure. It says review the closures to
18 harvest of all fish in the Kanuti River drainage by
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users. So how is that
20 different? Maybe I'm looking at the wrong page,
21 Katya's going to straighten me up.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Okay. But it doesn't say
26 that on the wording on the actual.....

27

28 MS. WESSELS: That's just a summary.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Okay, thank you,
31 that helps. And then I guess in final -- the other
32 question I would have is then again the time scale of
33 the -- if we were to take the approach that Mr. Simon
34 has proposed to support this but to not implement until
35 such times as more detailed, I guess, it would be take
36 -- harvest recommendations, or harvest goals -- harvest
37 -- oh, what's the word I'm looking for -- sorry --
38 harvest quotas are set. How long does that take
39 through the Federal process, is that something we need
40 another year or two for -- I think what I heard was
41 that wouldn't be addressed until 2024. So basically
42 we'd be rescinding and then asking it not to be
43 implemented until 2024?

44

45 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Vice-Chair.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. VICKERS: For the record this is

50

0142

1 Brent Vickers from OSM. To Andy -- to answer your
2 immediate question. You would -- one would have to
3 wait until the next proposal period so, yes, waiting to
4 submit a new proposal in the 2025 Federal.....

5
6 MS. WESSELS: No, 2024.

7
8 MR. VICKERS:no 2024 cycle --
9 yes.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: '24/25.

12
13 MR. VICKERS: Yes, thank you. So,
14 yeah, you would have to wait for the two years for the
15 next cycle. I also want to put out there that one -- a
16 suggestion or a power that's within your means. If the
17 Federal closure is rescinded is to put a special -- a
18 temporary special action request that would put a
19 request for -- means for methods, for closures until
20 the next cycle in which there is a proposal put out
21 there.

22
23 And the last thing that I also wanted
24 to say, was to build on Dr. Simon's brilliant
25 suggestion about shifting the closure review process.
26 We will be doing that starting with the upcoming
27 wildlife cycle. We will be presenting the wildlife
28 closure reviews at the next winter meetings and so that
29 will give you time to come up with proposals for going
30 into the proposal period. So we will be presenting
31 actually the closure reviews at the meeting and then at
32 the meeting you can put in the parallel proposal that
33 would put in new methods, means, bag limits, such
34 things, if that closure is rescinded.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: If I may followup.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: So just for
43 clarification, if we were to support rescinding the
44 closure and add in the motion to have it mirror current
45 State sport regulations, is that the appropriate way to
46 do it that would then curtail the harvest of king
47 salmon within that corridor? That's my big concern.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Well, the closure still
50

0143

1 will be in place until the Board actually, you know,
2 rescinds it.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: So if the Board rescinds
7 it, that's when the Council can put in a request for
8 temporary special action to do whatever you feel needs
9 to be done. Because if you just make a motion now, you
10 know, to do this, that won't do anything because we
11 really don't know what the Board is going to do. They
12 might keep the closure.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: But that isn't just
15 making a modification to what the proposal is, to
16 rescind, or what you're saying is you can't really do
17 that?

18

19 MR. VICKERS: (Nods affirmatively)

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay, got it, thank you.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: For the record this is
24 Brent Vickers. I shook my head saying that you can't
25 really do that, you have to submit a proposal, a
26 temporary special action that would go through the
27 public review process, you can't just modify the
28 closure, it has to go through a full process.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to ask
33 a question. So was somebody directed to go through all
34 of these places where there wasn't a -- or what, a
35 proposal, or a season and then you just went through it
36 and found them and put them in there?

37

38 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, actually
41 it's Mr. Chair is Chairing, I'm asking the question.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair. Hi, this is
46 Scott. I'm the OSM Fisheries Division Supervisor. I
47 can answer that question for you. We have been
48 instructed, it's part of the Board's policy that we
49 review all of the closures that are on the books, both

50

0144

1 on the fisheries subsistence regulations and the
2 wildlife ones, however, it's a relatively new thing
3 that we've been doing it on the fisheries side. So
4 each of these closures that's coming before you now, if
5 they remained in place we would be coming back to them
6 in another four years so there would be a steady
7 progression of working through them over and over again
8 much like you do on the wildlife side.

9

10 So there's not any sort of urgency to
11 address these now beyond the fact that we are on a
12 steady schedule to continually review any closures that
13 are in place and determine whether or not they should
14 remain in place.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But --
19 followup. But there never was a closure, it was just
20 that there was never a Federal season and so they still
21 have the State season. So I think you just get our
22 heads swimming here, that's why there's no urgency
23 because they still have the opportunity under the State
24 seasons.

25

26 MR. AYERS: So what we've run into.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
29 not.....

30

31 MR. AYERS: Sorry for interrupting
32 there's a bit of a delay. Please go ahead.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MR. AYERS: What we've encountered is
38 that there are a number of these places in our
39 regulations where subsistence is not allowed and they
40 are carryovers from closures from the State that are in
41 the State subsistence regulations and they've never
42 been reviewed. And what we are -- the way that we are
43 looking at them is that if there's a conservation
44 concern there should be a priority to who is closed to
45 those uses and at this point in time that is not quite
46 the right way to have both State and Federal
47 subsistence closed but opportunity for things like
48 sportfish being opened. Unfortunately the closure
49 reviews are not a very easy tool for making changes and
50

0145

1 we recognize that it would be preferable to be able to
2 put some sort of regulation in place that was very
3 specific that allowed gear types and a harvest limit
4 and things of that nature but that's just outside of
5 the scope of this process. And so we've asked the
6 Councils in the past and will continue to do so, to
7 submit proposals should they be interested in making
8 changes to those regulations or to these closures that
9 match what it is that they would like to see in place.
10 Because, again, as long as these closures remain on the
11 books we will continue to be going through them over
12 and over again.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A
17 complication that's happening right now, I just got a
18 text from Will Koehler and he said he would be offline
19 at 4:10 so we'll see if Will's out there.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Will, are you
22 online?

23

24 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, I'm here -- yeah,
25 Sue I'm back. I had to take a call but I am here for
26 the rest of the evening.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we need
29 you or there's no quorum. Thanks. All right.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, moving
32 along. We are at a motion to adopt, or not.

33

34 Action, Andy?

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I don't know. I'll
37 give it my best shot. So Eastern Interior Regional
38 Advisory Council would like to support rescinding
39 closures for harvest of all fish in the Kanuti River
40 drainage by Federally-qualified subsistence users as
41 stated in FCR23-02.

42

43 MR. JAGOW: Second.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We got a second,
46 so any questions.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, do you want any
49 kind of a justification -- okay, justification is the

50

0146

1 same as every other one we have done previous to this.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So we'll look for
6 a full consent. Any opposition. Go ahead, Linda.

7

8 MS. EVANS: I have a.....

9

10 REPORTER: Linda, your mic please.

11

12 MS. EVANS: Okay. I'm concerned here
13 because it's unrestricted harvest and it includes
14 salmon, you know, and we're trying to save these salmon
15 so we're trying to do something to save our salmon. I
16 would not vote in favor to rescind this.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Andy.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Well, those were the
21 points I had brought up in the very beginning. I guess
22 I was maybe given reassurance but maybe that's not
23 enough for the Council that the Federal managers could
24 use methods and means to restrict it and under State
25 right now, what we heard from the State manager for
26 sport was that there was a corridor closed to the take
27 of salmon species right now, and maybe we could get
28 that confirmed. But that's what I heard, was that
29 right now.....

30

31 MS. STUBY: Well.....

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. STUBY: Yes, through the Chair,
36 Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
37 Division of Sportfish -- oh, sorry.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

40

41 MS. STUBY: Well, yeah, sportfish so
42 the sportfish regulations are -- along the corridor --
43 the Pipeline Corridor, five miles on either side of the
44 Dalton Highway are closed to salmon fishing for
45 sportfishing.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No,
48 can't.....

49

50

0147

1 MS. STUBY: And there's restrictions to
2 no retention of lake trout and northern pike limits to
3 -- are dropped down to five per day, five in
4 possession.

5
6 REPORTER: Lisa. Lisa, we can't.....

7
8 MS. JALLEN: This is Deena Jallen,
9 Department of Fish and Game.

10
11 REPORTER: Lisa, we didn't understand
12 you so I don't know if you need to either be farther
13 away from your phone or, you were very choppy.

14
15 MS. STUBY: Oh, okay.

16
17 REPORTER: Okay.

18
19 MS. STUBY: Oh, okay.

20
21 REPORTER: You'll need to repeat it,
22 okay.

23
24 MS. STUBY: Oh, okay, I'm actually
25 getting a really bad feedback right now.

26
27 REPORTER: Right, it's from you so.

28
29 MS. STUBY: Can you hear me okay now?

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, we can.

32
33 MS. STUBY: Okay. For the Sportfish
34 Division regulations along the TransAlaska Pipeline
35 Corridor, a radius of five miles either side of the
36 Dalton Highway, salmon fishing is closed. And the --
37 the -- the next access to Bonanza and Kanuti is along
38 the Dalton Highway.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: You're breaking
41 up again.

42
43 MS. STUBY: Oh, dear, I'm having a hard
44 time talking because I'm getting real feedback of what
45 I'm saying.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so if I may.

48
49 MS. JALLEN: Hello, Madame Chair, this
50

0148

1 is.....

2

3

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, hold on.

4

5

MS. STUBY: I can try to.....

6

7

MS. JALLEN:Deena.....

8

9

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hold on a second.

10

11

12

13

14

MS. JALLEN:Jallen with the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I can also add
something about the subsistence regulations after
Lisa's done.

15

16

17

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hold on a second,
okay, just hold on.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. BASSICH: So I think in our meeting
packet here, basically says that in the Dalton Highway
Corridor, TransAlaska Pipeline Corridor within the
Yukon River area which is described as a corridor five
miles wide on each side of the Dalton Highway north of
the Yukon River excluding Ray River, sportfishing for
salmon is closed. Lake trout may be.....

26

27

28

MS. STUBY: That is correct.

29

30

MR. BASSICH:taken.....

31

32

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She said that
is correct.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

MR. BASSICH: Lake trout may be taken
only by catch and release fishing and may not be
possessed or retained. All lake trout caught must be
immediately released. The bag limit and possession
limits for northern pike is five fish of which only one
fish may be 30 inches or greater.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

So basically what that's saying, Linda,
is that if this is rescinded, even under sport, there
is no opportunity to fish for salmon in this fisheries
for Federally-qualified people. If it was going to be
rescinded then I guess it would revert back to the
State until such time; is that correct? Because that
goes back to my original question but.....

48

49

50

MR. JAGOW: But this is State

0149

1 regulations.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: That's under State

4 regulations.

5

6 MR. JAGOW: Yeah.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: State sport.

9

10 MR. JAGOW: So how would that

11 cover.....

12

13 MS. STUBY: State sport.

14

15 MR. JAGOW: Okay. But that's under
16 State regulations so how would that cover the Federal
17 subsistence fishery? Thank you.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: So at the very beginning
20 of this basically what was stated by OSM and by Fish
21 and Wildlife is that they have the means to put in
22 special action requests. And I think if in the motion
23 we state that we would like to see special action
24 requests or requests put into place or that the
25 conservation of king salmon be at the highest priority
26 then the special action request could be put in by the
27 Board at the time of adoption of rescinding, if I'm not
28 mistaken. Is that correct?

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Well, if the Board passes
34 the motion to rescind at the end of January, beginning
35 of February, then these regulations, they will not
36 become the new regulations until the summer of 2023.
37 But once, you know, you know that the Board voted to
38 rescind it then your Council, during your winter
39 meeting, can discuss and submit a temporary special
40 action request with whatever you want that to contain.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: They will not become
45 regulations immediately once the Board votes on it.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Are we ready for a motion
48 then.

49

50

0150

1 REPORTER: You already have a motion on
2 the table.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Oh, we actually
5 already.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let me ask
8 something.

9
10 MR. BASSICH:have a motion.

11
12 REPORTER: So we have a motion and then
13 Linda.....

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and we voted on it.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We had one
18 question and she's a no.

19
20 REPORTER: Yes, that's how I have it
21 written down.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

24
25 REPORTER: You guys are all yes and she
26 said no, and then there was more discussion.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
29 hope discussion is still open. So there isn't a season
30 now or it's a closed season right now.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Correct. Right.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a closed
35 season right now. And rescinding the closure opens it
36 to what you just read?

37
38 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: No.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: No.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, what does
43 it do? In short, not the long 20 minutes, I get lost.

44
45 MR. GRAHAM: Essentially there's a
46 closure in the Federal regulations. We would put a
47 line through that and then the Yukon Northern Area
48 regulations would apply. So there's certain gear types
49 that are allowed in there, unlimited harvest for non
50

0151

1 rod and reel, rod and reel would be limited to State
2 sport harvest and possession limits.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
5 unlimited harvest?

6

7 MR. GRAHAM: Well, it'd be unregulated,
8 right. So right now you could fish for whitefish in a
9 certain system and there aren't limits on that. The
10 Yukon, Northern area does not have limits on non-salmon
11 fish species. But I would like to say one thing, like
12 if this was open, this last season, fishing for salmon
13 was closed, it would not have been allowed, so the
14 manager is still managing, it's not like if this was
15 removed then this would be the only place you could
16 harvest salmon, there would still be closures if
17 warranted.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So would the
20 subsistence user.....

21

22 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair, this is
23 Deena.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:be.....

26

27 MS. JALLEN:Jallen, Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game. I can add a little bit.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Please.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Please do.

33

34 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, so under our
35 subsistence fishing regs these are waters that are
36 closed to subsistence fishing. The Kanuti River up
37 stream from a point five miles down stream of the State
38 Highway is closed, the Jim River including Prospect
39 Creek and Devils Creek is closed, and Bonanza Creek are
40 closed waters to subsistence fishing. Unfortunately I
41 don't know when the proposals were put in that made
42 those be closed waters, I think they're quite old. I
43 haven't seen them in the Board of Fish documents. I've
44 been looking through back to 2004 so I'm not sure what
45 the original discussions and intent and decisions were
46 as to why to put those into closed waters, however, I
47 don't think there's been any proposals put in to remove
48 those from waters closed to subsistence. So
49 interested to see what the Western Interior RAC has to
50

0152

1 say because that's more in their region and there may
2 be some members on that Council who might be more
3 familiar with those original Board of Fish proposals
4 and those original closures.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Due to all the
7 questions we probably should revote.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we
10 didn't. We never voted.....

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Yes, you did.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:on this.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: We did.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Yes, you did.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: We voted and you called
23 for consent and then she afterwards -- she.....

24

25 REPORTER: Andy.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Sorry. Afterwards Linda
28 said that she wanted to change her vote to not support.

29

30 REPORTER: Yes, that's correct.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
33 didn't hear him say that.

34

35 REPORTER: That is what happened.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Could we revote?

38

39 REPORTER: Yes.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Is that possible?

42

43 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead and revote to
44 make it clear to everyone.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did not
47 vote.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

50

0153

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I want
2 it completely in my mind what I'm voting on. I'm
3 voting.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:if I
9 rescind this I create an opening for subsistence.

10
11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Woo.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there is
19 not one now.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there
26 will be no salmon harvest.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Potentially there could
29 be.

30
31 REPORTER: Andy, your mic.

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Potentially
37 there could be.

38
39 REPORTER: Hold on. Hold on. Let me
40 deal with these people unmuted on the phone.

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madame Chair.
43 Madame Chair. If it's closed on the Yukon it would
44 potentially still be closed in the Federal waters in
45 the Kanuti.

46
47 REPORTER: So whoever's typing, could
48 you mute your line. Please. You're interrupting the
49 meeting.

50

0154

1 MR. BASSICH: So if I may.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Andy.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: I think where we're
6 having the problem is that we're basically asking or
7 agreeing to support rescinding these proposals but it's
8 all predicated on the fact that once these are
9 rescinded actions have to be put into place if we want
10 to change or create harvest guidelines, how take is,
11 harvest limits, things like that. So by rescinding
12 these we've got to -- if these are areas of concerns
13 like the take of salmon we have to make sure that then
14 those proposals are put before the Board for them to
15 adopt to put those regulations into the subsistence
16 harvest system. Is that correct? Is that a pretty
17 accurate summary of where we're at right now -- so
18 basically we're doing this right now but if we really
19 have concerns we need to also make sure that proposals
20 are put into place before next season whether it's a
21 special action request or whether it's a full proposal.
22 It sounds like the quickest way to solve the problem is
23 just have the -- present a special action request on
24 the areas that we have concern for, say, king salmon,
25 or chum salmon or whatever, and then ask the Board to
26 put those special action requests in place. And in
27 addition to that the manager has the ability to do
28 some short-term closures but they're very short-term.

29

30 So basically we're going to have to do
31 the work kind of twice by rescinding these, is the way
32 I see it; is that -- is that an accurate.....

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I just wanted to
37 try and clarify that for the Council members in non-
38 legalize words.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I just
41 got to speak my mind. I'm getting older and I'm not
42 afraid to do it so much. I like to see things happen,
43 not in a slow manner, with the government, but here's
44 one that I think is working fast and it shouldn't be.
45 And that's my opinion. So I think for me, on this one,
46 I can't support it, just because it's just moving too
47 -- way too fast and it's very -- it isn't as simple to
48 understand as you might think for, at least, my mind,
49 and I think some of you share it. So that's how I'm

50

0155

1 going to vote.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: If I may.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, yes.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so let me ask our
8 Coordinator. I guess from my mind, where I'm thinking
9 is if we have these recommendations to the Board, they
10 adopt these, we have to make sure that prior to the
11 next season we put in a special action request to
12 restrict any harvest of chinook salmon or fall -- or
13 any salmon. I guess I should say we should put in
14 special action requests that all of these that have
15 been rescinded for non-salmon species only.

16

17 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. It's
18 my understanding that you can rescind for non-salmon
19 only. That is a modification that is allowed.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Right now?

22

23 MR. GRAHAM: Correct. Through this
24 process.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Wow, I just thought
27 it.....

28

29 MR. GRAHAM: Well, there are -- pardon
30 me, through the Chair. There are certain gear types
31 and harvest limits that cannot be done, modified
32 through this but rescinding for non-salmon species
33 only.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: What would be the process
36 for us to start with a new motion then?

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. WESSELS: You need to withdraw your
41 main.....

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Because that might be the
44 easiest.....

45

46 MS. WESSELS:the original motion
47 with the consent of the second.....

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

50

0156

1 MS. WESSELS:and then make a new
2 motion.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: All right. I'd like to
5 -- Mr. Chair, I'd like to rescind my motion.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Duly noted.

8
9 REPORTER: Charlie, you were the
10 second.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

13
14 MR. JAGOW: All right, I'm taking back
15 my second.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So going back to
18 this, what I would like to do is -- if I can find the
19 right page -- sorry I'm a little bit lost here.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is
22 it.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Are we on 101, yeah,
25 there we go, okay. The motion is to rescind the
26 closure of harvest of all fish in the Kanuti drainage
27 by Federally-qualified subsistence users and then it'd
28 be for only -- wait a minute let me think about this.
29 Rescind the closure to harvest of all fish in the
30 Kanuti River drainage by Federally-qualified users for
31 non-salmon species only, and that would be under FCR23-
32 02.

33
34 I think I got that right.

35
36 MR. JAGOW: Second.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Okay, and speaking to the
39 motion. The concern is that in this original document
40 presented to us, closure of all fish would still allow
41 for salmon harvest, which this Council objects to,
42 therefore, we would support rescinding the closure but
43 not allow the take of salmon, only allow the take of
44 non-salmon species, to clarify.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. We're at
49 question.

50

0157

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roll call.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Roll call vote.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

6 (Affirmative)

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie Jagow.

9

10 MR. JAGOW: Support.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Andy Bassich.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Support.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Linda Evans.

17

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie Wright.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Support.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Sue Entsminger.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,
27 support. Support.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: And on the phone, Will
30 Koehler.

31

32 MR. KOEHLER: Support.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, it passes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
37 should call it a day.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, we're going
40 to call it a day, we'll see everybody at 9:00 a.m.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

47

48

49

50

0158

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the
15 5th day of October 2022;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th
27 day of October 2022.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

35

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