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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, Alaska
October 6, 2022
9:01 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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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/6/2022)

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(On record)

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to remind everyone who didn't sign in, please sign in. I'm not sure anyone heard that but anyone that hasn't signed in, please sign in. And to these -- there's some blue cards out there if you want to testify on a proposal or anything, you need to fill one of these out and get it to our Coordinator, Brooke.

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15

16

Okay, I want to verify that we have a quorum. Will, are you online?

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MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I am.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks Will. We have Charlie Jagow, Andy, Linda, Jody and myself, and Charlie Wright just walked in. Okay. And, Don, he had to be gone for an hour this morning with some health issues so he will be back and when he's back we need to wish him well, yeah. Okay. The next thing I need to do is ask if there's any testimony from the public on non-agenda items, and I believe we had some cards, we had two. The first is Gale Vick, or Virgil -- and Virgil -- or Virgil Umphenour, okay, are you coming together or one at a time.

32

33

MS. VICK: Yes, we are.

34

35

36

37

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go ahead and introduce yourself. I don't think we know who this Virgil is though, do we.

38

39

(Laughter)

40

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42

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning, Virgil. You'll have to push the button when you speak.

43

44

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MS. VICK: Good morning, my name is Gale Vick and I am the Chair of the Fisheries Subcommittee for the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. And I see a lot of great faces up there that I know and thank you for this opportunity.

Basically I'm going to talk very

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1 briefly about a proposal that we have at the Board of
2 Fish and that's Proposal No. 140. And that's about
3 intercept fisheries at Area M. There are 10 proposals
4 to the Board right now and they're all very similar.
5 Ours is probably the most specific and there's two or
6 three that are saying pretty much saying the same thing
7 we are and Virgil's going to talk about that. And
8 that's to go back to the 2001/2003 Board of Fish
9 decision on that Shumigan Islands/South Umiak fishery
10 that has the most impact on chum intercept and chinook
11 intercept that go into the Bering Sea and the AYK. So
12 our proposal is to go back to that particular
13 management plan for Area M.

14
15 And with that I'm going to give it over
16 to Virgil.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Good morning. My
19 name's Virgil Umphenour and I serve on the Fairbanks
20 AC. But I served on the Board of Fisheries for three
21 terms. And Area M, I don't know how much the Council
22 knows about the Area M Fishery but the Area M fishery
23 in June, up until about the middle of July is a strict
24 intercept fishery. That means they're harvesting
25 stocks of fish that are migrating and they're all
26 migrating north, is where they're going, west and
27 north. And the first tagging studies that were done
28 and the way that salmon -- the scientists and everyone
29 figured out kind of how far salmon migrated was in the
30 '20s. And the person that was the zoology -- head of
31 the Zoology Department at Stanford University, he came
32 up and did tagging studies and I think the first one
33 was in 1922, and he did them for a couple of years in
34 the Area M area, the south Peninsula. And at that time
35 approximately 25 percent of those tags ended up in the
36 Yukon River. The Kuskokwim River had a very high
37 percentage of them and, of course, the Nushagak River
38 in Bristol Bay and all the way up to Kotzebue. There
39 were more tagging studies done later on and they were
40 done in the '50s as well with basically the same
41 results, that was prehatchery. There weren't any
42 hatcheries in the North Pacific back then.

43
44 And so in 1982 the chum fishery
45 collapsed on the Yukon River and Area M in the June
46 fishery alone caught 1.1 million chums. And so the
47 people on the Yukon were really upset about that and
48 raised lots of hell, and the Fairbanks AC was involved
49 in that back then.
50

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1 Anyway, and what ended up happening is
2 they put a chum cap on Area M and so the chum cap was
3 up to -- I believe it was 600,000 because it got raised
4 incrementally after a couple of years and there was
5 lots of rumors about what they referred to as chum
6 chucking, which is pitching the chums overboard because
7 they didn't want to reach the chum cap because if they
8 reach the chum cap the fishery would get closed.
9 Because the way that fishery was managed back then is
10 they could just fish 24 hours a day, seven days a week
11 as long as you didn't reach the chum cap but they had
12 an allocation that was an arbitrarily done allocation
13 of 8.3 percent of the Bristol Bay forecast for sockeye
14 salmon, and that's what they were supposedly all
15 targeting was the sockeye salmon. Anyway, and so when
16 I was on the Board we made several different changes to
17 make a sliding chum cap based on what the projection
18 was going to be for the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River
19 and I talked to Captain -- I can't think of his name
20 right now, but the captain that was a State Trooper
21 Captain and I told him, you know, what you guys need to
22 do is set up in the places where you suspect that
23 they're doing this, where they're really having high
24 harvest rates because what these guys were doing they
25 kept modernizing their fleet is they would fish off the
26 capes and when they got the larger boats they could
27 fish in more inclement weather then they could get
28 farther off these capes where the weather might not be
29 quite so good and really harvest the fish. And so they
30 actually did that. The Troopers did that without
31 making it known to the public and they busted several
32 people. This was in the late -- you know, just in the
33 late '90s. And also at the same time I had been trying
34 to get a printout of the harvest of the fish ticket
35 data which is what has to be made out at each landing
36 when a processor or a buyer buys salmon.....

37
38 (Teleconference interference - participants not
39 muted)

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR:they have to fill
42 out a fish ticket that goes to the Department. And so
43 the Department with modern computer systems, they can
44 take -- they go by the discreet permit number, everyone
45 that has a commercial license has a discreet permit
46 number, so they would take the discreet number and you
47 could track the same fisherman back through the years.
48 So I got 10 years worth of that, and then when we came
49 to deliberations on basically the same proposal that's
50

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1 before you now, Proposal 140, because I chaired the
2 committee for the Yukon River at that meeting -- and
3 something else about the meeting was that that meeting
4 we had in January and February of 2001, that lasted I
5 think 25 days -- 24 or 25 straight days, was, the
6 budget had been cut to the Boards because we made the
7 President -- or the Chair of the Senate Finance mad at
8 us, the Board of Fish did, for restrictions we did to
9 the commercial fleet, drift fleet in Bristol -- or in
10 Cook Inlet, he cut the budget for the Boards by 35
11 percent. When he did that we didn't have the money to
12 do three meetings, Bristol Bay, AYK and Area M as
13 separate meetings, we had to do it all in one meeting
14 to save money so that's why the meeting lasted so long
15 and we had over 500 proposals in front of the Board at
16 that meeting. Anyway, so that's the meeting that this
17 happened at.

18
19 And what I did is I presented the
20 evidence, and, of course, it got the -- the lawyer for
21 Bristol Bay -- I mean for Area M, they always had a
22 lawyer there at their meetings representing them, he
23 threatened the State with suing them because he said
24 we're violating and then releasing that fish ticket
25 data was a violation of the law that we have that they
26 have a -- they have a special law that pertains to
27 fishermen and they don't have to release the fish
28 ticket data unless there's a minimum of three
29 processors buying because they say you might find out
30 the fisherman -- individual fisherman's -- what he
31 caught. Anyway, so they threatened the State with a
32 suit over that and so the State actually withdrew those
33 darn things from the record but everyone got to see
34 them for a couple of days before that happened, and so
35 I was able to use them anyway. And I pointed out where
36 there was one fisherman that had caught over 7,000
37 sockeye in a certain period of time, another fisherman
38 fishing the same spot, same statistical area with the
39 same type of permits, and these were drift gillnet
40 fishermen that I focused in on, caught more chums than
41 sockeye. And so we had one guy that caught over 7,000
42 sockeye and zero chums, and another one that caught
43 more chums than sockeye, and there were lots of them
44 that caught -- you could tell who was the honest
45 fisherman and who was not, that was pitching the chums
46 overboard. Anyway, and so then we had three.....

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)
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1 MR. UMPHENOUR:right there at the
2 same meeting so I proved they weren't counting -- that
3 the chum chucking was true. And so I pointed out that
4 the way you tell if a fisherman is lying is if his lips
5 are moving because lots of them just lie about where
6 they're catching their fish because they don't want
7 other people to know it. The commercial fishermen,
8 they do it, because they don't want to get shut down if
9 there's a cap. So without observers caps were useless.

10

11 Anyway so I got that proposal passed.
12 And what that proposal did was just treated them more
13 like everyone else, which is, that every place else in
14 the state except for the June fishery in Area M -- and
15 I'll make it a little faster Sue -- every place in the
16 state is managed by what returns, biologically what
17 returns. That's how they get managed.

18

19 All fisheries in the state except for
20 the Area M June fishery and the Southeast chinook
21 salmon fishery, but that fishery is managed by what the
22 Salmon Treaty says is the way they're going to manage
23 it, the Pacific Salmon Treaty between Canada and the
24 United States, of which Andy and I have been involved
25 in for more than 20 years. But anyway that is the only
26 fishery that is managed just let them go fish however
27 long they're going to fish. So I got that passed.

28

29 Then in 2004, what ended up happening,
30 because we had changed basically almost all the Board
31 members, is they expanded the Area M fishery and
32 increased their fishing time by 285 percent is what
33 they did. And in 2017, the Area M fishery caught in 18
34 days in June, they caught 45,000 chinook salmon, king
35 salmon. The kings -- there's been analysis -- genetic
36 analysis of chum salmon and sockeye salmon in Area M
37 but never king salmon. The Fairbanks AC and myself and
38 a few other people have been wanting them to do a
39 genetic analysis of the king salmon there. Now, they
40 started doing genetic analysis because of what's
41 happened in the last three years of the chum salmon
42 again in Area M but not the king salmon.

43

44 So what this proposal would do is it
45 restricts the fishing time for not just the chum
46 salmon, but for all salmon, so that's going to benefit
47 the chinook salmon as well.

48

49 There's been studies done on

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1 ichthyophonus starting in 1999 and I was involved in
2 all of that along with a few other people like Stan
3 Zuray in Tanana and we had a couple of scientists come
4 up, one from the University of Washington and one from
5 Oregon State University that have done all this
6 ichthyophonus research and one of the things they did
7 is they were trying to determine where the king salmon
8 on the Yukon catch ichthyophonus. So the way that most
9 king salmon, or salmon catch ichthyophonus is by eating
10 infected herring because it comes from eating infected
11 herring and the ones like in Prince William Sound,
12 that's how they get it. So they analyzed the
13 ichthyophonus prevalence of herring in the Bering Sea,
14 there's not any, they couldn't find any. So their
15 conclusion was, or hypothesis where these king salmon
16 have to be catching ichthyophonus south of the Alaska
17 Peninsula because the Gulf of Alaska, those herring
18 have ichthyophonus so this would affect king salmon as
19 well. A lot of people don't want to know, that's in
20 the State Department of Fish and Game, some of them, do
21 not want to know why or where those fish that are
22 getting caught in that Area M fishery are headed
23 because of the Endangered Species Act, that's why they
24 don't want to know it, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
25 Because a bunch of those are Canadian fish. Because
26 the ones they catch in Kodiak, they done a little bit
27 of research on those and that is -- most of them are,
28 they're not local fish that get caught there, the king
29 salmon.

30
31 But, anyway, that's kind of the basic
32 reason for putting this proposal in.

33
34 But what really should happen is that
35 June fishery should really be totally closed but the
36 Board of Fish is going to meet this winter and we'll be
37 there to support this proposal.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, okay, I'm done.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See the Lord
47 told you.

48
49 (Laughter)

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, you
2 know how much we have against us here and so you're
3 looking for our support for this proposal as written.

4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, any
8 questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
13 Thanks, Virgil. It's great to see you and I can still
14 say the short version.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I gave it a
17 little -- I shortened it up a little bit.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
22 right, thank you so much, both of you. Okay, I have
23 one more blue card, Al Barrette, non-agenda items. I
24 actually asked Brooke here, well, isn't this on our
25 agenda and they said, well, no, that's not really
26 unless we decide to take them up. Okay. These are
27 fish proposals, State.

28
29 Okay, go ahead.

30
31 MR. BARRETTE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 It's always hard to follow Virgil, my good friend. So
33 my name is Al Barrette. Or good morning, Madame Chair,
34 and Members of the Council my name is Al Barrette and I
35 reside in Fairbanks. For transparency, I am a Board of
36 Game member. I'm only here representing my own
37 thoughts and none of the Board of Game's.

38
39 My issue today is concerning FP23-14,
40 15 and 16 probably. Last December the Alaska Board of
41 Fish had a proposal, No. 7, in front of them which was
42 to restrict subsistence fishermen from using commercial
43 services to get their subsistence needs and the Board
44 of Fish passed that proposal and so what I'm asking is
45 if you could add an amendment to these, if you choose
46 to determine there's a positive C&T for that, or have
47 another proposal that would restrict some Federally-
48 qualified subsistence, since this is the Federal Board,
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users from using
50

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1 commercial services for the taking of their subsistence
2 needs.

3

4 And what I thought was -- why I brought
5 this to attention is there was a lot of debate, there
6 was a lot of public testimony and a lot of written
7 comments at the December meeting in Cordova when this
8 proposal was in front of the Board of Fish and it was
9 duly noted that the rural community people that were
10 testifying were adamantly opposed to allowing any
11 subsistence fishermen to use a fish charter or fish
12 guide to go get their subsistence needs met. And so I
13 think with that passage of that, to be consistent on
14 the river you'd want that, you know, at least river-
15 wide so there's no confusion as far as enforcement goes
16 and consistency in regulations between the State and
17 the Federal system.

18

19 That's what I have for right now.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would you
22 repeat -- this is Board of Fish proposals right, what
23 were the numbers?

24

25 MR. BARRETTE: No, I put down the
26 Federal proposals so I was a little confused when you
27 said these were non-agenda items for public testimony
28 this morning.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, we're
31 messed up. You're supposed to go at that time. Sorry
32 Al.

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, this is Brooke
35 McDavid, Council Coordinator. I do see here that you
36 put that down now. If -- we can have you maybe restate
37 when we get to that but we're taking them up here
38 shortly so we can.....

39

40 MR. BARRETTE: Yeah, I can.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we're
43 right now on non-agenda items.

44

45 MR. BARRETTE:do that.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So our
48 apology for calling on you, we didn't understand that
49 wasn't.....

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: But we'll note on the
2 record that your comment applies to the Fishery --
3 Federal Fishery Proposals 23-14, 15 and 16 that the
4 Council will be taking up here shortly. Sorry about
5 that.

6
7 MR. BARRETTE: Do you want me to
8 testify then.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The short
11 version only okay.

12
13 MR. BARRETTE: That wasn't as long as
14 Virgil's.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's got
17 seniority.

18
19 MR. BARRETTE: Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
22 thank you. All right, I'm just calling for any non-
23 agenda items from the public that's not on our agenda.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
28 non-agenda items. That is our job to do every morning
29 when we start.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And anyone on
34 the phone.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
39 members that are.....

40
41 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
44 ahead.

45
46 MS. LINNELL: Hi, this is Karen Linnell
47 with Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. And I just
48 wanted to see if you folks were aware of a potential
49 proposed rule by the National Park Service that will
50

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1 change hunting for rural residents in.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, Karen,
4 before you go on.....

5

6 MS. LINNELL: It's to address the -- it
7 was to address the proposed rule that went through
8 regarding denning and things like that when we had the
9 shed antlers stuff.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, let me
12 interrupt, it's.....

13

14 MS. LINNELL: They.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's on our
17 agenda.

18

19 MS. LINNELL: Is it, oh, I'm sorry.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is, it's
22 on our agenda. Okay.

23

24 MS. LINNELL: Okay.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we're
27 taking up non-agenda items -- yeah, it's actually after
28 the proposals.

29

30 MS. LINNELL: Okay. All right.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you have
33 our -- all right -- if you have our agenda it's I,
34 harvest of wildlife.....

35

36 MS. LINNELL: Okay.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:for
39 sport purposes in National Parks and it is an agenda --
40 or an action item.

41

42 MS. LINNELL: Okay.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

45

46 MS. LINNELL: All right, I'll wait
47 until then.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

50

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1 MS. LINNELL: Yeah, just thank you for
2 all your hard work.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, you're
5 welcome.

6
7 MS. LINNELL: Until later, thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Any
10 other public members on non-agenda items.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 23-03
15 review, closure to subsistence harvest on all fish in
16 Bonanza Creek. And I do want to remind the Council
17 this is a crossover proposal, this last -- this one and
18 the last two were all crossover proposals. So if you
19 don't want to take them up you don't have to. I'm just
20 giving you that choice because sometimes we do that.

21
22 How are we doing on that, everybody
23 want to hear it?

24
25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
32 Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.
33 I'll now present Fisheries Closure Review 23-03 which
34 can be found starting on Page 117 of your Council book.
35 And this is a standard review of a Federal subsistence
36 fishery closure to the harvest of all fish in the
37 Bonanza Creek drainage, and the purpose of this closure
38 is to determine if the closure is still warranted.

39
40 Under Federal regulations subsistence
41 harvest of all fish is prohibited in the Bonanza Creek
42 drainage. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted this
43 closure from State regulations at the beginning of the
44 Federal Program and it has not been reviewed or
45 modified since. Under Federal regulations Bonanza
46 Creek is closed to subsistence fishing but sportfishing
47 is allowed. The closure area, which is located in the
48 Western Interior region crosses the Dalton Highway and
49 is located on general domain land managed by the Bureau
50

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1 of Land Management. Information regarding salmon is
2 limited in Bonanza Creek but according to the
3 Anadromous Waters Catalog chum salmon may spawn in
4 Bonanza Creek and have been documented down river of
5 the Dalton Highway. Population near and above the
6 Dalton Highway for all salmon species is lacking in the
7 drainage.

8
9 The non-salmon fish community in
10 Bonanza Creek is comprised of Arctic grayling, burbot,
11 round whitefish, long-nose sucker and northern pike.
12 Information for these species is limited in the closure
13 area, however, Arctic grayling abundance was assessed
14 in Bonanza Creek in 1996 and the study was conducted in
15 a 3.3 mile section of Bonanza Creek that crosses the
16 highway. An estimated abundance of Arctic grayling
17 within the study area was approximately 1,200 fish.
18 Wiseman and Coldfoot are the communities most likely to
19 subsistence fish in the area if the closure is
20 rescinded due to their close proximity to the drainage.
21 And I described their subsistence use information for
22 the Jim River yesterday.

23
24 If the closure is rescinded, Federal
25 Subsistence Board regulations for the Yukon Northern
26 area would apply. Federal subsistence fishing
27 schedules, openings, closings and methods would be the
28 same as those issued by State emergency order unless
29 superseded by a Federal special action. Harvest of
30 non-salmon would be -- or excuse me -- harvest of
31 salmon would be allowed, non-salmon fish could be taken
32 with any gear type listed on Page 119 of your Council
33 book. Subsistence rod and reel harvest limits would
34 match State sportfish harvest limits and possession
35 limits. Harvest would be unrestricted for all other
36 gear types.

37
38 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
39 rescind the closure.

40
41 Currently Bonanza Creek, again, is
42 closed to the harvest of all fish by Federally-
43 qualified subsistence users but open to sportfishing
44 under State regulations. Rescinding the closure would
45 establish a Federal subsistence priority in the area.
46 However, unallowing unrestricted harvest for gear types
47 other than rod and reel in an easily accessible system
48 may lead to overharvest and local depletion of stocks.
49 While populations may be protected by limiting harvest
50

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1 to rod and reel only and/or modifying gear are -- or
2 modifying harvest limits, these modifications are not
3 possible through the closure review process and, again,
4 would require a fisheries proposal be submitted. Until
5 a proposal is submitted the in-season manager can use
6 their delegated authority to restrict gear types or
7 harvest limits for up to 60 days. Actions exceeding 60
8 days would require a temporary special action be
9 implemented by the Board.

10

11 and that concludes my presentation and
12 I'll standby for any questions you may have regarding
13 the analysis.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
16 questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
21 quick one. So this is just a product of all of these
22 areas that there isn't a season to make a season?

23

24 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you for the
25 question. Madame Chair. So it's just they've been
26 carry overs from the beginning of the Federal Program
27 where there has been no subsistence opportunity allowed
28 and the Board has directed us to review the closures
29 every two years.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
32 questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
37 you. I just looked at our agenda and thought, oh, man,
38 how are we going to get through this. I think you want
39 to go through all of this, you guys, another rescinding
40 -- okay -- getting wrapped around the axle -- yes, go
41 ahead.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: I don't think we'll get
44 wrapped around the axle but it was stated to us
45 yesterday by Staff that these are not super high
46 priority in their view. I mean these are things that
47 are going to be taking place over time and we could
48 certainly address them at other meetings as time
49 permits, given our current state with our agenda.

50

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1 Focus on the things that are a little bit more
2 meaningful and a little bit more pertinent to what
3 we're doing right now.

4
5 So if we need a motion to do that, to
6 just do that, but I would say it's up to the Chair to
7 make that determination on what you want to bring to
8 the table.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we can
11 defer to home region, which is the Western Interior.
12 Jack Reakoff is the Chair from Wiseman.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: I'm sure he'll speak
15 strongly.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Do you need a motion for
20 that?

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we?

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Take no action, yeah.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, take no
27 action is the motion.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
30 to make a motion we take no action on this proposal.

31
32 MS. POTTS-JOSEPH: Second.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
35 been moved and seconded.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion
38 I'll just reference previous comments.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And deferring
41 to the Western Interior, okay. Any other questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On this one
46 I'm going to ask for unanimous consent. Is there
47 anyone opposed to deferring the proposal -- I mean you
48 know what I mean.

49
50

0174

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 MS. WESSELS: You have to go through
4 all the steps even if you defer.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Say again?

7

8 MS. WESSELS: You have to go through
9 all of the procedure even if you defer.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I still
12 have to go through that whole procedure.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: That's what takes the
15 time.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
18 takes all the time, Katya, I mean I think as a Chair
19 I'm going to call that we don't have to do that and if
20 you guys want to fire me, do it, I'd be happy. I just
21 -- yeah -- and if there's any public that's out there
22 listening in on our -- that wants to say anything, I
23 think that if I went through this whole procedure you
24 need to say that you're bummed out with us and go
25 through it. As you guys all heard me say I'm the KISS,
26 keep it simple silly.

27

28 MR. LORD: Victor here if I can talk.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear a
31 voice and I can't understand you. Go ahead.

32

33 MR. LORD: This is Victor Lord here in
34 Nenana.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Victor.
37 So are you objecting that we go through the -- be done.

38

39 MR. LORD: Yeah, I don't know if I
40 heard right but I thought I heard where sportfishing
41 took precedence over subsistence fishing on Bonanza
42 Creek. Just that statement alone doesn't rest good
43 with me.

44

45 MR. LORD: For subsistence, yeah.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure
48 I understand what you're saying.

49

50

0175

1 MR. LORD: I thought I heard the man
2 before you say that sportfishing was allowed and
3 subsistence fishing was curtailed or shut off on
4 Bonanza Creek; did I hear right?

5
6 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. So do
9 you want us to go through this whole process then?

10
11 MR. LORD: No, no, I just wanted to
12 make that statement.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I
15 appreciate it. Thank you.

16
17 MR. LORD: Thank you, Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
20 Katya, what's up.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I'm sorry. After
23 you have the analysis presented for any of the proposal
24 closure reviews you have to go through the entire
25 process even if the Council, in general, wants to take
26 no action or defer. You have to call on all these
27 various entities.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So -- and as
30 a Chair, and as the Council agreeing that we -- we want
31 to move along in our meeting.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, but I think it
34 would be faster if you just called on.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
37 going fast then.

38
39 MS. WESSELS:these various
40 groups.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here we go.
43 Any tribal or ANCSA Corporations, consultation.

44
45 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
46 Orville Lind, Native Liaison. There were no comments
47 or questions on this proposal. Thank you, Madame
48 Chair.

49
50

0176

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2 Okay, I'm going to call on three agencies right now.
3 ADF&G any comments. Federal agencies, any comments.
4 Tribal entities. And any comments. And -- oh, my
5 brain went dead.

6
7 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, hello, Madame Chair,
8 this is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish
9 and Game.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
12 ahead.

13
14 MS. JALLEN: This is Deena Jallen, the
15 Yukon River Summer Season Manager. So, yeah, these
16 waters, Bonanza Creek, are waters that are closed to
17 subsistence fishing and I've been trying to dig through
18 some of our notices, regs to figure out when these
19 waters were closed and if there's been any proposals
20 since they were closed to reopen them, I'm not finding
21 much. So these waters have been closed for quite some
22 time, possibly prior to 2001. So these waters are
23 closed to subsistence and I think they were -- I
24 suspect they originally closed to subsistence was
25 because they're near the highway and so it'd be easy to
26 access these areas. And in terms of sportfishing, when
27 there's restrictions on subsistence fishing,
28 sportfishing in the Yukon area is also typically
29 closed, and so if Federal Subsistence Board is closed,
30 sport is also likely closed in those areas because
31 they're part of the Yukon River drainage.

32
33 So, yeah, just hopefully that helps add
34 a little bit more context to why these waters are -- I
35 suspect why they were closed originally is because
36 they're near the highway.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A quick
39 point, subsistence, as in State subsistence where
40 everybody qualifies, correct?

41
42 MS. JALLEN: Yes, that is correct.
43 Yeah. Yeah, except that these waters are closed to
44 subsistence fishing in regulation.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
47 you.

48
49 MS. JALLEN: In the State regs.
50

0177

1 MS. STUBY: Good morning. Lisa Stuby
2 also with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
3 Division of Sportfish. Very similar to the Kanuti
4 which is still not that far down the road from the
5 (indiscernible - distortion) if the recommendation is
6 -- if this is rescinded, the position is that should
7 maybe mirror the -- the regs of Sportfish Division just
8 because of sustainability and regulatory consistency.
9 Just want to restate similar to what I stated for the
10 Kanuti. Which means keep that five mile corridor
11 closed to salmon fishing and there's also restrictions
12 to lake trout, northern pike, and also keeping the
13 Arctic grayling to five per day, five in possession
14 just because it is close to the road system. So that's
15 just the recommendation that I'll also be sharing with
16 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting
17 which is coming up later this month.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
20 you. Any Federal agencies, comments on this proposal.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And tribal
25 entities, Native tribal village, other. And Victor you
26 are recognized for that.

27

28 MR. LORD: Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
31 Advisory groups, other Regional Councils, are there any
32 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Subsistence Resource
33 Commissions; any comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

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

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. Any
43 public testimony.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
48 have a motion on the floor?

49

50

0178

1 MR. BASSICH: No, I will make one right
2 now.

3
4 REPORTER: So you already have a motion
5 that you voted on on this proposal.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go for
8 it.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion
11 that the Eastern Interior RAC support rescinding the
12 closure to harvest of all non-salmon fish on Bonanza
13 Creek drainage by Federally-qualified subsistence users
14 as stated in FCR23-03.

15
16 Madame Chair.

17
18 MR. JAGOW: Second.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to this. This
21 is basically mirror to the Kanuti proposal that we made
22 the same motion on and that's about all I have to say
23 about that.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
26 have two motions, right?

27
28 REPORTER: Yes, you do.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The first
31 motion about tabling it -- yeah, taking no action, I'm
32 sorry, was still on the table so.....

33
34 MR. BASSICH: I'll withdraw my first
35 motion.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Concur, to
38 the second.

39
40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I seconded.

41
42 REPORTER: Okay, thanks.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: And then do I have to
45 restate that motion?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
48 so, no.

49
50

0179

1 REPORTER: No, I've got the motion.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Okay, let's move on.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
6 more discussion on this.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Again, I'm
11 going to call for unanimous consent. Anyone opposed --
12 I'm getting grumpy so I might be opposed but.....

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's only
19 that I don't see the speed like we talked about before.
20 I just want that on the record, this is -- I think that
21 OSM should learn that a lot of this stuff was just put
22 in and to have to have more work with the State.
23 Because that's where we're hearing from on these
24 things. So people need to be working together, even
25 the government. That's my opinion.

26

27 Okay, next 2022 Copper River Fisheries
28 Report. That's in your notebook of those who have
29 it.....

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Five.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Tab 5.
34 Hi, Dave, go ahead.

35

36 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning, Madame
37 Chair and Council members. I'm Dave Sarafin, the
38 Fisheries Management Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias
39 National Park and Preserve. And this is a Copper River
40 fisheries update primarily, it includes a few other
41 details of the fish report in Tab 5 but I'll
42 concentrate on Copper River as a prelude to the Copper
43 River that we're going to be switching to on the
44 issues.

45

46 So the key updates to the report.
47 Pretty excited that we got Tanada Creek weir in in
48 operation again this year at Batzulnetas. We've had
49 several years of challenges where -- 2018 was the last

50

0180

1 time, we had some Covid problems, we had lack of local
2 interest in the positions but we were able to find a
3 crew to run the weir this year and we ended up with a
4 count of 29,341, preliminary number until further data
5 review anyways. But that is well above the historical
6 total season count average of 17.5. It's also the
7 third highest count that we've documented to this
8 system, which is pretty much one of the furthest up
9 river systems in the Copper River.

10

11 We have two Copper River salmon
12 research projects that began this year that were
13 collaborative amongst different agencies. One looking
14 at genetics for potential use, genetic stock
15 identification for in-river management, another looking
16 at factors affecting migratory success of sockeye
17 salmon.

18

19 So for the 2022 salmon run, again, the
20 season started with weak run or delayed timing. It
21 appeared -- this has been a trend recently where the
22 early on in May where just the fish aren't quite there,
23 especially with last year. We had near record snowfall
24 in a bunch of the basin with a very late snow melt,
25 might have contributed from that factor as well. But
26 as the season started going it increased in strength,
27 harvest opportunities continued throughout the season
28 and it does appear likely the escapement goals will be
29 met.

30

31 Miles Lake sonar provides the, you
32 know, it provided a season total passage estimate of --
33 reported by Fish and Game 785,509 salmon, which is 27
34 percent above the management objective for that end of
35 season date when they pulled it. The run, you know, as
36 it did begin weak it actually got the strength built up
37 to where it met and passed the management objective
38 beginning at June 9th. So that's kind of the timing.
39 The early May was pretty late and then it started
40 catching up pretty quick. But overall it wasn't, you
41 know, that's managed with restrictive commercial
42 fishing opportunities by Fish and Game management
43 actions and so that -- you know, that's a vital
44 component of meeting these in-river goals that they
45 have in the management plans to assure harvest
46 opportunities in-river and sustainable goals are met,
47 escapement goals.

48

49 The upper Copper River Federal

50

0181

1 subsistence fishery permits, we issued -- and, again,
2 these are preliminary numbers as we're still getting
3 some harvest -- or permit issuance records from some
4 remote locations that we issue from. There were 178
5 Chitina Subdistrict permits, 297 Glennallen Subdistrict
6 permits and two Batzulnetas area permits.

7
8 Historical Federal harvest in the upper
9 Copper River through 2021 are provided in Tables 1 to 4
10 in your materials. Table 1 provides a key reference of
11 the upper Copper River district subsistence harvest for
12 the past 20 years, which is -- coincides with when we
13 actually had Federal permits begin to get issued so we
14 could track specifically Federal uses and harvest.

15
16 Also in Table 1, another interesting
17 part is looking at the percentage of harvest by gear
18 type. There does -- in the past, you know, few years,
19 it seems to be that a little bit more interest might be
20 -- might have shifted to use of dipnet, or at least the
21 harvest comparing fishwheel to dipnet, but both are
22 still big components of the harvest.

23
24 And also the new fishery that the
25 Federal Board created in the lower Copper River, that
26 was discussed a bit yesterday, that opened on June 1
27 and reports come from the Forest Service office down in
28 Cordova where they issued 69 permits and had a total
29 reported harvest for the season of 107 sockeye salmon
30 and three chinook salmon. They -- the reports I
31 received from Staff at the Ranger Office there was
32 that, you know, the last harvest, I believe, was
33 reported June 28th or so, and it appears there's a
34 popular spot at the end of the road, perhaps at a
35 bridge piling backwater where the bridge washed out and
36 it sounds like it got very non-productive once the
37 Copper River water level rose to a certain extent due
38 to the glacial melt and typically, you know, with the
39 glaciers and the Copper River level it tends to go up
40 at a certain point mid-season, so it sounded a little
41 bit more productive earlier on. And then perhaps lack
42 of interest, or definitely a lack of harvest was
43 occurring beyond that.

44
45 And that concludes my report and open
46 to any questions you may have.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

49
50

0182

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.

4 That area where they're fishing on an average year,
5 would it have occurred like it did this year, that
6 timeframe, on the average, would there have been more
7 opportunity?

8

9 MR. SARAFIN: Well, I can only -- you
10 know, I'm not directly connected to it other than just
11 a non-dir -- you know, some reports.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

14

15 MR. SARAFIN:or some reports I
16 receive, but I believe my -- I mean I believe that it's
17 likely that cor -- similar with a period of water
18 levels that that same thing may occur, but, you know,
19 also you're dealing with the -- it's a very braided
20 area, you know, several mile section with various
21 smaller bridges and the water levels, you know,
22 fluctuating through the season, that -- that one spot,
23 I would guess a similar thing would happen unless
24 there's a -- you know, a big channel shift where wasn't
25 going along there. So that was the first year and
26 that's where the users were able to find harvest with,
27 you know, reasonable effort they were putting in and it
28 seemed to be the most popular spot from what I've been
29 told.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks.
32 Any other questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Dave.
37 Okay, so these are crossover proposals, I will let the
38 Council know, I serve on the Subsistence Resource
39 Commission for the Park and we took up these proposals
40 and I am -- I would like us to take these up for our
41 region because there's people in Unit 12 that'll
42 qualify as -- for -- to get these permits. So taking
43 up No. 23-14; are we all okay taking up these two
44 proposals?

45

46 (Council nods affirmatively)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. If not
49 you need to tell me. 23-14.

50

0183

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair and members of the Council. We're shifting gears
3 now and we're getting away from the other stuff we're
4 working on and we're going to be looking at customary
5 and traditional use proposals. And these are two
6 different proposals but they do have some similarities
7 and they both revolve around the upper Copper River
8 district, and there are two sections of that district
9 that we're going to be looking at. And so if you start
10 -- I'm going to talk about the two proposals in general
11 just to get us oriented.

12

13 The first one is FP23-14, and if we
14 look at the map for this proposal on Page 151, I don't
15 know how familiar everybody is with all of the areas
16 but we're going to be looking at the Glennallen
17 Subdistrict and the Chitina Subdistrict. And both of
18 these proposals are groups of people who have customary
19 and traditional use for salmon in the Glennallen
20 Subdistrict but they want to have customary and
21 traditional use recognition for the Chitina
22 Subdistrict.

23

24 And so we are going to -- we look at
25 the eight factors when we make a C&T determination, or
26 a customary and traditional use determination, and we
27 don't use these factors as a checklist, where a
28 community has to have each exact qualification. They
29 are -- we're supposed to look at them holistically,
30 where people have a long-term pattern of use, there's
31 inter-generational transmission of knowledge, they use
32 a wide variety of subsistence resources, there's a
33 pattern of sharing that creates a community sharing
34 network. The other thing that's important about a C&T
35 is that we're just looking at a user group, we're not
36 looking at methods of harvest or means necessarily,
37 we're just looking at who should have access to these
38 resources. And when we do these, we also, sort of
39 similar to what we talked about before, we do have some
40 carryovers from when the Federal Program took over from
41 the State Program for fisheries in 1999. And when that
42 happened the Glennallen Subdistrict was considered
43 subsistence by the State and then the Chitina dipnet
44 was considered personal use, which is not subsistence.
45 And so what happened is the Glennallen Subdistrict, --
46 started out with a big pool of users and then both of
47 these subdistricts have gotten narrower and narrower
48 pool of users based on customary and traditional use
49 determinations. And for the Chitina Subdistrict a lot
50

0184

1 of these subsistence determin -- or customary and
2 traditional use determinations were based on patterns
3 of Ahtna, Tanacross and Upper Tanana Athabascans as
4 well as your American Homesteaders who came to the area
5 in the Gold Rush era and worked on transportation
6 projects in early Colonial Alaska.

7

8 So with that I just wanted to give us a
9 little background to orient us to how we're thinking
10 about this.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
13 you. You know this is an essence of time for us, the
14 Council.....

15

16 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry, I.....

17

18 MR. ERVIN: Excuse me, Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's
21 speaking.

22

23 MR. ERVIN: Hi, this is Bruce. It's
24 kind of hard to hear on the phone.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
27 think you're going to have to pull your mic.....

28

29 MR. ERVIN: Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and get
32 real close to it to speak. I think your mic is not
33 close enough to you. Okay, Council members, this --
34 there's two proposals here in that crossover Copper
35 River and in my area that the people have C&T there.
36 Just in essence of time, I would just as soon take up
37 15, 16 and not worry about 14 because I don't even know
38 that area enough to say anything about it. So if we
39 could just move to 15, 16. Staff, do we have to say
40 anymore? I don't want to -- taking no action on that
41 -- she didn't introduce it yet, she just gave me an
42 overview -- okay. All right, so we're just going to
43 take up 15 and 16; is that okay Council members.

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
48 thank you.

49

50

0185

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. So I'll switch
2 you to another map and I'm sorry for a long
3 introduction, I just wanted to set the scene so we
4 could be on the same page.
5

6 If you look at the map on Page 69 -- I
7 mean 169, pardon me, there are communities in the upper
8 Tanana area that have a customary and traditional use
9 determination for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of
10 the upper Copper River. And if you look at those
11 communities on the map, there's Northway, Tetlin, Tok,
12 Tanacross and Dot Lake, all of those communities have a
13 customary and traditional use determination. There are
14 households in between those communities along the
15 highway that don't. And the proponent is the Upper
16 Fortymile Tanana Regional -- I mean the Fish and Game
17 Advisory Committee and they just ask that they be
18 included in the C&T determination. There's one part of
19 this that people have asked me questions about, there
20 is the Port of Entry Border Station at the Border where
21 about 33 people live and work as Federal employees,
22 some in government housing, so basically what this is
23 is adding the people in between the house -- in between
24 the communities with C&T to the group of people who
25 have C&T.
26

27 Is that simple enough?
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's perfect.
30 Love it. Okay, so any questions Council members.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
35 the area where.....
36

37 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, this is Will.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
40 Will, you have a question?
41

42 MR. KOEHLER: I guess a question, I
43 think we talked about this a little bit before, and
44 maybe this isn't quite the right time to bring it up,
45 but along with including the people on the road system,
46 in between those communities, which makes perfect
47 sense, I think that that line should be extended from
48 Dot Lake -- it should be extended up the road to the
49 Johnson River, because there is a C&T determination for
50

0186

1 the community of Dry Creek, which is not shown on the
2 map here.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: I didn't get to the
7 written public comments yet and that is included. The
8 people of Dry Creek have a customary and traditional
9 use determination for salmon in the Glennallen
10 Subdistrict.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -

13 participants not muted)

14

15 MS. WILLIAMS:but not the upper
16 Copper River district -- I mean the Chitina
17 Subdistrict, and so they did send in a written public
18 comment and perhaps I should just, before you proceed,
19 I'll read the written public comments to you there were
20 three.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

23

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
27 out of sequence but it makes more sense to say it now.

28

29 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, there were
30 three, and two were in opposition. The two that are in
31 opposition are provided by Ahtna Incorporated Customary
32 and Traditional Committee and the Ahtna InterTribal
33 Resource Commission. They both noted that proponents
34 do not display an appropriate long-term pattern of use
35 of the Chitina Subdistrict fishery and they had not
36 provided proper written documentation to prove their
37 historical, cultural and economic ties to upper Copper
38 River fisheries. They noted concern about granting
39 customary and traditional determinations to other
40 communities while Ahtna communities on whom these
41 traditions are based are already facing increased
42 competition for decreasing populations of salmon.

43

44 And then a member of the Dry Creek
45 community requested their addition to this customary
46 and traditional use determination for the Chitina
47 Subdistrict of the upper Copper River district by
48 extending them to the Johnson River, as Will said. So
49 extending the new C&T boundary for people that live in
50

0187

1 Dry Creek basically.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh, to
4 make it more inclusive and Will, when we get to it you
5 can expound on it because Will grew up in Dry Creek so
6 he has some firsthand knowledge there.

7

8 Thanks Will.

9

10 Anyone else.

11

12 MR. KOEHLER: Yep, that sounds good.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
15 right, moving on. Are there any.....

16

17 (Cell phone ringing)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll tease
20 you, we used to charge 5 bucks for every phone call.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Give it to
25 the kids. All right, Board consultation with tribes
26 and ANCSA Corps.

27

28 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Orville Lind,
29 Native Liaison for OSM. There were no comments or
30 questions on these proposals. Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
33 Orville. Agency comments. Any from Fish and Game.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any from
38 Federal agencies.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any comments
43 from tribal entities, Native village or other.

44

45 MS. LINNELL: Yes, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
48 ahead, Karen.

49

50

0188

1 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. This is Karen
2 Linnell, Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. The
3 customary and traditional use of the Copper River
4 salmon by folks from Tetlin, Northway, Tanacross and
5 Dot Lake are tied to individuals who originated from
6 Copper River Basin. The Jeans. In Tetlin, are Buster
7 and Alice Jean's relatives. They came from Gakona and
8 that's why they have traditional use. In Northway you
9 had Dick Ewan who moved there from Gulkana. In
10 Tanacross there, Walter Sanford, who was born and
11 raised in Chistochina, moved to Tanacross. And then
12 Dot Lake you all know Katie John -- or not Katie John,
13 Doris Charles and Gene Henry who are also a party to
14 the Katie John case who were born at Batzulnetas.
15 That's why there's customary and traditional use there.
16 Dry Creek recently got approved for -- as a community
17 that I feel they -- that these communities didn't even
18 exist when the National Park was formed. That
19 borrowing somebody's fishwheel does not constitute
20 long-term and customary and traditional use.

21
22 There's a break in the process here
23 when we're talking generations. Not one generation,
24 but hundreds, you know, hundreds of years, you know, 10
25 generations of things being passed down. And so I
26 think that I don't feel that everybody from the Border
27 to Johnson River should be eligible for a fishery that
28 they never participated in. There used to be barter
29 and trade with Copper River people for those other
30 families but now as things happen and move on, we've
31 got, you know, folks -- things changing and requesting
32 eligibility. The Copper River cannot feed the entire
33 state. It cannot feed all these other communities, it
34 was never intended to. The trade that used to happen
35 is really slowing down and changing because folks are
36 coming on their own. They're, you know, getting fish
37 -- when people who live right in Copper River Basin are
38 not getting their needs met.

39
40 And so if you -- we had a graph that we
41 made that showed that the ANS for the upper Copper
42 River, north of the Gakona River, hadn't met -- hadn't
43 been met except for twice in 10 years and that's based
44 on the State's numbers.

45
46 So -- and we get told it's for lack of
47 effort, but when you're not seeing fish you don't keep
48 fishing and taking the little bit that's coming back,
49 you stop to let fish go by so that they can spawn and
50

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1 perpetuate and help to rebuild the stock. When you get
2 too many you have the same thing, you shut it down so
3 that they can go by because you need to make sure that
4 we have a healthy stock.

5

6 All of these things are a part of the
7 Ahtna people's tradition in protecting the salmon.
8 When we have folks who have no connection and no tie to
9 it asking for customary and traditional use of it, they
10 still can get a permit under the State system. Those
11 communities do not have a tie to this river, it's just
12 popular now. And food security is a huge issue. But,
13 again, the Copper River can't feed the entire state.

14

15 And so I ask you to use caution as you
16 do this. When Dry Creek was approved as a C&T for the
17 Copper River for an area that they never fished in,
18 they always went down towards Chitina and used Sapa's
19 wheel but they got customary and traditional use of
20 Slana, which to me is ridiculous, that's not where they
21 customarily and traditionally fished. So it's --
22 you're setting precedent in those kinds of things when
23 you do this. Now other communities are seeing it and
24 saying well I can get it too.

25

26 And so I'm just going to say that I
27 encourage you to vote this down. We're under stressed
28 times and we need to be cautious and protect the
29 system, the salmon stock.

30

31 So that's all I had to say. I just,
32 you know, we represent seven tribes that fish on this
33 river. We have an eight tribe membership but we
34 represent seven tribes that live on this river and
35 subsist off of this river and so -- and we have our
36 friends and neighbors. You know it's not just for the
37 Ahtna people but we need to ensure that we have healthy
38 salmon stocks and continuing to liberalize and allow
39 additional fishing like they did with the lower Copper
40 River on an already stressed system is a problem.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

45 Any questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any

50

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1 other tribal entities.

2

3 MR. LORD: This is Victor.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you wish
6 to speak?

7

8 MR. LORD: Yes, just a statement here.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. LORD: I just want to say on one of
13 our first years of subsistence closures.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you
16 identify yourself please.

17

18 MR. LORD:on -- Victor Lord,
19 Nenana.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay,
22 Victor, go ahead.

23

24 MR. LORD: Yeah, I just wanted to say
25 that our first years of subsistence closure up here on
26 the Yukon, on the river got some help from people down
27 there on the Copper River that sent some smoked fish,
28 not much, but anything fresh was really great and I
29 just wanted to mention that because she mentioned the
30 barter and trade. After that a hunter from down the
31 highway came up from like an area there and he set up
32 and go somewhere to go hunt and everything and I really
33 appreciated that. And the guy who gave the report
34 about the fisheries on the Copper River and keep up the
35 good work, fish is important all over the state.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
40 Any other tribal entities that would have any comments.

41

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Kathleen Demientieff.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
45 Kathleen.

46

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I was just thinking
48 when that woman was talking about the Copper River, you
49 know, tradition is very important in our families

50

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1 because our villages are -- so many villages in the
2 region here that they traveled. My grandma came from
3 Susitna, she fished on that river, so I feel like I'm
4 part of that. Now, my father fished on the Nenana
5 River, I'm part of that. And then I just believe that
6 traditionally when you're doing tags or anything, or
7 setting regulations, traditional, you have to look at
8 how many years they used these fish areas and you're
9 giving out all these -- taking fish on the river --
10 subsistence, there should be some kind of traditional
11 box there, you know, because we have a lot of people
12 moving into our towns from outside and trying to live
13 like us but they're not traditional. I just believe
14 that you guys should knock this proposal down.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
19 Was there another person that wanted to speak, tribal
20 entities.

21

22 OLIVIA: Yes, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
25 ahead.

26

27 OLIVIA: This is -- are tribal members
28 allowed to speak right now or is this just leaders and
29 entities?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
32 allowed to speak, go ahead.

33

34 OLIVIA: Okay, Baasee'. This is Olivia
35 (Indiscernible - cuts out). I'd like to say that I
36 disagree with this proposal on the basis of what Karen
37 Linnell and Victor Lord and Kathleen Demientieff have
38 mentioned. The harvest of our fish and salmon and our
39 wildlife is deeply integral to our customary and
40 traditional ways and as a tribal member I just wanted
41 to make my voice heard and be in agreeance with those
42 who have spoke before me.

43

44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
47 Any other tribal entities.

48

49 (No comments)

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, moving
2 on to the advisory groups. Other Regional Advisory
3 Councils.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game
8 Advisory Committees.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will have
13 to say regarding that, that this was put in by the
14 Upper Tanana Fortymile, which my husband is a member,
15 and this was really just a housekeeping, clean up,
16 because me, personally, our family, we live in between
17 communities, and not being included by -- because I'm
18 not in Tok, or not in Mentasta, it just seems like it's
19 a housekeeping to me. But that's why these guys from
20 Upper Tanana Fortymile Committee had put this in, it
21 was brought to their attention. So that's an update on
22 the advisory committee.

23
24 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair. For the
27 record my name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the
28 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
29 Park and Preserve. I'm going to be presenting to you
30 the comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
31 Resource Commission. So this is from the Commission.

32
33 And they met earlier this week on
34 October 3rd and 4th and took up this proposal. For
35 those who are not aware, the Commission is a Federal
36 Advisory Committee that represents subsistence users of
37 Federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
38 and Preserve. And so this is the comment on FP23-
39 15/16.

40
41 The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
42 Resource Commission unanimously supported FP23-15/16.
43 The people who live along the Alaska Highway between
44 Dot Lake and the Canadian Border outside of communities
45 are rural residents with a pattern of use similar to
46 that of adjacent communities and those adjacent
47 communities already have a customary and traditional
48 use for the fishery.

49
50

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1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
4 Barbara. We are now to the public comments. Is there
5 a summary of written. That pretty much.....

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. Liz
8 Williams read those previously. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
11 thank you. And then next is the public testimony. I
12 do have one blue card.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's some
18 pretty heavy breathing. Okay, Al, this is your moment
19 of shortness, uh.

20

21 MR. BARRETTE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
22 Chair. For the record my name is Al Barrette, I reside
23 in Fairbanks. I did make previous comments earlier
24 this morning. I was just making a note that the Board
25 of Fish last December in Cordova had passed not
26 allowing subsistence fishermen to use commercial
27 services above the bridge, so that'd be the upper
28 Glennallen Subdistrict and I would like to see it
29 river-wide so there's consistency and uniformity along
30 the river on what is the subsistence use. And it was
31 duly noted at that Board meeting, that, paying somebody
32 to drop you off or fish out of your boat was not a
33 subsistence use.

34

35 And I would just also note that in
36 determining the customary and traditional uses, it's
37 not based on a harvestable surplus of the resource,
38 it's based on individual -- communities or individuals
39 on how they use their -- and act in a subsistence
40 resource and traditional use.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, any
45 questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

50

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1 Al. That was very well done. Any other public
2 testimony online.

3

4 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

5

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

8

9 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell.

10 And I feel that there might be a conflict of interest
11 as your husband submitted it and then I know that
12 you're adopted into the John family and fish through
13 Batzulnetas from them, so it's -- it's a difference in
14 that as well. So what -- where you are, Tok is one
15 thing, but go from the Canadian Border all the way to
16 Johnson River is another thing. So I ask the
17 Council.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen.

20

21 MS. LINNELL:to consider that.
22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You are
25 breaking up, but I heard the conflict. Yeah, and my
26 Council members are saying to move on so we're moving
27 on. Any other public testimony.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I want to hear from Will.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
32 right. He's a member so he will speak.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: I want to have him speak
35 before we make a motion.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Will,
38 it's been requested from Andy for you to speak before
39 we have a motion and I hope that's okay, Staff.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're not
44 saying no. So, Will, we want to hear from you.

45

46 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. So I guess I would
47 say that that community has been using that resource
48 for quite some time. I don't think we're establishing
49 any new precedence here, and I hear some testimony

50

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1 that, you know, this is not just about protecting Ahtna
2 but it sounded a lot like just saving the resource for
3 Ahtna so I find it a little bit frustrating. This
4 community, the community of Dry Creek doesn't interact
5 with the people in Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, and Tetlin
6 and Northway, you know, they don't have a lot of
7 cultural connections but they do both use -- they use
8 the resource, and if we're going to let the people at
9 the Border station there at the Port of Entry at Alcan
10 have access to this then it makes absolutely no sense
11 to have the community of Dry Creek excluded.

12

13 It's a very small community. There's
14 -- I mean there's got to be less than 100 people there
15 right now and they do utilize that resource and they
16 utilize it in a respectful manner. So I'd like to say
17 a little bit more but I think I would probably be --
18 probably getting a little angry and saying things I
19 shouldn't so I'll just let it go at that.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Do you want a motion?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
26 to make a motion on Proposal FP23-15/16. And the
27 proposal is that the Eastern Interior RAC supports
28 Proposal FP23-15/16, which requests the Federal
29 Subsistence Board to recognize customary and
30 traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of
31 the upper Copper River district by permanent rural
32 residents who live between the named communities along
33 the Alaska Highway from the U.S./Canadian Border to Dry
34 Creek.

35

36 Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second. Is
39 there a second?

40

41 MR. JAGOW: Second.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: And speaking to the --
44 you had something to say -- speaking to the motion,
45 having listened to the different testimonies I would
46 like one more piece of information, if someone could
47 give me some information on the current State
48 regulations regarding use of that area as opposed to
49 what the current Federal regulations are. What I'm
50

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1 seeking is, is information for if these communities
2 were not given customary and traditional use, how would
3 that curtail their use of that resource?

4

5 MR. SARAFIN: This is Dave Sarafin of
6 Wrangell-St. Elias. So for the State -- for the
7 Chitina Subdistrict, it's open to all Alaska residents.
8 They consider it a personal use fishery. And there's,
9 I think, a fee, maybe \$15 for that. They are limited
10 to the use of dipnet and they also have a specific
11 schedule where they're only allowed to fish during the
12 open times for that personal use fishery. The State --
13 so these Federal users, you know, they could get a
14 State permit. They could also have their Glennallen
15 Subdistrict permit for up above the Chitina McCarthy
16 Bridge, is the dividing line between the subdistricts,
17 so if they wanted to fish just below the downstream
18 edge of that, if -- you know, presently if they are not
19 eligible for the Federal permit, they could get the
20 State permit for that.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: And followup question.
23 Is -- what I'm trying to determine here is if you are a
24 Federally-qualified and have customary trade, what
25 advantages would you have over the current State in
26 regards to harvest and -- harvest numbers and/or time?

27

28 MR. SARAFIN: Well, one of the biggest
29 advantages is not having to follow that set schedule
30 when the urban masses tend to be there too. So Federal
31 users could go in between those open periods to avoid
32 crowded conditions with that higher level of
33 competition is one of the big factors. Another factor
34 -- I mean a difference between if you -- for just a
35 State user, they have to choose between the Glennallen
36 or the Chitina Subdistricts and can only get one of
37 those permits for a State permit. And another key
38 factor is the harvest limits are also much higher for a
39 Federal user in the Chitina personal use fishery.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: One more question. If
42 there is a limited resource, in other words the runs
43 are weak and fisheries are closed, are there times when
44 the fishery might be opened up for Federally-qualified
45 only?

46

47 MR. SARAFIN: There is the potential --
48 if it got to that point, the Federal -- the Federal
49 harvest in the upper Copper River is only like about

50

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1 one percent of all the in-river harvest. So there are
2 several fisheries with lower priority for management
3 actions if needed. Personal use would be typically the
4 first one. The State actually manages that quite
5 intensively based on sonar salmon escapements, the
6 counts at the sonar and how that fits into their
7 management plan that allocates a certain range that
8 they're trying to achieve for that fishery throughout
9 the season. So they open and close and allow certain
10 fishing times, you know, designed to keep within that
11 range. If there was a drastic crash in the run, that's
12 the first fishery that even the State would be
13 affecting to reduce harvest. You know, then there's
14 also, from the Federal side of things got to a certain
15 point to where if it were -- something indicated where
16 State management was not effective there would be the
17 means of the in-season manager taking an action to
18 affect non-Federal fisheries.

19

20 But the way it's set up the Federal
21 fishing harvest opportunities is the highest priority
22 for management.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
25 other questions. Jody.

26

27 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you. So I
28 have a little -- I have a few questions about the
29 community of Dry Creek. I don't know who could answer
30 that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

33

34 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Will, okay. So Dry
35 -- I'm looking at the public comment from a Tom Geyer
36 and he's talking about Dry Creek being a village. I've
37 never heard of Dry Creek being a village. I don't
38 think it has that designation. I believe it's more of
39 a settlement, and I'm wondering when Dry Creek was
40 settled and if it was like a State land purchase, and
41 how long they've been a community, are they like an
42 organized community, do they have any kind of
43 governance? So those are a couple questions I have.

44

45 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I think that
46 community pretty much came together, Sue you might be
47 able to help me better with this, but I think it would
48 have been in 1978.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Like before
2 you were born.

3
4 MR. KOEHLER: Is that when that was
5 opened -- yes, yes, long before I was born.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

8
9 MR. KOEHLER: And the major part of the
10 community itself -- sorry, I'm echoing and talking over
11 myself here, but the major part of that community was
12 formed by a group of people that came up from the
13 States and wanted to kind of establish a rural
14 community. I guess it was established originally as a
15 religious community where they could just choose the
16 way they wanted to live and they wanted to live in a
17 traditional manner close to the land. And I guess the
18 long term -- to make a long story short, you know, it's
19 a very strong good community. I grew up close to it, I
20 didn't grow up within it but I grew up very close to it
21 and the young people that come out of that community
22 are really, really good model citizens. They have a
23 lot of respect for the land. It's a really strong good
24 community and I think it would be a mistake to exclude
25 them from the traditions they do carry out and they do
26 practice.

27
28 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you, Will. So
29 I guess this community was founded in '78 and, you
30 know, when I look at the definition of customary and
31 traditional use and I think about the communities that
32 have currently customary and traditional use, you know,
33 there is a longstanding history of the upper Tanana
34 villages from Northway to Dot Lake with the Ahtna
35 villages and the Copper River and the use of that
36 fishery that goes back hundreds of years and having
37 lived in the Copper River Basin for many years with the
38 Ahtna people, attending their ceremonies and
39 potlatches, fishing with them, also having a strong
40 connection with the upper Tanana villages, to me, the
41 customary and traditional use of said communities is
42 very strong and it meets all of those eight
43 requirements, easily. And, you know, I think even the
44 story and lore, I've heard so many stories of gathering
45 for people, would save their fish and mush for New
46 Years to an upper Tanana village to celebrate the
47 coming of the New Year and Winter Solstice and bring
48 fish for trade by dog team, that goes back hundreds of
49 years and that practice is still in use, maybe not by
50

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1 dog team but attending each others potlatches, having
2 close kin relationship. And I just don't see that with
3 Dry Creek being a community since 1978 and, you know, I
4 think it's a stretch that this individual is calling it
5 a village when it's really more of a religious commune.
6 And, you know, I appreciate people that come into the
7 state and create their own communes or communities and
8 want to live off the land but it's not meeting that
9 customary and traditional use that Native villages have
10 fought hard to protect and preserve. And I think it's
11 also in the best interest to really consider our
12 resource and the target and, you know, if this
13 community already has the designation in the Glennallen
14 Subdistrict I don't think it needs to be expanded. I
15 think it'll only add pressure to this precious and
16 declining resource.

17
18 Maasi'Choo.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I have a question
23 for OSM anthropologist. And that is, when determining
24 customary and traditional use, is there a timeline in
25 which someone has to have been able to demonstrate
26 that, in years or decades, or whatever, what is the
27 criteria for the definition of longstanding pattern of
28 use?

29
30 MS. WILLIAMS: It's not defined, as far
31 as my knowledge, as a number of years, it's a pattern
32 of inter-generational use over time.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So I appreciate
35 what you're saying Jody. I think in my mind, I'm kind
36 of struggling with this proposal both ways because I
37 think in the future we're going to be dealing with a
38 lot of issues like this because of increased population
39 into the state, increased pressure on our resources and
40 that's why I was asking the questions about what
41 happens when a resource is limited. And so this, in a
42 way, does kind of set a precedence because right now
43 all of these communities have the ability to fish under
44 State regulations and the only time that's going to be
45 curtailed is if the resource starts to decline and
46 maybe the Federal people will be given a priority for
47 the resource. So -- and that's a good thing. That's
48 what this Program is set up for, it's set up to protect
49 rural users.
50

0200

1 I think some of the comments made about
2 well this is kind of housekeeping and we're trying to
3 just kind of make it to where it's just this block of
4 people who live in this general region have traditional
5 use of it, I think that's a valid argument. But at the
6 same time, what's going to happen in the future, you
7 know, when you start bringing in say the community of
8 Northway or the boundary where there isn't maybe a
9 longstanding use of it and you bring in Dry Creek that
10 maybe shows it. I guess what I'm struggling with is
11 setting that precedence that then when the resource is
12 limited there is an additional pressure on that
13 resource. And my feeling is the Program really needs
14 to start taking care of people close to their homes,
15 the resources -- most subsistence activities take place
16 within 20 to 25 miles of your home, that's well
17 documented. So when people are traveling hundreds of
18 miles to do subsistence activities, I'm not saying that
19 it's not still a subsistence activity but true
20 subsistence activity, for the most part, takes place
21 fairly close to home and that's where I'm struggling
22 with this. Because I can see what Ahtna's position is
23 on this and there is increasing pressure on this
24 resource by all State users, whether you're Federally-
25 qualified or not.

26
27 So that's kind of what I'm struggling
28 with right now. And my gut feeling is for the future
29 of people living in communities that are close to a
30 resource that are just being hammered by other people,
31 I feel like there needs to be afforded some kind of
32 protection so that that resource stays available to
33 them close to home.

34
35 So that's what I'm feeling, thinking
36 about it, so I think at this point in time I'm probably
37 going to vote in opposition to this.

38
39 Madame Chair, thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may
42 address your comment. We've made a whole bunch of,
43 very similar, in some respect and, yeah, a lot of this
44 stuff does set precedent, but I believe the precedent
45 has already been set about a lot of this stuff that
46 we're voting on. Maybe we should have been more tuned
47 in in the past but the precedent's already set.

48
49 And for -- I feel like right now I need
50

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1 to address the challenge that I have a conflict of
2 interest because my husband's on an AC that made this
3 proposal. Frank is just a member of the AC. I believe
4 some fisheries people came and brought this up to the
5 AC. And it really, to me, I don't have a conflict, we
6 all have a conflict when we start looking at what's
7 going on here because we're all concerned about
8 different things. And I was in the area -- I mean the
9 Federal Program, if you read ANILCA, it says both non-
10 Native and Native right in the very first paragraphs of
11 ANILCA and the difference between non-Native and Native
12 is cultural. That's added. And they still -- it's not
13 in front of me, I can't read it to you right now, but I
14 remember this over and over and over and over again,
15 the last thing I want to see is us pulling apart and
16 not working together.

17
18 And when that Park first came it took
19 about 10 years and then some Park person came to the
20 Subsistence Resource Commission and said we're going to
21 draw lines around communities and only the people in
22 that line will qualify, everybody else has to get a
23 1344 permit. And that happened over at Denali.
24 Cantwell is just a little line around the post office
25 and everybody else has to get a 1344 permit. The
26 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
27 fought vehemently against this line building around a
28 community that would exclude everybody between the
29 communities and they kind of like looked at the gray
30 area, the people in between the communities really
31 qualified, but they made Frank and I get a 1344 permit
32 because for a couple species and we ended up getting it
33 because we had to or we couldn't go.

34
35 So, you know, the whole thing about
36 Alaska is it will grow, we know it will grow, there
37 will be more people here. And we will end up having to
38 deal with stuff like this. And, yes, I think the
39 precedent, Andy, it's already been set, it was set
40 years ago.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that precedence
43 isn't going to change.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
46 what happened at the SRC is we had three Native people
47 and especially Gloria, she went through why we need to
48 vote for this, she explained it, it's part of the
49 system and it meets all this criteria and she probably
50

0202

1 sees more conflict than we do because Southcentral's
2 got the Kenai River and she voted for it. I'm only
3 reported what happened, and I'm only trying to give us
4 things -- this is hard.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I
9 disagree with Karen, I don't think I have a conflict of
10 interest, it was the AC and the other members that
11 brought that forward, I just reported and then let you
12 know that he was on the committee. So I just want it
13 on the record, I don't see that as a conflict.

14

15 Any other -- go ahead, Charlie.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: I grew up on the Yukon and
18 due to a bunch of different reasons I can't eat salmon
19 right now so every time I advocate and work hard for
20 our resources I think about future generations. And
21 this resource down there is getting hammered in every
22 way so I go along with what Jody and Andrew said, I
23 can't support it because of the pressure and the lack
24 of the resource right now and more people coming and if
25 we start doing this then we're going to have to do it
26 for more and that's going to be really hard like you
27 said and I agree and I think we'll deal with that as it
28 comes.

29

30 But due to the hammering of that
31 resource and Karen Linnell's comment to where the one
32 river can't feed the whole state and they have
33 opportunity to get to the resource, makes me not want
34 to support.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Call question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
41 Jagow.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Sorry, go ahead.

44

45 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I guess one
46 clarification, this does include the Border, correct,
47 the community right at the Border?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not the

50

0203

1 one that can answer that totally. Liz, go ahead.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: It's all these.....

4

5 MS. WILLIAMS: As it's written right
6 now, it does.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: It's all these
9 communities.

10

11 MR. JAGOW: Okay.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: And then I added Dry
14 Creek.

15

16 MR. JAGOW: So I might be mistaken but
17 isn't quite a bit of that community, or Border
18 Protection, whatever it is, aren't a lot of those folks
19 non-residents?

20

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. Council.
22 Sorry, I haven't been identifying myself, Tina, this is
23 Liz Williams, Cultural Anthropologist, OSM.

24

25 REPORTER: Thanks, Liz. For the people
26 on the phone, I think I know who you are.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MS. WILLIAMS: It's hard to know if
31 they're residents. I think it's a variety. Some
32 probably are, maybe some aren't, I don't know what
33 their employment requirement is. What I did do, is I
34 called the Port and find out where their mailing
35 address was because when we look at State and Federal
36 permit data sometimes we can tell by people's mailing
37 address and there used to be a PO Box just for them and
38 I'll ask Barbara and Dave to correct me if I'm wrong,
39 but the person I spoke to at the Border said that
40 everybody has a Tote PO Box so they can get their mail
41 locally. But I don't know about their resident status.
42 Also, just anecdotally, what people I called around
43 that area told me, is that there is Federal housing for
44 those employees but there may be a few people who live
45 in the other communities that commute there but that's,
46 again, anecdotal.

47

48 Thanks.

49

50

0204

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
2 members. Any more questions or discussion. Will, did
3 you have anything else.
4

5 MR. KOEHLER: No, I think I've pretty
6 much said all I probably should. It's sad to see these
7 communities driving wedges, I think in this case, very
8 unnecessarily for a very small group of people. Like
9 if we're including the people on the -- if there's a
10 resource risk we cannot provide fish for the people at
11 Border City then we probably shouldn't be providing
12 them for other communities -- like if we're going to
13 include Border City and the part of Alcan, it doesn't
14 make any sense not to include it all the way up to the
15 Johnson River. This is a small amount of people who do
16 use the resource, and they do use it in a respectful
17 manner.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you
20 know how proposals are, you get them written and then
21 you see all these problems and you bring out a good
22 point that I imagine some of those people at the
23 Border, they are residents because they live there over
24 a year, or worked there over a year, but probably that
25 community shouldn't have been included in that
26 proposal.
27

28 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to call question
29 with a roll call vote, Madame Chair.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
32

33 MR. BASSICH: And before we do that I'd
34 like to just make one quick comment. In the
35 justifications under the last bullet it says, will this
36 recommendation unnecessarily restrict other users and I
37 want to say from my perspective, no, it won't because
38 there is a State fisheries in which all of these people
39 can engage in unless there are times of super low
40 abundance. So that's kind of why I'm premising my vote
41 the way it is.
42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.
44

45 (Pause)
46

47 MS. EVANS: Madame Chair.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
50

0205

1 Linda.

2

3 MS. EVANS: Could you restate the
4 motion, please.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could do
7 that.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: I will try and do that
10 for you. It is the Eastern RAC requests that the
11 Federal Subsistence Board recognize customary and
12 traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of
13 the Copper River district by permanent rural residents
14 who live between the named communities, that's in the
15 list, along the Alaska Highway from the U.S./Canadian
16 Border to, and I added in Dry Creek. So it's all of
17 those communities on Page 165 under the executive
18 summary and added Dry Creek to it.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, we're ready for the
23 roll call vote.

24

25 Charlie Wright.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Brooke, just a minute, is
28 there a modification to their.....

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Yes -- no. They had a
31 modification to add Dry Creek.

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
36 was to Dry Creek.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Including Dry Creek.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Because the original
41 motion.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're just
44 clarifying the motion. Does everyone understand the
45 motion?

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: The motion on the table
48 includes the communities listed in the analysis plus
49 Dry Creek. Okay, moving ahead with the vote, Charlie

50

0206

1 Wright.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: So I got questions now.

4 So if I oppose, then Dry Creek is not added?

5

6 MR. BASSICH: No.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's the

9 whole.....

10

11 MR. BASSICH: The whole thing,

12 nobody.....

13

14 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Everything, the

15 Border to Dot Lake to Dry Creek.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: I'm confused, I'm sorry.

18

19 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: The motion was just

20 from the Border to Dot Lake and those communities --

21 people that live in between the designated villages.

22 All that changed was to include Dry Creek.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You probably

25 should have your mic on Jody.

26

27 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So now it's just

28 adding from the Border to Dry Creek for people who live

29 outside of the designated Federal Subsistence Board use

30 villages.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let me

33 help.....

34

35 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So people that live

36 in between Northway and Tetlin off the highway,

37 homesteaders, homesteaders that live other side of Dot

38 Lake, so that's what.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any.....

41

42 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: The only thing that

43 changed was just adding Dry Creek instead of stopping

44 at Dot Lake.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the

47 people in between would be excluded, including Dry

48 Creek, because we added them in the motion. So a vote

49 against it votes against all of the people in between

50

0207

1 and I'm an example of somebody that lives in between
2 communities. So it's -- I have a C&T for where I am
3 but the people up.....

4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:all of
8 the comm -- the upper Tanana communities, including Tok
9 all have C&T but the people in between don't.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: I oppose. Thank you.

12
13 MS. MCDAVID: Jody Potts Joseph.

14
15 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I oppose. No.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Andy Bassich.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Oppose.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Linda Evans.

22
23 MS. EVANS: Oppose.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie Jagow.

26
27 MR. JAGOW: Oppose.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Will Koehler.

30
31 MR. KOEHLER: Support.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Sue Entsminger.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Support.

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Motion fails 2 to 5.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've been
40 requested to take a break so 10 minutes.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are having
47 some background noise coming through, please, please,
48 please mute your phone. Look at it, see if it's muted,
49 or push star six. Thank you.
50

0208

1 REPORTER: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a lot
4 on our agenda here, a lot today. So Brooke's going to
5 give you a suggestion that the three of us talked about
6 here.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator. We were just
10 looking ahead on the agenda and due to the number of
11 items still remaining the Chair and Vice Chair would
12 like to ask if there are any agency reports, especially
13 from folks that maybe did not travel to be here, that
14 would be willing to move their updates to the winter
15 meeting. If you could just maybe talk to me at the
16 lunch break, if you'd be willing to do that just so we
17 can try to finish on time today, we'd appreciate it.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Brooke. Okay, the next thing on the agenda is other
23 fisheries proposals. And this one was to rescind that
24 lower Copper River area fishery.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Here we go again.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, here we
29 go again. And I'm going to ask the Council, that
30 fishery, do you want to take it up, I'm okay allowing
31 Southcentral to -- defer to Southcentral. What's your
32 feelings on that, because this is our area, the people
33 in Unit 12, and this is that fishery that's occurring
34 down in the -- on the lower Copper River.

35

36 Hang on a sec.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I'm
41 asking is do you want to take up rescinding that lower
42 Copper River dipnet fishery that we spent a joint
43 meeting on and all that stuff?

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Is it open now?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was open,
48 that's right, understand the parameters they put us
49 through, if he introduces it then we got to go through

50

0209

1 the whole process.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Don.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: I read through this
12 proposal and I read some of the comments and I have to
13 agree with the Eek Village, that it's too early to
14 evaluate how the fishery is doing since it only ran for
15 one season. That's where I kind of agree with.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
20 want to take it up or not?

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Not really.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay,
25 I'm being reminded that Don has joined us here and we
26 probably have, let's see, one, two, three, eight of us
27 on board, yah, and we want to actually recognize you,
28 Don. We really appreciate you, all the years you've
29 given us and we pray for your health.

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That you get
34 well.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: I appreciate it.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

39 Okay, anybody else have anything to say.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to say
42 something. Don's been on the AC with me for, well,
43 ever since we've both been in Eagle, which has been a
44 long time, and also serving on the RAC and one of the
45 things that I just wanted to let people know is that
46 Don is pretty heavily involved in serving his community
47 and always has been and I really value that and have a
48 lot of respect for people that give back to the
49 communities, both at this level, Fish and Game, but
50

0210

1 also on the community level. He worked as Mayor for
2 awhile in Eagle as well. So I just wanted to let
3 people know that, you know, small communities are
4 usually based on a few strong leaders and a few people
5 usually end up doing an awful lot in small communities
6 and that often times goes unnoticed. So I just wanted
7 to let people know that.

8
9 Appreciate the service, Don.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Andy.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

14
15 MR. WRIGHT: I, too, wanted to tell you
16 thank you for your service to the people and pray for
17 your health. Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: God Bless
20 you, Don.

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
25 Anyone else.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
30 on the agenda, the 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
31 Program update. I want the record to reflect that we
32 decided to not take up the 23-19 and give it to the
33 home region, and also Don's comment.

34
35 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Madame
36 Chair and members of the Council. This is Liz
37 Williams, Cultural Anthropologist at OSM. The
38 information about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
39 Program is on Page 250 of your Council book and this is
40 an action item.

41
42 The Office of Subsistence Management
43 administers the Monitoring Program to fund research and
44 monitoring projects that inform management of
45 subsistence fisheries in the Federal public waters of
46 Alaska. It's directed at supporting meaningful
47 involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native
48 and rural organizations and promoting collaboration
49 between tribal, State, Federal and Alaska Native and
50

0211

1 other local organizations. The Office of Subsistence
2 Management will announce the 2024 notice of funding
3 opportunity this winter. The first step in that,
4 before we do that, is for the Regional Advisory
5 Councils to identify priority information needs for
6 each region. And we had volunteers from the Council to
7 help narrow down the priority information needs and
8 those people from the Council are Linda Evans, Don
9 Woodruff, and Andy Bassich. And I don't know if you
10 have seen the list of priority information needs.

11

12 (Council nods affirmatively)

13

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, great. So we'd
15 like for you to look at those, consider those and
16 approve a final list while we're at this meeting.
17 Would you like for me to read those out or would you
18 like to read them to yourselves.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
21 members.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Please read them.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Have her read
26 it. Okay, go ahead.

27

28 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. So these are not
29 in any sort of special order. They are just things
30 that we have heard from the communities.

31

32 So A, is impacts of climate change in
33 continued harvest and use of fish and impacts of
34 climate change on fish. For example, impacts to fish
35 migration, spawning and life cycle.

36

37 B. Knowledge of population
38 reproduction and health of spawning habitat for bearing
39 cisco and humpback whitefish.

40

41 C. Reliable estimates of chinook,
42 summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon escapements and
43 harvests, particularly substocks in District 5 that are
44 large contributors to the total run, for example in the
45 Chandalar, Sheenjek and Porcupine Rivers.

46

47 D. Distribution, abundance, condition
48 and survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon in
49 the Yukon River drainage.

50

0212

1 E. Estimates of quality escapement
2 measures for chinook salmon. For example, potential
3 egg deposition, age, sex and size composition of
4 spawners, percentage of females, jacks and spawning
5 habitat utilization with an emphasis on Canadian origin
6 stocks.

7
8 F. Reliable in-season estimates of
9 salmon harvest in lower, middle and upper Yukon River
10 subsistence fisheries.

11
12 G. Reliable estimates of age, sex,
13 length and genetic composition of salmon harvested in
14 the subsistence fishery with the emphasis on chinook,
15 and fall chum salmon.

16
17 H. In-season estimates of genetic
18 stock composition of chinook, summer chum and fall chum
19 salmon runs and harvests.

20
21 I. Reliable methods of forecasting
22 chinook, summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon run
23 abundance.

24
25 J. Assessment of incidental mortality
26 with gillnets, dipnets, seines with particular
27 consideration for delayed mortality from entanglement
28 from drop-outs and live release of chinook sampled.
29 For example, loss from six inch nets during chum salmon
30 fisheries and the live release of chinook salmon from
31 dipnets and seines.

32
33 K. Traditional knowledge of fish.

34
35 L. Advanced genetic baselines for
36 chinook, summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon by
37 screening additional populations and novel genetic
38 markers to improve accuracy, precision and scale of
39 stock composition estimates to inform stock assessment
40 for Yukon River fisheries.

41
42 M. Studies that will increase our
43 understanding of life history patterns of resident
44 species such as sheefish, northern pike and Arctic
45 grayling in relation to geographic distribution and
46 seasonal migration.

47
48 N. Funding to facilitate inter-agency
49 and stakeholder forums for gathering and sharing input
50

0213

1 on fishery management issues.

2

3 O. Community based monitoring of fish
4 presence and environmental variables in tributaries to
5 better understand fish distribution.

6

7 P. Inter-disciplinary studies
8 combining traditional, ecological knowledge, indigenous
9 knowledge and biological surveys to document seasonal
10 salmon life stage usage of tidal tributaries draining
11 in the Yukon coastal district in order to update the
12 anadromous waters catalog and improve managements
13 understanding of salmon in these streams.

14

15 Q. Meta analysis of existing
16 information and research examining the relative
17 importance of fresh water such as predation, stranding,
18 heat stress and marine environmental conditions
19 including bycatch and competition all factors causing
20 declines of Yukon River chinook and chum salmon to
21 present at Regional Advisory Council meetings.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that. I
26 have a couple of questions and a couple of comments.
27 On the Item No. D, Distribution, abundance, condition
28 and survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon. The
29 Yukon River Panel has funded projects in the past to
30 look at that so I would recommend that whoever you have
31 as a proponent to facilitate that -- dig up those and
32 read those and build off of those. There was quite a
33 bit of work done by Randy Brown on out-migrating
34 chinook salmon in Alaska streams, Alaska waters and
35 there's also been another individual who did it around
36 the Tanana region. So please look those up and build
37 upon those instead of doing the same thing over again.

38

39 The other thing that I would add to
40 that is I think that as a component, all communities
41 along the Yukon should start sampling stomachs of
42 predatory non-salmon fish to see what they're eating.
43 Because I have very strong -- I looked into this myself
44 a long time ago and I found that sheefish, burbot and
45 pike were heavy predators on salmon fry in the out-
46 migration and we no longer have dog teams along the
47 river so people no longer fish those fish very heavily
48 like they used to and it may be having an impact on the
49 out-migration survival of juvenile chinook and fall

50

0214

1 chum from the upper Yukon regions. So this was
2 something that would be maybe right up the alley of
3 YRDFA and a few other organizations to start setting up
4 sampling protocols and working with community members
5 to build stakeholders.

6
7 So that's what I have, comments, on
8 that one, to make it efficient and really give us the
9 information we need.

10

11 The next one E. Estimate the quality
12 escapement measures for chinook salmon. That can only
13 happen in Canada for Canadian stocks so, you know, be
14 aware that's something we're probably not going to be
15 able to do but that's something that could be brought
16 to the Yukon River Panel for funding proposals.
17 However, I do believe it's very important that that
18 work be done on the Chena and Salcha River because that
19 is basically contributing 25 percent of the chinook
20 production on the Yukon River.

21

22 And then the only other comment I have
23 is on J. Assessing the incidental mortality of
24 gillnets and dipnets and seines with particular
25 consideration for delayed mortality from entanglement
26 from drop-outs. All of that can only be studied if we
27 have fisheries, active fisheries happening, which we're
28 not. And we may end up having a situation in the next
29 year or two where there may be some chum openings, if
30 the chums start coming back, I'm not sure how
31 management is going to handle that given the chinook
32 situation, will probably be pretty bleak, to protect
33 chinook, and that's always a problem in the lower river
34 dipnet fisheries because of the mixed stock being
35 caught there. So I would question how affective that
36 would be and I would definitely recommend not to
37 develop studies on that and kill salmon just for the
38 sake of trying to study that.

39

40 Those are my only comments, thank you,
41 Madame Chair. But I'm in favor of all of these, I just
42 wanted to state that. And this is an action item?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
49 members, anything else.

50

0215

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's an

4 action item.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: You want a motion?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion

11 that the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

12 support the projects outlined in the Resource

13 Monitoring Plan as presented to us.

14

15 Madame Chair.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second that.

18

19 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Second.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's

22 been moved and seconded. More discussion, Council

23 members.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: I'll just reference my

26 earlier comments, thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

29 Jody.

30

31 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I appreciate the K,

32 traditional ecological knowledge of fish but I just

33 want to make sure that any of the traditional,

34 ecological knowledge is actually applied to -- I mean

35 you could gather it, but it needs to be included as

36 science. So that's my only comment.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have

39 something.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: I just wanted to say that

42 I support it. All these things here.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And call for

45 the question, uh.

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we good

50

0216

1 on unanimous support.

2

3

(Council nods affirmatively)

4

5

6

7

8

9

(No opposing votes)

10

11

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes
unanimously.

MS. WILLIAMS: Pardon me, Madame Chair,
I have a part 2. Sorry.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

MS. WILLIAMS: This is Liz Williams
again, Office of Subsistence Management. There's a
subset to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
it's the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.
And later today we will hear from Nicole Farnham who
works for Tanana Chiefs Conference and she is one of
our partners funded through the Partners Program and
she will give you an update in a little while.

And also in October, we're going to
post a notice of funding opportunity for the Partners
Program, so, again, that's an opportunity -- a
competitive grant opportunity for Alaska Native and
rural non-profit organizations to apply to have a
partner and they can be involved in subsistence
management and the salary is provided for them to work.
It also provides funds for science and culture camps
and paid student internships. And more information on
this funding opportunity will be posted to our website
but even easier, it's Page 255, has Karen Hyer's phone
number and email address and she can talk with you
directly about the details of applying for this type of
funding.

Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Liz, this is Brooke
McDavid, Council Coordinator. I just wanted to confirm
whether TCC was planning to present now or if they want
to go later?

0217

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Later.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
6 you. So that took care of Partners Fisheries
7 Monitoring Program update -- yeah, okay, thank you.
8 Next is harvest of wildlife for sport purposes in
9 National Preserves.

10

11 MS. LUKIN: (In Inupiat) My name is
12 Maija Katak Lukin and I thank you for your time to
13 present kind of an update on the 2022, now, I guess
14 wildlife rule from the National Park Service. I am the
15 Alaska Native and Tribal Affairs Program Manager for
16 the National Park Service, Alaska Region.

17

18 MS. SEARS: Good morning. My name is
19 Andee Sears. I'm the Regional Chief Ranger for the
20 Alaska Region, National Park Service.

21

22 MS. LUKIN: I am originally from
23 Sisolik in Kotzebue, Alaska. My grandparents were Doc
24 and Kata (ph) Harris. Doc Harris is a well known
25 sprint dog teamer who came up here continually and his
26 claim to fame was that he won the North American
27 multiple times and then came back with a trophy and
28 then my other grandparents are Floyd and Hazel Johnson
29 from right outside of Chickaloon, north of Chickaloon.

30

31 So I'm going to actually read some
32 talking points just because the wildlife rule has not
33 quite been published yet and so I'm going to try and
34 stick with what I'm supposed to say.

35

36 So there's a little bit of background.
37 I wanted to make sure that we gave just a little bit of
38 background from the 2015, 2020 and then now the current
39 rule. Last winter the Park Service was directed by the
40 Department of the Interior to initiate.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted)

44

45 REPORTER: Go ahead, Maija.

46

47 MS. LUKIN:a new -- we were
48 directed by the Department of the Interior to initiate
49 a new rulemaking considering the factual, legal and

50

0218

1 policy conclusion that underlyed the 2020 hunting rule
2 and then that was in response to legal, policy and
3 safety concerns of the 2015 rule.

4

5 So in 2015 rule the Park Service
6 prohibited the following sporthunting practices on
7 National Preserves in Alaska. Sporthunting. I wanted
8 to make sure that people understand what we're talking
9 about, sporthunting, we're talking about non-Federally-
10 qualified subsistence users, however, they are Alaska
11 residents. And what the 2015 rule prohibited was
12 hunting black bears with artificial light, and at den
13 sites, hunting black and brown bear over bait, hunting
14 and trapping wolves and coyotes, including pups during
15 the denning season and shooting caribou while swimming.
16 In that rule there was significant public opinion on
17 the topic with 70,000 pieces of correspondence on the
18 2015 rule and then over 200,000 comments on the 2020
19 rule. And most of the commenters strongly objected to
20 allowing those practices for sporthunting on National
21 Park Service, National Preserves, and, again,
22 sporthunting is non-Federally-qualified subsistence
23 users.

24

25 In July 2020 at the direction of the
26 Department of the Interior, the Park Service rescinded
27 that 2015 rule and then that banned all those
28 activities for sporthunting, non-Federally-qualified
29 subsistence user hunting.

30

31 And then, let's see, moving on to my
32 other page, the 2020 rule allows for the baiting of
33 bears by sporthunters in National Preserves as well as
34 other previously banned activities such as the harvest
35 of wolves and coyotes, during the denning season taking
36 black bear cubs and sows at den sites and then harvest
37 of swimming caribou among other practices.

38

39 Something that we continually want to
40 reiterate is that none of what we're talking about will
41 restrict Federal subsistence. And the two points the
42 Park Service is specifically looking at in this new
43 process is that we're reexamining the risk associated
44 with bear baiting on Preserve lands where we've invited
45 the public to come and enjoy that land and several
46 practices authorized in the 2020 rule may be
47 appropriate for Federal subsistence users, so
48 Federally-qualified subsistence users but the Park
49 Service is reconsidering whether those opportunities

50

0219

1 should be authorized for sporthunters, so non-
2 Federally-qualified users. Earlier I said I was from
3 -- originally from Kotzebue and I am considered a
4 sporthunter in Kotzebue on my ancestral land because we
5 now reside in Wasilla so I would be considered a
6 sporthunter up there on the National Preserve, Noatak
7 National Preserve. So what we're talking about is not
8 restricting Federal subsistence users, those who have
9 customary and traditional use in those communities,
10 just sporthunting.

11
12 So we did go through a process in March
13 and April of this year where it's important to the
14 National Park Service to solicit input from indigenous
15 subsistence users, from tribes, from regional
16 corporations, ANCSA corporations, et cetera, and so we
17 did not have enough time to do official government to
18 government consultation, however, we did contact all of
19 the tribes and tribal entities that have, in the area
20 that we're talking about for this new proposed rule,
21 and we do have documentation of the contact that we did
22 make and, again, in the tribal comments we did hear
23 that, you know, they were in the -- the same thing that
24 we heard from the 2020 rule.

25
26 I'm confusing myself with 2015 and
27 2020, if you want to update real quick.

28
29 MS. SEARS: In general what we heard
30 during our informal communication consultation with
31 tribal entities and Alaska Native Corporations, there's
32 not a unanimous voice across the table. The themes
33 that we generally heard is concern about individuals
34 who are not local to the area coming in and then having
35 that increased competition for the resources. Again,
36 it's not a unanimous view. You know, we also heard
37 pretty strongly from entities in the eastern part of
38 the state, strong support for the 2020 rule which,
39 again, allowed the practices that had been prohibited
40 in 2015.

41
42 MS. LUKIN: So what we're here to ask
43 you about is how you feel about that, I guess, about
44 the 2020 rule. So this current rule has not been
45 published so we can't say what's in the proposed rule
46 but we can solicit input from the RACs, SRCs from the
47 affected areas on what you think it should say.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
50

0220

1 MR. BASSICH: I'm always good to bait
2 into a discussion like that.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. BASSICH: From my perspective, I
7 think if you've been in the room you've heard me speak
8 a lot about conservation and also protecting local
9 rural practices, customary and traditional practices
10 through the Federal Program, so from my perspective, I
11 think it's going to be very important into the future
12 to make sure that those people that are Federally-
13 qualified local residents are still allowed the rights
14 that they have had for long before Park Service ever
15 came to Alaska, to practice their traditional ways of
16 doing things. I am very concerned about the influx of
17 more people into the state into the future and the
18 impacts that they're going to have on wildlife, both as
19 hunters or trappers or sporthunters, all of those
20 things are going to impact local resource gathering.
21 And it'll go from berries to birds to bears to moose to
22 caribou, it will be across the board, very disruptive
23 to local communities potentially in the future.

24
25 So from my perspective I think it's
26 very important to make sure that locals have that
27 opportunity to practice their traditional ways but I
28 think they have to start making sure that into the
29 future those resources are protected to a certain
30 extent. And what I mean by protection is that they're
31 not overharvested and usually overharvesting happens
32 when you have high volumes of hunters or gatherers or
33 fishers into an area inundating the resources.

34
35 So that's my perspective, for whatever
36 it's worth. Thank you. Thanks for coming here and
37 getting our perspective on it, I appreciate that,
38 that's kind of a new thing that I haven't really seen
39 from any program prior to, you know, an official
40 meeting.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
45 disagree with you. We've had things like these
46 proposed rules before and they give us a head's up, it
47 has happened. Others. Don.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

0221

1 I thought ANILCA was pretty clear about this process,
2 that unless the population is compromised it's open for
3 hunting.

4
5 MS. SEARS: Thanks for the comment. So
6 backing up with the framework that we operate under,
7 National Park Service units across the entire system,
8 nationwide, hunting is prohibited except as Congress
9 specifically allows, and so then we turn to ANILCA and
10 we look at what did Congress specifically allow.
11 Congress authorized two things for National Park Units
12 in Alaska. They authorized harvest under Title VIII,
13 which is not on the table, that's not what we're
14 talking about today. It also authorized harvest for
15 sport purposes. One of the things that I'm sure this
16 group has questions on is why we're using the term
17 sport purposes, because it's not a term that is used in
18 State regulation and we understand that, but it goes
19 back to our starting point, which is harvest of
20 wildlife is prohibited except as Congress specifically
21 authorized it. So we know we're not talking about
22 Title VIII, we're talking about harvest of wildlife for
23 sport purposes. And so one of the questions that we're
24 asking is, are the methods that are at issue, that were
25 at issue in 2015 that got allowed in 2020, are those
26 appropriate for sport. Again, we're not talking about
27 are they appropriate for subsistence, we're talking
28 about are they appropriate for sport. If the answer is
29 no then it is outside our legal framework to allow.

30
31 The other piece that's important on
32 ANILCA is even if it is allowed the Secretary of
33 Interior still has authority to adopt closures and
34 restrictions on harvest of fish and wildlife. That's
35 under Section 1313 of ANILCA, or 16 USC 3201. So some
36 of those reasons there is, I think it's five enumerated
37 reasons but one is for protection of fish and wildlife,
38 so that's the prong that you just mentioned. If there
39 is a concern with population the Secretary can --
40 clearly has authority to adopt closures and
41 restrictions. Other criteria include closures and
42 restrictions for public use and enjoyment, which would
43 include public safety, administration. I'm probably
44 forgetting one in there but I don't have it in front of
45 me, but there's several reasons, but it's not just if
46 there's a population level concern.

47
48 I hope that answers your question.

49
50

0222

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
4 questions or comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I have
9 a lot so bear with me.

10

11 I remember when 2015 rule came into
12 place and they did come before us and they did say
13 before it -- and your timeframe, maybe you should
14 outline this timeframe, it's likely that we won't have
15 any say because of this timeframe, and then I'll
16 continue.

17

18 MS. SEARS: So we had hoped to have a
19 proposed rule published by December 1st, so we are
20 currently in litigation on the 2020 rule, we've been
21 sued by that. As part of that litigation we've made
22 representations to the court -- the Department of
23 Justice has made representations to the court that we
24 anticipate publishing a proposed rule that would
25 substantially revise the 2020 rule, we had hoped, in
26 the month of October. I think -- I'm hoping that we're
27 still on track for that. The comment period for the
28 proposed rule when it publishes will be 60 days. So
29 it's not published yet so we're at least, you know, 60-
30 plus days out from that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
33 the stuff that gets all unfortunate for a lot of
34 comment from us. It sometimes can be put in and then
35 we don't have a meeting because it's 60 days. But this
36 legal opinion, do you have a copy of it that people can
37 see?

38

39 MS. SEARS: It is publicly available.
40 It can be obtained from the court websites.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm a
43 volunteer so if you could get my email from the
44 Coordinator and send it to me I'd appreciate it. Just
45 Council members, you know, we have a 30 percent sport/
46 commercial on our.....

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0223

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so we
2 can talk about issues and we've got three, Will,
3 Charlie and myself. And when I got old and couldn't
4 climb the sheep hills anymore -- I still climb them but
5 I didn't feel good about giving a hunter a good job as
6 I got older, as a guide, so no sheep hunting guiding
7 for me although I was roped into it again this year
8 with a 66 year old woman and ended up doing it, but I
9 have now taken to bear baiting as part of my income.
10 And I don't see -- it's been eight, nine years now and
11 these worries and conflicts that they talk about, they
12 don't exist and I'm on the road system, and the people
13 in Mentasta are happy that we're doing this, that's
14 what they want to see bears taken. And now we're
15 talking about Park lands and I -- I'm not ready -- I
16 just get irritated, totally irritated with -- sorry,
17 it's not to reflect any human being, but the Park
18 Service, saying things like I got 70,000 comments
19 against this, 100,000 here, what we struggle with and
20 the SRC struggles with is how is that weighted. I mean
21 I don't want you to answer it because I've heard it so
22 many times. It sounds like it's an excuse for us to
23 say, you guys don't matter because it's public land and
24 what you think -- these people really have a lot of
25 impact on the say here, and Alaskans, most Alaskans,
26 they don't like that. So I'm going to say that I don't
27 have an entity and I'm not pointing fingers or trying
28 to hurt anyone because I love my Native neighbors, they
29 call me family, even great-grandma, but I don't have a
30 corporation to work for me and have me be represented,
31 so I'm asking you, the Park Service, I know about this
32 bear baiting and I'm hearing that that's the one thing
33 that we're talking about here.

34
35 MS. SEARS: There's actually several
36 practices that were authorized prior to 2015 that when
37 we adopted the 2015 rule became prohibited and these
38 are the things that Maija had read so it was -- it
39 included bear baiting, brown bears over bait. There's
40 a nuance there and I can speak to it if you want.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, let's
43 just make it short.

44
45 MS. SEARS: Sure.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm asking
48 you to contact me, somebody that has a lot of knowledge
49 about it, has been doing it and let me give you my
50

0224

1 opinion to add to this while you're working on it.
2 Because these two day meetings you can't really get
3 enough in there so call me and I'm asking you to, let's
4 talk about it, so that can be included.

5
6 MS. SEARS: Thank you. Appreciate the
7 offer. I also want to -- one of my colleagues is here
8 that can speak quite a bit on bear baiting if there's
9 interest in speaking more in this forum on bear
10 baiting, just the concerns that the Park Service has,
11 the practices that have -- that we are aware of that
12 have occurred but it's up to you, Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd say it's
15 up to the Council.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: I don't think we need to
18 go down that road.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't
21 either, I would have said that right away but I wanted
22 it up to you guys. Would you agree, we don't need to
23 go down that road -- do you?

24
25 (Council shakes head negatively)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
28 you. So does anyone else have anything, this is just
29 information, what's coming up, do you have anything to
30 -- anything you want to add, how we feel?

31
32 MS. SEARS: Madame Chair, if I may just
33 offer one data point that is something that I'm aware
34 of. Not sure how relevant it is to your group but when
35 we've looked at the harvest information in the past for
36 bear baiting, what we've found is it predominately
37 occurs along the McCarthy Road and it is not a
38 subsistence practice. The -- when we look at the
39 harvest information that has gone to the State, it's
40 primarily individuals out of the Anchorage area
41 associated with the military lands. So we haven't seen
42 -- we haven't seen evidence that it's a subsistence
43 activity, at least by the harvest information.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
46 saying -- yeah, we're just talking about sport, right?

47
48 MS. SEARS: (Nods affirmatively)

49
50

0225

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
2 you're saying they're military people or they're
3 military lands, I thought I heard lands?
4

5 MS. SEARS: You did, and that was a
6 word that I shouldn't have used, military personnel
7 that are coming out to the area to engage in the
8 practice, that's the information that we have.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And are you
11 hearing conflicts?
12

13 MS. SEARS: We are.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
16 something you can talk to me about later, okay. Yeah.
17 Thank you. Anything else.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, I
22 hope we gave you enough information.
23

24 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I just have one
25 thing.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
28

29 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I think it would
30 have been really helpful to have some sort of written
31 information here. Because it's a little confusing.
32 I'm not real familiar with the 2015 rule and then the
33 2020 and now what's being proposed so I'm a little
34 unclear. But I'll be watching for your new proposal,
35 what'd you say, in January, it'll come out.
36

37 MS. SEARS: It could be within, you
38 know, a few weeks, it could be longer.
39

40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay.
41

42 MS. SEARS: The rule is still under
43 development and consideration at this point.
44

45 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: And who's developing
46 that rule?
47

48 MS. SEARS: Right now the rule is with
49 the Department of Interior.
50

0226

1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay.

2

3 MS. SEARS: Department of Interior
4 leadership.

5

6 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: All right. So I
7 guess, I mean we could just request some, you know,
8 make sure that everyone gets all the information so we
9 have time to comment.

10

11 MS. SEARS: Understood. Very
12 reasonable request.

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Just so the Council
15 knows, I did provide my contact information so that
16 they can send any information and I'll pass that along
17 to you guys. Thanks.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
20 else.

21

22 MS. LUKIN: And, Madame Chair, I just
23 wanted to make sure that we mention that after it's
24 published we will be contacting the tribes and regional
25 corporations with a detailed letter, which I know comes
26 -- you know a lot of dear tribal leader letters come
27 in, but we'll be following up with phone calls, emails
28 to make sure that we get the information that we can
29 from the tribes and the regional corporations, and then
30 there's also a consultation with the State that's going
31 to happen as well.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
34 State, uh-huh.

35

36 MS. LUKIN: Uh-huh.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
39 you.

40

41 MS. SEARS: Thank you. Appreciate your
42 time.

43

44 MS. LUKIN: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
47 you for bearing with me. Next is the joint meeting,
48 North Caribou -- North American Caribou Workshop and
49 Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023, this is an
50

0227

1 action item.

2

3

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4 Members of the Council. My name is Tom Plank and I am

5 a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of Subsistence

6 Management. And I am presenting an announcement about

7 a caribou and ungulate conference next year that will

8 hopefully be of interest to the Council members. I'll

9 also be seeking your input on a couple matters related

10 to the conference. An informational flier about the

11 conference can be found in your meeting books on Page

12 256.

13

14

A joint meeting of the North American

15 Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference will be

16 held in Anchorage from May 8th to the 12th, 2023. The

17 meeting will bring together an international group of

18 managers, researchers and indigenous and local

19 knowledge holders who will want to share their

20 knowledge of caribou, muskoxen, Dall sheep, moose and

21 reindeer. The theme for the meeting is crossing

22 boundaries. Arctic ungulates regularly cross landscape

23 boundaries connecting ecological processes between

24 different systems. This necessitates the collaboration

25 -- this is necessary for the collaboration across

26 geographical borders and also crossing boundaries

27 between Western Science, local indigenous knowledge.

28 The conference will include sessions on co-management,

29 the status of caribou globally, integrating Western

30 science and indigenous knowledge and the effects of

31 climate change on caribou. Field trips, workshops,

32 research talks, symposiums and a poster session will

33 also be apart of the conference. The conference web

34 address is included on the flier in your meeting books

35 and I encourage you to visit the website for more

36 details and information including the information about

37 abstract submissions that are due by December 15th.

38

39 So before I move on to my two topics to

40 discuss, are there any questions.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No comments)

MR. PLANK: Okay. So the first

topic.....

MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Actually one

question.

0228

1 MR. PLANK: Oops, sorry.

2

3 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: One question here.

4 Thank you. So I'm looking at the sponsors of this and
5 understand that this is across -- crossing boundaries.
6 I come from a tribe that predated the Alaskan and Yukon
7 Territory boundary and I know that a lot of tribes in
8 Eastern Alaska also have family and their tribes also
9 go into Canada, along with the resources that we use,
10 both caribou and salmon, both migrate and travel into
11 Canada. I don't see any Canadians, especially if
12 you're talking about crossing boundaries, I don't see
13 any Canadian tribes or governments or agencies,
14 organizations included, and just wondered how maybe we
15 can engage with Canadians. And I think Tr'ondek
16 Hwech'in, the Canadian -- the First Nation out of
17 Dawson City, which I am also a member of because my
18 grandma's from that tribe, I think those folks should
19 also be included as, you know, they have lived off of
20 the Fortymile Caribou Herd for a number of years as
21 well, which is no longer really migrating through Eagle
22 and Dawson as of the last few years, so it'd be
23 important to include them as well.

24

25 MR. PLANK: Okay. If I could, could I
26 invite Matt Cameron up here, if he's in the room, he
27 may have a little more information on this than me.

28

29 MR. CAMERON: Hello Members of the
30 Council. My name is Matt Cameron and I'm a Wildlife
31 Biologist with the Park Service. I'm also on the
32 planning committee for the conference.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much for
38 that comment. We are actively coordinating with other
39 groups in Canada and I noted your comment here and
40 we'll followup. You know that's the sponsor list and
41 so we've been casting a wide net looking for
42 sponsorship to help put on the conference. And so,
43 yeah, we'll pursue that and if there's any other
44 recommendations, we're open to them, so thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just to help you
49 with that, sorry, I didn't catch your name, is contact

50

0229

1 the Dawson City Renewable Resource Commission.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
4 Jody.

5

6 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Just real quickly.
7 Also include the tribes and communities that are also
8 on the Porcupine Caribou Herd migration route, like Old
9 Crow and some of those other communities as well.

10

11 MR. PLANK: Okay. If there's no more
12 questions I'll go ahead and move on to the next topic.
13 All right.

14

15 So the first topic, I'd like to ask for
16 your input as a Council -- one of the events that will
17 take place during the conference is to facilitate
18 discussion on Alaska State and Federal ungulate
19 management. This session is intended to be a neutral
20 forum for Council members, such as yourself, State Fish
21 and Game Advisory Committee members, Federal and State
22 agency Staff and other interested parties and discuss
23 ungulate management in Alaska specifically regarding
24 harvest regulations. So my question for the Council
25 is, what topics and issues would you like to be
26 discussed during the session, and it could be anything
27 from concerns related to harvest regulations and
28 ungulate management. So, Madame Chair, now I'll turn
29 the discussion over to you for this topic and your
30 suggestions will be very important to setting the
31 discussion agenda.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
34 members. Jody.

35

36 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I mean I can't
37 really -- I mean there's so much, where to start, you
38 know.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: But I think it would
43 be really helpful -- I don't know who's on your
44 planning committee but I think it would be really
45 helpful to get some ungulate users, traditional users,
46 indigenous folks to be on your committee. I think they
47 could really help the planning committee create a
48 really strong agenda that, you know, maybe some of you
49 might not maybe consider or think about so.

50

0230

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

2

3

4 MR. BASSICH: So two things come to my
5 mind when I think about caribou and the issues involved
6 with management of caribou based upon my experience
7 with the Fortymile Herd and the Fortymile Coalition and
8 the biologists responsible for managing that particular
9 herd, which I don't know if you classify it as Arctic
10 or not. I don't know if that's going to be included.
11 But there is long traditional knowledge, longstanding
12 traditional knowledge that indigenous people have
13 always allowed the first caribou to move in the
14 migration setting the scent down which then allows the
15 rest of the herd to follow that migration and it's a
16 long practice of the people that live on caribou, not
17 to interfere with that first passage of caribou,
18 because it tends to turn the caribou and disrupt their
19 migration which affects their harvest. That's what
20 happens in Eagle a lot now because of the management
21 and trying to reduce the size of herds. So if you want
22 to start talking about something, talk about how to
23 make sure that herds can move freely to move wherever
24 they want because they know what they want, and also
25 talk about these perceived ideas that once animals
26 start to get a lower parturition rate or a slightly
27 lower body mass, it's time to reduce the herd
28 artificially, i.e., through hunting, so there isn't a
29 crash. And it's also my personal belief that caribou
30 need to experience stress to move into new territories
31 and I think you'd find a lot of elders who would also
32 share that same experience, however, that's not the way
33 we manage caribou.

34

35 And so those are two topics that I
36 think need to be discussed. Those are both basically
37 management aspects of caribou and they dramatically
38 affect the people on the land that depend on caribou.

39

40 That's all I have, Madame Chair, thank
41 you. Good luck. I think that's a great topic to talk
42 about, caribou feed a lot of people in the state of
43 Alaska. Our community is highly dependent upon them,
44 unfortunately it's not very reliable anymore.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jody.

47

48 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Like I said there's
49 a lot that could be included in this. I think a couple
50 of things that really need to be addressed is kind of

0231

1 the massacre, and I know this is like State
2 regulations, not really much we can do as far as
3 Federal lands, but the Fortymile Caribou Herd has had
4 just complete massacres and blood baths on the Steese
5 Highway. And I think that has had a huge impact on
6 that herd's migration route. And, you know, as a
7 person whose family goes back 10,000 years living off
8 of this herd and with this herd, respecting and
9 honoring this -- the Fortymile Caribou, to see people
10 disrespecting the caribou because it's their right to
11 hunt up there, you know, these kinds of issues really
12 need to be brought out. I think there needs to be more
13 strict hunter education regulations or rules for
14 hunters that are using these resources, especially
15 close to the road access. There's a lot of meat going
16 wasted and I mean it's -- it's super challenging. And
17 like I said earlier in this -- in these meetings, we
18 haven't had caribou come through Eagle within our open
19 season for over three years now and, you know, this is
20 the first time that I've been going into winter with no
21 fish or no meat.

22

23 And so, you know, I think food security
24 needs to be also on your list and obviously climate
25 impacts on caribou migration routes and the health of
26 the caribou and definitely I think there needs to be a
27 lot of Native elders who have this knowledge. And
28 somehow there needs to be some sort of, you know,
29 resulting from some of this stuff, is like just a
30 public campaign, you know, from some of our agencies
31 informing the public about some of these ways to have a
32 better relationship with this caribou herd. Like Andy
33 said our people have known for a long time to let the
34 first group of bulls and animals go through on their
35 migration route and that's not happening. And there's
36 just a lot of mismanagement, misuse, even misconduct
37 really with these herds and, you know, it's the people
38 who depend on them that are really suffering the
39 consequences, but also the people that have the right
40 relationship with this herd and we're facing the
41 consequences.

42

43 So those kind of things, I think, would
44 be really important to discuss one way or another.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0232

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
2 noticed a five day conference, that's going to be tough
3 for a lot of us to participate in. Are you planning on
4 having a teleconference too?

5

6 MR. PLANK: I do not know about the
7 teleconference but I know my second topic will probably
8 be good news for one of ya'll. Are we ready to move on
9 to that or do you want me to ask Matt about if there
10 would be a teleconference version of it?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I would
13 suggest it, you might get more.....

14

15 MR. BASSICH: In this day and age of
16 Covid it's got to be a no-brainer.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
19 totally suggesting it.

20

21 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Or maybe a webinar.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know like
24 she said a webinar, something that allows other people
25 to participate than those that have to go to Anchorage.
26 Okay, go ahead, something else.

27

28 MR. PLANK: Yes, ma'am. Thank you,
29 Madame Chair. The second topic, the critical component
30 of the conference is making sure that local knowledge
31 holders are able to attend and participate. And so the
32 Office of Subsistence Management is able to provide
33 financial support to send one member of each
34 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to attend the
35 conference. We are asking that a Council -- that as a
36 Council you nominate a member to attend and
37 participate. Again, the conference will be held May
38 8th through the 12th next year in Anchorage and OSM
39 will cover all expenses such as travel and conference
40 registration. One exception -- one expectation of the
41 nominated Council member is that they will be an active
42 participant in the State and Federal Ungulate
43 Management Symposium for which you just provided input
44 for.

45

46 So now I'll turn the discussion back
47 over to you, Madame Chair, and Council and ask you
48 nominate a member of your Council to attend whom you
49 feel will represent the local knowledge and concern for
50

0233

1 your region related to ungulates.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
4 volunteers.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll volunteer.

7

8 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I will.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
11 two volunteers.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we can have one
14 primary and one as an alternate.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, so we
17 can one have primary and one alternate. So.....

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Or even two alternates
20 for that matter.

21

22 REPORTER: Katya, to a microphone
23 please.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay,
26 this is bad Jody. You're appointment expires the end
27 of this year, yeah.

28

29 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: That's fine.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

32

33 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I'll make it there
34 one way or the other.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's good
37 to hear, that would be great. Okay. She didn't get
38 reapplied so she's got to wait a year. Don went
39 through that once. Yeah, but go ahead Don.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: I just want to say that
42 I've been on the Fortymile Coalition for five or six
43 years for this RAC and with Andy's input and my input I
44 think we've made some real progress and we do work with
45 the Canadian government, and the tribes in Canada and I
46 think that that's a very viable discussion that we have
47 with them. And we don't very often agree but at least
48 there's a discussion on the table and they -- their
49 primary concern is just building the herd and that's
50

0234

1 where their interests are and they want them to
2 actually continue to migrate over to Whitehorse where
3 they did in the '50s. And we'll see if that ever
4 happens again.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
11 volunteering, is there any other volunteers.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: If there's
14 teleconferences, you know, if my communications are up
15 then I'll do it but otherwise that's right when the
16 Yukon River breaks up and unless you want to fly a
17 helicopter in to get me I'm not going out. So that's
18 always a tough time of year for me.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'll be
21 working. That's my job time.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: So you can.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I can't
26 go.

27

28 MR. BASSICH:put me down as an
29 alternate and hopefully.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I probably
32 can't call in either.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Hopefully they'll have
35 teleconference capabilities.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, so do
38 we need a motion for this Staff.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
43 need a motion for our designated person to go to the
44 meeting.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: I'll make a motion that
47 the Eastern Interior RAC send a delegate to the North
48 American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
49 Conference in May.

50

0235

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
2 what they said they're going to do, you might name a
3 person. We just had a volunteer so just.....
4

5 MS. WESSELS: We need a name.
6

7 MR. BASSICH: Really. I mean in the
8 past we just said that we would have someone represent
9 us, you want a name, okay -- and that that
10 representative be Don Woodruff with Andy Bassich as an
11 alternate.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I need
14 a second.
15

16 MR. JAGOW: Second.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie Jagow
19 seconds. Any more discussion.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'll
24 call for a unanimous.....
25

26 MR. BASSICH: And Jody Potts as a
27 third.
28

29 (Laughter)
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well,
32 unfortunately she won't be on the RAC then because she
33 hadn't applied.
34

35 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I know, I'm just
36 joking.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But
39 she will be there because.....
40

41 MR. BASSICH: She could go as an Eagle
42 Tribal member.
43

44 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yes, I'll go as a
45 tribal member.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
48 asking for unanimous consent for the motion to send Don
49 and alternate being Andy. Anyone opposed.
50

0236

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
4 the motion passes. One more quick thing. Okay, I owe
5 you an apology Jim Simon because I thought since it
6 wasn't an action item we weren't taking public comment
7 but you'd put in a blue card and you did -- I know you
8 wanted to speak to the proposed NPS wildlife issue.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Yeah, thank you. And sorry
11 my agenda has asterisks on it which I thought meant it
12 was an action item but in any event. I could tell a
13 Virgil story here because this is -- but I won't. I
14 know there's time sensitivity.

15

16 The issue with the proposed rule, the
17 2022 or 2023 rule, whatever it will be called, it
18 really began back in 2008 when the Department -- when
19 the Alaska Board of Game directed me, as the Regional
20 Supervisor of the then Subsistence Division for the
21 northern two-thirds of Alaska, to expand the customary
22 and traditional use determinations for taking bears in
23 Interior Alaska to better recognize how predator manag
24 -- indigenous predator management was a customary and
25 traditional practice in order to ensure food security.
26 The National Park Service at that time, once that
27 process was done and the Board of Game adopted State
28 subsistence regulations that applied to State lands and
29 to National Preserves, to recognize these customary and
30 traditional uses, frankly the National Park Service had
31 a conniption and fortunately Jack Reakoff.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MR. SIMON:you know, defended my
37 personal honor and my professional honor.....

38

39 REPORTER: Go ahead, Jim.

40

41 MR. SIMON:the fact that I was
42 just doing my job as a Subsistence Division Regional
43 Supervisor and pulling the ethnahistoric and oral
44 history literature about these practices into and
45 applying them into State subsistence management.

46

47 So that's where we ended up then having
48 the 2015 rule given that the Federal Subsistence Board
49 does not have any authority to regulate sports hunting
50

0237

1 on National Preserves, typically there's deference to
2 the Board of Game regulations. So that's where we got
3 the prohibitions of these certain customary and
4 traditional practices of taking predators.

5

6 The swimming caribou is new, it's not
7 an Interior Alaska activity allowed presently so I
8 won't discuss that.

9

10 The -- after the 2020 -- after the 2015
11 rule that was supposed to only be affecting sport uses,
12 unfortunately the National Park Service hasn't fully
13 embraced the fact that we are in dual management
14 reality and that the State of Alaska is no longer
15 interested in administering and implementing ANILCA.
16 So we're stuck with dual management. The way this
17 current proposed rule is being presented as only
18 affecting sports uses is only coming from a Federal
19 perspective, it's not coming from an Alaskan
20 perspective because anyone who has moved from a
21 resident zone -- you know, from a Federally-qualified
22 community or area will not be able to go back home just
23 as Maija mentioned, she's now a sportshunter, you know,
24 because she lives in Wasilla now, anyone who now lives
25 in a -- where they're not Federally-qualified will no
26 longer be able to go home and help and participate in
27 these customary and traditional uses with their
28 Federally-qualified family members.

29

30 So the fact of the matter is, I think
31 the Federal Program should recognize that there is a
32 State subsistence law, there are State subsistence
33 users that can, regardless of where they lives,
34 participate in these customary and traditional uses and
35 this where you live is not helping continue Alaska
36 Native ways of life nor rural ways of life by non-
37 Natives.

38

39 So the result of the 2015 rule, that,
40 again, was only supposed to prohibit certain activities
41 of sports hunters then ended up being used as a
42 rallying cry and fundraising opportunity for animal
43 rights organizations across the country who then
44 submitted a proposal in the Koyukuk River area of Gates
45 of the Arctic National Preserve and that whole
46 tradition of taking bears from dens to the Alaska Board
47 of Game, to prohibit those State subsistence uses,
48 which is back to November of 2017, statewide Board of
49 Game meeting where member Vice Chair Wright was present

50

0238

1 as well as a whole tribal contingent in order to defend
2 and protect their customary and traditional
3 relationships and stewardship of black bears. I'm non-
4 Native so it's easy for me to say. They had to break
5 their traditional rules, et cetera, by even talking
6 about, the bear, and their activities in order to
7 educate the animal rights group from Florida that had
8 proposed to eliminate those activities and eventually
9 they withdrew their proposal because they understood
10 more of the customary and traditional practices at play
11 there and the desire to not open up tribal citizens to
12 being criminalized for practicing their tribal ways of
13 life.

14
15 So while it may be said that this
16 particular pending Federal register proposed wildlife
17 review doesn't affect Federal subsistence, it very well
18 could affect State subsistence and the continuation of
19 ancestral tribal ways of life as well non-Native rural
20 residents, like I used to be one, who, my dad was
21 trained by Joe Second Chief as to how to den bears in
22 the Ahtna region many, many, many years ago.

23
24 So that is basically all I want to say.
25 I want to give you this background. You know the 2020
26 rule was then, there was Congressional Delegation
27 involved in this issue, a huge big Pandora's Box is
28 being reopened and this badminton between State and
29 Federal management, and in particular the Park Service
30 is not really fixing any problems. This is a value
31 based driven issue by largely non-Alaskan interests.
32 And one of the things that I will say that the
33 Chairwoman Sue already brought up, you know, not only
34 are the activities associated with bear baiting in that
35 upper Tanana and Unit 12, you know, not creating a
36 biological concern -- I mean bear baiting in the Ahtna
37 Traditional Use Area and concerns by Ahtna tribal
38 elders as to do we really know what the bear
39 population is doing is what led to the now InterAgency
40 Carnivore Stewardship Project the Ahtna InterTribal
41 Resource Commission, Ahtna, Inc., and now the
42 Department of Fish and Game and Denali National Park
43 and Preserve, you know, have been involved in, that
44 have identified that there are a lot more bears out on
45 the country than even the Department of Fish and Game
46 estimated there would be when the research permit was
47 issued.

48
49 So black bear baiting in Unit 12 is
50

0239

1 recognized as a State customary and traditional
2 subsistence use in the customary and traditional use
3 worksheet that predates the Federal Program and the
4 Federal Program typically adopted many of the State
5 subsistence findings from the time when the State was
6 -- that brief period of the time when the State was
7 implementing ANILCA, and I think that -- I encourage
8 all of you to participate in the public comment period
9 of the Federal Register Proposed Rule process because
10 this information is not -- the whole story here has not
11 really been provided. But I do want to appreciate the
12 Park Service from six months ago when they first
13 started reaching out to tribes, they have now presented
14 a lot more detail and history of this to the
15 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting earlier this
16 week. It's unfortunate that that information wasn't
17 provided to the Eastern Interior RAC, at least in the
18 meeting materials that I saw online.

19

20 Thank you very much for your time.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was that the
23 short version?

24

25 MR. SIMON: It was.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Jim,
30 I appreciate it. Okay, we're going to break for lunch,
31 45 minutes, and that would be 1:00 o'clock.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
38 get started because that was a pretty long delay from
39 where we intended to start again. The next thing on
40 the agenda is Council member reimbursement for
41 telephonic/internet expenses related to Council
42 teleconference meetings, Council Coordinator.

43

44 And if we can move the conversation
45 outside in the back that would be helpful.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0240

1 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator for the record. I
2 just have a real quick update for you guys. There's a
3 letter on Tab 6 of your supplemental materials. So the
4 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council wrote to the Board and
5 asked if they could be reimbursed for phone and
6 internet expenses that they incurred during
7 teleconference -- when meetings were held during
8 teleconference -- over teleconference during the
9 pandemic. And OSM reviewed the policies about
10 reimbursement and they just wanted all Councils to know
11 that you are able to be reimbursed for expenses but
12 those expenses have to be in excess of what, you know,
13 your typical normal phone bill or internet would be.
14 So if you had to use extra data or extra minutes or
15 what not to attend the meeting then you could submit a
16 bill -- submit your bill to me, the Coordinator, or
17 send it to OSM and they'll process a refund for you.

18
19 So that's all I have, Madame Chair. If
20 you guys have any questions please let us know, thank
21 you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
24 questions.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, moving
29 on. Identify issues for your -- our 2022 annual
30 report.

31
32 MS. MCDAVID: All right, that's me
33 again. So it's time for the Council to decide what
34 issues you would like to include in your FY22 annual
35 report and the guidelines for annual reports can be
36 found on Page 257 of your meeting books. This is an
37 action item.

38
39 So just briefly, ANILCA established
40 that the annual report is a way for Councils to inform
41 the Board of regional subsistence uses and needs and to
42 provide recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
43 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
44 and proposed regulations. Your report ensures the
45 Board has the most up to date awareness of issues,
46 concerns and current events that impact your
47 subsistence way of life. With your report and
48 recommendations the Board can make informed decisions
49 on regulatory and policy actions.
50

0241

1 So after this meeting is over I will
2 draft your annual report based on the topics proposed
3 and information you discuss. You will then get a
4 chance to review and edit it at your winter meeting.
5 And for each topic it's also very helpful if you can be
6 clear about if you are requesting a Board response or
7 an action on the topic, or if your intent is simply to
8 make the Board aware of your concerns. As a reminder,
9 your Council can always request that me, your
10 Coordinator, arrange for the Council to be provided
11 information or presentations about topics of concern
12 and interests that might be outside the purview of the
13 Board.

14

15 And that's all I needed to present
16 about the process and, now, with the Chair's
17 permission, I'll open it up to Council discussion.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
24 anything?

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: No, not really, if she's
27 going to cover it.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we have
30 to tell her what the topics are.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Oh, okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our concerns,
35 so it's us giving her a topic that she will write
36 the.....

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, understand.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41 Donald.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I'd like to make
44 the Board aware of the sheep population decline in the
45 Glacier Mountain Sheep Management Area. It's down to
46 12 sheep according to Fish and Game's last survey. So
47 I'd just like to point that out, that it's declining
48 and it's -- it's a critical issue for people in our
49 area. We might hike 20 miles to go up there and get a
50

0242

1 sheep and there's none available. Now, out of those 12
2 I don't know how many were rams, but I don't suspect
3 that it would be that many counting ewes and kids and
4 stuff.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I wanted
9 to talk about caribou management. It seems like what's
10 happening is not working, overkill, slaughter, their
11 direction being changed; I don't know if it's due to
12 hunting, landing in front of them, or what's happening.
13 But many villages are placed long ago where they're at
14 now because of those migrations and the food coming to
15 them and that's not happening anymore.

16

17 I'd also like to see better moose
18 counts. I see that they're happening but they say
19 there's not enough money to do better moose counts like
20 along the Yukon River corridor. You're not seeing the
21 moose that used to be there and they're still letting
22 more and more people come to hunt. There needs to be
23 some kind of control or we're going to end up like the
24 fish with nothing at all to eat. I hunted in the
25 Nowitna River and it's not part of the Eastern Interior
26 boundaries but still I wanted to state that I think
27 it's been the lowest moose count since the checkpoint
28 has been opened and they're still saying the moose are
29 there. But in the last few years I've seen decline in
30 tracks crossing the river, decline of cows, decline of
31 moose. I know of two bulls being shot out of my group
32 and we seen maybe 30 cows so the ratio is not right.

33

34 We really need to manage conservatively
35 for future generations and the future of the caribou
36 and the moose to survive. It's getting harder and
37 harder for everybody, even people, to survive. I just
38 want those -- those two things are really important to
39 me.

40

41 And the salmon, we all know that's a
42 disaster, and a disaster that's happened due to the
43 thousand cuts I could say -- might be safe saying that,
44 not to disturb or hurt anybody's feelings, it's a sad
45 situation on the river and I have been to many villages
46 this year with one of my other hats that I wear,
47 subregional meetings, and heard the cries of many
48 people. They've lived for generations, thousands of
49 years that relied on the salmon and it's not there now

50

0243

1 so it's really put a big hit to the salmon culture on
2 many rivers, traditional ways and cultures being lost.
3 It's a sad thing. So I pretty much say this every year
4 and it's getting worse and so we really need to start
5 paying attention. I don't know what else to do or say.
6 Something's not right. Somebody's not doing something
7 right. So I think if there's any way we can work
8 together more with traditional knowledge and management
9 and listening to the people of certain areas, if there
10 can't be proper counts, proper management, then lets
11 help each other and see if we can make a little bit
12 better of it.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke, does
17 that work, there's two of them right now. Jody.

18

19 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair.
20 You know being that this is a Federal Subsistence
21 Board, I think it'd be really important to include some
22 sort of food security or in my situation, facing food
23 insecurity, like a number of people in our Eastern
24 Interior survey or, you know, maybe OSM -- I don't know
25 who this could be under, but this is kind of
26 unprecedented times, you know, for people on the Yukon
27 the last few years so you know food security survey.

28

29 I think there needs to be major
30 increase in hunter ethics mandates and programs and
31 education, you know, public awareness. It's pretty
32 awful to see some of the things that my young children
33 throughout their lives have already seen, whether it's
34 even -- I mean usually it's a State hunt but, you know,
35 there has to be a way that we could collaborate with
36 State Fish and Game and try to get increase in hunter
37 ethics. I think it's definitely having an impact on
38 why we aren't getting caribou in our area anymore
39 resulting in food insecurity.

40

41 Also really want to start looking at,
42 in more than just doing it as a performative action of
43 including traditional ecological knowledge and being
44 less performative and more inclusive in your scientific
45 data collection. I may not have the same, you know, I
46 guess analysis education and things like that as some
47 of our biologists, but I've probably been out on the
48 land for longer hours in land that I'm indigenous too
49 and have a lot of observations and it's not just me,
50

0244

1 all of our people that are indigenous to these lands
2 and there's a lot to learn and share that needs to be
3 included in science and included in decisionmaking.
4 And I think with a lot of our Federal public lands,
5 more an increase in co-management with Federally-
6 recognized tribes within your management areas. And I
7 know that might be above some people's pay grade here
8 and I know that needs to come from, you know, the
9 Federal government, but I think that there are models
10 and places that have been doing this for a number of
11 years successfully. So I definitely believe strongly
12 in co-management.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: I really like the hunter
15 ethics program, it's really needed. I think that we
16 could add things to that to help educate hunters that
17 may be just want to keep a rack. Maybe they don't want
18 all the meat and they bring back the required meat and
19 sometimes -- a lot of times now, people in Fairbanks
20 tell me that -- I've been hearing it for years now that
21 a lot of meat is ending up in the transfer station, the
22 dump basically, so maybe in that hunter ethics program
23 we can add some kind or think of some kind of way to
24 share the meat that's not wanted by horn hunters,
25 somebody who just wants a trophy. Because it's a very
26 shame that meat goes to waste when there's so many
27 people that need it. Not only in the areas where they
28 go hunt and the villages that are near, or in Fairbanks
29 here, there's got to be a way that we can work together
30 to keep that meat from ending up in the transfer
31 station.

32

33 Just a thought. Thank you.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify what I'm
36 hearing and make sure I get this correct. It sounds
37 like food security is one major issue of concern and
38 the hunter ethics may be another -- may be a way to
39 potentially help address some of that by meat --
40 through meat donation. So we want to let the Board
41 know about the food security issue and also encourage
42 them to support the hunter ethics program. Is
43 that.....

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Right.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: And I'd like to add that I

50

0245

1 think climate is playing a big role in maybe some of
2 the animals not being in rut because of the warm fall
3 and causing a lot of people out in the villages to not
4 get the meat they need, Some of it is because of the
5 lack of animals and some of it is the climate, it's too
6 warm for the animals to go into rut. When I was in the
7 Nowitna for a week, the cows were not bunched up with
8 bulls, they were everywhere. There was no bellowing
9 going on. And it was the lowest kill number -- kill
10 count ever, since like I said, and they're saying that
11 the moose are there because of their count, so maybe
12 it's climate so we got to really pay attention to that
13 and the way it's affecting Federally-qualified users
14 from getting their meat for winter.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
19 have any -- want to identify an issue.

20

21 Andy.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, for me -- from my
24 perspective, education. And education of the younger
25 generation. I think that's our only real sustainable
26 way for us to get out of the salmon crises that we
27 have. People of my generation, Charlie, we lived when
28 it was good and we want it to be good, and we have
29 people on the river, the older generations have learned
30 to live with salmon as a steady and integral part of
31 their diet and that's really important. And I know
32 we're all going to achieve to try and make that happen
33 but the realities of the situation, in my view, on the
34 salmon, is that we just got to leave them alone. And
35 it's the younger generation, many of these kids, you
36 know, probably up to 10, 12 years old, have probably
37 never been out fishing, or maybe only once or twice,
38 and so we're going to have to continue to educate,
39 continue to try and teach them that culture. And it
40 may not be salmon, it may be taking them out and
41 fishing for non-salmon species, I don't know. But I
42 guess what I'm getting at is I think the State and the
43 Federal Programs need to really start partnering with
44 the communities, school programs along the Yukon River
45 and I think we really need to start being truthful
46 about the situation we're in and it's not -- there are
47 no answers that are going to be painless, they're all very
48 painful solutions to a very, very tough problem. But I
49 think the long-term recovery of salmon is not going to

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1 happen with my generation, it's going to happen with
2 the next generation and I think we need to start making
3 strides to educate young people to let them know what
4 they're up against, but also to ensure that we don't
5 lose that.

6
7 And the reason I'm saying that is, you
8 know, having been on the Yukon River Panel for 20-some
9 years, the Canadians have been dealing with the loss of
10 salmon way longer than we have because they disappeared
11 from Canadian waters five, six years prior to when we
12 sounded the alarm in Eagle. And one of the things that
13 they've struggled with is the loss of the culture, the
14 fishing culture. And the Yukon River spends a fair
15 amount of money to help support that now through the
16 Treaty because most of the funds have to be allocated
17 for Canadian uses, Canadian stocks, so we fund what
18 they call First Fish Camps and other cultural
19 gatherings to celebrate salmon and keep it alive in the
20 communities and in the culture. And I think it's
21 getting to the point where we probably ought to start
22 thinking about that on our side of the border. The
23 Yukon River Panel can't fund those sorts of programs on
24 the Alaska side because of the way the treaty's set up,
25 but I think through Federal and State funding maybe we
26 could start to make some in-roads on that.

27
28 But the bottom line is I think the
29 message I'd like to get to the Board is that we need to
30 start investing in the future, youth along the river,
31 and that's going to take coordination with the school
32 districts, developing curriculum. I know there's a lot
33 that's already been developed so it's a matter of just
34 beginning to implement it. And I think if we're
35 creative we can do that pretty cost effectively because
36 it can be done by the local people in their communities
37 partnering with the schools but it's going to take a
38 little bit of extra funding and a little bit of extra
39 coordination.

40
41 So that's probably my biggest takeaway
42 from what's been going on with the fisheries and I
43 think that's our best way out of it in the longrun.

44
45 I am concerned about caribou, my
46 community, as I've stated many times, man we really
47 rely on caribou and it's just not happening. And I
48 believe most of it is due to over-reactive management.
49 Even though we have the Fortymile Coalition which makes
50

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1 pretty strong recommendations, like a lot of these
2 panels and a lot of these Boards, we're not the
3 decisionmakers, all we can do is advocate for something
4 but the decisions are usually made at a much higher
5 level and often times where there's political aspects
6 involved instead of biological and that's something we
7 just all have to live with in this process.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MR. BASSICH: But I don't know that
13 there's much that we can do. We have the instruments
14 in place, it's just a matter of having managers take
15 the recommendations from the people on the land a
16 little bit more serious and I think that goes back to
17 what Jody was saying is that where I see the breakdown
18 between indigenous or local knowledge and where it's
19 needed, is not in research, it's in them management
20 actions that are taking place. So I think we can all
21 do better on that. And, you know, ever since I've been
22 on any of these panels for 20 years that topic comes up
23 at almost every meeting and that topic gets talked
24 about at almost every meeting but it seems like we
25 really haven't made too much practice. I think there
26 is a little bit of a gain, but the meshing of Western
27 science with indigenous knowledge is really difficult,
28 in my view, because Western knowledge and management is
29 all based on data collection and it's hard to quantify
30 indigenous knowledge into a data format. The Board of
31 Fish and the Board of Game have to have data to make
32 decisions and not just what they might term, hearsay,
33 or this is what we know, and so that's the break down
34 point. So unless we can change the structure of these
35 boards and what they're allowed to consider for making
36 their decisions we'll never make progress in that.

37
38 That's my take on it. I think that's
39 about all I really want to share with the Council and
40 with the Board. But I truly believe hunter education
41 is going to do the best for our security of food.
42 That's going to have the quickest impact and I think
43 working with the youth is our long-term solution to our
44 fisheries issues.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Andy.
49 Any other -- Jody.
50

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1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Just to followup and
2 kind of echo what Andy just brought up, you know, the
3 really thoughtful ideas about really what our young
4 people and younger generation are going to experience
5 with the loss of being at their fish camps. There's
6 been a lot -- some effort by like the State, I think
7 last year, they sent a bunch of silver salmon out to a
8 number of villages, right, for folks for the foods
9 insecurity issue. It was really poor quality, not even
10 fit for human consumption, that some villages received.
11 I talked with a politician recently that I saw at an
12 event and he said, well, I think what I want to do is
13 buy a bunch of high quality canned salmon and send
14 those out to the villages and I said what you're really
15 missing here is not just -- and we appreciate the food
16 but really it's -- we also want to prepare it
17 ourselves, like that's a part of who we are, we want to
18 process this ourselves.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: And it's also
24 something that multiple generations are doing, you
25 know, even the littlest kids, my little nieces and
26 nephews, as soon as they're big enough to carry a two
27 gallon bucket, they're helping carry water, it's all of
28 those things that bring our families together that's
29 part of our wellness and our culture is everything to
30 us. And, you know, I know that goes to a number of
31 families that live on the Yukon River, Native and non-
32 Native, that depend on the salmon, but it's also that
33 time of health and wellness that the salmon, don't just
34 feed our bellies, but they also keep us healthy in a
35 number of other ways. And I think partnering with
36 schools is a good idea to teach the younger generation
37 because there is going to be a gap in ways of knowing
38 and knowledge of this life way and this part of our
39 culture, with generations missing this opportunity with
40 the lack of fish. So I think there's also other
41 opportunities with a number of tribes do culture camps
42 and have for the last 20, 30 years, they host culture
43 camps, usually at a fish camp in the summer to teach
44 our kids and that's going to be missing. So, you know,
45 a way to support these culture camps are just super,
46 super important and a lot of important traditional
47 knowledge that is passed down.

48
49 And I think, you know, as far as
50

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1 discussing, both Andy and I were mentioning and
2 emphasizing that -- and actually my Uncle Isaac Juneby
3 talked to me about it really literally the day he died,
4 for any of you guys that know who he was, maybe if some
5 of you that are newer to the country might not know
6 him, but he was a very well respected elder and chief
7 and a knowledge keeper, a cultural bearer and he
8 discussed 10 years ago, before his death, about how a
9 lot of these agencies include traditional knowledge as
10 a piece of their report or their -- whatever thing that
11 they're mandated to do but it's just a Federal mandate
12 and it's not meaningful. Like you don't see it in
13 their decisionmaking process, and he said that 10 years
14 ago and Andy and I are saying that now. So I know,
15 like Andy said, that, you know, it's hard probably for
16 all of you guys to change and have a paradigm shift
17 with your way of thinking of how to make management
18 decisions just only based on data but shifting how you
19 listen and how you understand things from maybe a
20 Western science mode of thinking and way of practicing
21 and making decisions and trying to be more inclusive
22 and being more open and having somewhat of a paradigm
23 shift, I think, would be really useful. And I think
24 that, again, there are models in places where
25 indigenous peoples are co-managing and reclaiming some
26 of these decisionmaking processes and seeing species
27 return to their traditional lands and also back to
28 their traditional uses.

29
30 So sorry, I feel like I'm on a soapbox
31 and it can go on for awhile so I'm going to try to just
32 -- I think -- but Andy keeps -- we're just kind of
33 bouncing off of each other as far as like these
34 comments.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

37
38 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: But there are a
39 number of ways, I think, that we can definitely try to
40 keep this way of life alive with our groups here.

41
42 So thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Jody.
45 Charlie has a deadline and it has to be done at 5:00 so
46 he has to go do some work outside. And thank you
47 Council members for all your input here and she will
48 draw up an annual report based on the things that have
49 been said and then it will come to our next meeting and
50

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1 we'll review it. Go ahead, Linda.

2

3 MS. EVANS: Yeah, thank Charlie and
4 Jody and Andy for their input, I think they hit it
5 right on. I'd also like to include, somehow getting
6 our elders involved with our young people, because, you
7 know, there's not many of us around and I'm finally
8 calling myself an elder. I don't really feel like an
9 elder.....

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MS. EVANS:but, you know,
14 someone, an older lady told me, you're an elder now, go
15 down to Denakkanaaga, you know, get down there and
16 learn, learn from us how elders are supposed to be so
17 that's my next job is to learn how to be an elder.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. EVANS: But education is so
22 important. You know I've been an educator all my life
23 and in my field of education I always got the
24 traditional knowledge part, you know. I had elders
25 always coming into the classroom telling the kids
26 stories and things like that, you know, traditional
27 things. We did culture camps and I think, you know,
28 culture camp is not only good for educating but it's
29 good to bring people together, you know, anybody from
30 the community. I know down in Rampart they did a
31 culture camp and everybody went up there, you know,
32 pitched a tent and just, it was really nice, you know,
33 and we're struggling to learn our Native language, you
34 know, that's another part. You can't have connection
35 to the land unless you know your Native language too,
36 you know, that's just a part of it, you know. And I
37 work as much as I can with our Native language and
38 teaching my kids and my grandkids, you know, and my son
39 is even wanting to start a camp for kids, you know,
40 from the city. Because a lot of our Native people live
41 in the city, too, and they need places to go and places
42 to learn about their culture and, you know, how
43 important it is for us to have these resources that
44 we're talking about that we don't have anymore. So I
45 think education is really important.

46

47 And if there's -- I put a note down
48 here, I was looking for it, there was funding some
49 place for cultural camps or something like that, it
50

0251

1 said -- somebody said out there and I'm going to look
2 that up because I think it's part of the learning
3 process for all of us and to try to include other
4 groups like Denakkanaaga, you know, is there a
5 representative from Denakkanaaga here. They're our
6 elders, where are they? You know I'm sure if they were
7 invited they would come and you could hear their point
8 of view.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
13 Linda. Definitely education. We're all part of it.
14 The first time I was told to go eat first at the
15 village because we were elders I was like, what.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No way --
20 yeah, but this thought is in my head and I need to say
21 it and I know you want to say something. I wanted to
22 expound on the sheep, it's statewide right now, it
23 isn't just your area there. It's a statewide thing.
24 And I think that there needs to be way more work done
25 by both governments, the State and the Federal on sheep
26 surveys and more information on surveys. I remember,
27 probably close to 20, 25 years ago, Wayne Heimer was
28 the sheep biologist and he was pulled from all his
29 research and said that full-curl law will take care of
30 everything. Well, we proved that's not correct. So I
31 want, in our report, to talk about more funding and
32 more joint work on sheep management and sheep surveys.

33

34 So go ahead, Brooke.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted to thank
37 you all for your input and to let you know that, you
38 know, as I'm drafting this, thankfully we have the
39 lovely Tina and I get transcripts of the meeting so
40 that, you know, I could use your words and the passion
41 that you guys presented today on some of these topics.
42 And if I do have things that I want to clarify as I'm
43 drafting it up I may reach out to you all individually,
44 the different folks who commented on things just to
45 make sure we're all on the same page.

46

47 So, thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

50

0252

1 Brooke, I would have suggested that, or just mentioned
2 it. Okay, anything else on the annual report.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
7 we'll move along to '22 Council application,
8 nomination, open season. Open season, I like that one.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Open season on Council
13 members.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Just kidding. This is
18 Brooke McDavid again. So this is just a real quick
19 announcement to let you all know that OSM is accepting
20 applications right now for -- and nominations for seats
21 on the Council. In Tab 7 of your supplemental
22 materials there is the news release about that. We do
23 have applications on the table, if you know anyone that
24 may be interested, and that goes for folks out in the
25 audience too, please take those, distribute them, if
26 you need more please get in contact with me. We love
27 to encourage people to apply for the Council so that we
28 get nice diverse representation of the region.

29

30 Applications are being accepted for all
31 10 Regional Advisory Councils and the application
32 period will be open through February 21st, 2023.

33

34 Council members typically serve three
35 year terms before having to reapply. Next year the
36 Eastern Interior Council will have three Council
37 members whose terms expire in late 2023. Those members
38 have the opportunity to reapply using the incumbent
39 application that was given to them. And let's see, OSM
40 will be mailing out about a thousand copies of the
41 applications across the state and if someone needs a
42 copy to be faxed to them as well we can also do that.

43

44 So as a reminder, February 21, 2023 is
45 the deadline. And that's all I had to say, thank you,
46 Madame Chair.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Question.

49

50

0253

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4 Excuse me, a number of meetings ago -- let me take this
5 thing off -- a number of meetings ago I brought up the
6 idea of potentially having a chair at our Council for
7 youth and I wonder if OSM -- they said they would go
8 back and talk about that a little bit and see if it
9 would be appropriate of if it could even be done but,
10 you know, getting back to the education thing, bringing
11 up young leaders is really important and as you can see
12 our Board is getting much older and we really need to
13 bring young people on to this Council. And I've always
14 thought that having some young people, even if they're
15 not necessarily from one of our villages, but I know
16 there are programs at the University that often times
17 village kids end up there and are maybe involved in --
18 I'm not really sure what's going on in that realm but I
19 just really think it would be a really smart move for
20 us to have some youth begin to participate in our
21 deliberations here and learn the process because it
22 takes a long time to get knowledgeable in the process
23 and it takes a long time to learn how to -- I don't
24 want to use the word, manipulate, but understand how
25 you can make this process work for you. It's not
26 something that happens in one or two years. So I just
27 would like to at least bring that to the attention of
28 OSM and maybe look into it and see if that's something
29 that we can't initiate within the next year. I think
30 it would be really advantageous for OSM to do that at
31 all the different RACs because I would assume that --
32 I'm just going to guess but I'd say a lot of RACs are
33 in the same position we are, where there are a lot of
34 elder people and not a lot of young people getting
35 involved, and it's the same process as the education
36 process that we just talked about. All of this is
37 going to fall in the laps of young people so let's
38 prepare them for it.

39

40 That's my only comment, thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Oh,

43 Katya.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
46 Wessels. I just would like to make a suggestion to the
47 Council to send a letter of what Member Bassich
48 suggested to the Board then it will be easier for us to
49 bring it to the Board's attention. And I also would

50

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1 encourage the Council members to take the application
2 packets with them back to your communities and
3 distribute them. I mean we mail a lot of applications
4 around and try to give it out at various functions but,
5 you know, your help and support with encouraging people
6 to apply in your communities and around your region is
7 very important to us because you know people in your
8 region, you are our connection to your communities and
9 so I would appreciate if you would take a few copies
10 with you. And, you know, the Eastern Interior's always
11 been a pretty strong Council, you rarely have vacant
12 seats but we want to keep that going, we want to have a
13 good strong Council with contributing Council members
14 and all of you are and we want to keep it that way.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
21 to make a motion that the Eastern Interior Regional
22 Advisory Council write a letter to OSM to ask if there
23 is the ability to incorporate a youth seat on our
24 Council.

25

26 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Second.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there's a
29 second. It's been moved and seconded to add a youth
30 seat to our Council.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Right. And I'll just
33 reference the comments I made earlier in regards to
34 this. Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Comments.
37 Discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
42 we're ready to vote. I'll call for a unanimous consent.
43 Anyone opposed to the motion say aye.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it
48 passes unanimous. Okay, next is Emergency Wildlife
49 Special Action 22-03.

50

0255

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom
3 Plank and I am a Wildlife Biologist for the Office of
4 Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a
5 summary of the results for Temporary Wildlife Special
6 Action WSA22-03.

7
8 Emergency Wildlife Special Action,
9 WSA22-03 was submitted by Shawn Bayless, the Refuge
10 Manager at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge on behalf of
11 the Northway Village Council and Northway Maintenance
12 Corporation requesting that the moose season in the
13 Federal hunt, FM1203, areas of Unit 12 be extended to
14 September 30th.

15
16 The proponent states that only three
17 moose have been taken during the season and those were
18 on the border of the hunt area. They believe the
19 beginning of the rut has arrived later each year and
20 that the bulls are not moving into the area during the
21 regular season. Northway Village Council and Northway
22 Native Corporation and upper Tanana residents have
23 expressed a dire need for moose this year. This
24 special action request was validated after the season
25 closure date and the time needed to process a special
26 action would prevent Federally-qualified subsistence
27 users the ability to utilize the full 10 day extension
28 of the season that the proponent requested, therefore,
29 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted this temporary
30 action with the modification to extend the season until
31 October 10th to provide the full time the proponents
32 requested to allow Federally-qualified subsistence
33 users a useful extension of the season to harvest a
34 moose with their FM1203 permit.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
37 the Council. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
40 questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So now we're
45 faced to go through this process, right. I'm having --
46 not -- this was a report and we don't have an action
47 item?

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct.
50

0256

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
2 Chair is getting confused. Because I did put an
3 asterisk at the next one. Thank you, Tom. Next is the
4 State Board of Fisheries proposals, and has anyone
5 looked at them and have a priority of proposals that
6 you'd like to take up. This is the time. Charlie did
7 tell me he wanted to support 140, the one that Virgil
8 had brought up this morning.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yes. I can make a motion
11 to that if you'd like.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
16 the Eastern Interior RAC to support Proposal 140 of the
17 Federal regulations before the Board of Game as
18 presented to us by Virgil Umphenour earlier in the
19 meeting today.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

22
23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Second.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I got
26 two seconds -- I think Don beat you but at any rate
27 it's been moved and seconded.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I don't want to go
30 into a.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A long
33 version.

34
35 MR. BASSICH:long version of this
36 so I'm just going to go straight to some of the
37 discussion points. Is there a conservation concern and
38 how will the recommendation address this. There's
39 absolutely a conservation concern with summer chum on
40 the Yukon River as we all know, unprecedented low
41 returns and the data has very clearly demonstrated that
42 the Area M fishery can catch up to almost half of what
43 normally would return to the Yukon River or Western
44 Alaska as an intercept fishery. So this would begin to
45 address that intercept fisheries and the poor returns
46 of summer chum to the Western Alaska and, in
47 particular, the Yukon River.

48
49 Is the recommendation supported by
50

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1 substantial evidence such as biological or traditional
2 ecological knowledge. As I just stated surveys and
3 genetic sampling done in the early 2000s demonstrated
4 that this was an intercept fishery, that many of these
5 fish are not from the waters where they're being
6 fished, they're in transit to Western Alaska to go into
7 Bristol Bay, Norton Sound and, in particular, in our
8 case, the Yukon River, which is greatly affecting our
9 subsistence needs.

10

11 Will the recommendation be beneficial
12 or detrimental to subsistence needs and users.
13 Absolutely. It's been clearly stated in many
14 testimonies over the years that summer chum is the
15 primary food for people in the lower and middle river
16 of the Yukon River, and with the loss of chinook salmon
17 this is an incredibly important food source for those
18 subsistence users in that part of the river.

19

20 Will the recommendation unnecessarily
21 restrict other users. The only thing that this
22 regulation or this proposal would do would be to begin
23 to limit some of the profits made by the fishermen in
24 those areas of Area M June fisheries. It would not
25 affect subsistence users in Western Alaska in a
26 negative way, only in a positive way.

27

28 And I guess to restate the motion, the
29 motion is that the Eastern Interior RAC support
30 Proposal 140 as presented to us, which is a statewide
31 proposal going before the Board of Fish, State of
32 Alaska.

33

34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
41 discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'd just like to
48 add one thing and that is that I can honestly say I
49 have brought this up at every single one of our
50

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1 meetings for 20 years and I am absolutely thrilled to
2 take it up again and I'm absolutely thrilled to see
3 that some people are finally listening and jumping on
4 this and doing something about this because I believe
5 this has been having a tremendous impact on our salmon
6 fisheries, as well as bycatch, and as well as the
7 hatcheries. And I look forward to the day when I can
8 say the exact same thing as I'm saying right now about
9 hatchery production and bycatch in the Bering Sea.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
14 Any more discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
19 God that Virgil brought it before us or we might not
20 even have been taking it up, yeah. Okay, I'm just
21 going to ask for unanimous consent on this Board of
22 Fisheries proposal for the State on that Area M area.
23 Everyone, unanimous consent, anyone opposed.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
28 it passes. All right, this is the time if you have any
29 other Board of Fisheries proposals.

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted to remind
32 Council members that there are copies of some of the
33 proposals in your supplemental materials, in Tab 13,
34 there are some of the Yukon proposals, 14, some
35 statewide proposals, and 15 is the Alaska Peninsula
36 proposals, including the one, 140, that you just voted
37 on.

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Sue.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: You know earlier in the
44 meeting we had one proposal brought to our attention
45 and it kind of confused me because it didn't seem like
46 it would really was applicable to what we were talking
47 about at the time but Proposal 165, which prohibits
48 compensation for guide services in subsistence
49 fisheries was brought to our attention and it might be
50

0259

1 something that we want to talk about. I don't know,
2 it's -- I'm fine with talking about it, I think it's
3 something that kind of interests me a little bit but I
4 know we also are very short on time and I think there
5 are other avenues that this could be addressed through
6 ACs and other things. So I'll leave it up to the Chair
7 to make a decision on that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, in my
10 region it's a big deal so I think it's a very -- it
11 would change everything. I mean, guarantee you the
12 Board's going to have a lot of people at that meeting
13 on that particular one. And they did go through some
14 -- is this one the one -- yeah, this is statewide.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Right.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this would
19 affect statewide.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Right.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, yeah.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: So I guess I'd ask for a
26 procedural thing, do we need to have this -- do we need
27 a motion to bring it on the table and then get some
28 analysis and some other input from biologists and other
29 people or what's the process here?

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will tell
32 you when we've done all of these Board of Fisheries
33 proposals, we do not have to go through that process,
34 uh-huh, that's how we've always done it and it's always
35 been, you know, a motion up or down, and then if we
36 wanted to send somebody to the fisheries board and we
37 had a lot of interest over the years when Virgil was
38 here.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Do you want a motion?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion
45 that the Eastern Interior RAC support Proposal 164 of
46 the statewide fishery proposals coming before the Board
47 of Fish.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you state
50

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1 the number.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Yes, it was Proposal 165,
4 Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
7 there a second.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12 Continue.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: And I guess I'll speak to
15 this. I don't have a lot of knowledge about this
16 because I don't live in the region and we have no guide
17 services in our area but it just kind of goes against
18 my grain that people would use guiding services for
19 subsistence fisheries and subsistence fisheries means,
20 in my definition as a subsistence user, that you go out
21 and you gather and harvest subsistence resources under
22 your own capabilities. And I think this is a really
23 bad thing to start happening and I think it will be an
24 abuse of the system and I am always a little bit
25 cautious about new commercial entities entering into
26 the wildlife harvest realms in the state of Alaska
27 because that's a door that if it's not regulated
28 carefully can be a pandora's box to the abuse of
29 wildlife. And I'm not saying that all will do it, I'm
30 just saying that it has the potential, if it's not
31 highly regulated, or control when it's initiated.

32

33 So I guess from my perspective I am
34 very much opposed to any subsistence person using a
35 hired guide, boat service, whatever, to do their
36 subsistence activity. It goes against the core values
37 of what subsistence is.

38

39 Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can give
42 you a little background. This is a Board of Fish
43 proposal so the subsistence would be all State
44 residents qualify. And what happens on the Copper is
45 people have been hiring boats to haul them down river
46 from the bridge and to get set out and then dipnet and
47 there is -- and people have been doing it also
48 commercially from boats. They put a group of four guys
49 or four people in a boat and then they just drift and

50

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1 dipnet. And someone provided me with a video, and
2 actually it was provided to the Board of Fish last time
3 this was taken up, because I think it was specific to
4 our region but it had these four guys, you know, how
5 they do their, look at me, I got this many fish and it
6 showed all the fish they got on that boat and then they
7 go, what are we going to do with all these fish, they
8 got all these fish, and so it -- it really come out
9 very negative for what was going on and these are the
10 things that I know about it and it's become very
11 controversial. So I think that's why we're seeing that
12 right now. And that would affect all subsistence users
13 who are like from Anchorage or whatever. But the sad
14 thing is with the internet and the way things go, and
15 YouTube, that gets posted and then it's really a black
16 eye for those that did it right.

17
18 Yeah, so I say -- for me, I support it
19 right now and let the Board sort it out, if that helps.

20
21 Jody.

22
23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I just think that
24 subsistence and using a guide service is just contrary
25 to subsistence in general. Like if you don't know --
26 if you need a guide for subsistence it's just not
27 subsistence. So I think it should be prohibiting guide
28 services for subsistence fisheries. So that's how I
29 feel about it, and that's how I'll vote.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
32 Jody. I know people will say I didn't hear her, you'll
33 have to bring that mic closer when you speak.

34
35 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yeah.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, do
38 it again, uh-huh.

39
40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: What did I say now,
41 do it again.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, what she
44 said that she thinks it's contrary.

45
46 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yeah, I think that
47 if an individual needs a guide service for subsistence
48 fishing then it's not subsistence, it's contrary to the
49 definition and meaning and I guess reason of having
50

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1 subsistence. So I don't think that it qualifies and we
2 should prohibit guide services for subsistence
3 fisheries and that's how I'll vote.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
6 else.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. BASSICH: I call the question
11 please.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And how do
14 you want to proceed, unanimous or.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
19 calling for unanimous consent, anyone opposed.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
24 it passes unanimously. All right, are there any other
25 fish proposals that you want to take up.

26

27 Donald.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 I was reading through Proposal 80 and you guys can
31 start looking that up in your Board of Fish proposal
32 books. Mr. Lamont put this proposal in and basically
33 the first sentence is he wants to limit subsistence
34 because the Y1, 2, 3 commercial fishery supported their
35 fisheries for subsistence down in that region. And I
36 was confused about what his thinking was about what are
37 you going to limit subsistence people or how would you
38 limit subsistence people and then still have a
39 commercial fishery in 1, 2 and 3. And I would like the
40 Council to oppose this proposal.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want a
45 motion.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion that the
48 Council disapproves or disa.....

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, put it
2 in the affirmative and then we vote it down. Our
3 motions are always in the affirmative, yeah, and then
4 we vote it down.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to nominate
7 this proposal that.....

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Support.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: That Proposal 80 is not
12 supported by the Council and that, if in the future, if
13 Mr. Lamont wants to put a proposal in it has to be a
14 lot clearer about what his objectives are.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might need
21 some help here.

22
23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I make a motion on
24 Proposal 80, subsistence limits for chinook salmon on
25 the Yukon River which restricts subsistence king salmon
26 harvest in the middle and upper Yukon River as written.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: To support it.

29
30 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: To support it, yeah.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, got it,
33 support 80.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: I'll second.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's been
38 moved and seconded. Any other discussion.

39
40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yes.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

43
44 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you, Don, for
45 bringing this up. I also saw it and I thought.....

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: It just struck me as
48 something wrong.

49
50

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1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: It's starting the
2 fish wars between all the users and we don't want fish
3 wars, we want action on saving our fish. We don't want
4 fish wars. So -- and I think that there's also a lot
5 of misunderstanding, I don't think that maybe perhaps
6 that he has this -- has all of the proper, I guess,
7 basis, so I'm going to vote to oppose this.

8
9 (Whispering)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm
12 having another thing going on here. We already have a
13 motion on the table and we have one request to speak to
14 it and we're not allowed to do that unless we agree to
15 do so.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: You can withdraw the
18 motion.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We would have
21 to withdraw the motion.

22
23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Like what do
24 you.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Jim
27 Simon just sent me a blue card to speak to Proposal 80.
28 Do you guys want to remove the second and allow him to
29 speak to it or do you just want to move on because
30 there's a motion on the table. It's up to you guys.

31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Let's move on.

33
34 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Don't we have to go
35 through this stuff?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. No, we
38 don't. It's just that he wanted to speak to it.

39
40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So he can't unless
41 we remove the motion?

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, just
44 the second.

45
46 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I withdraw my motion
47 -- or the second? Wait, what?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, who
50

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1 seconded it?

2

3

MR. WOODRUFF: I did.

4

5

6

MS. WESSELS: It's like I withdraw my motion with the concurrence of the second.

7

8

MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, I concur.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12

MR. BASSICH: Mr. Simon.

13

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You better be ready to do it again. Go ahead, Jim.

16

17

18

19

20

21

MR. SIMON: Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of the Council. Yes, I've been directed by Tanana Chiefs Conference Leadership that is outside the room right now to speak to Proposal 80 to just highlight some of the real problems in this proposal.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

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31

32

There are a lot of claims and accusations made in the proposal that are not based on -- with any evidence. You have heard much discussions from all of the great science and research that the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service and others have been doing trying to understand the impacts of ichthyophonous on disappearing chinook salmon, you know, that are being counted at Pilot Station but not appearing at the Eagle sonar and not crossing the border into Canada.

33

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This proposal 80 suggests that 60,000 to 100,000 chinook salmon are disappearing from the river because of illegal customary trade by middle and upper river residents. It is quite concerning that a member, an alternate to the Yukon River Panel would submit such a proposal that is seemingly so uninformed about the science and research that has been going on in order to understand what is happening to in-river mortality of chinook salmon. There are claims that the Secretary of Interior, in the context of ANILCA, wanted to include the Y1, Y2, Y3 commercial fisheries as subsistence because all of the commercial fishermen, 100 percent of them are Federally-qualified users, that is not accurate, that is not consistent with the definition of subsistence uses in ANILCA and I encourage you to vehemently oppose Proposal 80 on the

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1 behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Resource
2 Stewardship Program.

3
4 These are not my personal comments.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9
10 Andy.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd just like to
13 add that from my -- I'm only speaking for myself now
14 but I'm on the Yukon River Panel and Mr. Lamont has a
15 real hard time giving up his commercial fishing, it's
16 been in his family for a long time and this is the
17 result of it. He has consistently, in my opinion,
18 embarrassed the Alaska Delegation before the Canadians
19 making claims similar to this and I find it really
20 rather appalling that he would even submit this at the
21 State level or the Federal level having been an
22 alternate on the Yukon River Panel for so many years
23 and supposedly been well educated in what's really
24 happening. So may be a little bit too much background
25 or whatever, but thank you Don for bringing this to our
26 attention, it kind of slipped through my fingers.

27
28 This proposal goes against everything
29 that has to do with subsistence activities, fishing
30 activities on the Yukon River and why the Federal
31 Program is there to protect rural people, to give them
32 precedence and priority in low abundance before any
33 commercial interest.

34
35 And I'll leave it at that.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
38 Technically we should have had the motion back on the
39 floor for that discussion but I allowed it.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Oh, trying to save time.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, well,
44 good job. Jody, do you think you can make a stab at
45 that again.....

46
47 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: or can
50

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1 we just ask you to.....

2

3 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I make a motion to
4 support Proposal 80 subsistence limits for chinook
5 salmon on the Yukon River restrict subsistence king
6 salmon harvest on the middle and upper Yukon River
7 that's.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's good.

10

11 MS. POTTS JOSEPH:written in this
12 proposal.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's good.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Second.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
19 second. Okay. Now referring to all the comments from
20 prior, I hope that is well known, yeah, and Andy's
21 added so do we need any more discussion.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: No, it's a no-brainer.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
28 no-brainer is here. And I'm asking for unanimous
29 consent for the proposal, not -- not consent -- let's
30 go backwards. Wait, let me -- yeah, let's just do a
31 roll call. Those in favor of that you would say yes,
32 those opposed to it say no.

33

34 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: No. Oh, roll call,
35 okay.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Jody Potts Joseph.

40

41 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: It's a no.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Going down the list here,
46 Andy Bassich.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Absolutely no.

49

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Linda Evans.

2

3 MS. EVANS: Most definitely no.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie Jagow.

8

9 MR. JAGOW: No.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Will Koehler.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Will, are you with us on
16 the phone.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, we'll skip Will for
21 now. Donald Woodruff.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: A definite no.

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Sue Entsminger.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: And we'll give one last
30 call for Will Koehler. Will, we're voting on State
31 Board of Fishery Proposal No. 80 if you're online.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hum.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Motion fails, zero
38 to six.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. He
41 would have definitely been with us there. He's been
42 texting me telling me he has to make a phone call and
43 he told me he was back at 2:06 so I'm surprised.

44

45 All right, any more fisheries
46 proposals, and very helpful that people bring this
47 stuff up. I hope we're not missing anything good.

48

49 (No comments)

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 Do we need a short break or do you want to go right
3 into reports -- wait, something's happening here.
4

5 MS. MCDAVID: I do want to just make
6 note, Madame Chair, that you all just took up three
7 separate proposals that will be taken up at three
8 separate Board of Fish meetings.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, jeez.
11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Proposal No. 80 will be
13 taken up at the AYK meeting, that's in January. The
14 comment deadline for that is December 30th. The Alaska
15 Peninsula, Area M meeting is in February, comment
16 deadline is in early February. And the statewide
17 meeting, which Proposal 165 that you voted on will be
18 taken up is in March. And so you may wish to discuss
19 whether or not you would like to send anyone to those
20 meetings and if there are certain meetings you would
21 like to prioritize in person attendance for, if that's
22 something that OSM can support.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MR. BASSICH: Do you need a motion?
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I guess
29 we'll need a motion.
30

31 MR. BASSICH: Is it possible to do a
32 general motion to send representatives from the Eastern
33 RAC to any or all three of those meetings or do we have
34 to be specific.
35

36 MS. MCDAVID: General is fine.
37

38 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion
39 that the Eastern Interior RAC make available the
40 ability for it to be represented at the following three
41 Board of Fish meetings that take place starting 2023.
42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
46

47 MR. BASSICH: Just speaking to the
48 motion for clarity, this is a general motion so that if
49 the availability of an Eastern RAC member to go and
50

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1 represent the Eastern RAC at a Board of Fish meeting in
2 regards to the three identified proposals that we took
3 up at this meeting, that funding and that ability would
4 be available to the Eastern RAC members.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which leads
9 me to a question. If no Council member can go, can you
10 go to it for us, in person?

11

12 MR. BASSICH: I don't think they're
13 allowed to, if it's under 18, it has to be someone over
14 18.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's over
19 18.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Oh, I'm sorry, Council
24 Coordinator, is that what you said?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought
29 you said a youth.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: I'm flattered Andy, thank
34 you.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. BASSICH: I guess I better put my
39 earphones back on.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can the
46 Council Coordinator.....

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I was wondering why those
49 eyes got so big.

50

0271

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Well, you look so young.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that's
6 precious.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: That's funny.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: I will have to ask OSM
13 leadership for clarification on whether or not I could
14 read your all's comments at the meeting in-person.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
19 Pappas.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, hi,
22 George, go ahead.

23

24 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon. It's not
25 too often that a Coordinator would actually come to a
26 Board of Fish and present the information. You can
27 request your Coordinator write a letter, or three
28 letters, you could probably use one with all three to
29 be submitted -- the same one at all three meetings and
30 of course I'll be at the end of the table at those
31 meetings and I will ensure that your comments do make
32 it into the record and make sure that they are
33 appropriately located in the charts of support or
34 against, what have you. And if you do choose to send
35 someone there I'll ensure that they're facilitated -- I
36 can help them facilitate the process of testimony and
37 navigation through the process. I thrive on that.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, thank
42 you, George. Nice to hear your voice. Yeah, I don't
43 know who wants to go for one things, I mean 500
44 proposals, but -- I mean that's what Virgil said,
45 sometimes there's that many, but I'm just joking
46 actually, but there is a lot going on if you're just
47 there for one. So it's.....

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, often times,

50

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1 though, ACs are sending people and, you know, in our
2 case Don has gone, sometimes I've gone in the past so
3 we have representation from this region and I guess
4 this would.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can wear
7 two hats.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: allow them -- yeah,
10 if they could, this would allow us to testify on behalf
11 of our AC and then also be able to sit down as a RAC
12 member so you double the amount of time you're able to
13 sit before the Board.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that
16 would be the ideal situation, I think. Yeah. Okay.
17 And everything -- and George is there, too, so all is
18 well. And the motion was to, in general, send -- all
19 right, anything else on the motion.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Not to send a youth.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You is what I
26 said. Okay. That's precious. Okay, I'm going to --
27 are we asking for unanimous consent on the motion.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yes, ma'am.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are.
32 Anyone opposed.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It passes
37 unanimous. Do we need a break or do you want to keep
38 going.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Let's take a brief break.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A break,
43 okay, let's try for less than 10.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe I ought
50

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1 to wait for my Coordinator. So I have to report, also,
2 that I will be leaving the meeting at 5:00. Now, if
3 Charlie isn't back to Chair the meeting, I think it
4 would fall to Jody, so.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: It's good practice.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, just to
9 let you all know, okay. And, Jody, I want to apologize
10 to you, too, because we had here it said Secretary was
11 Donald and.....

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: That's not right.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:it was
16 incorrect.

17

18 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Oh.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I called
21 on him to do the roll call and we needed to call you.

22

23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Oh, yeah, yeah.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I apologize.
26 Yeah.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: That was OSM's fault,
29 sorry.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was
32 OSM's fault. Dock in pay -- no.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Brooke, were there any -- I just talked to the Tanana
38 Chiefs person and.....

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: They decided to defer to
41 the next meeting.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:they're
44 going to defer to the next meeting because they'll have
45 more information and not duplicate everything. And so
46 next -- up first is tribal governments, how is that
47 different than Native organizations. I always look at
48 this and.....

49

50

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1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I could tell you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

4

5 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Do you want me to
6 speak into the speaker.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

9

10 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So you want to know
11 the difference between a tribe and a Native
12 organization?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was
15 just going to help people who want to testify.

16

17 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: So a tribe is a
18 Federally-recognized tribe and they're an actual
19 government, and a lot of the Native organizations, like
20 Tanana Chiefs Conference, Copper River Native
21 Association exists because of the tribes so they're a
22 non-profit conglomerate that works for the tribes on
23 certain trust responsibilities with the Federal
24 government so like health care and things like that.
25 So big difference.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
28 they're differently recognized for agency reports. So
29 then I need to call on tribal governments. Are there
30 any reports either in the room or online.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
35 is Native organizations. Tanana Chiefs will bring
36 their report to our next meeting. And they live here
37 in town so they're allowing people from out of town to
38 give their reports. And next is Ahtna InterTribal
39 Resource Commission.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, well,
44 next is Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

45

46 MS. FITKA: Well, good afternoon,
47 Madame Chair, and Council members. Thank you for
48 having us report to you today. Our material is in the
49 supplemental packet. My name is Serena Fitka, I'm the

50

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1 Executive Director of the Yukon River Drainage
2 Fisheries Association and I'll have these two ladies
3 introduce themselves.

4
5 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi. Hi, good
6 afternoon. My name is Catherine Moncrieff and I am the
7 Staff Anthropologist for the Yukon River Drainage
8 Fisheries Association.

9
10 MS. CANFIELD: Hello. Good afternoon.
11 My name is Gabe Canfield and I am the new Project
12 Coordinator with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
13 Association and I'm from Ketchikan.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll remind
16 everyone, it's Tab 8 in our -- yeah.

17
18 MS. FITKA: So I'll try to keep this
19 short and sweet since most of the detail is in the
20 report. I'll just give some highlights.

21
22 Our Board met on March 22nd and 23rd in
23 Anchorage. Our next scheduled Board meeting for 2023
24 is April 17th through the 18th and it'll be here in
25 Fairbanks. During this upcoming meeting we'll have
26 five Board member seats up for election and five
27 alternates so please encourage people in your
28 communities to self-nominate or contact your tribes to
29 submit any nominations for our Board. We'll be having
30 a special meeting in November to go over the Board of
31 Fish proposals and that's tentatively scheduled for
32 November 8th and 9th, 2022 and this will be a virtual
33 meeting.

34
35 Our Yukon River salmon summer pre-
36 season meeting was held in Anchorage on March 24th,
37 2022. This was our first in-person pre-season meeting
38 since 2019. We had approximately 80 people in-person
39 and 50 online. With the high number of participants we
40 put the agenda aside to listen to the people's concerns
41 as we went around the room. It was a very successful
42 meeting. The 2023 Yukon River pre-season meeting will
43 be held here in Fairbanks and will be a two day meeting
44 instead of a one day meeting and that's tentatively
45 scheduled for April 19 and 20, 2023.

46
47 Just a brief fisheries disasters update
48 for 2020 and 2021. As you may know that NOAA allocated
49 about 56\$ million to Alaska Salmon Fishery disasters
50

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1 and a couple weeks ago the State of Alaska opened up
2 for public comment for the spend plan and YRDFA
3 submitted comments in regards to their proposed spend
4 plan for the fisheries disasters in Alaska. The
5 comment period is today at 5:00 o'clock. Let's see,
6 some of the comments that we did submit in our letter
7 was one of the -- was wondering why the two fisheries
8 disasters were combined when they were filed separately
9 for 2020 and 2021 and why we were lumped together with
10 the Kuskokwim River for commercial and subsistence. We
11 felt that those should not be lumped together, that
12 they should stand-alone, they're two different river
13 systems and the Kuskokwim River did have the
14 opportunity to subsistence fish. Another concern that
15 we did mention is we disagreed with the formula for the
16 distribution of subsistence allocation and the shares.
17 The reason behind that was because every person that
18 lives in rural Alaska should not -- does not -- they --
19 every person in rural Alaska subsistence fishes and
20 they should not be restricted by their income
21 guidelines.

22
23 Jumping to teleconferences. Our in-
24 season salmon management teleconferences are funded by
25 FRMP and there's a detailed report in your supplemental
26 packet. We did mail two posters to each tribal office
27 before the teleconference season started and we used
28 social media to remind people of the teleconferences
29 that happened each week. However, we did have a lot
30 turnout of participation during those teleconferences
31 and we always tried to encourage people to call in
32 because it is a platform for people -- local people and
33 managers to get together and talk about issues. Since
34 we did know that there was going to be no harvest
35 opportunities for people on the river we did try to
36 provide other informational research, reports or invite
37 other managers to the teleconference to provide other
38 information that we heard on the teleconference. So
39 that was one way we tried to utilize the time and
40 disperse information to the local fishers on the river.

41
42 And now I'll turn it over to Catherine
43 to talk about the other projects.

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47
48 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. I'll.....

49
50

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1 REPORTER: Go ahead Catherine, I'll
2 take care of this.

3
4 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. For the record,
5 Catherine Moncrieff. I'm going to provide you an
6 update on some of our other projects.

7
8 First the in-season subsistence salmon
9 survey program. This is included in your supplemental
10 packets, the report and results from our final
11 interviews from 2022. Some highlights from the season
12 include, we started out with a hybrid training in March
13 in Anchorage. Some of the surveyors were able to be
14 there in person and some were online. This was
15 followed by another challenging summer with surveyors
16 attempting to collect information from fishers who were
17 unable to fish. Through the final interviews we
18 learned that the impact of Covid19 was greatly reduced
19 this year but some participants in almost every
20 community felt some impact or stayed isolated from
21 others. We also learned that participants were, again,
22 not able to harvest enough fish for the winter. Our
23 surveyors informed us that it would be easier to do
24 their job if people could fish and wanted to
25 participate in the survey. They said some people were
26 reluctant to give any information, afraid that they
27 would be shut down or restricted from any kind of
28 fishing. We are learning that we need to find ways to
29 put people at ease, or new ways. Next steps for this
30 project include considering program updates and
31 revisions and we're bringing Gabe on to help run this
32 project and explore ways to enhance its effectiveness.
33 This program is currently funded by the FRMP through
34 March of 2024 and if you have ideas for changes or
35 about how to improve this program we encourage you to
36 contact us or one of us to talk to us about that.

37
38 Next I want to give you an update on
39 the Local and Traditional Knowledge of Anadromous Fish
40 in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on the Draanjik
41 Drainage. This FRMP funded project has ended since
42 your last meeting and the final report is available in
43 electronic form. I do have a paper copy with me today
44 for your Council that I'll give to you when I'm
45 finished speaking. And in this project YRDFA partnered
46 with the communities of Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and
47 Venetie and the Tanana Chiefs Conference to update the
48 Anadromous Waters Catalog. We used a combination of
49 traditional knowledge and Western science techniques to
50

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1 document anadromous fish and make nominations to the
2 Anadromous Waters Catalog in the following locations.
3 Rearing juvenile chinook salmon in the Tetthajik and
4 Drifting Snow Creeks; spawning adult and rearing
5 juvenile coho salmon in Ni'inlii in the Kvenjik Creek
6 Drainage; presence of adult and juvenile roundfish in
7 Kvenjik Creek, Drifting Snow Creek and Grayling Fork
8 Black River; presence of juvenile Arctic lamprey in
9 Kvenjik Creek, Tetthajik Creek and Grayling Fork Black
10 River.

11
12 Our other projects are covered in your
13 supplemental documents and they include the Yukon River
14 Clearing House which has just begin and we have a
15 description of it in your supplemental packet.

16
17 The next project, Elders Warnings, or
18 the full name, They Told Us There'd Come a Time,
19 Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition on the Yukon
20 River, a Catalog of Elders Warnings. This project is
21 in its -- it's getting ready to begin its final year
22 and we'll be holding our third workshop for the team
23 this fall to focus on learning how to turn our research
24 and recordings into outreach materials. The project
25 goes through March of 2024 and our final year, we'll be
26 focusing on summarizing what we've learned, producing
27 the outreach materials and giving presentations about
28 the project.

29
30 The next project, Local and Traditional
31 Knowledge of Anadromous Fishes in Drainages of the
32 Tanana and Yukon Rivers. This project is funded by the
33 Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund and it's a partnership
34 between YRDFA and the Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game. With this project we have a goal of expanding
36 documentation of fish presence and life stages on a
37 section of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. And during
38 this past summer, the Fish and Game team was out on the
39 river in June, July and September documenting fish
40 presence. In total, they documented 14 species of
41 chinook and chum salmon as well as several whitefishes
42 known to be anadromous in the middle Yukon River or
43 lower Tanana River such as Lease Cisco, humpback
44 whitefish, broad whitefish and sheefish. We plan to
45 summarize what we've learned this fall or winter and
46 then plan followup visits with the communities and
47 participants interviewed in 2021.

48
49 Finally, I want to tell you about a new
50

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1 projects, it's called, Engaging Fishers in Chinook
2 Salmon Research. This new project is funded by the
3 North Pacific Research Board and it will begin in
4 January of 2023. In this project we will be partnering
5 with the communities of Alakanuk, Emmonak, St. Mary's
6 and Huslia and this winter we'll begin reaching out and
7 begin our partnership and work.

8

9 More information on other YRDFA
10 projects and programs are included in your supplemental
11 materials and we'd be happy to answer any questions
12 about our report or projects.

13

14 Thank you for the opportunity to attend
15 your meeting and provide this report.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions now
18 or one more report.

19

20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Nope, we just wanted
21 Gabe to come up so we could introduce her. We just
22 wanted to introduce Gabe to you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
25 almost thought she was in high school because she's got
26 a really good future ahead.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Maybe we could send her
29 to represent us.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to
34 get a mileage out of that one.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Youths.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so
45 now's the time, did you have one.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I
48 just want to lend my support to YRDFA. I think it's a
49 great organization and it's a good example of bringing
50

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1 people together on the Yukon River and working together
2 and I fully support that.

3
4 I do have one question, in your
5 upcoming project, it's a fairly brief description of
6 it, Engaging Fishers in Chinook and Summer Chum -- or
7 chum salmon declines, is that -- this project will go
8 on through February 2026, are you planning to expand to
9 other parts of the Yukon River to also interview people
10 in middle and upper Yukon River communities or is this
11 focused primarily on the lower Yukon River and then up
12 around, what'd you say, Huslia or whatever? I'm just
13 curious if it's going to be expanded to other parts of
14 the region to gather information?

15
16 MS. MONCRIEFF: Not with this project,
17 the Engaging Fishers project. This project is pretty
18 specific. It has two main tasks. The part where we're
19 working with Alakanuk and Emmonak, we're going to be
20 conducting ethnographic interviews trying to learn from
21 the fishers about their historic harvest of chinook and
22 the health of it. And we're partnering -- we actually
23 have a parallel -- it's a parallel project to Katie
24 Howard and Sabrina -- Katie Howard's project, that I
25 think was mentioned yesterday, she's interested in
26 learning about the health of the salmon as they enter
27 the river that would support or help her understand the
28 research they're doing out in the Bering Sea about the
29 salmon entering the river being very depleted because
30 they're not eating the high quality food. So she wants
31 to learn from our project about whether the people at
32 the mouth of the river have observed anything about the
33 fish and whether they're coming in less healthy or
34 weaker or if there's anything we can, you know, learn
35 from their observations that would help her understand
36 what she's seeing out there. So that's part of the
37 project. And then the other part of the project is
38 working with St. Mary's and Huslia, and you might want
39 to address this one, but with that project we're going
40 to be teaming up with fishermen in both of those
41 communities to do water quality -- water temperature
42 monitoring because this is kind of the heat stress
43 thing. We want to learn more about what effect the
44 heat stress has on salmon and also the carcass -- we'll
45 be doing carcass surveys up the Andreafsky from out of
46 Huslia. Yeah, that's the carcass and egg studies. And
47 we also want to work with those two communities to
48 develop a rapid community response standard operating
49 plans so that if there was another heat event like we
50

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1 saw a few years ago on the Koyukuk when the chum salmon
2 died off, then we could -- a team of fishermen could go
3 out and assess -- be more prepared to go out and assess
4 a situation like that.

5
6 So that's what that project is. But I
7 think our Clearing House project might address some of
8 the things that you were asking about because that
9 one's much more comprehensive on the river, the whole
10 watershed and we will be doing a big series of
11 ethnographic interviews through that project.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I was
14 just trying to understand that project. So to
15 summarize it's basically to focus on the lower river
16 in-migrating salmon health and to try and establish the
17 health of those fish as they enter the river and also
18 to look at the out-migrating juvenile salmons at the
19 same time, or is that just a part of her trying to
20 understand, or may draw some correlation between one
21 year's out-migration and another year's returning
22 adults that would then create that out-migration a year
23 later. Is that the gist behind it, I'm a little bit
24 confused why you would mix those two, juveniles and
25 returning adults. I'm just trying to understand
26 the.....

27
28 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yeah.

29
30 MR. BASSICH:how they have --
31 what they have in common there. Is she trying to
32 understand the health of those salmon so that she
33 understands those adults that will be creating the
34 following years out-migration?

35
36 MS. MONCRIEFF: Well, the first part of
37 what you said was right on, exactly what we're trying
38 to do.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

41
42 MS. MONCRIEFF: Understand the health
43 of the salmon as they're entering the river. And I
44 can't really speak to Katie's research exactly but the
45 juvenile part I think is something separate that she's
46 doing. I think she's got another.....

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

49
50

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1 MS. MONCRIEFF:thing she's
2 investigating about what they're eating and as they
3 come into the river, and are they depleted of resources
4 as they enter the river.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

7
8 MS. MONCRIEFF: So we're focusing on
9 that part of it.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: So those are all adult
12 salmon?

13
14 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

17
18 MS. MONCRIEFF: Adult, yes.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: I think maybe I
21 understood that it was.....

22
23 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay.

24
25 MR. BASSICH:also some juvenile
26 research being done. Okay. Yeah, that's great.
27 Information on the health of the salmon, which we know
28 is getting worse because of not being as large and not
29 being as healthy as they enter the river, it's good to
30 make sure we understand that.

31
32 And then I guess I'm wondering if
33 there's been any discussion about spending more time --
34 you heard this Council earlier on talking about the
35 Chena, Salcha and Canadian component of the run, which
36 constitutes 75 percent of the total chinook run, is
37 there any talk about trying to develop some more
38 understanding of what's taking place in the Chena and
39 Salcha in Alaska in regards to chinook salmon
40 production? Because it just seems like if we really
41 want to understand what the declines are we should be
42 addressing the declines of the largest producers and
43 that's the Chena and Salcha in Alaska and that's the
44 Canadian component which goes across the border in
45 Canada which we can't really study through our programs
46 but we can certainly address that through the Yukon
47 River Panel. So I'm just maybe giving you food for
48 thought because it really seems to me if you want to
49 address the most important aspects of the decline, you
50

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1 have to go to the biggest producers in the system and
2 understand what's happening in those systems to try and
3 rebuild.

4

5 Just my thoughts I wanted to share more
6 than anything else.

7

8 MS. FITKA: And I could elaborate with
9 one of our other projects that we just got funded for
10 that's through the State of Alaska. We were funded a
11 five year project and this is in partnership with the
12 Yukon River InterTribal Watershed Council and so we're
13 pretty much, I don't want to say doing the same thing
14 as the FRMP project, but we are gathering local
15 traditional knowledge across the whole drainage. We'll
16 be hiring a bunch of seasonal workers throughout the
17 drainage to go out to the communities, gather
18 historical data, looking at streams where they see
19 spawning salmon in streams and then the other component
20 is the water quality component where we'll be, again,
21 hiring local people to go out to these streams to
22 monitor the spawning grounds of salmon. And so our end
23 project is to have a clearing house where people can go
24 to one site to learn about a stream, learn about the
25 traditional knowledge that has been gathered and also
26 look at research projects that are being conducted on
27 the Yukon River to identify any gaps.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, also I guess you
30 mentioned temperature monitoring and I'm sure you've
31 been in touch with ADF&G but that monitoring system is
32 pretty extensive actually, both in Canada and in
33 Alaska. A lot of that's funded through the Yukon River
34 Panel. So that data should be readily available to
35 get. So just wanted to make sure you're aware of that
36 but I'm sure you were.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 Good work.

41

42 MS. FITKA: Thank you.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: And I guess the only
45 other question I would have is it was related to us
46 that you are addressing the Area M fisheries and I
47 applaud you for that, again, and I hope you keep this
48 Council well updated on what your findings are. I'm
49 sure that you'll be getting that out there but that's
50

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1 something that needs to be addressed along with the
2 others that I've mentioned. But I'm really glad to see
3 you, as an organization, addressing that.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. FITKA: Thank you, Andy. One more
8 thing that I forgot to mention is YRDFA is going to be
9 hosting their first virtual Yukon River Symposium and
10 that's going to be in February. That'll be a two day
11 symposium to address some of the projects that come out
12 of the R&E and R&M fund.

13
14 And if there's nothing else, thank you
15 for your time.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jody.

18
19 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I just wanted to say
20 you guys are doing an awesome job and thank you for all
21 your work and efforts and it's greatly appreciated.

22
23 MS. FITKA: Quyana.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
30 very much. Good job. So now is the time -- I have
31 just been advised by Ahtna InterTribal Resource
32 Commission missed her spot and would like to jump in
33 right now. Okay.

34
35 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Is it Karen?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Ahtna
38 InterTribal Resource Commission.

39
40 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 This is Karen Linnell, Executive Director for the Ahtna
42 InterTribal Resource Commission. AITRC is composed of
43 eight Federally-recognized tribes and two ANCSA
44 Corporations and our traditional territory covers about
45 28 million acres, or roughly the size of Ohio.

46
47 I'd just like to give you a brief
48 update on AITRC. The community harvest system for
49 2021, 40 permits were issued for moose and 80 for
50

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1 caribou, zero moose and zero caribou were harvested
2 under this permit. There was some miscommunication at
3 the beginning and so we didn't get as many folks
4 registered. This year my database crashed on me and I
5 cannot print a permit so we've only got about 15
6 permits out there with no moose harvested.

7
8 Carnivore study, ADF&G, UAF, Ahtna
9 Incorporated and AITRC partnered on a carnivore study
10 that first started from a question from one of our
11 elders saying, why are you allowing bear baiting on
12 Ahtna lands when you don't even know how many bears are
13 out there. So we are just now, I think it's our fifth
14 year, three years with ADF&G as a partner and from
15 this, I think you're going to see at least five peer
16 reviewed reports written on it. It takes about a year
17 to get the DNA results and those samples this year we
18 took over 1,600 samples, quite a bit more than the
19 first few years. We expanded the area. It includes a
20 portion of Unit 13 within the Denali National Park and
21 another portion for the Nabesna Road into GMU 12 and 11
22 there looking at potential movement in and out of the
23 Park. So it will be interesting to see how many of
24 those samples are -- those bears through genetics, or
25 identified in GMU 13 outside of the Parks. And then
26 this year also it was done in tandem with an aerial
27 survey that the Department has been using for quite a
28 few years in the Talkeetna Mountains so we'll be able
29 to get a head to head comparison of numbers there and
30 look at the methodologies and see if we can improve on
31 those.

32
33 We also were contacted by the
34 Department and the University of Alaska Center for
35 Conservation Science to look at a caribou habitat
36 study. We've heard many times that it's more than the
37 land can sustain but no study has been done to see what
38 the land can sustain for population objectives. And so
39 this is being done for the Nelchina Caribou Herd and
40 we're looking at the physiology and the nutritional
41 content of the feed there that the caribou are eating.
42 So this year they just went out and got some enclosures
43 where they block out areas so that the caribou can't
44 eat there so they can monitor growth there and then
45 measure on the outside of those enclosures.

46
47 We're working with the Mentasta
48 Traditional Council, Mentasta Caribou Herd collaring
49 project. It's a Tribal Wildlife Grant that was put in
50

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1 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and we have not
2 heard back, we probably won't hear back until December
3 on whether that will get funded. As you know at the
4 last spring -- the Federal Subsistence Board did
5 approve a Unit 11 Nelchina Caribou Herd for bulls only
6 and we're hoping by collaring more of the Mentastas
7 that we'll know when they're co-mingled and that will
8 better inform management for that may be announced
9 season.

10

11 We're also looking at wolf population.
12 This is something that the Native Village of Tazlina
13 has been asking about for awhile and so they also put
14 in a TWG grant and we hope to hear from that sometime
15 in December. This one will look at, toward the
16 predator/prey dynamics and the movement in and out of
17 the Wrangell-St.Elias National Park.

18

19 Fisheries, the TownLake Restoration
20 Plan, we are looking at environmental DNA. We're
21 waiting for the sample results back to finalize that
22 report. That will give us a presence/absence of
23 different species in the water there. We've got water
24 temp and flow measurements that will be included in
25 that restoration plan. Again, trying to get salmon
26 back into TownLake in Chitina.

27

28 We just finished our first year of the
29 Klutina River sonar. The -- from a radio telemetry
30 project that was done by Native Village of Eyak. About
31 10, 12 years ago now we found that 30 to 50 percent of
32 the sockeye return in the Copper River goes into the
33 Klutina and it looks like we had a pretty good season
34 and we're able to capture the entire run into that
35 river this summer. We've got a couple more years of
36 this project and we're also looking at additional
37 studies to capture the whole life span of the salmon in
38 the Klutina River system from fry to spawn and see what
39 information, how much of the smolt that are leaving are
40 returning. So those are the kinds of things we're
41 hoping to get funded in the next year or two.

42

43 We are also working with Ahtna
44 Incorporated on an environmental assessment of the
45 Klutina Road. With the recent settlement of the
46 lawsuit for access in the 17(b) easement now being a
47 RS2477 and under State jurisdiction we expect to see
48 more traffic and we want to get a baseline before we do
49 -- before that traffic increase happens.

50

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1 We're working on a tribal historic
2 preservation office, establishing one. This has
3 started from observations found near Chitina by
4 personal use dipnetters and the desecration of the
5 family camp at Eskilida Creek and -- so we're hoping to
6 be able to protect historical sites through this tribal
7 historic preservation office. There was some
8 additional trespass by Department of Transportation as
9 well that we're looking at.

10

11 We're nearly complete with our Ahtna
12 Ethnographic Assessment and Overview of land use within
13 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. We've got a caribou,
14 snow and ice TEK project. The interviews have been
15 complete and the report is starting to be drafted.
16 There may be some follow-up interviews. This is to
17 document the change in caribou use since the closure in
18 the late '80s and then the change in the snow and ice
19 conditions for river crossings for subsistence
20 trapping.

21

22 And then we're working also with the
23 National Park Service and ADF&G to complete some
24 community household surveys. That'll be done for
25 Mentasta, Chistochina and Slana starting in January.
26 And we've gotten some funding through EPA to look at
27 changing conditions in key subsistence species so we've
28 listened to our elders and they're saying they're
29 seeing changes in the fish. They're seeing changes in
30 the animals with different nodules and worms or other
31 things and so what we're trying to do is document it
32 and have tribal, or any harvesters send their pictures
33 to us so that we can start to document these changes
34 and/or try to find out what is causing them. The other
35 thing from one of our elder's questions in seeing those
36 changes and they're asking, do you think -- because
37 we've had a lot of high cancer rates, do you think it
38 could be because of what we're eating, what the animals
39 are eating. So this hunting season we've asked
40 harvesters to take samples of their moose, kidney,
41 liver and meat and then get us their teeth so we can
42 age the moose as well to see and test those for heavy
43 metals. It's just a feasibility study to see whether
44 we need to get into a much more detailed or heavier
45 research on that subject.

46

47 Future projects. Potentially sheep
48 surveys. Looking for mountain lions. We've had a lot
49 of reports of mountain lions in the area and just
50

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1 trying to capture them on film if we can. And looking
2 to see what kind of other things we can answer. And,
3 you know, documenting those changes that our elders
4 have seen. One of the things that we do want to look
5 at is the fecundity of salmon, the survival from --
6 with smaller salmon returning and smaller eggs and
7 smaller roe sac, that there is reduced survival after
8 the spawn of the fry end things and so we want to see
9 what that rate is and if we can see -- quantify that
10 change, how does that affect the escapement goals if it
11 takes more salmon to produce the same level then maybe
12 we need to allow for more escapement to get to keep
13 things at the current levels rather than continue to
14 reduce and lose the salmon population and have it
15 dwindle. So those are some of the things we're looking
16 at.

17
18 Yeah, it's been a busy year and we're
19 planning our next year's budget and work and are always
20 interested in questions and trying to find the answers
21 and filling those information gaps. So if you folks
22 have questions about any species, fish or wildlife that
23 you're interested in we'll look to see if there's a
24 potential project in that. The other thing we're doing
25 is working on habitat projects again with Ahtna
26 Incorporated and hoping to get more -- create more
27 habitat.

28
29 That's all I have for you, Madame
30 Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
33 Karen. Any questions.

34
35 MS. EVANS: I have one.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
38 Linda. Turn your mic on.

39
40 MS. EVANS: Oh. I have one question
41 about education. What are you doing to increase
42 education in your area?

43
44 MS. LINNELL: Education on what, may I
45 ask?

46
47 MS. EVANS: Just the resources that are
48 available and what's causing them to decline or
49 increase or things like that?
50

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1 MS. LINNELL: We're still in the data
2 collection process. We're trying to find those answers
3 to that we would have something to report back to our
4 tribal members and to ADF&G and/or the National Park
5 Service and BLM. So we are working with our local
6 community college. They just started a natural
7 resource certification program because we have Ahtna
8 Incorporated, BLM, National Park Service and ADF&G here
9 and Ahtna InterTribal, we have over 200 jobs in natural
10 resource management and so hoping to grow some local
11 folks into those programs. So this is the first
12 semester for it and they're hoping to turn it into an
13 associates and possibly have them go from there into a
14 bachelors either at UAA or UAF.

15
16 But, yeah, so far it's still data
17 collection and trying to find things out.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I'd like to
22 commend you for your hard work.

23
24 MS. LINNELL: Thank you so much.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jody.

27
28 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I just have a
29 comment. Karen, thank you so much for your report and
30 I am just really impressed with the work that AITRC is
31 doing and just want to commend you on everything.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. You know I
36 have a really good team. We're a small team but we
37 have a good wildlife biologist, we just brought on an
38 ecologist to look at the habitat and we have a good
39 fisheries biologist and our anthropologist so we have a
40 good team. And it really matters that they're
41 passionate about what they're doing so thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
44 Anyone else.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
49 Karen.
50

0290

1 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Service. Tetlin.

5

6 MR. BAYLESS: Hello, Madame Chair.
7 Council members. Shawn Bayless, Tetlin Refuge Manager.
8 I'm going to, in the interest of time, just be real
9 quick. I got one thing to mention and I'm going to
10 turn it over to my new biologist and I'm going to
11 introduce you to him here in a second.

12

13 But regarding the emergency special
14 action request the gentleman mentioned, I just wanted
15 to tip my hat to OSM, they did a heck of a job getting
16 that thing done in five days, which has got to be a
17 record, from the day I first called Orville and Amee
18 until it was done on Wednesday, it was just amazing.
19 Five days. So I want to thank them on behalf of the
20 Refuge and also on behalf of the upper Tanana people, I
21 know they're very grateful. I've never been
22 disappointed by OSM, today's no exception so thank you.

23

24 Brent Jamison's my new, two year,
25 biologist. Got here in 2020 and he's going to give you
26 an update on what he's been doing from a biological
27 standpoint.

28

29 MR. JAMISON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 Council. It's good to be here for my first in-person
31 RAC meeting so appreciate the opportunity. We did
32 submit a written report and that is in your
33 supplemental materials. I'm going to briefly go
34 through sort of the list of biological surveys we've
35 completed earlier this year, what we have coming up and
36 I'm going to review the harvest numbers from both the
37 FC1202 and FM1203 subsistence hunts on the Refuge.

38

39 We began the spring with moose twinning
40 surveys, which is only the second survey for moose
41 twinning rates since 2007 and it was followed by
42 breeding waterfowl surveys focused on greater and
43 lesser scaup, surf and white-winged scotters and then
44 finally productivity of trumpeter swans. We completed
45 waterfowl banding, again, that's been ongoing annually
46 now for probably about the last five years or so.
47 Coming up -- well, this summer we completed our
48 snowshoe hare population estimate surveys and we'll be
49 continuing the Canada lynx collaring and monitoring

50

0291

1 project again during the winter field season. Moose
2 surveys, population survey coming up in mid-November,
3 of course, pending adequate snow cover for that. So
4 we've been pretty busy and we will stay busy. Most of
5 the data that we've gathered over the summer are still
6 at data entry phase or early stages of draft reports.

7
8 In terms of subsistence harvest, last
9 year for the FC1202 hunt, we had a total harvest of 28
10 animals that was an either one caribou, either sex
11 hunt, and that's pretty close to the average over the
12 last five years which is a harvest of 32 would be the
13 average. In contrast, no moose were harvested last
14 year on the Refuge for the first time since 2010 but
15 keeping in mind also that those harvest rates are
16 usually very low, that long-term -- or excuse me, in
17 the last five years harvest average is 2.6 bulls
18 throughout the whole Refuge.

19
20 One other highlight, the project
21 that's, I guess furthest along in terms of data entry
22 and getting summaries ready to go, we were able to work
23 with ADF&G to look at wood bison habitat. So ADF&G is
24 leading the recovery effort and that's been ongoing
25 throughout the state as you guys well know led by ADF&G
26 and Tom Seaton, in particular. There's been growing
27 interest in wood bison conservation in the upper Tanana
28 over the past few years and so I worked with Tom to try
29 to get some preliminary estimates on amount of habitat
30 that might be available on Tetlin Refuge proper as it
31 sits in the upper Tanana. We were able to visit over
32 50 sampling locations and meadow habitats, accessed
33 those by air and did some vegetation sampling and in
34 short our preliminary results are showing that there's
35 a substantial amount of bison habitat that's available
36 just within the area of the Refuge that we sampled and
37 I probably shouldn't speak outside of that, but
38 obviously that's a very small part of the total
39 landscape. So I do know that Tom is here and I believe
40 he's going to speak later, kind of put some of those
41 results in more context.

42
43 So with that, that's all I have for the
44 Council, and thank you very much. If there are any
45 questions, Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
48 questions. Andy.

49
50

0292

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Earlier
2 in our deliberations yesterday it was noted that
3 waterfowl seemed to be on a fairly large decline as
4 observed by people out in our areas and looking at your
5 report it says that they seem to be generally healthy
6 but yet you were only able to band 75 percent compared
7 to other years so I'm just wondering are you guys
8 seeing less waterfowl in that area. And then the other
9 thing that was brought up were song birds were in major
10 declines across a lot of regions and I'm wondering if
11 you even pay any attention to that or anecdotally would
12 notice that song birds are not as prolific as in the
13 past. I'm just kind of curious because certainly in my
14 area around Eagle we're seeing major declines of
15 waterfowl and song birds and it just kind of has us
16 concerned. The only thing that I have seen are the
17 trumpeter swans seem to be healthy but all other
18 species, and what led to that was talking with a
19 peregrine falcon biologist who's saying that they're
20 seeing declines again in the peregrine falcon that may
21 be due to prey not being available for them.

22
23 So I'm just curious if you guys have
24 any information or notice that or maybe put it on your
25 radar for the future.

26
27 MR. JAMISON: Sure. No, thank you very
28 much Andy. In terms of waterfowl numbers, I think in
29 the banding report, the birds seemed this year, to me,
30 at least, to be a little later to show up at our
31 banding sites than normal. The overall total banding
32 numbers were down a little bit because we had to shut
33 down one of the sites down early. We had some
34 predation issues that were kind of looming there so
35 rather than make it too easy for the eagles we just
36 decided to maybe not band at that site so that's one of
37 the reasons why the numbers were down.

38
39 In terms of song birds, we do two song
40 bird surveys. I did not mention those. We support
41 logistically some other folks who come in to actually
42 do those on behalf of the Refuge for the Alaska Offroad
43 Point Counts which is part of the land bird monitoring
44 surveys as well as the breeding bird survey routes and
45 they generally put together those reports annually and
46 so those should be available online as those surveys
47 get data entry. In terms of swans, I don't think we've
48 done a swan survey on the Refuge since 20.....

49
50

0293

1 MR. BAYLESS: '15.

2

3 MR. JAMISON:2015.

4

5 MR. BAYLESS: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. JAMISON: So this will be kind of
8 the next followup. In terms of swan population
9 numbers, productivity -- populations had increased and
10 productivity started to decline a little bit just in
11 terms of numbers of segments produced just because
12 that's what happens when populations start to reach
13 carrying capacity. So your observation of strong
14 trumpeter swan populations is probably reflecting that
15 as well. So a lot of data sitting there right now to
16 work on over the winter.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
21 Go ahead, Jody.

22

23 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Hi, thanks for your
24 report. In what ways does Tetlin Wildlife Refuge work
25 with local subsistence users and especially Federally-
26 recognized tribes in your area?

27

28 MR. BAYLESS: In what ways, just about
29 all ways. We work with them on setting seasons,
30 surveys. Our whitefish surveys they help us with, both
31 villages. They help us with our visitor centers, both
32 of them now. I -- there are three Alaska Natives on my
33 Staff, two Park Rangers, one educator, and so that's
34 from Tetlin and Northway villages. So, yeah, we're
35 hand and glove.

36

37 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Awesome, thank you.
38 It would be cool to include any work you do with tribes
39 in your report especially around any traditional
40 ecological knowledge in partners.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

45 Anyone else.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,

50

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1 thank you guys. Okay, do you want to report that for
2 me.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Brooke McDavid, Council
5 Coordinator for the record. The next two agenda items,
6 we have Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife
7 Refuges, both of these Refuges submitted really nice
8 reports. The Yukon Flats report is on Tab 10 in your
9 supplemental materials and the Arctic report was just
10 passed out to you guys. In the interest of time, the
11 Refuge Managers wanted me to let the Council know that
12 they are here and available to answer any questions
13 that you might have but would be happy to move their
14 full presentations to -- or updates until the winter
15 meeting.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we
20 really appreciate that and thank you. Council members,
21 did you look at those two and have any questions now or
22 not.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
27 thanks again for moving to the next meeting, we really
28 appreciate it. Next would be the Park Service, Denali
29 National Park.

30
31 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Madame
32 Chair, and members of the Council. For the record my
33 name is Amy Craver and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator
34 for Denali National Park and Preserve. My report today
35 is an action item for the Eastern Interior RAC
36 regarding reappointment of Mr. Wright, Sr., to the
37 Denali SRC.

38
39 Mr. Wright's Eastern Interior RAC
40 appointment expired on March 2022 -- or 2021 and we
41 would like to request the Eastern Interior RAC to
42 reappoint Charlie to serve three more years on the
43 Denali SRC. This being an action item I would like to
44 ask for a motion to support Mr. Wright's reappointment
45 to the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Do you want to do it?

50

0295

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
6 to make a motion that Charlie Wright be the
7 representative for the Eastern Interior RAC to the
8 Denali SRC.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
13 moved and seconded, Charlie so sweetly said he would do
14 it.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I will.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
19 right.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion it
22 looks like Charlie's got to get three more heads to put
23 four more hats on.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
28 other discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
33 ask for unanimous consent. Is there any opposition to
34 the motion.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Reappointing
39 Charlie Wright -- okay, thanks Charlie.

40

41 MS. CRAVER: Great, thanks.

42

43 MS. OWEN: Good afternoon.....

44

45 MS. CRAVER: Now, I'm going to turn it
46 over to.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

49

50

0296

1 MS. CRAVER: Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MS. OWEN: Okay, thanks Amy. Good
4 afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the Council. My
5 name is Pat Owen and I'm a Wildlife Biologist at Denali
6 National Park. Again, also in the interest of time I'm
7 going to make this rather quick. You folks have, I
8 believe, it's on Page 259 in your materials, the
9 wildlife update from Denali National Park.

10

11 I just wanted to mention just a couple
12 of things about a few of the projects that are in that
13 list. I'm not going to go through this word by word,
14 you can read it yourself. But a couple of things I
15 just wanted to mention, bearing monitoring, we've had a
16 project going on for a number of years now looking at
17 bear movement across the northeast boundary of the
18 Park. The last of the collars on those bears fell off
19 just about two weeks ago. We've retrieved a couple of
20 those collars. There's still a few out that we need to
21 get to download the data from those and then we'll do
22 the final analysis and call that project done once
23 we're done with that.

24

25 We do have plans, if you've been
26 reading the news you know that we have an issue going
27 on and have for awhile in Denali with the Park Road.
28 The Park Road is basically limited to half its distance
29 right now due to a landslide at Mile 45. It's made
30 some huge changes for us this summer in terms of
31 visitation and how we're handling visitors in the Park
32 but in light of that, because we expect the far end of
33 the Park Road to be closed for a minimum of another two
34 seasons before a bridge is built to span the gap, we
35 proposed last year to do a bear study on the portion of
36 the road that is basically free of traffic -- there's
37 a little bit of traffic out there but in relation to
38 what we typically see in a normal year we're basically
39 calling it no traffic. We delayed that project for a
40 year knowing that the bridge construction was probably
41 going to take a little longer than we expected. So we
42 do expect to get that project going this spring so
43 we'll be collaring probably about 10 bears on the west
44 side of the Park Road to look at how they're moving in
45 relation to the Park Road with no traffic on it, and
46 then in two years our plan is to replace the radio
47 collars on those same bears when traffic resumed so
48 that we can look at how they respond to the resumption
49 of traffic on the Park Road. We're also considering,
50

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1 at the same time, just so that we have some comparison
2 to put a number of collars on bears on the east end of
3 the traffic -- on the Park Road where there is still
4 regular traffic right now. So more to come on that.
5 We hope to get that project off the ground in early
6 spring this year.

7
8 In terms of bear management, nothing
9 really a whole lot to report there, kind of status quo.
10 Like I said it's been a bit of a challenge with the
11 traffic pattern and visitor use in half of the distance
12 on the Park Road.

13
14 One thing that I will mention, though,
15 that I think is very interesting and it relates back to
16 some of what I've been hearing you folks say has to do
17 with berries. We had, as we always expect, in the
18 height of the summer when it's warm and dry, not many
19 bears seen along the Park Road and then about the time
20 that we expect that blueberries are ripening we start
21 to see more and more bears moving around in places
22 where people are seeing them from the Park Road and
23 this year that kind of happened on a scale we haven't
24 seen in awhile. There were lots and lots of bears on
25 the Park Road. And one thing that I do know from
26 talking to all of our SRC members, talking to everybody
27 that I could ask and my own experience is that the
28 blueberry crop was not great this year and my suspicion
29 and I don't have a whole lot to back this up but based
30 on what I was seeing out there I think that part of the
31 reason we were seeing so many bears along the Park Road
32 is because they might have been traveling a lot further
33 than they normally would be traveling in order to find
34 enough berries to make it -- to fill their quota, so to
35 speak, for the late fall season. So the Park Road is
36 still open if anybody is interested, you can still, at
37 least as of this morning, drive out to Mile 30, there's
38 lots of bears to be seen out there, please stay -- keep
39 your distance from them, that's our biggest challenge
40 out there.

41
42 Just wanted to mention, moose. Another
43 thing that is just kind of confirming for me to hear
44 this kind of stuff coming from you folks. We have a
45 five mile section of the Park Road around the Savage
46 River area, Mile 6.5 to about 11.5 that we close off
47 every year for people to get off the road, basically we
48 restrict people to viewing moose, it's a really popular
49 area for moose rutting and we restrict people to stay
50

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1 on the road during that time so that we don't have
2 moose being disturbed by lots of people running around
3 trying to get photos. People are a little bit safer
4 that way. One of the thing that we've noticed, we
5 typically put that closure in about the third week in
6 August and it will be in effect until the road is
7 closed. And what we're finding is that we are
8 definitely seeing moose in the places where we expect
9 to see them but certainly not the activity and the
10 numbers that we typically are seeing at this time of
11 the year and I think it totally has to do with what's
12 going on with the temperatures out there. I left Healy
13 this morning at 7:30 and it was 57 degrees. We haven't
14 had, I don't think, temperatures probably below the
15 mid-20s. We did have just a little bit of snow and the
16 snow, you know, keeps the road closed for a half a day
17 and then the road is open again because it melts off.
18 So the rut is definitely looking a lot different this
19 year than what we are used to seeing.

20
21 I'm not going to mention too much about
22 caribou. I will just mention sheep, we did expect to
23 do our usual aerial sheep survey this year. We had
24 issues with weather and it got pushed off and pushed
25 off and then our vendor that was supposed to do the
26 surveys for us decided that he was no longer available
27 so our aerial sheep surveys did not get done. We did a
28 little bit of aerial work but with a brand new Park
29 pilot. We just got a pilot this year so he doesn't
30 have a lot of experience doing this kind of stuff so we
31 are not calling this a sheep survey in the typical
32 sense of what we do for sheep surveys.

33
34 Let's see I won't mention the Alpine
35 Wildlife Project, you could read about that.

36
37 The only other -- or two other things
38 that I just wanted to mention have to do with some of
39 our avian resources. One thing that's really
40 interesting is I'm hearing lots of comments about
41 perceived declines in song birds. We did breeding bird
42 surveys and found song bird numbers in the same sort of
43 numbers that we have seen in the past and would expect.
44 So big changes for us in terms of song bird numbers,
45 not this year anyway.

46
47 Golden eagles, we did some occupancy
48 surveys and then reproductive surveys with Golden
49 eagles. Occupancy of nesting territories was high but
50

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1 reproductive -- or nesting success was low. We expect
2 that that was probably because the snowshoe hare
3 numbers are still so far down.

4

5 And then the last thing that I just
6 wanted to mention is that we did, for the first time in
7 two years, issue our subsistence moose and caribou
8 permits for the traditional use area in Unit 13E in
9 Cantwell, face to fact this year, it was really great
10 to see some of our subsistence users again. We do not
11 have the harvest reports from that yet except that I
12 was alerted to the harvest of one moose outside of the
13 permit system, also the harvest of one bear because the
14 regulation there is that if the Superintendent is
15 informed of a harvest of four bears then the season
16 closes so we know of one.

17

18 So that's the end of my report, any
19 questions.

20

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

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: I don't have a question
25 but I would like to do a little summary of the SRC
26 meeting, if I may, just a little short one.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd love it.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to do a summary
35 of the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.
36 It happened on August 24th. The location of the
37 meeting was in Cantwell. Five SRC members attending
38 the meeting along with 12 Park Staff from the Park and
39 regional office, three intertribal members and two
40 members of Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission was
41 there. The meeting included the Superintendent giving
42 a welcome. The Commissioners provided updates on local
43 subsistence issues. Dave Scharoker (ph) provided a
44 resource update. Phoebe Gilbert provided a culture
45 resource update. Pat Owen gave a wildlife report.
46 Regional office Staff provided an update on staffing
47 issues. Karen Linnell gave an update on the activities
48 of Ahtna InterTribal Commission. Amy Craver provided
49 an update on the status of the SRC vacancies. Eva

50

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1 Patterson [sic] gave a briefing on the harvest of
2 wildlife or sport purposes in National Preserves. Amy
3 Craver gave a briefing on two requests from individual
4 C&T determinations. A special followup teleconference
5 will be held on November 8th at 6:30 p.m., to further
6 discuss the harvest of wildlife for sport purposes in
7 National Preserves and the two requests for the
8 individual customary and traditional use
9 determinations.

10

11 That's all I have, thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
14 Charlie, that was great. Anything else, questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
19 next would be the Wrangell-St.Elias Park and Preserve.

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. For the record my name is Barbara Cellarius and
23 I'm the Cultural Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias
24 National Park and Preserve. We will be quick. There
25 might be three of us but we'll be really quick. The
26 written report is under, I believe, Tab 11. And I'm
27 going to have Matt introduce himself and do a caribou
28 report and then I'm just going to cover a couple of
29 items that are in the subsistence report.

30

31 MR. CAMERON: Thanks Barbara. Hello
32 Madame Chair, and members of the Council. My name is
33 Matt Cameron, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Park
34 Service for Yukon-Charley but I was helping Wrangells
35 this year in the transition with Judy's retirement and
36 the new biologist, Kyle Cutting.

37

38 So real quick, for the Chisana Herd, we
39 had 44 active collars in early September and we found
40 two new mortalities last week. Currently the herd's
41 distributed between Chisana in Alaska and Harris Creek
42 in the Yukon with the majority of the herd in Alaska.
43 We're working with the Chisana Working Group, ADF&G,
44 Fish and Wildlife Service and the Yukon Department of
45 the Environment to update the management plan and we're
46 currently attempting a population census right now. We
47 tried earlier this week but the snow melted and so
48 conditions weren't quite right and we're hoping for
49 some more snow this weekend and give it a go next week.

50

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1 The last count was in 2013 and that was 701 animals and
2 the population seemed pretty stable since the last
3 survey. The Federal hunt for 2022 was not open this
4 year due to the herd not achieving the composition
5 goals identified in the Chisana Herd Management Plan
6 and the target is a three year rolling average of 15
7 calves per 100 cows, and the most recent estimate for
8 the herd was 14 calves per 100 cows.

9
10 For the Mentasta Herd we deployed 10
11 GPS collars on adult females last month which brought
12 the herd up to 13 active collars and we just lost one
13 that went off with the Nelchina Herd. But females were
14 generally in good condition at the time of capture. We
15 were limited by weather and so we were unable to
16 conduct a composition count of the herd but we hope to
17 conduct all the surveys next summer for the herd. And
18 the herd is currently spread out across the flanks of
19 Mount Drum and Mount Sanford.

20
21 So for moose and sheep, we share your
22 concerns about those species in the area of the Park as
23 well. And we haven't been able to pull off recent
24 estimates but we're hoping to complete surveys this
25 next year for both species and it's a priority for the
26 Park.

27
28 So thank you for your time and your
29 work on this Commission.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

36
37 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
38 Chair. Again, it's Barbara Cellarius, Cultural
39 Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
40 Preserve. You have my written report so my contact
41 information is in it if there's any questions. I'm
42 just going to hit a couple highlights.

43
44 One to follow up on Matt's report about
45 the closure of the Chisana hunt this year, that was
46 specifically in a special action issued by the
47 Superintendent and we're supposed to let the RACs know
48 when we issue special actions. And as part of getting
49 to the point of issuing the special action under the
50

0302

1 delegation of authority from the Federal Subsistence
2 Board we did consult with the RAC Chair and then had a
3 meeting that included ADF&G, Fish and Wildlife Service
4 and Yukon Environment.

5

6 And Jody's expressed an interest in how
7 the Park, you know, how Federal agencies are working
8 with tribes. We have a number of projects we're
9 working on with Ahtna InterTribal that Karen already
10 referenced in her report.

11

12 And then last but not least I just
13 wanted you to have a chance to meet our new wildlife
14 biologist, Kyle Cutting.

15

16 MR. CUTTING: Hello.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. CUTTING: My name is Kyle Cutting.
21 It's nice to be here in person, nice to see all of you
22 and look forward to working with you in the future so
23 thank you.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: And that concludes our
26 report.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
29 Any questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
34 we appreciate it.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: I'd just like to say hi,
37 Kyle.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, me too,
42 hi, Kyle. Next is Yukon-Charlie River National
43 Preserve.

44

45 MR. DOWDLE: Madame Chair. Members of
46 the Council. I'm Mark Dowdle, National Park Service
47 and I have the honor of serving as the Superintendent
48 of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

49

50

0303

1 We have several updates for you today
2 and these can be found in your supplemental packet, Tab
3 12. And we're also happy to answer any questions that
4 you have. I'm going to pass it over to Matt for the
5 first update.

6
7 MR. CAMERON: Hello again, Matt
8 Cameron, Wildlife Biologist with Yukon-Charley. For
9 our moose update this is the third year of our GPS
10 collar project on moose in the Preserve and this has
11 grown into a collaboration with BLM and Fish and
12 Wildlife and ANWR. They each have updates on their
13 sub-projects. We put out four collars this spring
14 bringing us to 30 active collars within our study area.
15 And like you noted, it was deep snow this winter when
16 we were out there during captures. And that was
17 reflected in the higher mortality over the last year,
18 we had three collars die over the winter and three over
19 the summer for a survival rate of 81 percent and that
20 was in stark contrast to the year before when we didn't
21 lose any collared animals.

22
23 We performed tracking flights to follow
24 the calves that were born last summer to measure their
25 survival in the first year and that was 24 percent.
26 And calving was up this year, up to 71 percent calving.
27 And half of our females that had calves had twins. So
28 our average calving was -- interestingly, our average
29 calving date was a few days later than in the last two
30 years so we plan to follow and radiotrack these calves
31 born this year, this fall and then later in the spring
32 to measure their survival.

33
34 And we are planning to perform a moose
35 survey in the Preserve this fall based out of Cold
36 Creek and Eagle. The last survey was in 2019 and the
37 estimate was 873 which was slightly down but relatively
38 stable from the previous one.

39
40 And I'll pass it to Matt.

41
42 MR. SORUM: Hi, Madame Chair. Members
43 of the Committee. I'll give my -- my name is Matt
44 Sorum, I'm the Wildlife Biologist for Yukon-Charley as
45 well, we go by the Matts.

46
47 I'll give you the wolf monitoring
48 program update. This was the 29th year of our wolf
49 monitoring program in Yukon-Charley. It's the third
50

0304

1 longest wolf monitoring in North America. I like to
2 claim that. We are currently monitoring seven packs
3 within the Preserve and last year all the packs den
4 within -- over the summer. The last two years the wolf
5 population has decreased and the spring count was 5.6
6 wolves which is nearly equal to the long-term average.
7 We tracked 27 GPS collared wolves last year and of
8 those 27, 9 died and one dispersed. The previous year
9 we had about half the popu -- or half the collars died
10 and had a few more dispersals. So it seems like
11 population might be -- the wolf population might be
12 starting to level out at a lower level. And then this
13 year we put -- we deployed three video GPS collars, and
14 our opportunity with that, we're kind of thinking that
15 we can evaluate social dynamics and prey item -- prey
16 use and pup counts using those video collars without
17 having to do aerial surveys and so we're just kind of
18 testing that method right now. I'm kind of excited to
19 deploy it and we were able to get some of the collars
20 back and review the video footage and it worked really
21 well so we're excited about that.

22
23 So that ends the wolf update, if you
24 got any questions let me know.

25
26 And then I'll just bring up the sheep
27 real quick. We were not able to accomplish our dall
28 sheep survey. We really wanted to pull it off this
29 summer, it didn't happen. The last survey happened in
30 2015, and prior to that, you know, in the late '90s,
31 early 2000s, the population hovered around three to
32 400, 2015 it -- we felt like it crashed to about 175
33 after the poor winters of 2013 and 2014 and then we're
34 concerned that it's probably crashed more considering
35 Glacial Mountain's population. So anyway we will
36 strive to get it done next summer and hopefully be
37 reporting that information to you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I was just
42 wondering if I was in any of those video things of the
43 wolves or whatever?

44
45 MR. SORUM: I haven't reviewed them in-
46 depth so you maybe are one of them.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I was wearing camo
49 so I don't know.

50

0305

1 MR. SORUM: You were hiding in the
2 bushes.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

5
6 MR. SORUM: I really -- I wanted to
7 point out Andy reported he found one of our collared
8 wolves that had gone missing and reported it to us and
9 it was really helpful to get that information. It was
10 one of our breeding males of a pack that had
11 disappeared and kind of died off but that wolf ended up
12 being 10 years old, which was just an amazing feat to
13 accomplish 10 years in that country.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: He ended up in my
16 backyard. And there was a moose kill the previous year
17 and he ended up starving to death at that old moose
18 kill site so he was definitely very hungry, very
19 emaciated and ended his days at Calico Bluff. Not by
20 my hand, by nature. I did have a quick question about
21 the moose surveys that you have going on. I don't see
22 a map of where they're taking place but I'm just
23 wondering are those moose surveys primarily along the
24 river corridor or?

25
26 MR. SORUM: Yes. It's largely between
27 Eagle and the boundary of Yukon-Charley but they extend
28 up into the Kandik, in the Nation and down into the
29 Charley and so I'd probably give it about a 15, 20 mile
30 buffer around the whole Yukon, and I can share that
31 information with the committee for sure.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And I guess the
34 other thing I'm always curious about is what does it
35 end up being, your moose per mile, per square mile, do
36 you have any.....

37
38 MR. SORUM: I think, I think it's .38
39 was the last -- .38 moose per square.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: And could I ask any State
42 or Federal biologist how does that compare with most
43 units around the state.

44
45 MR. SORUM: Sure.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: I know it varies a lot
48 but that seems extremely low to me.

49
50

0306

1 MR. SORUM: Yeah, so 15 years ago -- we
2 just did a study on this, 15 years ago the population
3 was about half that and then we had fires in 2004 and
4 '05 in that area and a lot of those areas produced some
5 really good moose habitat and so we've seen increases
6 in Yukon-Charley moose population, you know, increase
7 of 50 to 75 percent, but that's still low density moose
8 habitat regardless. So it increased, it's been looking
9 good, we're a little concerned that maybe the last
10 couple of years have been hard on the moose population
11 so we're, you know, hoping to accomplish that survey to
12 report that information.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: But the habitat there
15 it's probably more winterkill.

16
17 MR. SORUM: We think it was a lot of
18 winterkill.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

21
22 MR. SORUM: That's how we're feeling
23 right now. Yeah, and we have -- and like Matt said we
24 had a concurrent GPS collar study going on and we were
25 able to observe some loss and survival that was much
26 higher than the previous couple years.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: This previous winter, I
29 just wanted to share this briefly, this previous winter
30 is the first year in my 30 years of being around there
31 that I've ever seen the female moose gathering for
32 protection and survival and I assumed it was from the
33 deep snow and the wolf predation but I'd never seen
34 anything like it. Everywhere I went with the dog team
35 or snowmachine, it was running into three, sometimes as
36 many as four moose hanging out together, which normally
37 it's single moose.

38
39 MR. SORUM: Yeah.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: You almost never see them
42 together so that was obviously a strategy for
43 protection. But anyway just an observation to share.

44
45 MR. SORUM: We saw those same
46 observations during the collaring project.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
49 Jody.
50

0307

1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thanks for your
2 report on my neck of the woods.

3
4 MR. SORUM: Uh-huh.

5
6 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Being from Eagle,
7 you know, it's cool to hear about the wolves and the
8 count and everything. Concerned about the dall sheep.
9 Planning a hunt down in the Park next fall with my
10 son's and husband so kind of concerned about the
11 numbers there because that's probably going to be, you
12 know, with our challenges with the caribou and the
13 salmon it's going to be an important food source for
14 us.

15
16 How does your Park engage with the
17 local tribes that you're adjacent to and I notice, and
18 not to do some big comparisons and definitely not a
19 competition but I see all the projects that WRST is
20 doing, you know, with their local indigenous people and
21 I was wondering how Yukon-Charley Rivers works with our
22 folks.

23
24 MS. OKADA: Madame Chair. Council
25 members. My name is Marcy Okada and I work for Yukon-
26 Charley Rivers National Preserve as the Subsistence
27 Coordinator. We currently have a project where we're
28 kind of tacking on oral history interviews to the
29 University of Alaska-Fairbanks Project Jukebox and I
30 got out to Eagle last summer and did some interviews in
31 Eagle and then this past summer did a few more
32 interviews on the Native Village of Eagle side, and
33 tacked on to that is we also have a historical resource
34 study and we're hoping to do additional interviews with
35 elders and Eagle Village that lived out at Woodchopper
36 and Snare Creek and Cold Creek Camp and just hear about
37 how their lives were out there when that dredge was
38 going. So that's a continuing project.

39
40 And then we also reached out to the
41 Native Village of Eagle regarding the renaming of Squaw
42 Mountain which is in Yukon-Charley. There's also a
43 Squaw Gulch that's near Jack Weed but that's currently
44 outside of Yukon-Charley. And so tribal councils
45 should have received the notice but it became official
46 where Squaw Mountain now has a Han Athabascan name.

47
48 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Jejezhuu Tr'injaa
49 Mountain is what it is. So that was one thing I had in
50

0308

1 my notes to bring up and so thank you for working with
2 our people and getting that derogatory name changed and
3 thank you to the Department of Interior for their
4 action on that. And any other agencies that have
5 derogatory place names, such as squaw or other things,
6 savage, whatever it may be, that you haven't heard from
7 your local tribes, maybe continuing pursuing, if you
8 can, have the time, our tribes are extremely busy and
9 this is a huge success. My children and I go to that
10 area on the Tatonduk, it sits at the headwaters of the
11 Tatonduk River where my great-grandmother was born
12 actually. She was born around that mountain. And to
13 have this changed is really meaningful. So thank you.

14
15 MS. OKADA: I'm just going to finish up
16 our written update real quickly if there's no other
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. OKADA: We had a crew go out in
22 July that pulled some invasive species and it was
23 related to white sweet clover. They're noticing
24 there's more and more of this invasive plant that's
25 occurring in the Preserve and they're just trying to
26 get a handle on it before it gets out of control. So
27 we're not sure if wildlife is feeding on the white
28 sweet clover but it's an invasive species so those
29 types of plants tend to take things over once they get
30 ahold.

31
32 And then lastly, something a little bit
33 fun to highlight, there's a website, it's called
34 Frontiers for Young Minds, Science for Kids, Frontiers,
35 and Park Service had some participation in this in that
36 they started entering little highlight pieces on taking
37 the pulse of U.S. National Parks and so one focus was
38 peregrine falcons. We do have an ornithologist, Millie
39 Flamey and they just created this little website that
40 kids could look at and learn a bit about the peregrine
41 falcons and their recovery in Yukon-Charley.

42
43 And that's it for our update.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: I want to thank you guys
48 for your inclusion of my wife and I in your Jukebox
49 surveys. I think it's going to be amusing when you

50

0309

1 read what I had to say.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. OKADA: And we also.....

6

7 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

8

9 MS. OKADA: Oh, go ahead.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
12 someone's online who wants to speak.

13

14 MS. POPE: Yes. Hello everyone. My
15 name is Amanda Pope. And I have a question for Matt
16 Sorum regarding the moose survey.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

19

20 MS. POPE: And I was wondering what the
21 cow and bull ratio was the last time you had done it?

22

23 MR. SORUM: Yeah, thank you. Let's see
24 the cow/bull ratio was 49 -- 49 bulls to 100 cows. And
25 during the last survey that was 2019 and that is down
26 from about the previous, you know, decade, it had
27 averaged about 60 to 75 bulls per 100 cows. That's the
28 first time we've seen it that low. That's not
29 extremely low, that's higher than average around the
30 state but it does point to higher use of bulls in that
31 area so we plan to look at that again this winter and
32 we'll report more information on that.

33

34 MS. POPE: You had mentioned
35 winterkill, have you seen any increase in harvest from
36 hunters that has affected the numbers?

37

38 MR. SORUM: All the moose in our study,
39 which we have 38 are cows and cows are not legal to
40 take in that area. So we had zero harvested during the
41 hunting season.

42

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

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Marcy was trying to
47 finish up.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

0310

1 MS. OKADA: And then, I guess, lastly
2 we did use an old interview that was done with Andy
3 Bassich for a Yukon River fish report that was done
4 back in the day and we have video footage of Andy and a
5 full interview and then also an interview with him
6 checking his fishwheel which he allowed us to also add
7 to Project Jukebox, so that's been posted.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Which is very sadly
10 sitting on the bank and probably will retire there and
11 end up like that old wolf in my backyard, sad to say.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Goodness.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: How's that for optimism.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's go back
20 to being positive.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: I'm just kind of joking.
23 The ironic thing is that fishwheel was built the last
24 year that we fished and it got one season and it's just
25 waiting patiently for us to put it back to us.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hum. Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Which we hope we can do
30 in a year or two, we don't know, but hopefully.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Marcy.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
37 you. Did you have anything else.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
42 thank you. Okay, I'm going to turn the Chair over to
43 Charlie so I can prepare to boogie. I'm going to
44 probably get out of here by 4:30 so I'll hang in and so
45 take over Charlie.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Okay, it
48 looks like we're on F, Bureau of Land Management.

49
50

0311

1 MR. HERRIGES: Good afternoon, Madame
2 Chair and Council members. My name is Jim Herriges.
3 I'm the Wildlife Biologist for the Eastern Interior
4 Field Office in Fairbanks. I'll keep this very brief
5 and just touch on a couple items that I think you might
6 be interested in. Please ask if you want any more
7 detail or discussion.

8
9 I'll start with Fortymile Caribou, a
10 little bit of recapping. For the fall hunt, both Fish
11 and Game and BLM limited the harvest to bulls only
12 based on several factors including the recent heavy cow
13 harvest, heavy snowpack, continued low three year old
14 calving rates, low calf rates and low survival which
15 only indicated a likely continued decline in the
16 population. And then so through consultation with
17 Yukon-Charley and Fish and Game and Tetlin and your RAC
18 Chair BLM provided a greater subsistence opportunity
19 by, again, opening the season August 1st, instead of
20 the 10th and leaving it open through September and by
21 setting the harvest limit at two bulls as opposed to
22 the State one bull harvest limit. Thankfully, ADF&G
23 completed a photo census and counting them in record
24 time, I'm sure, which confirmed the population decline
25 from nearly 84,000 in 2017 to around 40,000 this summer
26 and used this to set the quota for 900 bulls, which was
27 down from 4,500 either sex caribou the previous fall.

28
29 During the fall season the herd showed
30 movement similar to last years. After returning from
31 their jaunt just across the border in Yukon in July
32 they sort of bounced between highways for the remainder
33 of the season, first up against the Steese Highway in
34 late July, largely leaving by the time of the August
35 1st opening and then nearing the Taylor Highway in the
36 Chicken Ridge Area where most of the harvest occurred
37 before heading up to Glacier Mountain and Seventymile
38 River area and then back to the west. Near the end of
39 September they approached the Steese Highway again
40 where about 80 were harvested before turning south
41 again. So the total harvest so far reported is 734
42 leaving about 166 in the quota which could be applied
43 to the winter hunt, which we'll be setting very soon.
44 The State season will probably be one caribou October
45 27 through March 31st, the Federal hunt has matched
46 those dates in recent years. The Federal harvest limit
47 is to be determined and we'll be including your Chair
48 and discussions about that and would be happy to
49 receive the Council's input here if you'd like.
50

0312

1 I'll give a brief update on the
2 Draanjik moose project that Matt described, the
3 collaborative nature of that. We're up to 28 moose
4 collars in the Draanjik now this year after last
5 March's captures spearheaded by the Yukon-Charley
6 biologists. And most of those were in the more
7 northern parts of the Draanjik drainage. Due to the
8 heavy snowpack in March moose were almost all down on
9 the rivers but in lower snow conditions a common
10 pattern seems to be they primarily use uplands with
11 periodic visits to the nearby river bottoms. In May
12 many of those moose shifted their range to lower areas
13 with ponds, mostly moving downwards and towards Yukon
14 Flats, however two cows captured on the SalmonFork
15 surprised us and traveled about 90 miles northeast to
16 the Porcupine River at Old Crow. And in doing so we're
17 actually approaching the Kongakut radio collars that
18 were calving in Old Crow Flats. And two other cows
19 moved from the SalmonFork and the GraylingFork into the
20 headwaters of Fishing Branch River in the Yukon and
21 summered there at near alpine elevations. These
22 movements along with some interchange of moose in
23 Yukon-Charley demonstrate the large scale connections
24 among moose in this region. And I included some of
25 those plots of movements in the report. You can check
26 the report for calving and survival data.

27
28 And I'll also mention the Glacier
29 Mountain Sheep survey which BLM funded and ADF&G in Tok
30 conducted, only 12 sheep total were observed, 11 ewes
31 and one sublegal ram. This is down from 22 sheep the
32 previous year. All other previous surveys since 2000
33 observed more than 60 sheep so it still could be a
34 distributional issue but two years of low counts kind
35 of lends support to just a real population decline.

36
37 You can read our printed report for
38 updates on our just completed travel management plans
39 which regulate vehicle use in the White Mountains and
40 the Steese. Our ongoing preparation of a watershed
41 management plan for the Ikheenjik River or Birch Creek.
42 Weed control along the Taylor Highway up to Eagle. And
43 review of BLM water rights in Beaver Creek. And
44 finally work in Nome Creek to repair and upgrade the
45 road there and restore a mining impacted stream channel
46 near the bridge.

47
48 And with that I will close and answer
49 any questions.

50

0313

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, I have a
2 question. I was listening to your report there and the
3 counts '17 and '22, is that a normal thing, to have
4 counts five years apart or is it just the dates that
5 you pick?

6
7 MR. HERRIGES: Well, those are all
8 conducted by ADF&G and they attempt to get a census
9 every year for that herd but they just aren't very
10 cooperative in aggregating long enough to get some
11 photos on so they've been trying every year since then.
12 It's been a high priority for them and so they've had
13 probably at least that many flights out to give it a
14 try without success. So they got lucky this time.
15 There was a brief period when they were aggregated and
16 they were there to get the photos.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So is it not
19 alarming to see such a huge difference in the herd from
20 like 89,000 to 40,000 and still allow a lot of kills;
21 is there any kind of conservation going on or
22 management to think about that? I'm just curious
23 because it's a big huge drop and the constant hunting
24 and multiple openings from BLM, State and Feds, you say
25 everybody has an opening?

26
27 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'll explain a
28 little bit the way that we typically are -- at least
29 BLM's involvement with management is we normally manage
30 within the harvest quota set by Fish and Game and so
31 it's just a matter of kind of allocating harvest there.
32 So we try and maintain kind of that -- the -- you know,
33 the sole, single use of that registration permit to
34 still have enough compatibility to kind of serve the
35 users in that regard and also provide opportunity. So
36 the models showed the herd in 2020, I believe, showed
37 that the herd was declining and so I think it's fair to
38 say the strategy with Fish -- the intent for Fish and
39 Game harvest was to reduce the herd rapidly so that it
40 would more quickly relieve the grazing pressure on the
41 range and then rebound. That was their stated reason.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. So since
44 you're following the State management I'll let you go
45 and I'll ask them a few more questions when it's their
46 turn.

47
48 MR. HERRIGES: Sure. Great.

49
50

0314

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you
2 for your report. Any other questions, Council members.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Appreciate it.

7
8 MR. HERRIGES: Thanks very much for
9 your endurance, if nothing else, yeah, wow.

10
11 MS. POPE: I had a quick question,
12 sorry.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, who are
15 you?

16
17 MS. POPE: My name is Amanda Pope and I
18 was just curious to know how much caribou they had
19 counted in the recent survey?

20
21 MR. HERRIGES: I'm sorry, I didn't
22 catch that, do I count -- count -- how many caribou
23 were counted in a recent what survey?

24
25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

26
27 MS. POPE: What was the finding of the
28 number of caribou that they counted in the last count?

29
30 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, it was 40,000
31 caribou was the estimate, approximate estimate based on
32 preliminary photo counts and Fish and Game will be
33 coming out with a more final estimate probably before
34 the fall hunt but I'm not sure about that.

35
36 MS. POPE: Thank you for your time.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Thank
39 you for that report. Eastern Interior Field office.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was
42 them.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: That was them,
45 okay. Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be next
46 then, Division of.....

47
48 MR. RINALDI: Hi, this is Todd Rinaldi
49 with the Department of Fish and Game. I don't know
50

0315

1 who's on the docket for talking today. Region 4, the
2 Glennallen Office was to speak to the Nelchina Caribou
3 Herd and I can provide that update. And I also
4 understand that Tom Seaton will be available after I
5 speak to provide you all with information on wood
6 bison. Is there also a Region 3 or a Unit 12 biologist
7 that's presenting or is it just on those two?

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Hi, Todd, this is Brooke
10 McDavid, Council Coordinator. It's just the two of you
11 that we received notice that would like to present
12 today. Thank you.

13
14 MR. RINALDI: Okay. All right, so I'm
15 going to provide an update on the Nelchina Caribou
16 Herd. As most of you have heard the Nelchina caribou
17 winter from the Wrangells up to Dawson and then they
18 were scattered all between. Those that wintered in the
19 Wrangell Mountains had the best survival. Those in the
20 Tetlin Flats had the lowest survival. But most
21 wintered north of the Alaska Highway. All combined
22 adult cow mortality was roughly 25 percent. The number
23 of cows that survived but stayed in Fortymile country
24 was less than 10 percent than what we started with and
25 some of those could very likely be harvested or were
26 harvested this fall in the Fortymile hunt so we cannot
27 really bank on those animals returning back to the
28 Nelchina. We do have our fingers crossed but it
29 probably won't likely boost numbers next year. Calf
30 survival for the 2021 cohort was less than 20 percent.
31 And one of the things that I've been hearing a lot of
32 people talk about is the moose populations that have
33 been down the last couple years and I would just
34 highlight that most areas of the state received 200
35 percent of typical snowfall and some areas north of the
36 Alaska range received 400 percent of typical snowfall
37 so obviously this plays a large factor into not only
38 overwinter survival for moose but also migration and
39 overwinter survival for caribou. As a result of these
40 snows -- seemingly as a result of these snows, spring
41 migration occurred late and calving also began late,
42 spring parturition surveys indicated very low pregnancy
43 and low neonatal, which is known survival rates. So
44 the 2022 calf cohort is going to be relative -- it is
45 relatively small. The summer composition ratios
46 supported that with only 31 calves per 100 cows and
47 that was back in early July, just after we completed
48 our population survey and a modeling and exercise which
49 put the population at 21,000.

50

0316

1 So that was the population estimate.
2 The minimum count was conducted, it did document a
3 minimum of less than 16,000 animals but we are
4 confident that the number of adult caribou below
5 management objectives and there's currently no
6 harvestable surplus of cows. So basically the
7 harvestable surplus for the Nelchina this year was
8 based on summer bull to cow ratios which allowed for a
9 -- a certain level of harvest but certainly less
10 desirable level of harvest than what we've had and what
11 the population would like. State hunts do have and
12 have had a bulls only bag limit to protect the herd and
13 this is -- we've also factored in the 10 year average
14 of Federal harvest when we determined the amount
15 available for State hunts. Not all State hunts met
16 their quotas. But if a hunt did meet its quota -- did
17 meet its fall quota it was allowed to run the full
18 regularly scheduled fall season dates. Many of the
19 fall hunts did meet their quotas -- well, I guess
20 that's moose, so I won't go there.

21

22 We currently -- and this is why I'm
23 here, I would be here anyways, but this is why Heidi's
24 not here is that she is currently conducting management
25 captures and completing the fall composition survey so
26 we should have some more information very shortly on
27 where the population is at. So for the conservation of
28 the herd there likely won't be any State winter hunt.
29 Winter hunting seasons have a higher impact on the
30 herd, that's animals encountered -- encounter
31 additional environmental stressors and additional
32 harvest outside of the fall seasons really isn't
33 warranted at this time, however, we are going to be
34 looking at the harvest information as well as the up to
35 date composition information and we'll be making a
36 determination in the next few days on how to move
37 ahead. If the majority of the herd winters outside of
38 Unit 13, which they're actually starting to migrate,
39 the animals that will remain in the unit would be
40 protected from overharvest if there was no additional
41 harvest allowed this winter. Currently the overall
42 harvest is now at 532 but we're expecting a jump with
43 Federal harvest as the caribou begin to move.

44

45 So that's what I have for Nelchina
46 caribou. Thank you for your time and I can take any
47 questions.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Andy.

50

0317

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you for that.
2 This is Andy. I'm just curious, body size, how does
3 the Nelchina Herd compare with the Fortymile Herd, are
4 they similar or is the Nelchina Herd generally a
5 smaller or larger caribou?

6
7 MR. RINALDI: One of the amazi -- well,
8 it's generally smaller. Obviously we've had it as high
9 as 50-something thousand in recent years and, of
10 course, it's been as low as 21,000 this year. In
11 general it's.....

12
13 MR. BASSICH: No, I'm not asking
14 numbers, I'm asking body size. Size of the animal.

15
16 MR. RINALDI: Oh, body size. I don't
17 know, I would assume that they're pretty similar but I
18 don't have a reference point for that. I've never
19 worked with Chisana or Fortymile caribou, I've only
20 worked with Nelchinas and other herds out west. That's
21 a good question. I don't know if one of the Tok
22 biologists are online but they might be able to answer
23 the question. But I would assume similar in body size.

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I'm just curious to
29 find that out because of the mixing, genetic mixing
30 between Fortymile and Nelchina Herd and the drop in the
31 basic body size. It's being blamed on nutrition but I
32 often wonder if it isn't also genetics being introduced
33 into the Fortymile herd. I don't think the Fortymile
34 herd has mixed with the Porcupine herd for quite a
35 number of years. So any genetic mixing is going to be
36 primarily between the Nelchina and Fortymile. And so
37 just trying to get some information on that. Thank
38 you.

39
40 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, no, those are good
41 questions and, you know, obviously we look at mass in a
42 couple of different ways. So obviously an animal
43 achieves a certain mass that's based on its raw weight
44 and then the fat that it may be able to put on and
45 accumulate including muscle. We also look at other
46 things such as just fat deposits so, you know, overall
47 the caribou may be the same size, they may put weight
48 on differently so they may have different masses and so
49 even though the bare bones caribou may be similar in
50

0318

1 size their ability to put on mass and to maintain mass
2 varies by area and by season. So there's a couple of
3 different questions that you could peel back there and
4 look at.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.
7 Are you going to report on the other herds at this time
8 also?

9

10 MR. RINALDI: No, because I wasn't
11 asked to, not that I'm saying I'm not doing it because
12 you didn't ask me to, but I'm not prepared to speak to
13 them. The other herds are in Region 3, which is based
14 out of Fairbanks and so I don't manage those herds. I
15 can talk to you a lot about the Mulchatna but I don't
16 think you guys are very interested in the Mulchatna.

17

18 We do have Tom Seaton who's standing by
19 to speak to you about bison if you wanted to move
20 forward with that.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you
23 very much. Is there anybody in the room that can speak
24 to the Fortymile herd.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Or online.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Or online.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Chair Wright, just so you
31 know, I did reach out to ADF&G to see if they would be
32 able to report on Fortymile caribou and management at
33 this meeting and the Tok biologists are out in the
34 field currently so we can try to get them to come to
35 our winter meeting.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right, thank
38 you very much. Okay, moving on, you got the floor,
39 thank you.

40

41 MR. SEATON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Yeah, I've text our regional supervisor asking him to
43 talk a bit about caribou but I don't think he's
44 available right now either.

45

46 So my name is Tom Seaton, I'm the Wood
47 Bison Project Biologist for the State of Alaska. And
48 every year I like to give you, this Council, a report,
49 and so I thought I'd give you a quick one about this

50

0319

1 year. So at the request of the Lower Innoko Yukon Wood
2 Bison Planning Team we imported more bison from Canada
3 this year and released 28 of them to augment the Innoko
4 Yukon River herd. So if you remember that herd was
5 started about 2015 and has been fairly stable since
6 then. After we got these animals in April from Canada
7 we kept them here at the UAF, our general research
8 station, and built some weight on them for awhile and
9 fed them up real nice and then we put them on trucks
10 and the barge and shipped them about 800 miles all the
11 way down to Tanana, down the Yukon and up the Innoko,
12 and we had -- we tried to connect them with the wild
13 animals that are out there and so we spent a bunch of
14 time trying to figure out, well, where do we think the
15 wild ones will be at this time of year and then built a
16 soft-release pen there, and barged them to the bank and
17 put them in that soft-release pen and then held them
18 there for about 13 days while the local bison showed up
19 and then right about the time the local bison showed up
20 we let them go. It took a couple three, four days of
21 kind of mixing around but eventually they all kind of
22 grouped up fairly well so they've been together now
23 since early August. And I was out there yesterday
24 monitoring them and everything looks like it was real
25 successful and we haven't had any mortalities or
26 anything like that.

27

28 So that herd is doing really well.

29

30 So we've heard a lot about how in
31 Interior Alaska a lot of species had a really difficult
32 time last winter with the deep snow and on the
33 contrary, the Innoko Bison Herd did really well. In
34 that time when we had that -- all that rain on snow
35 event here in the Interior, out west farther it was
36 mostly rain and a little bit warmer temperatures and so
37 the snow melted away and exposed a lot more of the
38 vegetation so bison had free access to vegetation in
39 the Innoko for the last half of the winter and so calf
40 survival was really high last winter. So we had record
41 number of calves last summer, so summer of 2021, most
42 of those calves were still alive in February when I was
43 looking at them. And then this spring, those yearlings
44 were still alive. And then this spring we had around
45 24 calves, that was the minimum number, we may have had
46 more but that's the highest count I could get. So
47 anyway, when you add that all together along with the
48 28 yearlings that we released this summer, we're
49 somewhere around 150 or more bison now in that herd.

50

0320

1 And we expect to start harvest based on the management
2 plan at about 250 bison so we only have so many years
3 to go before we can get to a harvest, which is pretty
4 exciting.

5
6 We also have a planning team meeting
7 next week here in Fairbanks and that would be all the
8 interest groups for the Innoko Wood Bison Herd and
9 we'll be here in Fairbanks working on that all next
10 week. So then maybe we could talk a bit about future
11 plans, so where we hope to go with that in the future
12 is to start more herds. So, you know, at this point we
13 essentially have all our eggs in one basket and we need
14 to get more herds out there to be more likely to have a
15 successful restoration in the long-term. And the
16 places that we're looking at is the lower Tanana so
17 it'd be everything from Fairbanks down stream to Tanana
18 Village. And then in that area we've been working with
19 villages for about a year now having meetings and over
20 the course of this coming winter we're going to step up
21 a lot more meetings there and see. Because the Wood
22 Bison Project is really local people based and public
23 based where we don't really want to restore bison
24 anywhere that people don't want them, we want to put
25 them in places where people really want them and so we
26 spend a lot of time discussing bison with people for
27 the future where people could want that and then get
28 input before we move ahead with something like that.

29
30 Another place where we'd like to go is
31 the upper Tanana and we just spoke with the Wrangell-
32 St. Elias Subsistence Advisory Council a couple days
33 ago and they're very supportive of that. And as you
34 heard from Brent Jamison, the Fish and Wildlife Service
35 biologist just a couple talks before me, we completed a
36 habitat study on Tetlin Refuge this year and that
37 showed some real promise for bison habitat there.

38
39 It's really interesting to look at that
40 kind of upper Tanana area because you got the Asiatic
41 (ph) Herd in Yukon Territories is only 100 miles away,
42 it's just 100 miles to the east, you know, and 100
43 miles isn't that far, you know, you can look to the
44 mountains here today and see the mountains 100 miles
45 south of us, it's just not very far away. Anyway, if
46 you take Unit 12, GMU 12, that's on our side of the
47 border in Alaska and compare that to some of the Asiatic
48 Herd stats the GMU Unit 12 is about twice the size of
49 the range of the Asiatic Herd in Yukon Territory. But if
50

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1 you add up all the moose harvest, caribou harvest and
2 sheep harvest in Unit 12 there's more bison harvested
3 in that little Asiatic Herd in Yukon Territory than there
4 is in all those three species in Unit 12. If you look
5 at the actual meat that you get from those different
6 harvests it's about twice as much meat is harvested out
7 of the Asiatic Herd in Yukon Territory than all three of
8 those species, meat from all three of those species
9 harvested in Unit 12. So what I'm trying to say is
10 that bison have a real big harvest potential for people
11 and I know this committee is really concerned with
12 harvest for people.

13
14 Another place that we could potentially
15 have bison some day and we're trying to communicate
16 with local people about is Yukon Flats. That's been on
17 the table for a really long time and we're hoping to
18 spend more time on that this winter too, although the
19 State, all the way up to the Governor would like to
20 focus on a road system bison so they're more accessible
21 than remote places right now so we're -- so that's
22 what I've been instructed to do.

23
24 And, Jody, you've been asking folks
25 about local tribe inclusion, and I want to talk about
26 that a little bit. So on the release this year, we
27 used (Indiscernible) land for that which is local
28 corporation lands and we worked a lot of time working
29 with local people there on that and we hired 15 local
30 tribal members to work on the soft release pen which
31 took a couple weeks to create and, of course, all of
32 the local tribes and corporations are on the wood bison
33 planning team for there. And we ended up spending
34 about \$60,000 getting the bison released this summer
35 directly to local people in the Innoko so I think it
36 was fairly productive on that part.

37
38 That's what I've got.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, I have a
41 question right off the bat on reintroduction of bison.
42 Like you said food security is something that everybody
43 is really concerned about. So I'm concerned, or I'd
44 like to ask what percent of animals will be -- will the
45 locals be able to harvest of these herds if so?

46
47 MR. SEATON: That's -- Mr. Chair.
48 That's specifically up to the planning team. So like I
49 mentioned it's very public driven, the wood bison
50

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1 project. So what we do is we get together, all
2 interest groups that we can think of, get them in the
3 same room to come up with a management plan on how
4 harvest allocation should be done for each herd. Once
5 that planning team is in the room we ask the planning
6 team is there any other interest groups that should be
7 here that aren't here and that usually ends up being
8 all the local tribes, the local corporations, the
9 Advisory Committees, regional Native corporations and
10 any kind of hunting groups that are involved in that
11 area. And they all sit down and come up with, okay,
12 when we have a harvestable surplus that is available,
13 how should we allocate harvest, and they come up with a
14 plan like that. And the last time that we did that,
15 the only time we've done that is with the Innoko herd
16 and that plan went to the Board of Game and the Federal
17 Subsistence Board and was approved by both. And so our
18 hope is that that will continue with future herds.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Any
21 more -- go ahead, Andy.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I want to followup
24 on that. I think maybe what Charlie was asking, or at
25 least what I'd like to ask is at what level of
26 population do you feel comfortable that a herd can then
27 sustain a small harvestable surplus. That's the
28 question. So do you need 50 animals, do you need 100
29 animals, do you need 300 animals before you feel that.
30 And I assume some of that has to do with the habitat
31 that they're in and their reproductive rates, but can
32 you give us ballpark on what that takes?

33
34 MR. SEATON: Sure. So your minimum
35 population for harvest could be very small. I mean
36 even like at 15 animals on populations, you could
37 decide that one of them could be harvested without
38 affecting the population too much. I think that these
39 planning teams, they kind of see this as a nest egg and
40 they really want to let the population grow to a level
41 to where harvesting individuals doesn't hinder more
42 growth or expansion of the herd and so what the Innoko
43 planning team did is they decided that they would want
44 about 1/4, so one local permit for every 4 non-local
45 permits and that they would not -- they would only want
46 that to happen if it didn't hinder growth in population
47 size and expanding of distribution of the herd. And so
48 they wanted it to happen when there was a harvestable
49 surplus of 20 because there's four villages that are --
50

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1 that have a desire for harvest there in the Innoko
2 area. So if they had four permits for local villages
3 and then 16 permits that went to a drawing permit, of
4 course, everybody could apply for that, then those
5 numbers would all kind of work out. So they wanted to
6 wait to harvest until there was a harvestable surplus
7 of 20. Now, to have a harvestable surplus of 20 and
8 still have growth in the population, do you want
9 something like 40 or more calves a year. Right now
10 we're having somewhere around 25 calves a year and we
11 have a total population of 100 to 150. And so as the
12 population grows of bison, it should be around
13 somewhere around 250 bison or so that we start getting
14 the 40 or more calves a year and at that point the
15 harvestable surplus should be somewhere around 20 and
16 then we could start to hunt.

17
18 So it's a little bit complicated but
19 that's kind of the process that they went through to
20 get to that harvest assessment.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

23
24 MR. SEATON: Yeah.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any more
27 questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, thank you
32 very much. Okay, well, it looks like we're just about
33 done. Looking for future meeting dates. Oh, okay, I'm
34 sorry, Office of Subsistence Management, I almost left
35 you out.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, my time.....

40
41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, you got
42 the floor.

43
44 MR. VICKERS:to shine, you almost
45 drew the curtains on me.

46
47 Madame -- or Mr. Vice Chair. Members
48 of the Council. I am Brent Vickers, I am the
49 Supervisor for the Anthropology Division. On behalf of
50

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1 OSM, thank you. I want to thank all the Council
2 members for exceptional work on behalf of your
3 communities and user groups, especially during these
4 trying times. You guys have had some real trying times
5 in your communities so thank you for all the work
6 you've done. We really, really value your expertise,
7 contribution of your knowledge, experience into the
8 regulatory process. On behalf of just the Anthropology
9 Division, I can say we really rely on your expertise
10 and knowledge that you share during these meetings, we
11 really rely heavily on going back into the transcripts
12 to help develop and shape and pull directly for our
13 analysis, so thank you very much. Keep talking. We'll
14 keep using what you say, so, thank you.

15
16 Also a thank you to everyone. Everyone
17 here representing your agencies, organizations,
18 yourselves, really appreciate you guys coming out here
19 be it in person or on the phone and contributing.
20 We've had a great meeting.

21
22 Speaking of meetings, we're holding all
23 10 meetings this year for the winter 2022 Regional
24 Advisory Council cycle, so this has been a lot of fun,
25 we're back to scheduling all the travel and everything
26 for Council members and we're just really -- I'm really
27 happy to be here, everyone's really happy to be able to
28 see everyone face to face again, Council members,
29 agency representatives, organization representatives,
30 thank you very much for coming out here. We're going
31 to continue to follow the Covid19 regulations as we do
32 this, you know, indefinitely. So as community levels
33 go up and down we're going to have to follow the
34 regulations on what that means as far as our meetings
35 dare concerned so please continue to work with us as we
36 continue to hold these meetings face to face.

37
38 OSM is pleased to welcome two new hired
39 Subsistence Council Coordinators, Lisa Hutchinson-
40 Scarbrough and Jessica Gill. Both have a wealth of
41 knowledge and experience in working with rural users in
42 communities as well as Alaska subsistence issues.

43
44 Eva Patton, unfortunately for us, but
45 fortunately for National Park Service has transferred
46 over to NPS.

47
48 Karie Crow returned to OSM as a budget
49 analysis.

50

0325

1 Bernard Shavings joined us as an
2 Administrative Support Assistant.

3
4 Michelle Andrews joined as OSM's
5 Executive Secretary.

6
7 OSM Team continues to work on
8 rebuilding our capacity.

9
10 RealID. Everyone needs it. We've been
11 reporting on this for the last two and a half years.
12 Beginning May 3rd every air traveler will need to
13 present a RealID compliant driver's license and other
14 acceptable forms of identification to fly within the
15 U.S. This means even the small Bush character --
16 carriers here in Alaska. So please note that all
17 Council members will need to make sure they have
18 required RealID for travel to fall 2023 Council
19 meetings. That's next year. So make sure you have
20 those RealIDs.

21
22 That concludes my presentation from
23 OSM. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you,
24 Mr. Vice Chair. Members of the Council.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, we
31 appreciate it. Thank you.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie -- Mr. Chair,
34 sorry. One point of clarification and correct me if
35 I'm wrong, Brent, but if you do have a passport you can
36 use that in lieu of the RealID?

37
38 MR. VICKERS: It says passport here.
39 That is an acceptable example given as a RealID. So,
40 sorry, for not listing that. Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, thank you.

43
44 Okay, on the agenda now. Future
45 meeting dates. Confirm Winter 2023 meeting date and
46 location.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Council members I'd like
49 you to please turn to Page 262 in your meeting books.
50

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1 At a previous meeting the Council selected March 1st
2 and March 2nd, that's a Wednesday and a Thursday for
3 your meeting dates for the Winter 2023 meeting. There
4 was also discussion that you may want to hold that
5 meeting in Arctic Village. You may want to confirm on
6 the record if that is your first preference with a back
7 up of Fairbanks. And just as a reminder and at the
8 winter meeting it will be the start of a wildlife cycle
9 so you will be discussing potential wildlife proposals
10 that you would like to put in for the upcoming cycle,
11 and then at the fall meeting next year you will be
12 taking up wildlife proposals and voting, deliberating
13 on those.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, well, let's
18 not all speak at once.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: I'm fine with whatever
21 you come up with.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, I'm fine
24 with Arctic Village and Fairbanks second.

25

26 Go ahead Don.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to select
29 the October -- first week in October, the Wednesday and
30 Thursday for our fall 2023 meeting. Thank you.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And I'll just
33 echo, earlier in October the better for me because some
34 years if the river starts running ice early, God
35 forbid, it makes it really hard for me to get out. So
36 the earlier in October the better for me for the fall
37 meetings, in the springtime it makes no difference.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, just a point of
40 clarification. If we can just confirm first the winter
41 -- the spring, winter meeting and then we can move on
42 to the fall meeting. Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Do we need
45 a motion for that?

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, please.

48

49 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: I make a motion to

50

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1 have the winter/spring 2023 EIRAC meeting in Arctic
2 Village March 1st and 2nd.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: I'll second that and I
5 would assume we're putting the fallback into Fairbanks.
6 I don't know if that needs to be in the motion, but
7 anyway I second that motion.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, we'll ask
14 for full consent. Any opposition.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

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

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: All right, now you're
22 free to discuss the fall meeting and it sounded like
23 October 4th and 5th, a Wednesday and Thursday was
24 proposed by Don.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Anybody have heartburn
27 with those dates.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: It sounds good to
30 me. So did we want to make a motion and confirm that
31 now, too.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Yep. I make a motion
34 that we schedule our Eastern Interior Regional Council
35 for October 4th, October 5th of the year 2023.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry folks, we need a
38 location as well.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Anybody have any
41 thoughts.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I thought I heard
44 Fairbanks a little bit ago.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: You said we're going to
47 be talking about game issues, mostly, or followup on
48 game?

49

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, so you all will be
2 deliberating on whatever wildlife proposals are
3 submitted.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: I would say Tok, or we
6 did one in Delta one time too but maybe Tok would be a
7 good one, I don't think we've been to Tok in awhile.
8 So maybe I could amend my motion to that the Eastern
9 RAC shall meet on October 4th, 5th in Tok, Alaska with
10 a fallback to Fairbanks, Alaska.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that. Thank
13 you, Andy.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none,
20 I'll ask for full consent. Any opposition.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Seeing and
25 hearing none, motion passes.

26
27 Okay, next I think we're at closing
28 comments now. Andy, do you want to start?

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Sure. I've been starting
31 all day, all week.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. BASSICH: I'm fine. I like opening
36 it up and getting the ball rolling.

37
38 I really appreciate everyone coming. I
39 met some new faces and I always really appreciate that.
40 I often say this at Yukon River Panels which I've been
41 a member of for 20 years, it's almost like coming to a
42 family reunion when you come to some of these meetings.
43 We've seen a lot of the same faces for many, many
44 years, but there's always new people coming in so
45 appreciate the effort. I know it's awful hard for many
46 of you to sit in those seats for a day and a half or a
47 day and three quarters to give a five minute report to
48 us. But I think we came up with the idea many years
49 ago when we were doing it the opposite way that we got
50

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1 to get our business done first. But I do appreciate
2 you sitting in and being available to answer questions
3 and clarify some of these, often times, very
4 complicated issues, and you always do a great job of
5 that. So thank you for that.

6
7 I do want to make one comment. And
8 that is, I'm really disappointed right now that we
9 didn't have someone to represent the State of Alaska on
10 the Fortymile Caribou Herd. That is, as I stated
11 several times during this meeting, absolutely essential
12 life blood to our community of Eagle now that salmon
13 are gone and there are a lot of concerns with
14 Fortymile. So I look forward to talking to, or having
15 representatives to talk to us at the winter meeting.
16 And I understand their need to be out in the field, but
17 we only meet twice a year and it's scheduled well in
18 advance and it's a really critical issue for our
19 community and our region and so I just wanted to state
20 that. That hopefully in the future that we can have at
21 least some representative, don't have to have
22 necessarily a biologist there but somebody that's
23 either on the coalition or someone that has the
24 knowledge to answer some of our questions.

25
26 And lastly, Sue's not here,
27 unfortunately, but I always want to thank Sue for her
28 work. She spends a lot of time, I know, with the
29 Coordinators working on these and she's always done a
30 tremendous job at these meetings of Chairing. That's
31 not an easy job. Sometimes it looks easy but a lot of
32 faces and a lot of people and I'm always constantly
33 amazed at how she knows everybody.

34
35 But now, Charlie, I want to compliment
36 you because I think you stepped in and did an extremely
37 good job and it seemed seamless to me and I was quite
38 impressed so thank you for taking over and doing a
39 fantastic job in the meeting.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I really
42 appreciate that, thank you, Andy.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: I think that's about all
45 I have to say, look forward to hearing from other
46 Council members. But thank you all.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Charlie, we'll
49 follow the sun.

50

0330

1 MR. JAGOW: I just wanted to thank
2 everybody for coming out, especially for those that
3 traveled. It was an extremely great meeting and very
4 excited we're getting to meet in person. The
5 teleconferences, as much as they worked, were
6 definitely difficult, especially for those of us that
7 are still learning and relatively new to the process,
8 it felt like a little bit of a stumbling block so very
9 excited to be back in person.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. EVANS: I'd like to thank
14 everyone.....

15

16 REPORTER: Linda.

17

18 MS. EVANS: I appreciate all the.....

19

20 REPORTER: Linda.

21

22 MS. EVANS: Oh.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 REPORTER: Thank you.

27

28 MS. EVANS: Okay. I'd like to thank
29 everyone. I appreciate all the reports and appreciate
30 getting to put faces and names together, that really
31 helps. I feel I'm still in the learning process and I
32 don't have 20 years behind me like some people do. But
33 I really enjoy sitting here and learning the issues and
34 mulling over in my mind and trying to figure ways how
35 to better what we're doing and help people get the
36 resources, their needs met.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Charlie. I
43 want to thank all the Staff and the company that we had
44 at this meeting. I think we had a good meeting. We
45 solved some issues and we pointed out some problem
46 areas that need to be resurfaced and surveyed. And I
47 want to thank all the Council members for being here
48 and taking their time and energy to get into the depths
49 of these issues. It's not that easy. And I want to

50

0331

1 thank Tina for her participation because she's like
2 steady, as you can imagine, she's here all the time, so
3 thank you again, Tina.

4
5 REPORTER: Thank you.

6
7 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Also just want to
8 thank everyone for attending, it was a very well
9 attended meeting. And I appreciate all the reports and
10 answering questions and to the Council members and
11 Coordinator, thank you guys so much. I felt like it
12 was very successful, we got a lot accomplished. But
13 there's still some, I guess, some areas that were not
14 met here. And most definitely also very disappointed
15 with no one to speak to the Fortymile Herd. I had a
16 lot of questions about the health of that herd, its
17 migration and what might be impacting it, but I also
18 have some major concerns about the users and, of
19 course, as I mentioned earlier, hunter ethics,
20 especially surrounding the Fortymile Herd. And so just
21 for the record I want to ask that, you know, in the
22 future, Fortymile Herd, reports, folks that do that
23 work are here to report on that. But, yeah, thank you
24 everyone and look forward to continue working with
25 folks and see hopefully some of you out in our
26 villages.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Will on the phone.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Will, are you on
33 the phone.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Will. Calling
38 Will, do you have any closing comments.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: He's on roll call.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, well, I'll
45 take his place then. I'd just like to thank everybody
46 for taking time to come and be part of this, everybody
47 who traveled, left your homes and left your jobs and
48 your families, really appreciate you all very much. I
49 appreciate the Council here for putting their
50

0332

1 confidence in me and let me sit in this spot, I'm truly
2 honored. This is a tough job. My hands are sweaty,
3 Andrew, I'm putting on a good face but I'm happy to
4 learn. I really appreciate OSM and the lovely
5 assistant here for all the work she does, she does a
6 wonderful job. And I wish and hope for you all to have
7 safe travels on your way home and get back to your
8 families and get on with your getting ready for winter.

9

10 I think we talked about a lot of tough
11 issues and I also am not happy about nobody
12 representing ADF&G here for the Fortymile Herd.
13 Caribou is very important to a lot of people. And even
14 the Nelchina, the numbers that have disappeared, or not
15 disappeared but gone in the last few years from the
16 caribou herds, it's very worrisome to me going into the
17 future. As I watch salmon disappear on the river, it
18 doesn't take long when you're losing 50 percent of your
19 herd or your stock of any kind for them to be gone, or
20 be into a lot of trouble, so I think that that's a
21 really big issue going into the future and I'd really
22 like to see somebody at our winter meeting to talk
23 about that and see what we can do to help each other to
24 do better.

25

26 I really appreciate everybody and safe
27 travels home.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Motion to adjourn.

32

33 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Second.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Question.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, I
40 want full consent. Any opposition.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: I want to stay.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, one more
47 day.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Motion passes,
2 meeting's adjourned. Thank you all.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Charlie.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 6th 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 30th
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

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