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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING

Egan Convention Center
Anchorage, Alaska
March 9, 2016
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Greg Encelewski, Chairman
- Lee Adler
- Judy Caminer
- Tom Carpenter
- Eleanor Dementi
- Ricky Gease
- Andrew McLaughlin
- Mary Ann Mills
- Michael Opheim
- Ingrid Peterson
- James Showalter
- Gloria Stickwan

- Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/09/2016)

(On record)

VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg Encelewski. I'm the Vice Chair. I'm going to call this meeting to order, the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, March 9th, 2016, and we're here at the Egan Center. And we're going to have the Secretary call the roll then we're going to do a little invocation and then after we get to official order here we'll go through and we'll do some introductions and recognition also.

So I would ask the Secretary to call the roll.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Henrichs.

(No comments)

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Bob Henrich no longer serves on the Council. Thank you.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Donald.

Ms. Dementi.

MS. DEMENTI: Here.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Encelewski.

VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Here.

MS. CAMINER: Ms. Mills.

MS. MILLS: Here.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Adler.

MR. ADLER: Here.

MS. CAMINER: Ms. Stickwan.

MS. STICKWAN: Here.

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Showalter.
2
3 MR. SHOWALTER: Here.
4
5 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Opheim.
6
7 MR. OPHEIM: Here.
8
9 MS. CAMINER: Mr. McLaughlin.
10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.
12
13 MS. CAMINER: I'm Judy Caminer and I'm
14 here. Ms. Peterson.
15
16 MS. PETERSON: Here.
17
18 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Carpenter.
19
20 MR. CARPENTER: Here.
21
22 MS. CAMINER: And Mr. Gease.
23
24 MR. GEASE: Here.
25
26 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
27 looks like we have a quorum.
28
29 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
30 Judy, very good. Okay, I'm going to ask that Mary Ann
31 Mills gives us a little invocation here at this point.
32
33 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Greg.
34
35 (Invocation)
36
37 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mary
38 Ann. Okay, I gave official call so I'm going to do the
39 best I can, you guys bear with me if we have a little
40 trouble. But we want to recognize Ralph Lohse, we
41 asked him to sit up here with us. He's our leaving
42 Chairman, we've tried to coerce him, we tried to drag
43 him back, he didn't accept so we got him up here one
44 time anyway. It's a pleasure to have you Ralph, and,
45 whoever's the Chair, I hope they recognize you once in
46 a while, but don't talk too much.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 (Applause)

1 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
2 think you just heard everyone on the roll call and if
3 you don't know the RAC we could go around but everyone
4 -- we do have a couple new members since our last
5 meeting. I know we have Ingrid Peterson here from the
6 Homer area. And we have Ricky Gease from Kenai. And I
7 believe all the rest of us have been here for the last
8 couple of sessions. So welcome to the new members, or
9 back to the RAC, Ricky's been here before.

10

11 Now, I would ask that we go around the
12 room and I'm not going to be tested on this but I would
13 like each one of you to kind of introduce yourself and
14 briefly just say, you know, you're either here to give
15 us hell or to support us or whatever, that's up to you.

16

17 So could we start with Jeff.

18

19 MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon. My name
20 is Jeff Anderson and I work for the US Fish and
21 Wildlife Service. I'm the field supervisor at the
22 Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in
23 Soldotna. And in that role I've been delegated
24 authority from the Federal Subsistence Board as the in-
25 season manager for Cook Inlet Federal Subsistence
26 fisheries.

27

28 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
29 Jeff.

30

31 MR. HANKINS: I'm Jesse Hankins. I'm a
32 wildlife biologist over in Glenallen. Very new to the
33 position and this is my first exposure to this sort of
34 an audience so thank you.

35

36 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner.
39 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. I'm just here to observe another
40 RAC today.

41

42 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Welcome.

43

44 MR. FOX: Good afternoon. I'm Trevor
45 Fox with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.
46 I'm the InterAgency Staff Committee member for the
47 Agency.

48

49 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. I'm going to step
50 out of turn here because we have a much larger than

1 average Forest Service representation at this meeting.
2 They're taking up most of the seats back here, I think.
3 And so I'm going to introduce them, if that's okay, one
4 at a time, and then feel free, you know, to say a
5 little bit more about your role if you'd like to when I
6 introduce you.

7
8 Anyway, first of all, I guess I'll
9 start from the top down, regional office, Tom Whitford,
10 he's the regional coordinator for the subsistence
11 program of the whole region, the Tongass and the
12 Chugach National Forest. And he's relatively new here
13 but you know him, he's been here for over a year.

14
15 MR. WHITFORD: A little over a year.

16
17 MR. BURCHAM: Yep.

18
19 MR. WHITFORD: And a member of the
20 InterAgency Staff Committee.

21
22 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. And then I'll jump
23 down to the Chugach National Forest supervisors office.
24 And our Forest Supervisor might have shown up, but I
25 don't see here, Terri Marceron. But we do have here
26 representatives from the fish and wildlife programs.
27 Matt Moran, wildlife biologist in the Anchorage
28 supervisor's office.

29
30 MR. MORAN: Thank you.

31
32 MR. BURCHAM: And Ron Britton, the
33 fisheries biologist, runs the fisheries program for the
34 Chugach National Forest is here.

35
36 From the districts now. We have three
37 districts on the Forest, Girdwood is not representative
38 and basically isn't rural, but on the Seward district,
39 at Moose Pass, we have Francisco Sanchez, a new
40 district ranger, you've been here how long.

41
42 MR. SANCHEZ: Since November. Glad to
43 be here, thank you.

44
45 MR. BURCHAM: And you have some in-
46 season management authority.

47
48 MR. SANCHEZ: Yes, I do.

49
50 MR. BURCHAM: For moose and caribou.

1 MR. SANCHEZ: Yes.

2

3 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, okay. And then on
4 the Cordova side of Prince William Sound for the
5 Cordova district, Robert Skorkowsky, district ranger,
6 and he has some in-season management authority also.

7

8 MR. SKORKOWSKY: Yeah. Moose and deer
9 and black bear and fish.

10

11 MR. BURCHAM: And he's been here for
12 just a little bit over a year himself and his daughter
13 just got drawn for a moose permit by the way.

14

15 We have some representation from the
16 law enforcement officers on the Forest. Chris
17 Lampshire from the supervisor's office.

18

19 MR. LAMPSHIRE: I'm the patrol captain
20 so I supervise all law enforcement officers on the
21 Chugach. I've been to several meetings before in the
22 past and I'm just here to continue the learning process
23 and provide any information if we need to.

24

25 MR. BURCHAM: And then Jeff Bryden, who
26 you probably know, head law enforcement for the Kenai.
27 And he's played an added role in the subsistence
28 program, I fund some days and he helps actually with
29 issuing permits, some field work, like deer transects
30 and so anyway he's been an asset for us playing an
31 extra role for a little over a year now as well.

32

33 And then the Subsistence Forest
34 Program, even though I'm located on the Cordova
35 district I'm a Forest resource and you've known me for
36 about 15 years now. But we have a new player who you
37 met last fall, David Pearson, he is at Moose Pass, he's
38 a fisheries biologist and brings -- he's on the program
39 for half the year and he brings to us some fisheries
40 expertise.

41

42 There you have it, the Chugach Forest.

43

44 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank
45 you, Milo. Welcome everyone, the new ones. And we'll
46 go ahead and continue with the introductions for those
47 that didn't get to yet.

48

49 MR. CHEN: Aloha Council members. My
50 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian

1 Affairs. And as always we're here to support you.

2

3 MR. PICHE: Hi, my name is Matt Piche.
4 I work for the Native Village of Eyak. I'm a fish
5 biologist and the natural resources coordinator there.
6 My position is funded through OSM's PFM Program, the
7 Partners Program. And our fisheries research is funded
8 through the FRMP Program by OSM.

9

10 MR. EWAN: I'm Roy Ewan from Gulkana
11 village. I serve on the AHTNA Board. I Chair their
12 C&T committee, which is a subsistence committee. We
13 call it C&T because the state of Alaska recognizes
14 everybody as being a subsistence hunter, user, so we
15 changed our title to C&T Committee. I Chair the C&T
16 committee.

17

18 MR. DELFRATE: I'm Gino DelFrate. I'm
19 the acting regional supervisor for Fish and Game here
20 in Anchorage for wildlife conservation.

21

22 MR. LORANGER: Good afternoon. I'm
23 Andy Loranger. I'm the Refuge Manager at Kenai
24 National Wildlife Refuge. I have in-season management
25 authority for moose on the moose hunts on the Kenai
26 Refuge, also for brown bear.

27

28 MS. JONES: I'm (Indiscernible) Jones.
29 I work for Fish and Game as a subsistence resource
30 specialist for the Division of Subsistence. Most of my
31 work is in Southcentral.

32

33 MOLLY: Yes, hello everyone. My name
34 is Molly (Indiscernible) and I'm also a subsistence
35 resource specialist with the Division of Subsistence
36 particularly in Anchorage. I haven't got to talk with
37 you at your meetings before. I'm a State employee. I
38 have met some of you so good to see you again.

39

40 MR. FROST: My name is Bert Frost. I'm
41 the Regional Director for the National Park Service and
42 I serve on the Federal Board for the National Park
43 Service.

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS: My name is Barbara
46 Cellarius. I'm the subsistence coordinator, cultural
47 anthropologist for Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and
48 Preserve. I'm based in Copper Center. The Park
49 Superintendent does have some delegation authority for
50 fish on the Upper Copper River and some of the smaller

1 hunts that we have. And just to let you know there's a
2 report in your packet from the Park. I'm not going to
3 be giving a report today, orally, but if you have any
4 questions about the report, I think there's an
5 opportunity to ask questions.

6

7 MR. WALL: I'm Bill Wall. I'm the
8 wildlife biologist with the AHTNA InterTribal Resource
9 Commission and I have no authority.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MS. SELBO: Hello. I'm Sarena Selbo.
14 I'm the Deputy Chief of Refuges in Alaska working for
15 the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I wonder, sometimes,
16 if I have authority.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. CAIN: I'm Bruce Cain. I work for
21 AHTNA, Incorporated Intertribal Resource Commission,
22 just trying to make a living. I don't think I have any
23 authority either.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. LINNELL: I'm Karen Linnell. I'm
28 the executive director of the AHTNA InterTribal
29 Resource Commission. I also Chair the Wrangell-St.
30 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. And I like to
31 assume authority.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. MARCERON: Hello. Terri Marceron.
36 Forest Supervisor on the Chugach National Forest.

37

38 MS. ANDERSON: Good afternoon. My name
39 is Michelle Anderson. I'm president for AHTNA
40 Incorporated and I also serve on the subsistence
41 committee.

42

43 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Okay, did we
44 get everyone. Welcome all of you and bear with us as
45 we work through the Chairmanships here and a few other
46 things. I will ask you one favor here, for those of
47 you that have cell phones, maybe you could mute them or
48 star-six them, we get some feedbacks on this.

49

50 REPORTER: The people on the

1 teleconference line.

2

3 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: On the
4 teleconference line.

5

6 Star-six, okay.

7

8 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Next we need to
9 review and adopt our agenda here and that's an action
10 item. So we've got an agenda presented before us.
11 There's a couple of new business items that Donald's
12 going to want to add on here so I'll let him talk to
13 that.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
16 we're on the agenda item, review and adopt the agenda;
17 is that correct, Mr. Chair?

18

19 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Earlier this
22 afternoon I handed out a letter to the Federal
23 Subsistence Board, this is an effort led by the
24 Southeast Council, and it just basically acknowledges
25 the All-RAC meeting that's being held this week. So we
26 probably can place it under new business, this letter
27 to the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Southeast
28 Council is looking for endorsement from each Council to
29 submit this letter to the Federal Subsistence Board.
30 So if you don't have a copy I have plenty of copies
31 available and I'll make more copies for the public and
32 those Council members that did not receive a copy yet.

33

34 And the second item under new business,
35 the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council
36 passed a motion and their motion states, develop a
37 joint statement with the other Federal Subsistence
38 Regional Advisory Councils with similar concerns of
39 opposition to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's
40 proposed rule for predator management on Refuges, that
41 includes a request that the Federal Subsistence Board
42 advocate on behalf of the Councils for withdrawal of
43 the Proposed Rule. So this is a motion made by the YK
44 Regional Advisory Council and the YK Council is
45 requesting that the Councils of the 10 regions endorse
46 their motion.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,

1 Donald. And we would add that, if approved, under
2 number 2, new business.

3

4 Any other additions, corrections.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

7

8 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: Based on the discussions
11 we had Monday and Tuesday involving youth in our
12 program I have a few suggestions that I might make for
13 our future meetings, at least the ones in Anchorage,
14 that might be helpful.

15

16 I also wondered, if we could, under the
17 update on the RFRs, get a brief update on the status of
18 the litigation.

19

20 And also been asked by the Southeast
21 RAC if, perhaps, we would consider having a person from
22 this Council go to their next meeting.

23

24 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: You've been
25 doing a lot of lobbying or work on the side, good.

26

27 Where would you like those added, for
28 support?

29

30 MS. CAMINER: I think the update on the
31 litigation, if we can get someone to come in and do it
32 could certainly be discussed when we have the RFR
33 discussion which would be under old business, B.

34

35 And then perhaps when we discuss our
36 future meeting dates we could discuss locations that
37 might enhance engaging young people.

38

39 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: And I guess that might be
42 a good time to talk about going to a Southeast RAC
43 meeting as well when we talk about our next meeting.

44

45 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: Or if people want to go
48 to part of their meetings the next few days, too, that
49 would be great.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
4 any other additions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none,
9 let's go ahead -- the Chair is open for a motion.
10
11 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move we
12 adopt the agenda as presented.
13
14 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
15 There's a motion.
16
17 MS. MILLS: Second.
18
19 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
20 Mary Ann.
21
22 Discussion.
23
24 MR. CARPENTER: Question.
25
26 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
27 called. All in favor of adopting the agenda as
28 presented with the additions, that we're going to add
29 RFRs under old business, and under new business we're
30 going to add, we've got two things on the Southeast
31 Council and Yukon Delta and then under the future
32 meetings we're going to discuss a couple meetings and
33 Southeast's request.
34
35 With that in order, all in favor of
36 that, aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 VICE CHAIR ENCELEWSKI: We'll stick to
45 the agenda as best we can. Thank you.
46
47 Okay. Now, we come to the great time
48 of election of officers. Donald, you need to help us
49 through this, the Chair, the DFO.
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Every
2 winter, or March, the Council holds its annual
3 elections of officers. And I will now open the
4 nominations for the Chair for the Southcentral Regional
5 Advisory Council.

6
7 Ms. Mills.

8
9 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Donald. I'd
10 like to nominate Greg Encelewski.

11
12 MR. CARPENTER: Second.

13
14 MR. MIKE: There's a nomination for Mr.
15 Greg Encelewski and a second by Mr. Tom Carpenter. Any
16 more nominations.

17
18 MS. STICKWAN: I move to close
19 nominations.

20
21 MR. MIKE: Motion to close nominations.
22 There's a nomination for Mr. Greg Encelewski for Chair,
23 all those in favor say aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 MR. MIKE: All opposed, say nay.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 MR. MIKE: Motion carries. Mr. Greg
32 Encelewski, congratulations. You are the Chair of the
33 Southcentral Council, and you have the gavel.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
36 Donald. And, thank you, for your guys support. It's
37 an honor, but it's also kind of a burden, I guess you
38 might say.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But, not really.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It could be
47 troublesome.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway. Okay,
2 I'm going to carry on from this point and we're going
3 to move on to the Vice Chair. So I'm going to open it
4 up for nominations for Vice Chair.
5
6 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.
9
10 MS. CAMINER: I'd like to nominate
11 Gloria Stickwan.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We have a
14 nomination for Gloria; is there a second.
15
16 MR. CARPENTER: Second.
17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You beat Andy,
21 Tom seconded it.
22
23 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair, I move to
24 close nominations.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
27 to close nominations.
28
29 MS. MILLS: Second.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: For the Vice
32 Chair, so any other -- that's it, there's no more
33 nominations, Gloria, congratulations, I guess.
34
35 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, very
38 much. Would you like to take the gavel for me.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MS. STICKWAN: No.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to be
47 calling on you.....
48
49 MS. STICKWAN: You need to practice.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:so you're
2 going to have to get closer.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MS. STICKWAN: You need to practice.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, moving on,
13 we need a motion for Secretary/Treasurer.
14
15 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I
16 nominate Judy Caminer for Secretary.
17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
21 for Judy Caminer as Secretary by Tom, seconded by Andy.
22 Any other discussion.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move
27 we close nominations for Secretary.
28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
32 and seconded to close nominations, so, therefore, Judy,
33 you retain your position. Thank you very much for that
34 service.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 Now, we're up to No. 7 here, we're
39 going to review and approve the previous minutes. It's
40 been noted to me by Mr. Gease, we do have one
41 correction, on the back page, the year needs to be
42 changed to '15. So we'll enter that, if you want to
43 put that on there.
44
45 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.
48
49 MS. CAMINER: I just had a couple of --
50 besides the date, some very minor changes and I can

1 give them to Donald separately, they were just, I
2 think, spellcheck not telling us exactly what we wanted
3 to say, like conversation versus conservation, things
4 like that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy's got
7 some grammatical changes that she'll give to Donald.
8 Is there any other additions or corrections to the
9 minutes.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, if
14 you've all had time to digest and read them, I'll
15 entertain a motion to accept them as corrected.

16
17 MS. MILLS: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'll take that as
20 a motion, I didn't have a.....

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

25
26 MS. MILLS: Oh, I am sorry.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.
29 Mary Ann moved to adopt them as corrected and Andy
30 seconded the minutes. Any other discussion on them.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
35 in favor, aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: They so carry as
44 corrected. Okay, now we're to the Council member.....

45
46 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:reports. Go
49 ahead, Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I just want to
2 remind the public participating on the teleconference,
3 please mute your telephone, we can hear some background
4 noise. If you don't have the ability to mute, please
5 hit star-six.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Star-six. Star-
10 six.

11
12 REPORTER: Not you, Greg.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
17 Donald. Hopefully we'll keep the interruptions down.

18
19 Under No. 8, it says we're now on
20 Council member reports, so I'm not sure who has a
21 report but this is your time. Go ahead, Gloria.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: I wanted to report on
24 the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.
25 We met in Gulkana on February 24th and 25th of this
26 year. A speech was given by Nicholas Jackson, he spoke
27 about the Copper River Four and the beginnings of
28 ANILCA, that started ANILCA because of the Copper River
29 Four and their fishwheels had been locked up and they
30 were in the newspaper and that was the beginning of
31 ANILCA. And he also talked about the old Gulkana
32 Village site and Tract G.

33
34 There's a vacant seat on the SRC. An
35 SRC member has resigned. His last meeting was February
36 24th. Karen was reelected as the Chair, Karen Linnell,
37 and Dan Stevens was reelected as the Vice Chair.

38
39 We discussed the Proposed Rulemaking on
40 subsistence collection. NPS is proposing to allow
41 subsistence users to collect plants and non-edible
42 animal parts to make handicraft for their own use,
43 barter or sale. And preempting the collection of
44 living wildlife and restrict the kinds of bait used to
45 take bears. This report was given to you. So we
46 opposed it. We opposed prohibiting the kinds of bait
47 used to take bears. We thought a Section .810 analysis
48 should have been done prior to this rulemaking. It
49 bypassed the Superintendents compendium and established
50 Federal and State processes for changing the harvest

1 regulations in Alaska. It restricts baits to no edible
2 fish and wildlife parts, which would impact bear
3 baiting affecting local residents ability to get fresh
4 bear meat in the spring. And it would also create
5 different regulations between the State and Federal
6 which would be confusing to the public.

7

8 We were given an update on the
9 Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan, NPS will
10 write up alternatives based on the public comments that
11 they held meetings.

12

13 We did not support -- did not submit
14 any fisheries proposals.

15

16 And the next meeting is 12 and 13th of
17 October in Tok and Northway.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
20 Gloria.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: And in the back I
23 included moose and caribou population estimates and
24 harvest.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
27 Gloria. Is there any questions for Gloria on her
28 report?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good stuff, we'll
33 take action later of what we need to, if we do.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 Any other Council member, Eleanor.

38

39 MS. DEMENTI: Yes. I attended my first
40 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission meeting on
41 February 23rd. And there were people on the board from
42 Nikolai, Tanana, McGrath, and some other ones, but I
43 was very unfamiliar with their issues since this was my
44 first meeting with them and I didn't know what kind of
45 issues they had. But one was bear baiting in their
46 region and they were for it, as long as it wasn't near
47 the village. So the commission supported that. And
48 Nikolai Tribal Council submitted a proposal to request
49 a community winter sheep hunt to be established for the
50 rural residents of Nikolai and that was submitted to

1 the Federal and we supported that.

2

3 And the most important thing that I
4 brought up was the Parks Highway -- Denali Monument,
5 that we used to hunt there, and it's our traditional
6 hunting grounds. And they require us to stay on the
7 trail with our ATV, but we do stay on the trail, but
8 when we go out like a mile or two miles walking to get
9 a moose, then we have no way of bringing it back to the
10 trail, so we requested that that regulation be changed
11 and there was full support on it and the
12 superintendent, Don, also supported it. And so that
13 passed.

14

15 Thank you, that's all I can remember.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
18 much, Eleanor. Any questions for her on that report.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
23 Does anyone else have a Council member report.

24

25 MR. ADLER: I'd like to give a report.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. ADLER: I'm Lee Adler. I'm a
30 Copper River resident since 1969 and a member of this
31 Board for four and a half years.

32

33 I'd like to give a little run down,
34 species by species, of the present situation for the
35 various species of subsistence animals.

36

37 Anyway, I'll start off with the good
38 news.

39

40 There's been a lot of very good runs of
41 sockeye red salmon in the last few years. And
42 everybody that has a fishwheel or access to a fishwheel
43 has done very good on red salmon.

44

45 On kings, the fishwheels do pretty
46 good, too, especially early in the year. And the
47 Gulkana last year we had an excellent king run. Before
48 that they had some bad years, but it fluctuates.

49

50 And I'll start off with moose. To

1 begin with, when Lt. Glenallen came up here in the late
2 19th Century, moose were very scarce. And during the
3 first part of the 20th Century there were pretty much
4 uncontrolled fires, forest fires, and I've seen it
5 estimated that pretty much all of the Copper River
6 Basin burned in the last 100 years, and I can verify
7 that right around my house, you can see the dead fire
8 snags and the adult trees. The oldest ones are about
9 100 years old. And so it's been about 100 years there.
10 Anyway, the moose population -- I'm going on my memory,
11 I have no notes so I'm -- my figures are close, very
12 close. The moose population in the early '60s peaked
13 out because of lots of willow growth, following the
14 fires, and during the late '40s and early '50s the Fish
15 and Wildlife Service went on a predator control program
16 where they were tossing out poison baits all over Unit
17 13 and possibly the Mat-Valley, I don't know about
18 that, and they also shot a lot of wolves from SuperCubs
19 with shotguns, and it worked. The moose population
20 blossomed. And it was my own calculation, in the early
21 '60s there was at least 80,000 moose in Unit 13. Today
22 it's approximately 15 to 20,000 according to Fish and
23 Game. And when I first came here I could get a moose
24 every year. All you had to do was you'd drive down the
25 road for two or three days and pick out a bull. But
26 now if I get a moose every 10 years I'm lucky. And
27 what's happened, as the population of Wasilla and
28 Palmer and Anchorage, and even the Soldotna area, these
29 hunters haven't done well so they move into the Copper
30 River country, Unit 13, and so now we have a lower
31 population of moose and a very -- too many hunters,
32 really. That's the problem right now. Unit 13, the
33 local subsistence hunters have a hard time getting a
34 moose because there just aren't that many around.

35
36 They did develop, recently, a community
37 harvest moose program that was supposed to help, and it
38 did a little bit. The problem was, that the State
39 didn't just restrict it to local residents, they could
40 come from all over the state, and they did. They came
41 from all over the state and so they could shoot any
42 moose from the first of August, I believe, and so
43 actually in some cases it made it worse because you
44 have a diminishing resource with more and more hunters.

45
46 So that's where we are on moose.

47
48 We have three types of seasons. We
49 have the Federal season and the Federal/BLM corridor,
50 which is a very narrow area. It's very liberal, you

1 can shoot any bull but there aren't that many bulls
2 available.

3

4 Moving on to caribou. I've done quite
5 a bit of research on the history of caribou. And,
6 they, too, were very abundant in the late '50s and
7 early '60s. The population of the Nelchina Herd, which
8 is what we're talking about, reached at least 80,000.
9 And that gradually came down. And in the summer of
10 1971 I was a biologist by -- anyway, from '69 until
11 about '78, for the BLM and the Fish and Game, but,
12 anyway, we did count the moose [sic] in the summer of
13 '71 and we assumed that we still had 40 or 50,000.
14 Well, when we did count them in the spring of '72,
15 caribou, there was only 10,000 left. And right away
16 everybody panicked. A couple of biologists got
17 transferred, the State biologists, and limited the
18 harvest, and they did build them back up to about
19 40,000. And now the present management plan is to
20 maintain a herd of plus or minus 30,000.
21 And this works pretty good, we'll always have caribou,
22 and you can usually get a caribou if they cross -- if
23 you're there on the Richardson Highway when they're
24 crossing you'll probably get a caribou. The problem
25 is, if we keep the herd -- this is my own opinion, at
26 30,000 they don't overflow, and when they were up into
27 70 and 80,000 they overflowed into the Mentasta area,
28 the Mountain area where it's now Park Service, and
29 other areas, and they were more abundant in the Eureka
30 area. But now that we keep it at this lower figure
31 there's no overflow. And as a matter of fact, most --
32 quite a few of the people go to Glenallen, including
33 myself and my two sons, we usually hunted caribou in
34 the Wrangells during the late '70s and through the '80s
35 until the population declined. The Park Service took
36 over, I don't know if that had anything to do with it,
37 it shouldn't have. But they haven't had a season over
38 there for 15 or 20, maybe 20 years, I don't know. So
39 now we're forced to hunt that herd there as they cross.
40 It can be dangerous, it's kind of like a firing line.

41

42 So the caribou are in no danger of
43 going extinct. But I personally think we should let
44 them build up and try to get them to overflow into the
45 Wrangells again.

46

47 Moving on to dall sheep. The dall
48 sheep population has declined also in the Copper River
49 country, in the Wrangells, in the Chugach, especially
50 the Eastern Chugach that I'm more familiar with. And

1 the population there, it's kind of -- the Park Service
2 and the Fish and Game have done most of the counting in
3 the recent years and there's been an overall reduction
4 of at least 50 percent from the peak of, let's say the
5 late '80s and early '90s when it peaked out. And some
6 of the areas, particularly the area that I hunted for
7 20 years, the front range, the Klawoski South to the
8 Kuskalana, the population has been reduced and
9 somewhere right in there, a 90 percent reduction.
10 Where I used to count 300 or 400 sheep, I'm lucky to
11 find 30 now, and I've been doing it every year for 47
12 years. So I believe my eyes more than I believe some
13 of the figures I see.

14

15 So sheep, and also we just -- the Board
16 of Game just -- I think they concluded a three weekend
17 session of a dall sheep workshop. I attended the first
18 two days and the last two days, and it was attended by
19 guides, transporters, hard core sheep hunters and
20 general sheep hunters and of course the various
21 agencies, Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service and
22 Park Service. Everybody was disappointed. It was put
23 on by the Alaska Game Board, and I talked to Ted
24 Spraker, who is the president and he was disappointed,
25 as I think everybody else was, that there was no
26 concrete proposals put forward. We discussed
27 everything and everybody was protecting their own turf,
28 but after three weekends we hadn't arrived at anything.
29 The best presentation was by a woman
30 veterinarian/biologist from Nevada and she talked about
31 disease in all the western states, particularly Nevada,
32 where all of the western states, the native wild sheep,
33 big horn -- big horn -- and California big horns have
34 been decimated by pneumonia, and it's not a virus, it's
35 a bacterial disease, I can't remember the name, it's a
36 long -- the last part is ovi, that's sheep. But
37 anyway, just a casual contact with domestic sheep
38 usually transmits this bacterial disease to big horn
39 sheep and, of course, it went to dall sheep, too.
40 Hopefully it hasn't been introduced here because it
41 decimated all those states and it didn't just happen 10
42 years ago, it started probably in the late 1800s when
43 domestic sheep started -- they ran them into the west
44 and I personally hunted big horn sheep for five years
45 in Idaho and Colorado and only got one, that's because
46 they're so scarce. I was a young man then and I could
47 run over the mountains. So, anyway, we have to be
48 careful not to let this disease into Alaska. And she
49 recommended keeping a buffer zone of 30 miles from all
50 domestic sheep and goats. It could be transmitted by

1 goats and domestic sheep, apparently not by cattle or
2 horses. I'm pretty sure that doesn't do it.

3

4 So that covers sheep.

5

6 I'd like to say the population at this
7 point are not in danger, it's just that there's not as
8 many as there used to be and I think they're coming
9 back. I think they're coming back.

10

11 The only thing left -- I've got a
12 couple of short things. I'll mention grouse and
13 ptarmigan. We just came through a draught. But last
14 fall there was a super abundance of grouse. We had
15 spruce grouse, sharp-tails, and we now have rough-
16 grouse. Actually I've been here since '69 and I saw my
17 first rough-grouse in 2005 and now they're here and
18 they're not just in spots, they're here. You can't go
19 out and get a lot of them because they're not that
20 thick, but I actually got -- I harvested three last
21 year and I have four or five living around my house.
22 They're in the safe zone, I don't shoot them there.

23

24 Ptarmigan seem to be done. Mainly
25 because there's more hunters, especially on the Denali
26 Highway. I used to hunt the Denali in the '70s and it
27 was like bird hunting paradise. Now, I went there last
28 year and never saw a grouse and there was hunters all
29 over the place. So that's just what I saw.

30

31 Waterfowl. There's not as many
32 waterfowl nesting in the Glenallen area. It's not been
33 a major area, but every pothole and pond used to have a
34 few ducks nesting on it. This last year was the worst
35 I've ever seen. Never shot a duck and went out four or
36 five times, just nothing to shoot. And I don't know,
37 sometimes waterfowl are short-stopped. If you have a
38 wet year in the western states and western Canada they
39 tend to stop there and nest there and they don't get to
40 Alaska. Whereas if they have a dry year in most of the
41 pothole states we tend to have a good year because they
42 come farther north to nest. So maybe that's it.

43

44 That's about all I have, is there any
45 questions.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No thank you,
48 Lee. I'll open it up for questions, that was quite a
49 report, pretty detailed.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing no
4 questions we're going to go ahead, is there any other
5 Council member reports for anything you've attended or
6 business related to the Council.

7

8 Mary Ann.

9

10 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 attended AFN subsistence committee meeting, I represent
12 the Southcentral -- or Cook Inlet area. And during
13 this meeting, a few things were discussed, and I'll
14 keep this really short.

15

16 The AFN subcommittee, subsistence
17 committee requested a roundtable discussion with
18 Senator Murkowski and that was due to after a failed
19 ANILCA hearing that neglected to have Native input.
20 Also with regard to AFN -- AFN passed a resolution at
21 last year's convention requesting that the State
22 Legislature and the Governor take steps to amend the
23 State Constitution to recognize and preserve Alaska
24 aboriginal citizens the opportunity and priority right
25 to subsistence hunting and fishing. The committee was
26 asked to consider timing and strategy in light of the
27 current political climate. The committee also noticed
28 that there's an absence of wildlife management on
29 Native Corporation lands. It seems like there's a lot
30 of management all over the state but not on the
31 corporation land. And this impacts the shareholders
32 and the Native people from hunting on their land
33 without -- so that's just a short report from the AFN
34 subsistence committee.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mary
37 Ann. Any questions for her. That was a good report.
38 I, for one will make a comment on the Native lands for
39 the management, we try to keep them out, in Ninilchik,
40 but, thank you, anyway.

41

42 Ricky, you have a report.

43

44 MR. GEASE: Yes. Regarding a
45 subsequent agenda item on the Proposed Statewide
46 Regulations for Alaska Refuges. There was a public
47 meeting at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge that I
48 attended just as an observer. It seemed like public
49 comment was split fairly evenly between those in
50 support of the regulations and those in opposition to

1 the regulations. People attending were from the Kenai
2 Peninsula primarily.

3

4 One of the things I took from the
5 meeting was it'd be nice to figure out ways in which we
6 could further cooperative research between the Federal
7 and State biologists and actual data on bear
8 populations on the Kenai Peninsula and agreed to
9 parameters of what constitutes viable populations,
10 minimum populations, maximum populations and see if
11 that could be more -- more cooperation. Sometimes
12 there seems to be a lack of data and that drives some
13 of the conflict between Federal missions and State
14 missions. So I think with better data collection and
15 support for that maybe we can have more of a consensus
16 and better outcomes in terms of what we see.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.
19 Thank you, Ricky. Yeah, we've heard plenty on that
20 one, we're going to talk about it a little later on the
21 agenda, but that's good to note that there was about
22 50/50 there and we want to work on resolutions. So
23 thank you.

24

25 Gloria, you had another report?

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: No, I had a question for
28 him.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead.

31

32 MS. STICKWAN: What was the reasons
33 given for support or not supporting it?

34

35 MR. GEASE: Typical in support were
36 that most of the -- most of it had to do with bear
37 baiting is not an ethical practice for hunting. I
38 think a lot of that centered around that. And that it
39 shouldn't be a tool in the toolbox for management. I
40 think the opposition primarily was focused that there
41 are regulatory bodies that deal with time, area,
42 methods and means and that those are the proper bodies,
43 whether it's the Board of Game, the Board of Fish, or
44 the Federal Subsistence Board to make recommendations
45 on time, area, methods and means. And there was some
46 opposition to the extension of the closures from up to
47 three years. So I think those are the ones that I
48 heard.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

1 Any other questions on that.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One last chance
6 for anyone else on the Council reports.

7

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. Just population type things of my observations
10 in Prince William Sound.

11

12 Another mild winter. Deer population
13 definitely doing better than previous years. I think
14 Mr. Carpenter could probably attest to some of that out
15 there.

16

17 I have not noted a rebound of the black
18 bear population.

19

20 Another somewhat alarming thing, two
21 years in a row, next to zero mink. It used to be very
22 common, now extremely rare. I kind of suspect maybe a
23 vibrio disease or a distemper or something that's
24 happening maybe in my localized region. It doesn't
25 sound like Cordova has that issue but western Prince
26 William Sound it's definitely a fact.

27

28 That's it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.

31

32 Is that it.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If that's it,
37 we're going to go ahead and move on to Chair reports.
38 And I'm going to ask at this time that our guest and
39 past Chair give us a little report on how he's been
40 doing and what's happening up in his area and then I'll
41 interject with a few comments that I might have.

42

43 Ralph.

44

45 MR. LOHSE: Well, that's a -- anyhow.
46 I'll speak to Andy's first.

47

48 You're right, the mink are in good
49 numbers around Cordova, don't seem to be any problem
50 there. I have a question, did they ever go through

1 with that mink eradication program on Zori, Naked and
2 Peak that they were talking about?

3

4 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

7

8 MR. LOHSE: They did. Do you know what
9 kind of means they used and could any of that have
10 overflowed to your area?

11

12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I don't have any
13 idea if it overflowed. It's quite a ways though, they
14 are aquatic, I see them swimming for miles.....

15

16 MR. LOHSE: Yeah.

17

18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:sometimes out in
19 the middle of nowhere. So they do swim from island to
20 island.

21

22 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. So I know that the
23 premise behind it was that they had to be feral mink
24 because mink only swim six nautical miles or something
25 like that, anything over six nautical miles separates
26 population. But that's what -- if I remember correct
27 that's what it was.

28

29 I go along with a lot of what Lee Adler
30 said right there, as far as sheep and everything. I do
31 think they are slightly on the rebound, at least in
32 certain areas that I've seen. But as to what the
33 affect on the population other than -- I know Toby has
34 seen coyotes take sheep on some of the mountain ranges
35 and coyotes were in large population numbers for a few
36 years but coyotes are down this year, judging by my
37 trapping success anyhow.

38

39 The -- I'm trying to think of some of
40 the other things that have been brought up.

41

42 It's interesting to me about all of the
43 controversy over bear baiting because I know you can be
44 in the same family and have controversy over bear
45 baiting so it's not -- it's understandable that when
46 you have a whole population, like on the Kenai
47 Peninsula, that you'd have -- you'd have opinions that
48 go from one side to the other and everywhere in
49 between. I don't think there's an easy answer to that
50 one. I kind of go along with what Ricky said at the

1 end, even if some of my close friends don't, that there
2 are management things in place to handle it so that it
3 doesn't have an adverse affect on the game. I think
4 it's basically more a question of ethics and personal
5 opinion and personal feelings when it comes to it. I
6 do know that the bear in Prince William Sound are down
7 and I hope that they do some management in Prince
8 William Sound to bring them back.

9

10 What kind of other -- what kind of
11 things did you want from me, Greg?

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, that's what
16 I wanted, if you've observed anything in your area,
17 hunting or any wisdom that you want to depart on the
18 Council or the members, this is a free time for you
19 that I'm offering, so you go at it, that's what I'm
20 doing.

21

22 MR. LOHSE: Greg, if there's anything I
23 learned since I've been off of it, is I don't have any
24 wisdom to impart.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. LOHSE: I guess I was thinking of
29 what I talked about this morning and I was thinking how
30 important the Council can be as a connection between,
31 and I don't mean this offensively, but between real
32 people and professional people. And I really really
33 have been trying to think of some way, as a Council,
34 that we can, encourage, or support or whatever you want
35 to call it, the idea that proposals are needed, but
36 support from people in the communities that are
37 affected is just as needed. I mean it's just like we
38 just looked -- and, again, this is not -- this is
39 definitely not criticizing who's out there, but we look
40 out there and we have mostly professional people. When
41 we sit here on the Council, and we look out in the
42 audience it's mostly professional people. And
43 somewhere along the line we've got to get it across and
44 I try to get it across to my own sons and it's hard to
45 do, we need to get it across to the next generation, we
46 need to get it across to the people that are actually
47 out there in the field, our neighbors, our members of
48 our community and everything, that some of them need to
49 be here too. They need to be here to bring, just
50 exactly like Lee Adler just did, to bring eyewitness

1 reports of what they've seen. Because sometimes what
2 we've seen and, again, this is not critical, but this
3 is just a fact of life, I mean I can remember -- I can
4 remember reporting salmon and steelhead in a stream and
5 being told that until they had official documentation
6 it didn't count that I'd seen them, you know, and
7 that's where we need -- we need the people that the RAC
8 was originally set up to -- to -- oh, come on Ralph --
9 like I said, I've lost my wisdom -- to recognize --
10 originally set up to represent -- we need those kind of
11 people out there in the audience. We need those kind
12 of people bringing in proposals and like we've done in
13 the past on this RAC, if you bring a proposal -- if you
14 give us a proposal, come and speak to it, and I think
15 we should really, really encourage people when they
16 present a proposal that if you want this proposal to be
17 heard and really listened to, come and talk to it and
18 bring some other people along with you to talk to it.
19 Because we need -- you know, it says -- we're not
20 supposed to -- the Board has to give the RAC deference,
21 unless, unless, unless, and one of the things is lack
22 of sufficient evidence. And sometimes we feel that
23 that evidence has to come from official, but like this
24 RAC has said in the past, like the evidence that Lee
25 just brought is just as official for us as RAC members,
26 it's on site, it's a person who's seen. The fish that
27 I saw in the stream are just as real as if 10 years
28 later a biologist comes there and demonstrates that
29 they actually are there, you know. And that's where as
30 a RAC, if we would encourage people, when you submit a
31 proposal come and talk to that proposal. I mean I'm
32 saying, we, I shouldn't say, we.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. LOHSE: If you, if you would
37 encourage people that when they submit a proposal, come
38 and talk to that proposal. And bring some support with
39 you, so that we have some more -- so that you have some
40 more sufficient evidence to support your decisions.
41 It's hard to support a decision when you know it's
42 right but you have no evidence to it.

43

44 So from that standpoint, that would be
45 the only thing close to wisdom that I could give you.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. LOHSE: I mean I'll tell you right
50 now, buffalo tastes good, a moose with great big

1 antlers tastes just as good as a moose with no antlers.
2 You can't beat Prince William Sound deer for yumminess.
3 In fact I'll put them up against any of Lee Adler's
4 sheep any day of the week, and there's nothing better
5 than king salmon in this world. It makes halibut look
6 inedible.

7
8 Anyhow with that I'm just going to sit
9 here quietly and listen. You're doing a good job,
10 Greg, and I'm just glad to see everybody again and I
11 look out in the audience and I see people that I've
12 seen over the years and that would be the one thing
13 that would tempt me to come back but I should quit.
14 Quit while you're ahead. That's what my boys tell me
15 when they play poker, quit while you're ahead, so I'll
16 quit.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, very
19 much, Ralph. If -- are you done?

20
21 MR. LOHSE: I'm done.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'll hit
24 you to hit your little button, thank you.

25
26 Well, thank you very much, Ralph.
27 Ralph's always imparted a lot of wisdom and a lot of
28 great debate he's sparked. There's a couple of things I
29 would like to add to that as Chair here because now I
30 get a chance to speak a little bit to this stuff.

31
32 I do want to make a couple of points
33 that I've observed and I'm going to try and keep it
34 brief because in the essence of time we're going to be
35 out of here by 5:30. That's our schedule and that's --
36 we're going to give adequate time but that's when we're
37 going to be done.

38
39 Okay. With that said, speak to the
40 proposals, you know, the RAC -- you know I've been on
41 here for a long time and from Ninilchik's history we've
42 had to bring testimony after testimony after testimony
43 to try and get anything through. And the reason being
44 is the RAC needs that local knowledge, they need to
45 make that determination. So what Ralph was saying is
46 critically important. But one thing I want to tie into
47 it, you know, I've never seen such wisdom and power
48 with all 10 RACs and some of the closing comments, some
49 of the discussions that have been put on in the two
50 days of meetings, I mean your heart, it was just

1 heartfelt, of some of the stuff. There's drastic
2 change happening to our subsistence in this country, in
3 Alaska, and it starts here at the RACs, and it starts
4 here. And somehow we have to be able to -- Ralph put
5 it as the -- I'm not sure how you put it because I
6 don't want to get in trouble, so I'm going to call it
7 the same -- the people versus the professionals, or
8 whatever, one thing that I see there is the voice --
9 you know, I went to a cross-cultural deal by Father
10 Alexie yesterday and I've been to one by him before,
11 but one thing that always, the subsistence user in the
12 field, he feels subservient to the law enforcement.
13 Some of the RAC members, some of the people feel
14 subservient to the Federal officials. You know, when a
15 policeman stops you, you're subservient, or you're --
16 you know, you're not on the same playing field always
17 and sometimes it's hard to get that communication
18 equally, where you stand or where your thoughts are
19 from. But I'll tell you what, time is of an essence,
20 because subsistence, we're losing the battle in this
21 state and it's very sad to see. We have an influx of
22 people, we do have a shortage of resources I'm hearing
23 from all 10 RACs and various things, and they're caused
24 by various reasons and maybe there needs to be a
25 priority for some uses set and fixed.

26

27 But I really encourage, when we go
28 through some of these notes and these letters, that we
29 do support some of the things that've been talked to,
30 some of the things from the RACs that are very near and
31 dear to all of the subsistence users hearts, because if
32 we don't we're going to soon lose it.

33

34 And we do need to encourage the youth.
35 There's a lot of good things that came up of how to do
36 that, a lot of good sessions, more going on the rest of
37 the week, so I encourage you to do that, and I don't
38 want to talk too much on that.

39

40 Now, I want to tell you a little bit of
41 what I observe in my area, in Ninilchik. I'm a young
42 model, I'm a 1948, if I survive by tomorrow I'll be 68
43 years old. I grew up on the Kenai Peninsula, I've
44 hunted and fished there all my life. I'm a commercial
45 fisherman. I think I'm a fairly good observer of some
46 of this stuff. I spend a tremendous time hunting
47 moose, it's one of my favorite -- my favorite food is
48 clams, I can't dig clams anymore because they're
49 closed, they're gone. The crabs are gone. The shrimp
50 are gone. The moose are fairly healthy and what I've

1 noticed in the last few years, and it's probably a
2 result of some of the restrictions that have been put
3 on moose for hunting them, you know, they made you go
4 to a spike and three-brow tine, now it's four brow-
5 tine, but, anyway, what I'm saying is, we've seen a
6 kind of little bit of transition locally in moose that
7 I'm observing and quite a few people are observing, is
8 we're seeing the cow to bull ratio has changed
9 drastically. I'm seeing more bulls than cows. But I'm
10 seeing all these midsized ones that are the wrong ones
11 you can't shoot. I mean they're just as good eating
12 but -- I don't know how I'd know that but they might
13 be.....

14

(Laughter)

15

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:you know
18 people tell me that, potlatch moose, whatever.

19

(Laughter)

20

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But anyway, a
23 long story short, there may be a need to change some of
24 that hunting, you know, and those kind of things I
25 think are important.

26

27 But, you know, we tried to limit the
28 resource take on our clam beds and that's a State
29 resource, it's not a Federal, but it's just an example
30 of what happens.

31

32 The fishing is drastically changing on
33 the Kenai. And Ricky and I will probably -- we'll have
34 great discussions on this, and he's got a wealth of
35 information, but the timing of the seasons are changing
36 drastically. I've fished commercial all my life, the
37 fish are coming early, they're staying late, there's no
38 run, you can't count on when the big -- I've seen some
39 weird things happening just in the last couple of
40 years. So we really need to have some better
41 projection and some understanding of what's going on.

42

43 So those were things we might want to
44 talk and look to.

45

46 Other than that, I'm not going to hold
47 up anything here. I really do want to, once, again,
48 say that the 10 RACs really brought out a lot of things
49 we felt -- I felt really united in a lot of the things
50 they talked to. And I think there's strength in unity

1 and numbers and I think we should use that.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Does anyone need a short break.

6

7 (Council nods affirmatively)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's take
10 -- one thing I learned in cross-cultural training, the
11 Germans are very prompt on timing. There's three
12 minutes in between the breaks and none of us are German
13 but for the purpose of this meeting -- maybe there is
14 some Germans here, but anyway we're going to be on
15 German time, so 10 minutes.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If I could
26 get you guys to take your seats we're going to get
27 started.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm going
32 to go ahead and call the Southcentral RAC back to order
33 here after a short break. The next item on the agenda
34 is public and tribal comments on non-agenda items, and
35 we'll forego the cards. If anyone's got any -- is
36 there any public or tribal comments on non-agenda
37 items.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
42 Donald, you're trying to give me one.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I've been
47 reminded we might have some people on the
48 teleconference. So if anyone's on teleconference,
49 could they identify themselves and if you want to talk
50 to a public or tribal comment on a non-agenda item, let

1 us know.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hear no one.

6 Okay, we're going to move on to the old business, and
7 the first thing under old business is Refuge Proposed
8 Rule on hunting update 210 so who is going to give that
9 update.

10

11 MR. MCDONALD: Hello, may I interrupt.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

14

15 MR. MCDONALD: Hello, I'm sorry, I'm on
16 the telephone, trying to teleconference, did I miss an
17 opportunity?

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I had just
20 opened it up for public or tribal comments on non-
21 agenda items.

22

23 MR. MCDONALD: I don't know if that's
24 what I want to talk about. I wanted to talk about the
25 situation, subsistence on the Central Kenai Peninsula,
26 is that okay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we're
29 losing you. You sounded good for awhile but then you
30 got to the point what you wanted to talk about and we
31 didn't hear nothing.

32

33 MR. MCDONALD: Okay. I wanted to say
34 something about the situation with the subsistence on
35 the Central Kenai Peninsula.

36

37 REPORTER: What's his name and go
38 ahead.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What's your name
41 and that's a pretty broad subject, is.....

42

43 MR. MCDONALD: All right. Let me go
44 ahead and start and if it's not qualified then go ahead
45 and shut me down.

46

47 My name is Sean McDonald, and I live at
48 Mile 34 of the Seward Highway, five miles outside of
49 Moose Pass. We've lived in this area, we bought land
50 here about 30 years ago, raw land, my wife and I

1 you're qualified under the Federal program. But it
2 sounds to me like -- I didn't catch your name very
3 good, but you need to get with our coordinator or
4 someone and get some information on the rules. I think
5 Moose Pass, I don't know if they could put in for C&T
6 or put in for it or whatever, but there's a whole
7 process, and I wish you was here at the meeting so we
8 wouldn't have time to debate all this now -- but I --
9 the Federal program does allow for a little more
10 liberalized three-brow tine and two-brow tine and it's
11 not illegal, it's legal under that program if you're in
12 a rural area that is qualified and has C&T.

13
14 MR. MCDONALD: To the best of my
15 knowledge we're not qualified. And if this is not the
16 appropriate format to discuss this I'll have to do some
17 more searching. One of the problems that I did have
18 with this process is I can't go on line and find out
19 anywhere, that I've been able to find, what are the
20 regulations for people who are participating in
21 subsistence harvest, where are the regs for moose and
22 seasons and I heard last year that they can dipnet reds
23 in the Russian River and that just -- it doesn't sound
24 like that was the intent of the subsistence program
25 when it was started. It's just very, very exasperating
26 for some of us that live in this area.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, as
29 exasperating as it is people that's lived here all
30 their life in this area, it's exasperating to the
31 process, but I'm going to refer you to the coordinator,
32 Donald Mike, and he could give you an address or a
33 number to call and you need to get some information.

34
35 MR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

36
37 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 As I understand it your name is Sean McDonald; is that
39 correct?

40
41 MR. MCDONALD: That is correct.

42
43 MR. MIKE: And your phone number.

44
45 MR. MCDONALD: Is 288-3652.

46
47 MR. MIKE: 388-3652?

48
49 MR. MCDONALD: 288-3652.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Okay, Sean, I'll give you a
2 call and we can discuss your concerns and I'll send you
3 some information.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 MR. MCDONALD: All right, thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Donald. Thank you, Sean.

11
12 Sorry, Andy, and Sarena, but you guys
13 are up now so if you would proceed.

14
15 MS. SELBO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
16 Sarena Selbo. I am the Deputy Chief for Refuges.
17 That's S-A-R-E-N-A, S-E-L-B-O. And next to me is Andy
18 Loranger and I'll let him introduce himself and then
19 start the presentation.

20
21 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council members. It's good to see you again and
23 congratulations, Greg, on your appointment, and Ms.
24 Stickwan as well, and Judy, I know this is a
25 continuation of duties for you, but thank you for your
26 service on the Council, all of you.

27
28 My name is Andy Loranger. I'm the
29 Refuge manager at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. And
30 I'm here with Sarena today to present a brief update on
31 the status of the Refuge Proposed Rule, statewide
32 proposed rule, for Alaska Refuges.

33
34 So the US Fish and Wildlife Service is
35 in the process of updating regulations governing
36 administration of Refuges in Alaska to be consistent
37 with Federal laws and agency policy governing
38 management of these Refuges. And for Alaska Refuges,
39 of course, the applicable statutes include the Alaska
40 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the National
41 Wildlife Refuge Administration Act as amended by the
42 Refuge System Improvement Act, and for Refuges
43 containing Congressionally designated wilderness, the
44 Wilderness Act of 1964.

45
46 The proposed regulations the Service is
47 considering for Alaska Refuges can be broken into three
48 main components. Parts one and two of the proposed
49 rule would amend current Federal regulations governing
50 non-subsistence hunting and trapping of wildlife on

1 Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, and the current
2 regulations are found in Chapter 50, Part 36 of the
3 Code of Federal Regulations. Part one of our proposed
4 changes aims to clarify the Service's existing mandates
5 for the conservation of natural and biological
6 diversity, biological integrity and environmental
7 health on refuges in Alaska in relation to implementing
8 predator control.

9
10 This proposed addition to our
11 regulations would codify the circumstances under which
12 predator control can legally be undertaken as a
13 management tool on refuges in Alaska by specifying that
14 predator control is not allowed on refuges in Alaska
15 unless it is determined to be necessary to meet refuge
16 purposes, Federal laws or policy and is consistent with
17 our mandates to manage for natural and biological
18 diversity and biological integrity. The need for
19 predator control must be based on sound science in
20 response to a significant conservation concern. And
21 demands for more wildlife to harvest cannot be the sole
22 or primary basis for predator control on refuges in
23 Alaska.

24
25 The second part of the proposed
26 regulations would prohibit certain methods and means
27 for harvesting predators on refuges in Alaska.
28 Specifically, this would include prohibiting take of
29 brown bears over bait, take of bears using traps or
30 snares, take of bears from an aircraft or on the same
31 day as air travel has occurred, take of bear cub -- or
32 sows with cubs and take of wolves and coyotes during
33 spring summer denning season from May 1st to August
34 9th.

35
36 The third part of the proposed changes
37 we're considering would update our public participation
38 and closure procedures on Alaska National Wildlife
39 Refuges and those regulations are found, again, Chapter
40 50 CFR 36.42. These regulations apply to closing or
41 restricting recreational activities on Alaska refuges,
42 including things like general hunting and fishing,
43 camping and recreational trail use. The proposed
44 regulatory changes would not apply to regulations for
45 public participation and closure procedures for
46 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife or use of
47 transportation methods traditionally employed by rural
48 residents engaged in subsistence activities.

49
50 We are proposing these changes to be

1 consistent with other Federal regulations and to more
2 effectively engage the public.

3

4 So the first two components of the
5 Service's proposed regulations addressing predator
6 control and prohibiting certain methods and means for
7 harvesting predators aimed at ensuring that ANILCA's
8 overarching establishment purpose for Alaska Refuges,
9 which is to conserve all fish and wildlife and habitats
10 in their natural diversity, that biological integrity,
11 biological diversity and environmental health are
12 maintained on refuges as required by the Refuge System
13 Administration Act and that Wilderness Act purposes are
14 met in designated refuge wilderness areas.

15

16 The last part of the regulations
17 related to public participation and closure procedures,
18 those are being updated, again, to more effectively
19 engage the public, to broaden notification and outreach
20 methods, to ensure consultation occurs with tribes in
21 the state, to provide for increased transparency in our
22 decisionmaking and to allow for additional
23 opportunities for the public to provide input.

24

25 The proposed regulations would only
26 apply to State regulated general hunting and trapping,
27 which is open to all Alaska residents as well as people
28 from the Lower 48, and apply to intensive management
29 activities on Alaska refuges. The proposed regulations
30 would not apply to Federally qualified subsistence
31 users hunting or trapping under Federal subsistence
32 regulations.

33

34 The proposed regulations would apply on
35 the 16 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and would
36 not apply to other Federal, State, private, Native
37 lands or waters, including those within external refuge
38 boundaries and within the area under the purview of the
39 Southcentral Council, the regulations would apply to
40 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 So the Service published this proposed
43 rule in the Federal Register on January 8th, 2016 and
44 the public comment period opened through March 8th, and
45 now has been extended. The public comment period is
46 now open through the 7th of April. And so we're
47 accepting public comments. We've recently completed
48 holding public hearings throughout the state, I think
49 in 9 communities throughout the state, so, again, we're
50 in that process of public comment and welcoming input.

1 And I think that's all I have today,
2 so, thank you, again.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, Andy,
5 thank you, and Sarena.

6
7 Is there questions from anyone.

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ingrid.

12
13 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, I'm wondering, I
14 have this little handout here, Alaska Refuges Proposed
15 Statewide Regulatory Changes and it's on the second
16 half of the page right here, this part, second column
17 over, under the bullet, take of bear cubs or sows with
18 cubs, and then it has exception. Exception allowed for
19 resident hunters to take black bear cubs or sows with
20 cubs under customary and traditional use activities at
21 a den site. So would that apply to subsistence when
22 they say resident hunters, or would it apply to anybody
23 that's a resident there on the -- in the area of the
24 refuge.

25
26 MR. LORANGER: So that exception
27 recognizes an allowance in State law, in State
28 regulations for the take at dens in certain game
29 management units in Interior Alaska, it only occurs in
30 a few game management units. So we kept that
31 exception. It would not apply on the Kenai National
32 Wildlife Refuge.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Tom.

35
36 MR. CARPENTER: Andy, thanks for coming
37 again. I've asked this to a lot of different managers
38 over the years, a lot of different biologists and, you
39 know, I understand that black bears are typically, you
40 know, they can rebound from population declines a lot
41 faster than brown bears and things like that but
42 really, what is the difference, if you're going to
43 allow baiting between black bears and brown bears, and
44 why is -- is it a moral thing, because when you get to
45 the level at which these kind of regulations come from,
46 that particularly pay grade, it seems like nobody can
47 really explain the difference.

48
49 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair. And,
50 thank you, Mr. Carpenter. And I think Andy had the

1 same question at the meeting in Copper Center and, you
2 know, I tried to answer it as best I can and I will
3 again. I mean we are talking about two very, very
4 different species in terms of reproductive potential.
5 And a species, as a whole, is very very difficult to
6 monitor population status, very expensive, very
7 difficult to do. And in many ways, from a biological
8 perspective, our interest in addressing brown bear
9 baiting on refuges is as a precautionary measure, a
10 precautionary principle for a species that has, again,
11 very, very low reproductive potential, has potential of
12 over harvest. The history of brown bear management in
13 North America shows that. And it's something that we
14 are very concerned about.

15
16 We have concerns about the potential,
17 you know, public safety issues associated with baiting
18 brown bears, you're right they apply both to baiting
19 black and brown bears, those are -- that's a valid --
20 you know, that's a valid issue, it's a concern. On the
21 Kenai Peninsula, following the legalization of brown
22 bear baiting, we saw the number of bait stations
23 increase dramatically, from roughly 300 a year that
24 have been in place for several years kind of
25 constantly, to, well, you know to over 400, slightly
26 over 400, and we think allowing it on the refuge would
27 result, you know, in substantially increased baiting
28 activity on the refuge and that's not -- we have
29 concerns about that.

30
31 So, again, both from a biological and a
32 public safety standpoint.

33
34 MR. CARPENTER: Well -- and I agree
35 with you, I just, you know, I think the two species are
36 completely different. Sometimes I just don't think
37 that's explained all that well. I will say this, I can
38 appreciate the fact that the refuge has brought this
39 forward in this manner instead of attaching it to some
40 other piece of -- some other proposed rule that really
41 has nothing to do with the subject that we're talking
42 about, which has happened somewhere else in the state
43 so, anyway, I appreciate that.

44
45 Thanks for your answer.

46
47 MR. LORANGER: If I could, Mr. Chair.
48 One other pretty substantial difference in terms of
49 that, the two species, is that, you know, brown bears
50 typically occur at significantly lower densities as a

1 species. Now, that's not necessarily the case in
2 coastal parts of Alaska but certainly on the Kenai
3 Peninsula and much of Interior Alaska they do occur at
4 significantly lower densities.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
7 Any other questions. Question in the back, Karen.

8
9 MS. LINNELL: Good afternoon. For the
10 record, I'm Karen Linnell. I just wanted to talk about
11 the statewide part of this. Alaska is a very large
12 state and you wouldn't tell folks in Montana what Texas
13 is doing or New York all the way across to California.
14 And managing game resources, and that's why we have so
15 many game management units, which are even broken down
16 further by subunits and so for me, taking proposal of
17 this nature and making it statewide is asking a lot.

18
19 I appreciate the fact you saying that
20 this is a proposed rule addressed specific to and not
21 something that was put in as a side note, but I think
22 this could be, in some instances, a regional issue, and
23 should be taken up as such, not as a statewide one.

24
25 In regards to making proposed rules to
26 manage fish and game, I think -- I just don't agree
27 with that process at all, that's why we have a Federal
28 Subsistence Board, that's why we have the Alaska Board
29 of Game, to manage the wildlife resources. When we
30 take things nationally like this, it's going to be darn
31 near impossible to make any changes. And so with these
32 proposed rules and, you know, getting it published in
33 the Federal Register, now being one of 738,000 in
34 Alaska, I'm one of 318-million, you know, in the whole
35 nation and it's not conducive to good wildlife
36 management. This should be an issue that is dealt with
37 here in state and if you folks would like to have it
38 addressed, you should have brought it to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board as a proposal, and not take it
40 national like this.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.

45
46 Ricky.

47
48 MR. GEASE: Good afternoon. Through
49 the Chair, I'd like to ask a question.

50

1 What's the rationale for extending both
2 the emergency closure and the temporary closures from
3 basically 30 days to 60 days and from one year to
4 upwards to three years. The processes at the Board of
5 Game, the Board of Fisheries and the Federal
6 Subsistence Board each has both emergency and temporary
7 closure procedures. What's the thought in thinking
8 that the agencies need the ability to go much further
9 than what the regulatory boards do.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. SELBO: Thank you. Through the
14 Chair. So we actually are trying to streamline and
15 make our regulations a little bit more consistent with
16 some of the others around the state. And the emergency
17 closure regulations going from 30 to 60 is consistent
18 with the Federal Subsistence Board. So that's one of
19 the things we were thinking of when we were looking at
20 that.

21

22 Undertaking a regulation process is not
23 something we do lightly and in Alaska we haven't done
24 it very often because we haven't needed to. So in this
25 situation we knew we were opening up a long, lengthy,
26 important public participation process. We took a
27 broad scale look at all of those closure regulations.
28 So that was the reasoning behind that.

29

30 For the temporary closure, we have
31 found, with limited experience in doing closures on
32 refuges in Alaska, that at one year, which is what it
33 currently is, really isn't a long enough amount of time
34 to go through an adequate public process in order to
35 make decisions, in order to decide if the conservation
36 need, for example, is still there, if you need to
37 extend it or if we had met the concern and we could
38 essentially close the closure -- end the closure. So
39 the thought process was looking at something like three
40 to five year period for a temporary closure would give
41 us a time that it would adequately need in order to
42 make some of those decisions. So we started with five,
43 and like many things, during scoping, this rule has
44 changed quite a bit, and we heard quite a bit of
45 feedback from folks that they would like to see it
46 shorter, so the proposal is for three.

47

48 And we are still taking public comment
49 on that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
2 other questions. We got one more here in the back,
3 Bruce.

4
5 MR. CAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Bruce Cain. Glenallen, Alaska, for the record.

7
8 Just a couple of comments.

9
10 I find it interesting that one of the
11 justifications for this whole thing is to make the
12 rules of the Alaska Refuges consistent with the rules
13 of the other refuges in the United States. Most of the
14 refuges in Alaska were created by ANILCA, which makes
15 them very unique, and they are not the same and should
16 not be the same for a lot of good reasons. This is
17 Alaska, for one, ANILCA was created -- a lot of the
18 force behind getting ANILCA even into the Legislative
19 process was the protection of subsistence hunting and
20 fishing rights for Alaska Natives that was extinguished
21 during ANCSA and that was promised by the Secretary of
22 Interior and the state of Alaska that they would
23 protect, administratively, subsistence hunting and
24 fishing rights for Alaska Natives, and that promise has
25 fallen short. And now -- there is a provision in
26 ANILCA, Section .810, for requiring that any action by
27 the Federal government, before it's taken, that its
28 analysis and its affects on subsistence be evaluated, I
29 don't think that's been done. I mean -- well, I hope
30 I'm wrong.

31
32 But just a couple of examples of how
33 this affects subsistence users. The brown bear
34 population on the Kenai Peninsula, in the Kenai
35 National Wildlife Refuge, not allowing of brown bear
36 hunting or being able to control brown bears, the
37 harvest levels for moose on the Kenai Peninsula or -- I
38 don't have the exact data, I'm not a biologist but it's
39 very, very low compared to what it was historically,
40 like there's 50 moose and there used to be several
41 hundred harvested every year. Well, what happens when
42 people can't harvest moose down on the Kenai Peninsula,
43 they get in their cars and they drive up to the Copper
44 Basin and they hunt in Unit 13 and all of a sudden
45 subsistence users in the AHTNA region get restricted on
46 having to hunt spike-fork 50-inch bulls and the caribou
47 are all shot up.

48
49 Another example that's not related to a
50 wildlife refuge but it's the same rule that's getting

1 shoved through the Park Service, is Unit 11, and Lee
2 just talked about that. The caribou in over Unit 11,
3 there used to be a pretty big population over there and
4 subsistence users hunted those for many years. And
5 even during -- after ANILCA was passed, there was still
6 subsistence harvest over there but the wolves are -- I
7 mean I've camped over there personally and it's like
8 camping in a dog lot, I mean you don't see them but
9 they're growling around and fighting with each other
10 and chewing each other up, the wolves are just going
11 crazy, well, what caribou is going to hang around
12 there, so they're all gone. And for the last 15 years
13 the caribou season has been closed to subsistence
14 hunting even.

15

16 So you can't tell me that closing a
17 caribou -- the subsistence caribou season for 15 years
18 doesn't affect subsistence. And that's a direct result
19 of the Park Service not allowing predator control and
20 they don't do the .810 analysis on these actions, and
21 they've got to make these things consistent with the
22 Lower 48, which the parks and the entire system was
23 never created that way.

24

25 And that's all I've got to say, thank
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Bruce.

29

30 MS. SELBO: Mr. Chair. Could I comment
31 to one part of that and then Andy if he has more
32 specifics.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

35

36 MS. SELBO: I just wanted to also let
37 folks know, in conjunction with the proposed rule, and
38 I put copies on the side table, we also did an
39 environmental assessment and in part of that we did do
40 an .810 analysis. And we're very conscious going
41 through this whole process, the importance of
42 subsistence use on National Wildlife Refuges. It is
43 one of our purposes, along with natural diversity under
44 ANILCA. And so we were very cautious, and it's very
45 important to us that we are not affecting a Federal
46 subsistence use on National Wildlife Refuges.

47

48 Again, if we've missed the mark this is
49 your chance to tell us during the public comment
50 period.

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question. In
4 Kenai, is black bear baiting allowed?

5

6 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
7 Member Stickwan, yes, it is allowed.

8

9 MS. STICKWAN: And what about in Tetlin
10 Wildlife Refuge?

11

12 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
13 Member Stickwan, I believe that it is but I'd have to
14 check and make sure.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead.

17

18 MR. GEASE: Yeah, just, I don't mean to
19 be a stickler on stuff and I don't -- I'm just asking
20 questions.

21

22 So Mr. Loranger, you talked about the
23 difficulty in doing surveys for brown bears and the
24 high cost to try and get surveys, I think, on the
25 Kenai, and that's one of my comments, I wish the State
26 and the Feds could get together and we could do a
27 better job figuring out how to do some of these
28 surveys. But is there -- in the addition of criteria
29 and the proposed updates, saying and conservation of
30 natural and biological diversity, biological integrity,
31 environmental health, the list of criteria, how do we
32 measure those -- how do you measure those and what's
33 the cost for that and how -- you know, are those within
34 ranges, I mean with moose population, caribou
35 population, typically in traditional game management we
36 have ranges that we're shooting for. I think some of
37 the folks that I heard were talking about black bear
38 populations and brown bear populations being within a
39 range and if you get above a certain level it may be
40 necessary to have some tools to quickly and efficiently
41 go in to reduce the population on the upper end.

42

43 So could you get a little bit more
44 discussion on, you know, what the fiscal notes and
45 times when we have significantly reduced budgets, how
46 are these going to be measured and how are they going
47 to be portrayed both to the public and as managers.

48

49 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
50 Member Gease. I think, you know, those are all very

1 valid questions and they're very difficult questions
2 because biological integrity and biological diversity,
3 understanding that humans are part of these ecosystems
4 and are going to harvest fish and wildlife and, you
5 know, that is a subsistence way of life and we're also,
6 you know, very supportive, we're compatible for
7 sporthunting and sportfishing on National Wildlife
8 Refuges as well. So that concept of numerical -- what
9 we do know -- you know, what we do know and what -- and
10 when we're dealing with a species of very low
11 reproductive potential like brown bears, you know, we
12 do have concerns in terms of when that population -- I
13 mean -- it's a population of special concern on the
14 Kenai for many years, and a very conservative approach
15 to management was taken and we believe that helped
16 rebound that brown bear population on the Kenai.

17
18 What those numerical ranges are that
19 define, you know, maintaining natural diversity, what
20 we know is that we don't -- we don't want to take
21 chances especially when we have a limited ability, from
22 a scientific standpoint, you know, to measure
23 population, measure population change, we'll always
24 support sustainable harvest, we'll also always support,
25 as a purpose and a priority, the subsistence use of
26 fish and wildlife on National Wildlife Refuges, but
27 those numerical goals are very difficult with some
28 species, in particular, to enumerate and to maintain
29 sound scientific information year to year, and when
30 that is the case, we tend to take a very conservative
31 approach.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
34 Before I take any more comments here I just want to
35 make a statement here.

36
37 Now, the people they can submit
38 comments up until April 7th. So a lot of the comments
39 that we have or questions, I, for one, haven't made my
40 comments and I see them coming up and then after this
41 joint meeting I have a lot more thoughts and comments
42 now, so I'm going to be submitting some.

43
44 But, Andy, you were next, you had a
45 comment or a question.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, a comment there
48 for Sarena Selbo there. She had said, if we missed the
49 mark then this is your opportunity to let us know.
50 Well, I think there is some singular thinking in this

1 notation that there's no affect on subsistence. Being
2 a devil's advocate, per se, there's overflow from sport
3 take that if a certain resource wasn't able to be
4 gained during a sport, then a fall back for a
5 subsistence user is to utilize the subsistence and, you
6 know, say for example -- this isn't the case, but I'm
7 in Unit 6, where I reside, and the bear population is
8 having trouble, as we know, so -- and I like to bait
9 bears, so in my mind, even though under sport I might
10 have to go over to Unit 7, say to bait and get a brown
11 bear, but now this gets taken away since I don't reside
12 over in there, and to me that's subsistence, you know,
13 if I have to switch to a place over there, so I go over
14 there and then suddenly now I can't do that because I'm
15 not a Federally-qualified subsistence user, so, yes, in
16 fact, it does affect subsistence in an indirect way and
17 you're kind of singularly thinking it's not about
18 specific people in that zone.

19

20 So I just wanted to mention that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering what the
25 take of black bear baiting was in Kenai and in Tetlin,
26 if you have the answer; how many bears were taken over
27 bait, black bears? Do you have the answers?

28

29 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, through the Chair.
30 Member Stickwan. The black bear harvest over bait on
31 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge ranges between 20 to 30
32 black bears and has been pretty consistent for many,
33 many years. I don't know on Tetlin.

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: Do you know what the
36 brown bear baiting take was?

37

38 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
39 Member Stickwan. I'm searching my memory banks here,
40 but it first became legal on the Kenai in the spring,
41 to take brown bears over bait, in the spring of 2014,
42 and the number of brown bears taken over bait that
43 first year was in -- I believe in the mid-40s, and last
44 year, spring of 2015 it was in the mid-20s.

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Is there a shortage of
47 black bears in the Kenai Refuge?

48

49 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
50 Member Stickwan. We would consider the black bear

1 population on the Kenai, which is roughly eight to 10
2 times more numerous than brown bears on the Kenai, to
3 be fairly healthy.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: So I guess I didn't
6 understand you. You said brown bears, about 20 black
7 bears have been baited since when?

8

9 MR. LORANGER: Well, I'd have to go
10 back to the records. I believe the take of black bears
11 over bait became legal in the mid-1980s on the Kenai
12 Peninsula including the Refuge.

13

14 MS. STICKWAN: So about 20 per year are
15 taken over bait?

16

17 MR. LORANGER: 20 to 30 per year.

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: And brown bear is, I
20 didn't get that part.

21

22 MR. LORANGER: The first year was 2014
23 and I believe about 45 brown bears were taken over bait
24 that first year, and about 25 last spring.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: And that's a concern --
27 I'm trying to understand, you know, the concern you
28 have, like you say every four years they're not able to
29 produce or you think -- is there a problem with brown
30 bear population right now?

31

32 MR. LORANGER: The brown bear
33 population in the late 1990s was, on the Kenai
34 Peninsula, was designated by the state of Alaska as a
35 population of special concern. We -- brown bear
36 densities appear to be fairly low and there were
37 species that were generating a lot of concern amongst
38 the State and Federal agencies on the Kenai, a lot of
39 research was initiated to try to get at some of those
40 issues. A long standing need was a population estimate
41 for Kenai brown bears, very challenging to do that
42 because of the forested habitat on the Kenai, some
43 proposals were floated, there was an interagency team
44 working on brown bears, and brown bear research
45 throughout that period of time. In 2010 the US Forest
46 Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service partnered to
47 conduct a DNA based mark/recapture study to try to
48 estimate brown bear population on the Kenai within
49 Federal lands on the Kenai, we were able to do that.
50 We estimated the brown bear population and, again, that

1 population, roughly 600 brown bears is what the
2 estimate was. With the level of harvest that occurs,
3 we modeled that level of morality on that brown bear
4 population and within the course of the first couple of
5 years of -- the last two years of harvest, three years
6 of harvest on the Kenai and we believe it has resulted
7 in a substantial decline in brown bear populations on
8 the Kenai and we had concerns about that. We limited
9 sporthunting on the Refuge, maintained the subsistence
10 seasons for local rural residents during that period of
11 time, but, you know, we had significant conservation
12 concerns relative to the level of harvest of brown
13 bears on the Kenai Refuge in the last several years.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
16 We're going to have to go ahead and move on, Gloria, do
17 you have one last.....

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Do you have any
20 other.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:question.

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: So if you don't have any
25 other data, this is a statewide proposed rulemaking and
26 you don't have any other data like on all of the other
27 refuges for brown bear baiting, you don't have anything
28 for Tetlin, because that affects my area?

29
30 MS. SELBO: Most of the -- so on Kenai
31 they require a permit to do brown -- or excuse me, to
32 do black bear baiting, so that's why Andy can keep
33 track of the numbers a little better, we don't require
34 that on all refuges in Alaska, and so those numbers are
35 kept by the state of Alaska.

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: Well, my understanding
38 is in our area there's no problem, brown -- black bears
39 are considered healthy and brown bears are too.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm going
42 to go ahead and ask that we move on, we could probably
43 debate this for quite awhile, and we do have a public
44 comment period open until the 7th, and I think we need
45 a lot more input and we may want to, as a RAC, later
46 on, come up with something to put to you, but, Gloria,
47 one last -- go ahead.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: The deadline is April
50 7th, we won't meet until October. So if we put this

1 off we're not going to be able to comment and I would
2 like to see us comment on this because it affects my
3 area. We have a Tetlin Wildlife Refuge in our area and
4 this is a statewide proposed rulemaking.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I didn't
7 say that we couldn't as a Council, act on it, Gloria.

8
9 MS. STICKWAN: I didn't understand you,
10 I thought you were moving on and not being able to let
11 us comment on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Mary
14 Ann.

15
16 MS. MILLS: I would just like to make a
17 short comment.

18
19 I remember Doug Blossom speaking about
20 the brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and he was a
21 very avid hunter and he said that there was a problem
22 with too many brown bear on the Peninsula and I notice
23 that your 1990 brown bear concern, you know, that was
24 26 years ago and I'm wondering if -- I know we see a
25 lot of brown bear on the Kenai Peninsula and so I was
26 wondering if you have done another count of bears or if
27 you take hunters, what they're seeing in the Refuges as
28 testimony.

29
30 MR. LORANGER: Through the Chair.
31 Member Mills. So the estimate that we had, the only
32 scientifically based estimate of Kenai brown bear
33 population was generated through the work done that I
34 mentioned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US
35 Forest Service in the year 2010. But we've modeled
36 known human caused mortalities since that time and they
37 -- based on that population estimate and known human
38 caused mortalities have resulted, based on our modeling
39 in a fairly substantial reduction in the number of
40 brown bears on the Kenai. That's the best information
41 and the most current information that we have at this
42 time.

43
44 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Andy.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
47 Yeah, it's too bad Doug passed on to the happy hunting
48 grounds because he would have argued with you here all
49 night. But what I do want to say is, you know, it's
50 very arbitrary, you know, they cross in the state back

1 and forth, there's a lot of comments.

2

3 What I meant, Gloria, I want to clarify
4 this, the Board here, our RAC, can move to take action.
5 I want to move on with the subject. If you want to
6 take action on it, or if you want to individually send
7 in your comments by April 7th, that's fine. But if the
8 RAC wishes to take an action, can, we, Donald, take an
9 action, make a motion.

10

11 MR. MIKE: (Nods affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think I'm
14 right, thank you. Thank you, Andy and Sarena.

15

16 MR. LORANGER: Thank you for your time
17 and congratulations, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

20

21 Okay, Gloria, would you like us, as a
22 Council, to take action. One thing that I was thinking
23 about, you know, we had these letters of the joint
24 session for comments on certain things, I don't know if
25 that's been included in there, I haven't had a chance
26 to study that.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: I don't think so.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't think so.

31

32 MS. STICKWAN: The joint session did
33 say wildlife refuges -- I heard someone say that
34 they're opposed to the proposed rulemaking, I think it
35 was from the Western RAC that said that, and I think
36 that was part of the comments. I would like to see
37 this Council, to oppose, or write a letter to the
38 Director saying that we don't -- well, we don't all
39 agree with this because it does affect subsistence
40 users. Bear baiting -- bears don't have -- they go
41 over State lands, they go to Federal to State and
42 prohibiting bear baiting will affect the moose
43 population and caribou population in my area, which is
44 the Tetlin wildlife, in Unit 12, which some of our
45 people hunt in that area. This is a statewide refuge
46 rulemaking and it's not just going to affect Kenai,
47 it's going to affect all wildlife refuges in Alaska.

48

49 So I would like to see us write a
50 letter saying that we oppose this prohibition of taking

1 brown bear over bait using traps and snares, taking of
2 wolves and coyotes during the spring, and summer,
3 taking of bears, same day, prohibiting all these
4 things; I'd like to see us oppose all of it because it
5 does affect our -- it's going to affect my area, it's
6 going to affect the caribou and the moose if we
7 prohibit taking bears over bait. It's an opportunity
8 for people to go out. As Andy was saying, it's going
9 to affect his ability to go out and take -- an
10 opportunity to get meat for him. He will no longer be
11 able to do that, you know, it is an example of where he
12 lives, maybe he doesn't have a wildlife refuge there,
13 but it's going to affect people in my area.

14
15 I'm concerned about this wildlife
16 refuge, as a statewide. And as Karen Linnell said, if
17 they were going to do this then they should have done
18 it on a region by region because wildlife populations
19 are different in every region of the state. If they're
20 allowing brown, black bear baiting now in our -- and
21 they are, the brown bear and the black bears, you know,
22 there's no conservation concern for brown bear baiting
23 -- that I've read from reports from Fish and Game. So,
24 you know, to take that away from the subsistence users
25 to get the meat in the springtime and to -- there's no
26 reason -- biological reason for them to do this. The
27 wolves, the coyotes are thought to be healthy in my
28 area so I don't see any reason why the restriction to
29 the closures to -- I don't see that as a good reason to
30 make it three to five years; I'm opposed to that as
31 well. Any restriction that is placed upon the
32 subsistence users, I'm totally against that.

33
34 I don't approve of making things harder
35 on the subsistence users and taking away our use of
36 wildlife.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Do
39 you want to.....

40
41 MR. CARPENTER: I got a motion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead,
44 Tom.

45
46 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I would
47 like to make a motion, kind of going along with what
48 Gloria has been talking about:

49
50 The Southcentral Regional Advisory

1 Council is not in agreement with the proposed rule
2 changes that are subject on the National Wildlife
3 Refuges in Alaska. The rationale is, that broad based
4 management approach to closures on Alaska's Federal
5 Wildlife Refuges is not an appropriate wildlife
6 management practice considering the diverse differences
7 in geography, climate, hunting practice, and most
8 importantly wildlife populations which vary greatly
9 from one refuge to another.

10

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
14 and seconded. Any other discussion.

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: I would just add in
17 there, that it will affect subsistence users -- I
18 didn't hear you say that.

19

20 MR. CARPENTER: That's fine, we can
21 surely add that.

22

23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
26 discussion.

27

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Judy, would you
32 quickly read us back.....

33

34 MR. GEASE: Discussion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It was seconded
37 here. Yes, we're on discussion, go ahead, Ricky.

38

39 MR. GEASE: One of the things I'd like
40 to see potentially in the letter is to, in times of
41 reduced fiscal budgets is to see cooperative research
42 between State and Federal and non-government agencies
43 to come together to have strategic plans in terms of
44 research and funding amounts so members of the public,
45 the State, and on the Federal level can advocate for
46 those types of research priorities that do get us the
47 better data so we don't have to work in an absence of
48 data but can have data. There's newer technologies
49 that are coming into the field, for example, there's a
50 lot of new drone technologies that could maybe be

1 fitted with IR type stuff that could do scans in
2 wilderness areas where there's forest cover and try to
3 get temperatures and get some population estimates on
4 some different, non-traditional manners, that I think
5 would potentially give us some data points that would
6 help people in management on the Kenai Peninsula for
7 brown bears. In the 1990s I think the minimum
8 populations where people were getting very critical
9 about were under 300 bears on the Kenai Peninsula,
10 population estimates in 15 years were up around 600, so
11 that's a doubling of the population. Just in the two
12 years that that was open, I think the majority of bears
13 were taken through bait stations was a 10 percent drop.
14 So there are some considerations that we need and
15 sometimes we need real-time information for monitoring
16 if we are going to open up.

17
18 That's just specific to the Kenai, this
19 is an Anchorage -- or I mean Alaska based regionwide
20 proposal, so things that may exist on the Kenai might
21 not exist in other wildlife refuges.

22
23 But if we could add something about
24 cooperative research I'd appreciate that.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I take it,
29 Ricky, let me understand that, we had a motion on the
30 table, we got a second to Tom's motion and you are
31 proposing that we amend that to add some research data
32 to that; would that be okay, Tom.

33
34 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I have no
35 problem with adding Gloria or Ricky's language to the
36 end of my motion, that subsistence will be greatly
37 affected by the proposed rule, and that any and all
38 research that can be done, in collaboration with as
39 many agencies and non-profits as possible to come up
40 with the best population estimates, et cetera, that's
41 fine.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does the second
44 agree to that.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would second that
47 with those -- including Ricky and Gloria.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You noticed I
50 shortened that a little bit so I didn't have to have an

1 amended motion here.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, I'm going
6 to go ahead and ask any other discussion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
11 question called for.

12

13 Ingrid.

14

15 MS. PETERSON: Well, I don't know if
16 this is an amendment but I'd just like to say that I
17 live close to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and
18 i've lived there since the mid-80s, I guess, and we did
19 have brown bear in my area and then the Bradley Dam
20 Project occurred and the bear lost lots of habitat and
21 now they're really occasional and I witnessed, myself,
22 the big reduction in brown bear, and I was hoping the
23 people from the Refuge could talk about the loss of
24 bears to protection of life and property that occurred
25 during that time. Because their habitat on the Kenai
26 there continues to be lost and restricted due to
27 housing developments, and that's all in the public
28 record. And so I think there is a real need to protect
29 the bear. The Kenai brown bear cannot leave, they
30 can't migrate anywhere else, that's in the government
31 reports, because of the way the roads are and the land
32 mass, so they're a captive population. There was even
33 some talk about doing genetic testing on them to see if
34 they're like an endangered species, if their DNA was
35 different from other brown bears. So I think it's
36 really important that we do protect Kenai Peninsula
37 brown bears.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
40 Ingrid. Point well taken. Some of those bears moved
41 up to my place.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But, anyway, is
46 there -- I'm waiting for someone to call the question
47 and we'll take a vote on this motion.

48

49 MS. DEMENTI: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
2 called for. Okay, I would ask you to read that back to
3 me, if you could.....

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:but
8 basically I think we all understand the contents and
9 the rest and we could -- Donald.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
12 to clarify for the Council, we're going to be taking
13 action on the amendment and then going back to the main
14 motion; is that correct?

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's incorrect.
17 I had agreement from the first and the second.....

18
19 MR. MIKE: Oh, okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:that we
22 would keep it in the main motion.

23
24 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. All
27 in favor of the motion as corrected, it's one motion,
28 main motion.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One opposed.
37 Motion carries. Thank you.

38
39 Okay, we're going to need to kind of
40 move on here a little bit. I hate to swallow my words
41 on this first meeting but we ain't going to make it by
42 5:30, but number B, update on the RFRs on the
43 Kenai/Kasilof.

44
45 Welcome, go ahead.

46
47 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Members of
48 the Council. I'm the Fisheries Division Chief for the
49 Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm really
50 enjoying this All Council meeting, but one of the

1 effects of that are OSM Staff is spread pretty thin.
2 So Jennifer Hardin who has been charge of the RFR for
3 Fisheries Proposals 15-10, 15-11, and 15-17, the claims
4 identification, had to be at another meeting so she
5 handed this to me and I'm going to read this to you,
6 very quickly, and hopefully get you back on track a
7 little bit.

8

9 REPORTER: You don't have to go too
10 quickly.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. COGSWELL: So here is a summary of
15 requests received and this is in regards to the Kenai,
16 Kasilof, Makhnati, requests for reconsideration, claims
17 identification. This is Fisheries Proposals 15-10, 15-
18 11 and 15-17.

19

20 A total of 740 letters were submitted
21 to OSM in response to the Board decision on those three
22 proposals. Nine of those proposals have been pulled.
23 Eight of them because they were duplicates and one was
24 not a claim, it was a newspaper ad, or editorial. All
25 of the remaining 731 letters requested reconsideration
26 of the Board's decision on Fisheries Proposal 15-10 and
27 that was a proposal that a community set gillnet salmon
28 fishery be established on the Kenai River and that the
29 Board delegate to the in-season manager the authority
30 to approve an operating plan for that gillnet.

31

32 479 letters also requested
33 reconsideration of the Board's decision on Fisheries
34 Proposal 15-11, and that one was a proposal that a
35 community set gillnet salmon fishery be established on
36 the Kasilof River and that the Board delegate to the
37 in-season manager the authority to approve an operating
38 plan for that gillnet.

39

40 One letter also included a request for
41 reconsideration of the Board's decision on Fisheries
42 Proposal 15-17, that involved the proposal that the
43 Federal public waters in the Makhnati Island area near
44 Sitka be closed to the harvest of herring and herring
45 spawn except by Federally-qualified users.

46

47 So that's a summary of the letters
48 received and the breakdown.

49

50 There's been a preliminary

1 identification of claims. Each of the 731 letters was
2 closely reviewed to identify potential claims. A
3 preliminary list of claims has been developed. 44
4 potential claims have been identified, and some of
5 these overlap.

6
7 39 of those claims are associated with
8 Fisheries Proposal 15-10, that's the establishment of
9 the community set gillnet salmon fishery on the Kenai.
10 22 also identified potential claims with Fisheries
11 Proposal 15-11, that is the establishment of a
12 community set gillnet salmon fishery on the Kasilof
13 River. Three of those 44 have potential claims
14 associated with Fisheries Proposal 15-17, and that is
15 to close the Federal waters in the Makhnati Island area
16 near Sitka to the harvest of herring and herring spawn,
17 except by Federally-qualified users.

18
19 This is in bold.

20
21 The final number of claims will likely
22 change. The 44 potential claims have not yet been
23 assessed to determine if they align with at least one
24 of the three criteria for reconsidering a Board
25 decision and are valid.

26
27 In closing I have four bullet points
28 that identify next steps for this process.

- 29
- 30 1. A final list of claims that
31 meet the RFR criteria as
32 outlined in the Federal
33 regulations 36 CFR and 50 CFR
34 will be developed for each of
35 the three Board decisions.
36
 - 37 2. Three separate threshold
38 analysis will be conducted for
39 the claims pertaining to the
40 Kenai River, Kasilof River, and
41 Makhnati Island proposals.
42
 - 43 3. Completed threshold analysis
44 will be presented to the Board
45 so it can determine which RFRs
46 or the claims meet or do not
47 meet the threshold criteria for
48 reconsideration.
49
 - 50 4. If any of the claims are

1 determined to meet the
2 threshold a full analysis will
3 be conducted.

4
5 So that is the next steps in the
6 process. That is all I have to present today.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
9 Stewart. I'm glad you presented that because it gives
10 us some good information and it shows that they're
11 working the issues.

12
13 So I don't know but -- okay, go ahead,
14 one time.

15
16 MS. CAMINER: Well, one time but I have
17 a few questions.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MS. CAMINER: And I appreciate that
22 you're just sitting in here so if you don't have the
23 answers, perhaps through Donald you'll be able to get
24 us the answers. I don't hear any dates or timeframes in
25 these steps, I don't know if you have any you can
26 offer.

27
28 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.
29 Council member Caminer, I do not have any dates.

30
31 MS. CAMINER: Okay. And likewise, if
32 there could be an update, and, again, it could be
33 provided in writing to us on the status of the
34 litigation. And my third question would be, who is
35 eligible to file an RFR, is there any sort of criteria
36 for that.

37
38 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.
39 Again, I'm not the best person to answer these
40 questions.

41
42 I know that -- you talk about the --
43 could you restate that second question.

44
45 MS. CAMINER: The second question has
46 to do with the current litigation, and just to get a
47 status of when there's going to be a hearing or, you
48 know, what the next steps are on that as well, sort of
49 a timeframe.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. I have a note on
2 here, I can't comment on anything having to do with the
3 litigation, the Department of Justice is the only one
4 that is authorized to make comments on the litigation
5 at this time.

6
7 And your last question was?

8
9 MS. CAMINER: The last question is, who
10 is eligible to file a request for reconsideration?

11
12 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. I
13 believe anybody was. I mean I think it's closed now,
14 but I mean we received comments from agencies, personal
15 ones from just individuals, so I think anybody's able
16 to put one in.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
19 Stewart, you did a good job answering those questions
20 and I think anybody can, whether they have standing or
21 not that's another question.

22
23 Thank you, very much.

24
25 Next we got the National Park Service.
26 And this might require some kind of action, I got an
27 asterisk so we'll pay attention to you.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. FROST: I could make a comment but
32 I won't.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. FROST: Good afternoon, Mr.
39 Chairman and Council members. My name is Bert Frost,
40 I'm the Regional Director for the National Park
41 Service. I've been in this job not quite two years,
42 it'll be two years in April.

43
44 I was going to take a little bit of
45 time and tell you a little bit about myself but because
46 we're short of time I'll disburse with that and just
47 move on. I'll tell you a little bit. I've been in the
48 state for a couple of years, but I am a wildlife
49 biologist by training, wildlife management, wildlife
50 ecology is a passion of mine, I grew up hunting and

1 fishing in the mountains and deserts of southern and
2 central Utah. I've always had an interest in wildlife
3 issues. In moving to Alaska is a whole new realm of
4 wildlife management issues and working with the State
5 and with the RACs, it has been a very educational
6 experience for me and I've had a great learning curve.
7 I've had an opportunity to attend, I think this is my
8 fourth RAC meeting I've been to in the year and a half,
9 two years I've been here, and I look forward to
10 attending many more. I would like to attend more of
11 them but my schedule just doesn't permit, and so as I
12 -- I'm going to be able to meet with three RACs this
13 week since they're all here in town, but we have, I
14 don't know, six or seven that we're associated with
15 that has, you know, that the Park Service units are
16 associated with, and while I'd like to go to each RAC
17 meeting during each meeting schedule that's just an
18 impossibility. But I'll always, you know, welcome the
19 opportunity to come back and speak with you folks
20 whenever you feel the need.

21

22 But we have, you know, Barbara, she's
23 been here -- I'm sure you know her very well, capable
24 person to report what's going on.

25

26 Just wanted to update on the
27 subsistence collection rule. I can just walk through
28 this real quickly with you.

29

30 You know, as you are well aware, this
31 rule has been in the works for a number of years.
32 There are three parts to the rule.

33

34 The first part, which would allow
35 qualified subsistence users to collect and use non-
36 edible fish and wildlife parts and plant materials to
37 create handicrafts for use, barter or sale. And I'll
38 go into a little bit of detail over each three of these
39 parts.

40

41 The second part is to clarify the
42 collecting or possessing living wildlife is generally
43 prohibited.

44

45 The third piece is to limit the types
46 of bait that may be used to take bears for subsistence
47 use.

48

49 So just to explain a little bit of the
50 first part, you know, this rule is currently --

1 currently there is a National Park Service service-wide
2 rule that prohibits the collecting of these types of
3 materials and so this would be an Alaska specific rule
4 that would allow NPS qualified local rural residents to
5 collect and use plant materials and non-edible animal
6 parts to make and sell handicrafts by -- and, you know,
7 then we go into some definition of what animal parts
8 are, things like antlers, horns, bones, teeth, claws.
9 We talk a little bit about what the definition of a
10 handicraft article is and it's -- we try to be
11 identical to the current definition in the Federal
12 Subsistence Program regulation so there's congruency
13 there, we don't want to have two different definitions.
14 And it says, clarify that the handicraft must result
15 from the alteration or skillful manipulation of the
16 shape and appearance of natural material to create
17 something of greater monetary or aesthetic value. And
18 then the third piece of that is in the use of customary
19 trade, this would allow for the sale of these
20 handicraft articles to support personal and family
21 needs in all Park units but it may not constitute a
22 significant commercial enterprise. And so this is
23 really for non-commercial activities that this rule
24 would allow these activities.

25
26 The subsistence users would be required
27 to have a Federal Subsistence Board customary and
28 traditional use determination for the animal species to
29 be collected, and the determination must also be
30 specific to the area where the collection would occur.
31 Users would also have to have written authorization by
32 the superintendent to collect these materials and the
33 sale of raw, unworked materials or parts would be
34 prohibited. And the written authorizations, I know
35 there's concerns of this from a lot of people, you
36 know, it could be accomplished in many ways. It could
37 be an individual permit, it could be an area wide
38 permit, so Park wide authorizations. It could be just
39 for Park Resident Zone communities. Or it could be an
40 annual authorization or a specific geographic location
41 in a Park. And these could be accomplished through the
42 annual compendium process.

43
44 Let's see, so that's sort of the nuts
45 and bolts of the subsistence rule.

46
47 Moving on to the second piece, the
48 collection of live wildlife. This is really a
49 clarification. The Park Service feels that we already
50 have -- that there already is a prohibition, and,

1 again, a Service wide rule that prohibits the use of
2 the collection of live wildlife or -- and the issue is
3 that it deals mostly with the collection of falcon
4 chicks and eggs for the use of falconry. Now, we're
5 not prohibiting the hunting, the use of hunting --
6 falcons for hunting, it's the actual collection of
7 young birds and eggs to bring in to train to hunt. And
8 we feel that our interpretation of our regulations, is
9 it is already prohibited in Park Service regulations,
10 but every time this issue comes up there's -- it's not
11 clear, and so we're just trying to make it clear that
12 on Park Service lands, falcons, young falcons, raptor
13 chicks and eggs, you cannot collect raptor chicks and
14 eggs for the purpose of falconry on National Park
15 Service lands.

16

17 And then the last piece is the use of
18 bait for taking bears under the Federal Subsistence
19 regulations. This rule would limit the types of baits
20 that could be used to take black and brown bears under
21 the Federal Subsistence regulations. Bait would be
22 limited to parts of legally taken Native fish and
23 wildlife that are not required to be salvaged, or
24 remains of Native fish and wildlife that died of
25 natural causes. The intent of this limitation is to
26 prohibit the use of food items, such as dog food,
27 grease, bread, or popcorn as bait for taking bear. You
28 know, prohibiting these types of food items is
29 consistent with NPS regulations that prohibit feeding
30 wildlife in the NPS legal and policy framework that
31 calls for managing wildlife for natural processes. And
32 it also addresses the efforts to avoid habituating
33 wildlife to unnatural food sources, such as human food
34 sources or commercial pet foods.

35

36 The rule was published on January 13th
37 in 2016. It is currently -- the proposed rule, let me
38 clarify that, the proposed rule -- I want to make that
39 clear, this is just a proposal right now, we haven't
40 decided anything, the comment period is currently open,
41 it was published on January 13th and the comment period
42 will close on April 12th, so there's still about a
43 month left for -- I think it was open for 90 days.

44

45 And, you know, when we go through this
46 process people think that we've already made a decision
47 and I want to assure you we have made no decisions at
48 this point. Part of the process is to listen to folks
49 like you, to the general public and already we have --
50 as I was getting prepared to come and speak with you

1 folks this week, you know, some of the comments we've
2 already received have made some very good points and we
3 need to rethink some of the things that we have said in
4 our proposed rule and we're going to do that and we'll
5 have a thoughtful discussion once we get all the
6 comments in and before any final rule is published.

7

8 So with that I'll close and let you ask
9 any questions.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Tom,
12 I think he beat you to it.

13

14 MR. CARPENTER: Okay, go ahead, Lee.

15

16 MR. ADLER: I have a short question. I
17 understand that, as it is, it's legal to shoot over
18 bait, let's say if you harvest a caribou or moose, take
19 all the edible meat and organ parts, what's left you
20 can actually hunt bear over that leftover, so that
21 probably stayed that way?

22

23 MR. FROST: That is correct, yes.

24

25 MR. ADLER: Okay, thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tom.

28

29 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, sir. Nice
30 to meet you.

31

32 I guess when I look at this proposed
33 rule, I guess the part that I don't like about it, it
34 doesn't -- it seems like it has circumvented the
35 process. And the reason I say that is, is the original
36 proposal which had to do mainly with handicrafts went
37 through several years of RAC meetings, Federal Board
38 meetings, lots of public comment and we got to a point
39 to where maybe this would finally take effect and we've
40 come to some kind of rationalization of how we're going
41 to do this and then this gets put on -- tagged on to
42 the end of it. You can see where the general public
43 probably thinks that this is just a Federal agency
44 writing its own rules without allowing the public -- I
45 understand that there is public comment, but you see
46 what I'm saying. And, you know, when you lump a
47 proposal like this together, a proposed rule like this
48 together, I want to support most of the rule but I
49 don't want to support the end of the rule, and that's
50 where the problem occurs in my opinion.

1 I'm not saying that the Park Service
2 doesn't have justification for wanting certain types of
3 baits to be excluded. But I guess I also don't
4 understand why they didn't go to the SRC and say, we
5 think this is a problem, debate it within the Wrangell-
6 St. Elias Resource Commission, if they think that it's
7 warranted that this ought to be brought forward, they
8 could bring it forward in the form of a proposal, it
9 comes here, it goes to the Federal Subsistence Board,
10 it's a very clean process.

11
12 So I guess I'm just curious if you
13 could comment on that.

14
15 MR. FROST: Sure. So, you know,
16 rulemaking process is a messy process, I'll just say.
17 There isn't a linear, you know, you go from here to
18 there. And because rulemaking often takes years to do,
19 you want to be able to take advantage of opportunities
20 to sort of clean things up, and that's what we're doing
21 with the falcon piece, again, we're using it to, you
22 know, I guess clarify -- what I would articulate as
23 clarifying a rule, and similar to the bear baiting,
24 when we do a rule process, any rule process, there is a
25 process and we did an EA for the subsistence piece.
26 And we often do a NEPA process that's simultaneous with
27 the regulatory process. But people forget, and I
28 suspect that this isn't widely known so I'll let you
29 know today that there are multiple steps in the NEPA
30 process, and the actual first step in the NEPA process
31 is, is there a significant -- is there a government
32 action, and so there is a government action and so we
33 have to do NEPA, and the first NEPA is, you know, what
34 are the impacts. And so as we go through -- you ask
35 these questions and then that NEPA -- those questions
36 determine what level of NEPA you have to do and you
37 have three levels of NEPA analysis, you have the
38 categorical exclusion, you have the environmental
39 assessment or you have the full blown environmental
40 impact statement, right, and so for the falcon piece
41 and the bear baiting piece, we went through the NEPA
42 process and we felt that a categorical exclusion was
43 the proper tool for the analysis. We also did an .810
44 analysis per ANILCA on both the baiting on the live --
45 the collection of wildlife, but we didn't feel we
46 needed to go to that next level for those two things
47 because they were modified -- the categorical exclusion
48 states that they're modifying existing regulations.

49
50 Being that the subsistence rule is a

1 brand new rule, it's a new authority that we're
2 allowing this activity to take place, we're basically
3 circumventing a Service wide authority in allowing
4 that, we felt that we needed to go a higher level of
5 NEPA and that's why we did the EA. So I can understand
6 your frustration, I can understand why it may look like
7 we're trying to circumvent the process, that was not
8 our intent.

9

10 Can we do better. I think we can
11 always do better. And, you know, as I sit in this seat
12 it's my responsibility to make sure that we do better,
13 make sure that we do more outreach.

14

15 So, you know, we've tried to follow the
16 process the best we can. Is it perfect, no. But here
17 we are.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go
20 ahead, Barbara.

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
23 Cellarius. I'm with Wrangell-St. Elias. And I just
24 want to make one point, although there were three
25 separate issues published in one proposed rule, you can
26 comment on them individually.

27

28 MR. FROST: Right.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: So don't feel like it's
31 an up or down vote on the entire package. So I think
32 that's a really important point. Comment however you
33 want on each of the pieces of the proposals.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. CARPENTER: I think that's a good
38 point of clarification because I don't think most
39 people that are in this entire building know that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ingrid.

42

43 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, I'd just like to
44 say I don't have a copy of the rule, I don't know who
45 else does on the Council.

46

47 MR. FROST: It should be in your
48 binder, I believe.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, 218 it

1 starts, the regulation.

2

3 MS. PETERSON: On Page 218.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: While she's
6 looking.....

7

8 MS. PETERSON: Oh, okay, thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: I was looking at the
13 live wildlife part, collection of the live wildlife and
14 bird collection.

15

16 We had a question at the SRC, how would
17 that affect the migratory bird collection of eggs, we
18 didn't get an answer on that. You got an answer on
19 that since our meeting? And I had another question
20 after that.

21

22 MR. FROST: So there are specific
23 species that you -- that are permitted -- so the only
24 specific species that I understand that are currently
25 allowed to be collected right now is we have
26 legislation and we're in the process of doing a
27 rulemaking to allow gull eggs to be collected down at
28 Glacier Bay National Park. Other than that, I don't
29 think eggs are allowed to be collected, but I could be
30 wrong.

31

32 MS. STICKWAN: Migratory birds is
33 allowed, spring and summer hunt is allowed in Unit 11.
34 My understanding is we're allowed to do a spring and
35 summer hunt for migratory birds and that includes
36 collection of eggs.

37

38 MR. FROST: Is this for like ducks and
39 geese and gulls and things like that?

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: Migratory birds, yeah.

42

43 MR. FROST: All migratory birds?

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: That's my understanding,
46 migratory birds spring and summer hunt.

47

48 MR. FROST: I don't have an answer for
49 you, we can get an answer for you.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: The other thing is when
2 you did the Section .810 analysis, what was your
3 rationale that it wouldn't affect the subsistence
4 users, I mean what was the analysis done to -- I guess
5 I'm asking how did you come to the conclusion that it
6 wouldn't affect subsistence users?
7

8 MR. FROST: Well, we're not taking --
9 we're not prohibiting the take of bears or black bears,
10 brown bears, we're just defining what can be used as
11 bait and the human manufactured foods cannot be used.
12 And so it's a weighing between the impact of the user
13 versus trying to maintain our policies, you know, with
14 not habituating bears and things like that. So it's a
15 bit of a trade-off on both. Because we felt that we --
16 because we're not prohibiting the activity of bear
17 baiting for subsistence users, we didn't feel that that
18 was the -- the level of impact was minimal compared to
19 if we had done it like we did with the sporthunting.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ralph.

22
23 MR. LOHSE: I just have two questions
24 to ask you.
25

26 You know if that's aimed at falcons,
27 why don't they use the word, falcons in there instead
28 of live animals. The only thing I could think of is, I
29 know that in other Parks there might be lizards or
30 something like that that would be traded, but for up
31 here, I'm thinking the National Park, Wrangell-St.
32 Elias and the history that was there on my trapline and
33 there were live animals taken to provide breeding stock
34 for a marten farm, and I know there were live animals
35 taken that were presented to zoos and were in some of
36 the films like White Wilderness and stuff like that,
37 called wolverines, basically this prohibits that too
38 then; if I understand correctly.
39

40 MR. FROST: Yes.

41
42 MR. LOHSE: And so it's not just
43 falcons that you're aiming at, because if you were
44 aiming at falcons you could have just stated falcons.
45

46 MR. FROST: But that's -- I would --
47 you're correct, but that's where we get the most use,
48 is with the falcons, that's where we get the requests
49 from.
50

1 MR. LOHSE: Okay. The other question I
2 had under customary trade on the handicrafts thing, you
3 said there can be customary trade with handicrafts but
4 in the subsistence society or in a subsistence culture
5 there's customary trade of the raw materials to make
6 handicrafts. And I mean to me if I had -- let's say I
7 had a collection permit for moose antlers, for example,
8 I'll just take that off the top of my head, the way I
9 understand the wording you gave me, if I wanted to
10 trade -- as a subsistence user, if I wanted to trade
11 that moose antler I would first have to trade -- I
12 would first have to make it into a substantially
13 altered handicraft, where, instead I might be trading
14 it to Andy, because Andy is a moose antler carver and
15 he's a subsistence user, and I'm not saying that he is,
16 and I'm not saying that I am, but technically speaking,
17 that customary trade should extend -- I mean it should
18 extend to at least being able to trade the raw
19 materials that we use for making handicrafts because
20 maybe I can't go collect them but maybe Andy can.

21
22 MR. FROST: No, you're exactly correct.
23 And that's one of the questions I had, as I mentioned
24 when I was being briefed, that's one of the questions
25 that had come up, and I asked the exact same scenario,
26 that if Person A wanted to collect something because
27 Person B couldn't, did they actually have to do
28 something before they gave it to Person B. And I think
29 that's a clarification that we need to make because I
30 think that's an important -- that's a subtly that we
31 need to sort of tease out to allow that activity
32 because I don't think we're trying to prohibit that but
33 the way it's written currently now, I think you're
34 exactly right, it is prohibited as it is in the
35 proposed rule.

36
37 MR. LOHSE: Yeah. That would mean like
38 if I took a brown bear and Andy was in the process of
39 making brown bear claws into something, I couldn't
40 trade him the brown bear, I'd have to make it into
41 something myself, and I think that that needs to be
42 taken out.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ricky you
45 were next, I believe.

46
47 MR. GEASE: I'll concur with Ralph's
48 comments on that trade component. It is a bottleneck
49 in sea otter populations for Native hunters having to
50 do, "be the artist and the hunter" and traditionally

1 that has not been the case. Typically you've had some
2 differentiation between hunters and artists who are
3 looking for raw products and don't want them marked up
4 in the things that they want to do as an artist.
5 Hopefully that's not the same situation that we get
6 into ourselves in as currently exists with sea otters.

7
8 I wanted to ask, bear baiting can take
9 place in the fall and the spring, and are there any
10 surveys about what percentage of subsistence hunters
11 are using the materials that you seek to prohibit, not
12 so much necessarily in the fall after harvest but in
13 the springtime, before harvest of fish and other parts
14 of wildlife, typically those activities are more in
15 abundance in the fall than in the springtime, have you
16 done surveys to figure out, you know, what percentage
17 of hunters are going to be not having their number 1
18 preference of bait being able to use?

19
20 MR. FROST: So let me make sure I
21 understand the question.

22
23 So you're asking, do we know how many
24 hunters, primarily in the spring would use the things
25 that we're prohibiting as opposed to the things that
26 we're allowing; is that correct?

27
28 MR. GEASE: (Nods affirmatively)

29
30 MR. FROST: I don't know the answer to
31 that. I don't know if we have that information or not,
32 I'd have to go back and check with the biologists. But
33 I do know that we monitor bait stations and so that
34 information may be available, I just don't have it off
35 the top of my head.

36
37 MR. GEASE: There's a big difference if
38 you're looking at 10 percent of the use as using these
39 materials versus 90 percent of the use. So if the
40 proposed rule is going to have an impact in 90 percent
41 of the hunters that are going back that's a big thing
42 versus if it's 10 percent. So I would like to
43 understand what the percentage is, if there were any
44 surveys done in terms of preference of hunters, versus,
45 you know, this is a policy and a proposal and we're
46 doing top down management instead of bottom up.

47
48 Were there, in the development of these
49 regulations for this specific thing, you know, is this
50 coming from the subsistence hunting community, that

1 there's complaints, or is this something more from the
2 perspective of the Park Service?

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. FROST: This is more from the
7 perspective of the Park Service. It's, again, having
8 to do with health and human safety, habituating bears
9 to human food stuff, things like that, feeding
10 wildlife.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go
13 ahead, Andy.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, just real quick
16 here to concur with what Ralph mentioned there. I can
17 speak firsthand, not necessarily the Park Service
18 goods, but the raw material situation where I know
19 that, you know, an elder who likes to make baskets from
20 spruce roots would trade jelly to whoever would go
21 collect that and so it seems like there needs to be
22 some type of definition in there.

23

24 MR. FROST: I agree.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Barbara, I'm
27 going to ask you to clarify a few things, you know, I
28 think you had a comment, but in the essence of time, we
29 could debate this and we have in the past for long
30 times, I know we got a chance to make a public comment,
31 but I'm going to have to try and wrap it up here okay
32 so maybe you could clarify.

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I was going to
35 clarify something, although then what I read what the
36 language says, the proposed rule would not prevent
37 something like -- well, I think I should just not.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: What I was going to say
42 doesn't make any sense so I'll just stop.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Thank
47 you.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ralph, you want
2 to talk some more.

3
4 MR. LOHSE: I just want one more
5 comment and I'm going to go along with Ricky Gease,
6 what he brought up. And that's the fact using the kind
7 of baits you're talking works real fine in fall when
8 everybody has access to it but in spring unless
9 somebody's put bait in their freezer some place, most
10 people don't have the availability of the kind of bait
11 that you're talking. So basically it would have a very
12 big impact on the spring -- and I'm not a pro bear
13 baiter, but it would have an extremely big impact on
14 the use of bait in the spring if it was limited to the
15 resources that you're talking about, because the other
16 resources aren't there.

17
18 MR. FROST: And, again, I think that
19 that's a point that's been made in the comment period
20 and I think that's something that we have to think
21 about.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, very
24 much Bert.

25
26 Donald, what is our action item here.

27
28 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
29 is an action item for the Council to take, either
30 submit a written comment to the Park Service, you can
31 either -- I can either take the comments that were
32 discussed here today or go forward with a motion to
33 provide your comments and then I'll produce the
34 correspondence.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
37 to ask the pleasure of the Council, do you want to use
38 our comments that were talked here or do you want to
39 make a motion to -- Gloria.

40
41 MS. STICKWAN: I would like this
42 Council to support what the Wrangell-St. Elias
43 subsistence wrote in their comments, we discussed this
44 at our meeting extensively. It took us a few hours to
45 write these points and you have them in front of you,
46 you know, we took the three parts and we said that --
47 as you can see -- maybe Karen can help me, if you don't
48 mind, Karen, coming up here. We thought that -- we
49 were concerned about the proposed rulemaking, as you
50 can see the handicrafts and sales is an important

1 source of livelihood for people in rural areas, it
2 shouldn't be overly restrictive, requiring a permit or
3 written authorization from a superintendent is not
4 needed. The level of collection that is likely to
5 occur is overly restrictive regulations including the
6 requirement for permits and written authorization.
7 Shed and discarded horns are not permanent fixtures on
8 the landscape -- are not collected by subsistence users
9 and they will disappear in a year or two as they are
10 eaten by small animals and that was in reference to
11 antlers. Sometimes horns and antlers are exchanged
12 before they are made into handicrafts. It is too
13 restrictive to say that materials must be modified
14 before they can be exchanged.

15
16 Regarding the definition of significant
17 commercial enterprise, handicrafts are made with love,
18 they take a lot of time to do and we don't think there
19 should be a dollar value on the significant commercial
20 enterprise.

21
22 And of course as I said earlier we
23 opposed the bear baiting, that rule, we thought it --
24 as Tom Carpenter said, we thought it bypassed the
25 public comment in lumping it together with the plants.

26
27 Do you mind if Karen comes up and helps
28 me?

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No. I'll let her
31 come up here, we do have to make a decision and I would
32 like us to move on with this if we can without too much
33 deliberation.

34
35 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Just some of the clarification.

37
38 Part of this proposed rule in regards
39 to bear baiting methods and means being used. We felt
40 that this is the auspice of the Federal Subsistence
41 Board and the Board of Game to set those types of
42 regulations. By creating and using this rulemaking
43 system it's creating a third management regime outside
44 of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board
45 of Game. We think things are complicated now. There's
46 not going to be a HandyDandy regulation book if it's in
47 this proposed rule system, we have to go back to the
48 CFRs to find those hunting regulations and that type of
49 thing.

50

1 One of the -- out of this and something
2 that I didn't hear mentioned through your comments on
3 this, was the use of meat and fish changes the flavor
4 of the meat and that's pretty significant. The whole
5 purpose for these hunts for subsistence uses and when
6 you change the flavor of the meat it generally makes it
7 inedible. So that was something that was brought up.
8 And also the use of meat as bait tends to draw more
9 brown bear over black bear is what we were told by some
10 folks who do bait. And so they use popcorn, they use
11 maybe dog food but, you know, to attract the black
12 bears so those are some of the comments we had.

13

14 Anyway the -- I guess in regards to the
15 collections of live animals, I think there's a process
16 -- there is a process to be used when you want to
17 change regulation and that is through the Federal
18 Subsistence Board and through the Alaska Board of Game
19 and the process hasn't been used well. When
20 regulations occur that doesn't seem to fit along with
21 their supposed mandates, they try this other approach.
22 And I thank you for mentioning the trust value in
23 regards to this. This collection piece on collecting
24 antlers and plants and things was an eight year
25 process and it still requires the subsistence user to
26 obtain a permit. You know that bothers me. We've been
27 working for years to be able to use a chainsaw, and
28 didn't get any proposed rule change but we have a
29 permit mounted on the wall at the Park Service at
30 Wrangell-St. Elias and that took five, six years to get
31 a permit on the wall for subsistence users. So it
32 seems to me that in order to protect subsistence or
33 insure subsistence uses it's a long drawn out process
34 but when it wants to get more restrictive it's a rather
35 quick process to get to the rules.

36

37 (Teleconference interruption)

38

39 REPORTER: Sorry.

40

41 MS. LINNELL: And just to reiterate
42 with Gloria, the letter, you know, this was a two day
43 process our SRC members stayed up nights and wrote it
44 and thankfully -- but I appreciate you looking at it
45 and thank you for allowing me the time to speak.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
48 Hold up there, Tom. What I'm going to do is if someone
49 wants to make a motion to support this.....

50

1 MR. CARPENTER: I do.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Subsistence
4 Resource Commission or write our own. I'm going to --
5 go ahead Tom.
6
7 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chair. I'd make a
8 motion -- before I make the motion, we have this asset,
9 the Wrangell-St. Elias Commission within the
10 Southcentral, it's the Park, they're the users of the
11 Park, most of us aren't, I think we have to take what
12 the Commission did here over a two day period, much
13 longer than that actually, so my motion is is to submit
14 to the Federal Board, the Southcentral RAC support for
15 the findings that the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
16 Subsistence Resource Commission found and submitted to
17 the Board on their March 4th letter.
18
19 MS. MILLS: I second that.
20
21 MS. STICKWAN: Submitted to Herbert
22 Frost as well.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
25 and seconded by Mary Ann Mills, is there any other
26 discussion in it.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, the
31 question is in order.
32
33 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question's
36 been called. All in favor of this motion aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
41
42 MS. CAMINER: Aye.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One opposed.
45
46 We have one hour to complete a rather
47 lengthy agenda. We could take real German time, five
48 minutes, if you want to break, you guys good.
49
50 MS. CAMINER: Let's keep going.

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You guys good.
2
3 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, let's keep going.
4
5 (Council nods affirmatively)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, everyone
8 says they're good, okay. So we're going to move on.
9
10 Rural determination update, can we get
11 that in writing submitted to us -- who's giving it?
12
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll move
17 on.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. In your binder
20 you should have a timeline of the -- draft policy
21 timeline for non-rural determination so it's just for
22 your reference.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
27 Donald.
28
29 Okay, next item, we got an update on
30 Wildlife Proposal 16-15, analysis, and I think Tom's
31 going to give us that. Thank you, Tom.
32
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
34 Council. My name is Tom Kron from OSM. I believe
35 Donald has passed out updated draft analysis for
36 Proposal -- Wildlife Proposal 16-15.
37
38 Proposal 16-15 seeks to double the
39 harvest limit for caribou from the Kenai Mountains
40 Caribou Herd. At the Southcentral Council meeting in
41 Copper Center last fall the OSM preliminary conclusion
42 was to amend this proposal to close this caribou hunt
43 due to conservation concerns. At the Copper Center
44 meeting the Southcentral Council unanimously supported
45 the OSM preliminary conclusion to close the hunt. At
46 that meeting the Council noted that it seemed strange
47 to be amending a proposal that would increase the
48 harvest to then close the hunt.
49
50 You were right.

1 At the InterAgency Staff Committee
2 meeting in January, Ken Lord from the Solicitor's
3 Office explained that we shouldn't -- should not amend
4 the proposal to close the hunt as a closure of Federal
5 lands is beyond the scope of the original proposal.
6 Rather to accomplish the same end, Mr. Lord noted that
7 we could oppose the proposal and that someone could
8 then followup with a temporary special action request
9 to close the hunt, if desired.

10

11 We wanted to let you know that based on
12 the Solicitor's Office advice, OSM's conclusion is now
13 to oppose the proposal, Wildlife Proposal 16-15.

14

15 Also, please be aware that immediately
16 following the Copper Center meeting last fall, ADF&G
17 and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Staff surveyed
18 the Kenai Mountains Caribou Herd, ADF&G estimated the
19 population at 200 animals, this is up from what they
20 counted two winters ago, it was still below ADF&G's
21 population objective of 300 to 400 caribou.
22 Fortunately we're heading in the right direction.

23

24 Also we now have harvest information
25 from last fall. One animal was harvested under the
26 State hunt and one animal was harvested under the
27 Federal hunt. And this is the lowest harvest rate
28 we've seen since 1972.

29

30 Again, the main thing that OSM wanted
31 to do was to let you know that we have changed the OSM
32 conclusion. Your vote -- your recommendation, which is
33 what really counts under ANILCA, was based on a
34 conclusion that has now been changed and we wanted to
35 let you know.

36

37 So, again, I would recommend that you
38 think about this and decide what you want to recommend
39 because your recommendation carries water with the
40 Federal Board, our conclusion does not.

41

42 Also, the proponent, we provided
43 information to the proponent, the Hope Village Council,
44 and I do not know if they're on teleconference or if
45 they're in the room but, again, we asked at the Copper
46 Center meeting as well, but it'd be good to hear from
47 them, if possible, and I do not know if they're even
48 here.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd be happy to

1 answer any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.

4 Any questions.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: So my understanding then,
11 Tom, is, and we actually did have this discussion last
12 October, that it would be more prudent for this Council
13 to make another motion and open up the topic again to
14 say that we oppose WP16-15.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

17

18 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Council member
19 Caminer. It's your decision what you want to do there,
20 but, again, what we're saying is the recommendation --
21 again, your recommendation is what carries weight in
22 the process, specifically mentioned in ANILCA, your
23 recommendation should not be based on what we submitted
24 as a preliminary conclusion in Copper Center.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: So, Mr. Chair, based on
29 legal advice that's coming after our meeting in
30 October, I'd like to make a motion that we oppose
31 Proposal 16-15.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy.
34 I got a motion on the floor to oppose 16-15; is there a
35 second to that.

36

37 MR. CARPENTER: Point of clarification.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. CARPENTER: Do we not have to make
42 the motion in the affirmative, wouldn't we have to move
43 to adopt this proposal and then vote it down?

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
46 question, you always bring that up Tom and I thank you,
47 but.....

48

49 MS. CAMINER: I mean I guess -- I
50 missed the Robert's Rule of Order training, I should

1 have gone back to it, I guess.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. CAMINER: I mean our previous
6 recommendation was to support Proposal 16-15, as
7 modified, so we could start from there and based on
8 legal advice we can.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So we've already
11 made a motion to support it.

12

13 MS. CAMINER: Right.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And then.....

16

17 MS. CAMINER: I made a motion to --
18 well.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So Judy do you
21 want.....

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Yes, I can.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, go ahead.

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: I went to rulemaking
28 yesterday, they said we have to bring up a motion, it
29 has to be in the positive and then vote it down. I
30 suggest you go to Robert's Rules.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and that's
33 probably true, but I could make another clarification
34 of Robert's Rules, I think it's already been in the
35 positive but so be it. You guys go ahead and make a
36 motion and we'll -- we'll scratch that last one, it
37 died, there was no second, Judy, sorry, your motion's
38 dead, you can make a new one.

39

40 MS. CAMINER: I'll try again then.

41

42 Mr. Chair. At our last meeting we
43 supported Proposal 16-15 as modified. I'd like to make
44 a motion that we continue to support 16-15 as modified,
45 but I'll be voting against that and I'll explain that
46 later.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good motion,
49 is there a second to that motion.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I second it and I want
2 to hear what Judy says about it.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We have a second.
5 Judy, now we're at the discussion point.
6
7 MS. CAMINER: Sorry I diverted us here.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.
10
11 MS. CAMINER: So based on what OSM has
12 provided and the materials that were provided to us,
13 perhaps we didn't make the most legally correct
14 decision, though we had discussions about it at our
15 last meeting, so I'm opposing my own motion. I believe
16 we should oppose the proposal rather than have
17 suggested modifications. It's beyond our scope to
18 suggest we close an area.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
21 discussion of it.
22
23 MS. PETERSON: Motion for -- I don't
24 know, I need that clarification of what Judy just said,
25 can you restate that, please.
26
27 MS. CAMINER: Sure. We had some
28 discussions last fall and we talked about how we should
29 just oppose the proposal because -- however we were --
30 we then decided we would support what was recommended
31 to us, which was to close an area, that's really beyond
32 what we can do in this situation, so we're trying to
33 correct a mistake in judgment that we might have made
34 last time. So I'll oppose my motion because I believe
35 that the proposal does not need to be modified, it
36 needs to be disapproved.
37
38 MS. PETERSON: So your motion then is
39 to disapprove Proposal WP16-15?
40
41 MS. CAMINER: Well, my motion, framing
42 it in the positive is, I support the modification we
43 made last fall, however, based on new information I'm
44 recommending that we all oppose what I've put forward
45 in the positive here.
46
47 MS. PETERSON: Okay.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is
50 everybody good with that.

1 MR. CARPENTER: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
4 called. All in -- I hope I'm -- well, I think we all
5 understand it now. So I'm going to ask all in favor,
6 aye.
7
8 (No aye votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All opposed.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's unanimous, I
15 think, that we all opposed it and we stand opposed to
16 it.
17
18 Thank you, Tom.
19
20 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I believe we're
23 to new business.
24
25 MR. CARPENTER: Let's do it, yeah.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep. So let's go
28 for call for Federal fish and shellfish regulation
29 proposals.
30
31 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. My name is
32 Stewart Cogswell. I work for the Office of Subsistence
33 Management, and I'm the Fisheries Division Chief.
34
35 I'm going to give you a very brief
36 update and just basically an announcement. I'm going
37 to give this announcement to the Council coordinator,
38 Donald Mike, to -- if you have any questions.
39
40 Basically the call for proposals to
41 change Federal subsistence fishing, shellfish
42 regulations are open right now. The Federal
43 Subsistence Board is accepting proposals through April
44 1st. And the Board will consider proposals to change
45 Federal fishing seasons, harvest limits, methods of
46 harvest and customary and traditional use
47 determinations. The Board will also accept proposals
48 for individual customary and traditional use
49 determinations from residents of National Park and
50 National Monument resident zone communities, or those

1 who already hold a Section 13.440 subsistence use
2 permit.

3

4 So proposals can be submitted by mail
5 or hand delivery to OSM, attention of Theo Matuskowitz,
6 our Regulatory Chief. They can be submitted at any
7 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting.
8 There's a list of dates on the website or you can
9 submit them via the web.

10

11 So I'm going to hand this sheet, if
12 anyone's interested, off to Donald Mike, and that's all
13 I have for the -- I just wanted to let everyone know
14 that the call is open right now.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, thank
19 you, Stewart.

20

21 So if anyone has one they want to
22 submit here, if not, you have until the -- did you say
23 the 1st of April?

24

25 MR. COGSWELL: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.
28 I know that Ninilchik will be submitting some.

29

30 Okay.

31

32 We're going to keep moving on.
33 Identify priority information needs, who's got that?

34

35 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. My name is
36 Stewart Cogswell. I'm the Fisheries Division Chief for
37 the Office of Subsistence Management.

38

39 And I think there's been a lot of
40 positives with this All RAC Meeting, I think it's great
41 to have everyone together. But we do schedule for a
42 topic like priority needs, it's unfortunate we don't
43 have a lot of time for this, it's very unfortunate.

44

45 I'm going to just be as brief as
46 possible, that, in no way, it shouldn't minimize the
47 importance of this topic.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: So basically the
2 priority information needs and Donald is handing out
3 right now the past priority information needs from
4 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. As a general note you can
5 see that there is a few more for 2016. I feel like the
6 Councils are putting a little more effort into
7 identifying those and that's a good thing.

8
9 The priority information needs, this
10 drives the entire Fisheries Resource Monitoring
11 Program. This determines the priorities and what is
12 funded. This targets the researchers and the folks to
13 identify projects around these priority information
14 needs so it's very, very important to get these in.
15 Because this -- the ones that are going to be developed
16 this year and finalized in the fall will drive the 2018
17 Fisheries Monitoring Program so these are very
18 important. It's unfortunate we don't have more time to
19 develop these. I'm just going to lead you through a
20 few things and talk about it briefly. So I don't know
21 how much time we should take but you can kind of let me
22 know.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You take the time
25 you feel to adequately address it, no problem.

26
27 MR. COGSWELL: Okay.

28
29 So normally at this meeting we'd spend
30 a fair amount of time talking about it and developing
31 kind of a draft list. We also talk to land managers
32 and get all the priority needs for your region down.
33 And then those should be worked on from now until the
34 fall RAC meetings and then the fall RAC meetings OSM
35 will take all those and assemble those and then they'll
36 be approved and then that will go with the FRMP, those
37 priorities will go with the FRMP for the 2018 cycle.

38
39 So there's five priority information
40 needs. So some of those you may want to keep, some you
41 may want to remove, you may want to add some more. I
42 think as a general rule of thumb, you know, and some of
43 you I can see went through my FRMP training and you
44 learned more about this but due to -- we're in a
45 limited funding climate but to have -- to kind of take,
46 I don't know how many you'll generate, it could be 10,
47 15, that's a few too many for the dollars available, I
48 think five, six, to seven, is probably more than
49 adequate to narrow those down. So you have -- so some
50 of those have a better chance of getting funded. So if

1 you have too many it just, you know, it just creates an
2 atmosphere that they're not going to get funded.

3

4 So I'm going to give you the old ones
5 so you can see kind of where you've been. So normally
6 at a normal RAC meeting we like to start the
7 discussion, elicit comments from all of you on what is
8 important, start the process of kind of pulling out
9 what are those priority needs and that's, again, how
10 much time do we have today to do that, I'm not sure.

11

12 But we could start with a short list,
13 maybe -- and myself and Donald will take these down and
14 that could be the preliminary list that starts going
15 forward. Once you've -- some of you may take the FRMP
16 training tomorrow or may not, but it's imperative to
17 get these right and spend time on them because this
18 drives the program. This is the chance for the RAC to
19 set the course of the FRMP.

20

21 So I can't emphasize that enough.

22

23 So for the 2018 priority information
24 needs, I would like to open it up for discussion about
25 -- we can start taking down, what are some needs, what
26 are some emerging issues, what are some issues that --
27 some old issues that could be taken off the table, or
28 which ones of these needs to stay on the table. So I
29 open the floor for discussion.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'm going
32 to get -- since I'm the Chair I get the first comment,
33 right.

34

35 MR. CARPENTER: Sure.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. COGSWELL: Of course.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, my
42 comment is bullet two and bullet three need to stay and
43 need to be priorities. I know this RAC has supported
44 some work on the Kenai for a long time and the Kenai
45 and the Kasilof you got an abundance, run, timing,
46 spawning, fidelity timing, age, sex, length, so on and
47 so forth. And I know there's lots of studies there and
48 Rick could probably tell us the tone of a lot of these
49 studies but there's a lot of changing times, too, and I
50 think the same applies for the Kasilof. And so I

1 would, as one RAC member, I would like to see those
2 stay as a priority and be further developed.

3

4 Go ahead, Rick.

5

6 MR. GEASE: I'll concur and I would
7 just like to note that in -- this is where I asked for
8 better communication between Federal and State
9 research. There was a 2012 emergency disaster
10 declaration in Cook Inlet for king salmon, we just --
11 there was a bid for \$2.1 million that went out for
12 research projects for Cook Inlet. I think there is some
13 research that's going to be done in terms of chinook
14 salmon on abundance from timing, spawning, site
15 fidelity and the rest of that so I'm not sure what the
16 scope of those projects were but the Pacific States
17 Marine Fishery Commission is in charge of those
18 projects and I believe there were six to seven projects
19 that were funded. I believe four of them had to do
20 with freshwater data so there might be some stuff
21 there.

22

23 In terms of the coho salmon, just for
24 information, there are no escapement goals for silver
25 salmon, or cohos in the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers.
26 There is more of a passive management in management by
27 calendar in terms of sportfish harvest within the river
28 systems. And having some reason why that is in the
29 past the Department of Fish and Game has not found a
30 relationship between escapement and returns as it has
31 in king and sockeye salmon.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Other
34 comments.

35

36 Gloria.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: I wanted to add in-river
39 harvest on the Copper River and spawning bed assessment
40 on the Copper River. I think we need better harvest --
41 in-river harvest data on the Copper River. Chinook has
42 been on the decline for five years, it has improved but
43 it's on the borderline of 24,000, it could go up or
44 down, so we need to monitor the chinook on the Copper
45 River. And I also think the spawning bed escapement
46 data needs to be done on the Copper River as well
47 because up river people are not getting as much fish as
48 they are and we need to have better data on that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, you

1 got three already.

2

3 Tom.

4

5 MR. CARPENTER: I'll just make a brief
6 comment. I agree with Gloria. I think a project
7 that's been warranted on the Copper for a long time is
8 in-season harvest estimates. You know the commercial
9 fishery in Cordova is probably held to the highest
10 standard, at least in Alaska, maybe worldwide when it
11 comes to fish passing through the commercial fishery.
12 But once those fish get past the sonar at Miles Lake,
13 the information that's gathered is rudimentary at best.
14 There's really no restrictions for not turning in
15 pertinent information, there's just generalized surveys
16 that are conducted so I think that that would be a
17 plus. I understand that there's probably some higher
18 priorities but in the near future I would hope that
19 there would be something that could be generated there.

20

21 The other one, and it's on the list, is
22 the Ibeck Creek coho salmon harvest and escapement
23 information. That's a project that would be conducted
24 in Cordova and it's a highly utilized sportfishing area
25 that isn't very far from the saltwater where the
26 commercial fishery is ongoing as well. So you have
27 about as many users on that species as you can have.
28 And so I think that that's a positive one also.

29

30 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

33

34 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Stewart. And I
35 appreciate that you've listed our previous priorities,
36 I mean that really helps us. What I don't know and you
37 don't need to answer now, is, I mean, yes, these were
38 our past priorities, were there, in fact, studies that
39 were accomplished to address those needs. And, again,
40 my greatest concern is, as we discussed at our last
41 meeting, is that, your office provide pre-proposal
42 assistance to people so that we don't end up in the
43 same situation as our last meeting, or this last
44 funding cycle where none of the proposals to address
45 these important needs met the standards for being
46 accepted but people do need help. Organizations do
47 need help. We've got plenty of time now until 2016
48 funding opportunities come through and all that, they
49 need that early help to answer these questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
2 Stewart.

3
4 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Two great
5 points, Judy, so thank you.

6
7 Yes, the studies of the past projects,
8 I agree, would have been helpful to everyone and we can
9 probably get that and I can give that to Donald to
10 disseminate, that's a great idea, so you know which
11 ones of these have been met.

12
13 A lot of these questions are answered
14 in our FRMP training. We purposely did an FRMP
15 training to answer a lot of these questions, and those
16 type of things will be answered. Just -- I don't want
17 to get too much into FRMP, we're talking about --
18 they're kind of related, but, the pre-proposal
19 assistance, yes, we want -- there has to be better
20 communication from all sides as we're going forward.
21 The status quo is not acceptable and we're working on
22 that. We know that some -- we're lacking in some areas
23 and I apologize for any consternation or people didn't
24 know exactly what was going on for this past cycle. So
25 we'll get better at that and I think that the training
26 -- I think some of you were in the training, I think it
27 cleared up a lot of questions. So if you haven't
28 attended the FRMP training, I think it would be very
29 beneficial with timelines, how we are doing things,
30 it's an in-depth process of how we're doing things, the
31 history and where we're going in the future.

32
33 So, great points, Judy.

34
35 Thanks.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else got
38 suggestions, comments, want to add to it.

39
40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
44 Stewart.

45
46 MR. COGSWELL: So this is just a start.
47 This is very important. And the communication that
48 we're talking about has to continue throughout the
49 year. We can't not talk about this until the fall RAC
50 meetings, that would be totally unacceptable. If that

1 happens, projects are just going to go in, you may not
2 know about them and you'll know about them when they're
3 submitted. It's not OSM's -- it's not our -- we don't
4 put in projects. You know, we'll assist folks with
5 projects. We can help -- if you have a question about
6 Ibeck Creek, for example, call OSM, we'll say, okay, we
7 know the principle investigator, the professor that
8 does research on Ibeck Creek, or research on coho that
9 may want to get involved. We may know that NOAA is
10 doing this study, so we can partner together. But it
11 has to -- some of these projects take years to put
12 together, successful projects, they don't come together
13 very quick. If you submit a quick project, it's really
14 going to show and the Technical Review Committee will
15 know that and it probably is not going to rank very
16 high. So we love that communication start.

17
18 The fisheries Staff has been a little
19 -- we're down in employees right now, we're getting
20 geared up, we have a biometrician starting next month
21 and we have a fish biologist that closed we're going to
22 be hiring, we have another fish biologist that's going
23 to fall right on top of that. We'd like to work with
24 the Council coordinators to have a fish person
25 dedicated to each RAC so that communication happens.
26 We're going to get better. I'm very excited about how
27 the future is going to be.

28
29 So we need to keep these conver -- some
30 of these ideas -- oh, and the checkstation, that was a
31 project that did not get funded this year. That one,
32 it's not ready to go but it can be, so with a little
33 work, hopefully that one's resubmitted for that in-
34 season harvest that folks are talking about. We'll
35 shore that up, talk to -- there's researchers that do
36 that specific thing and we can really nail that down
37 and be ready to go.

38
39 So guess I'm encouraging everyone to
40 continue the conversation, we really need the
41 conversation. And if you haven't taken the FRMP
42 training yet this week, one last plug, please come to
43 the FRMP training, I think it's tomorrow, either
44 morning or afternoon.

45
46 So that was all I had, thank you, Mr.
47 Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. I think you got your plug in.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You did a good
4 job. Before I recognize Ricky, I wanted to ask Donald
5 a question. It sounds like you need to hire an
6 assistant, but part of what I was hearing, Judy, you
7 know, we need to propose an assistant, so when you say
8 we need to deal with this before the fall meeting and
9 we need to work this, how do we work this inter-
10 relation between now and then. I mean I don't want to
11 get too far of on that but someone needs to take the
12 ball to keep that going.

13

14 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ricky.

17

18 MR. GEASE: So you're talking about
19 research, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
20 actively doing research on the Kenai River for point
21 number 2 for chinook salmon, they have been looking for
22 additional funds on their radio telemetry studies to
23 continue, are you in contact with the Alaska Department
24 of Fish and Game to see how they could augment their
25 current studies to get this information within the
26 Federal subsistence fisheries jurisdictions?

27

28 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. I
29 have not been in contact with ADF&G about that
30 particular thing. But that's something that we could
31 collaborate and we should be collaborating.

32

33 MR. GEASE: I would recommend that the
34 point person for Fish and Game in that is Tim McKinley
35 and he would be the person, if you could cooperate, I do
36 know that within this State climate of budget cuts,
37 that they are looking for additional sources of funding
38 for the current research projects that they have in the
39 Kenai River for chinook salmon. And if there are funds
40 available, it would be a great opportunity to partner
41 and to leverage existing research studies to
42 encapsulate the stuff that we want to get done here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Rick.
45 Stewart, I got a volunteer and Donald. Judy you
46 volunteered to be a contact to keep this conversation
47 going. So we do have -- there you go, you got some
48 help. So anyone on the RAC that wants to contact, keep
49 it going, that's what we'll do.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: That was so awesome.
2 Some of the -- what you just did was that you actually
3 sort of formed a subcommittee, which is awesome. Two
4 of the RACs, Northwest Arctic and North Slope are doing
5 just that so this doesn't fall through the cracks
6 anymore and they have folks identified that focus on
7 that so I am so happy to hear that. This is exactly --
8 I think this year we're going to use that as a model
9 and how it works, we're going to promote that to the
10 other RACs, but you just did it automatically, so I am
11 very excited about that and we'll definitely work
12 together.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MR. GEASE: I'll volunteer.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There you go, you
19 got a third volunteer, so now you've got -- we're going
20 to have more information overload now but that'll be
21 good. And, Ingrid, sometime on the side I'll tell you
22 all about that dipnet fishery in the falls, it's become
23 quite positive and well used, so, thank you.

24
25 Thank you, Stewart. If that's it,
26 thank you much.

27
28 MR. COGSWELL: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

31
32 Okay.

33
34 The next item we have before us is our
35 2015 annual report. Council coordinator, Donald.

36
37 MR. MIKE: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 If you get to your meeting materials it's on Page 14 in
39 the book.

40
41 At our fall meeting the Council
42 discussed and provided its 2015 annual report to the
43 Federal Subsistence Board and this Council submitted
44 seven annual report topics.

45
46 The first one is cooperative management
47 with Ninilchik Traditional Council
48 Fishery.

49
50 Unit 11 brown bear population status

1 and research.
2
3 Unit 6 deer harvest report.
4
5 Excuse me, there's some misnumbering
6 here.
7
8 Unit 13 Paxson hunt area.
9
10 Tribal resource management.
11
12 And effects of climate change on
13 subsistence.
14
15 Mr. Chair. This Council has an
16 opportunity to read it further or add to it and adopt
17 it as a final draft to be submitted to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board.
19
20 Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
23 Donald. You heard that, we have a chance to review
24 this report, add to it, adopt it. So I'm opening the
25 floor for discussion.
26
27 Go ahead, Andy.
28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, through the
30 Chair, thank you. I think this is -- I read through
31 it, I think it's great, you captured everything that I
32 recall. On what would be No. 6, instead of 7, effects
33 of climate change, one of the subject matters that we
34 kind of talked about it at Copper Center was something
35 along the lines of the Council recognizes something, I
36 would like to see something added to there.
37
38 The Council recognizes unpredictable
39 seasonal patterns suspected to be due to climate
40 change. I think the regulatory process needs to remain
41 dynamic in order to allow for, enable subsistence users
42 the capacity to adapt to these new environmental
43 constraints that are affecting the abundance of
44 resources, seasonally and quantity.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I don't
47 know if Judy got that written down but that was in
48 addition to the report, that's good.
49
50 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Got it. Okay, we
2 got it. Is there anything else that anyone would like
3 to add to that report.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hear none, I
8 see none. Would we have a motion to adopt it with that
9 addition.

10
11 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move we
12 send forward our annual report to the Federal Board
13 with the addition.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a second
16 to that motion.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Andy.
21 Any discussion on the matter.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
26 in favor aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Motion carries.
35 We'll send that annual report with addition.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 Donald.

40
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
42 clarify on the record that at our Copper Center meeting
43 we had some SRC appointments and I just want to clarify
44 on record to make sure we went through the correct
45 process. We had some candidates but we didn't have a
46 chance -- an opportunity to visit each potential
47 appointment. So here to explain further is Mr.
48 Clarence Summers.

49
50 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman. Council

1 members. My name is Clarence Summers. I'm with the
2 National Park Service. I work with the subsistence
3 team in the Alaska Regional Office.

4
5 This is a housekeeping measure. At
6 your last meeting at Copper Center you made two
7 appointments, you appointed Eleanor Dementi to replace
8 Marie Gore on the Denali SRC and there was another
9 action required and that was to address Jeff Burney's
10 appointment at Denali.

11
12 As you know the Subsistence Resource
13 Commissions report to the Superintendent, they make
14 recommendations on subsistence issues affecting the
15 Park.

16
17 Mr. Burney is a resident of Cantwell.
18 He served on the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission
19 for several terms. His term expired and so at our
20 meeting at Copper Center the plan was to address this
21 appointment. The Southcentral Regional Advisory
22 Council has the authority to make the appointments, the
23 appointments are for three years. Our charter allows a
24 member to continue to serve until you take action.

25
26 Mr. Burney, hopefully, is on line now.
27 I don't know if he can join us a little later but I'll
28 continue to say that he's currently serving on the
29 Denali Advisory Committee for the local Advisory
30 Committee for the State, he's in good standing in the
31 community. He's a shop teacher at the school. And he
32 wants to continue to serve you. And you've got an
33 opportunity to go on record to approve him as your
34 representative. The current term that he's serving in
35 ends in 2017. His tenure with the Denali State
36 Advisory Committee ends in '17. So that works to his
37 advantage. In order to serve as a Council
38 representative appointed to an SRC, you've got to be a
39 member of a local Advisory Committee, and he is, or a
40 member of the Regional Council. I think Gloria serves
41 on the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC, as an example, with the
42 affiliation of an advisory body.

43
44 There was another -- the person who
45 Eleanor replaced, I contacted her and that's Marie Gore
46 and I think she's going to pursue appointment through
47 the Governor's Office if she wants to return and that's
48 an opportunity that she has.

49
50 I'll stop with that to see if you have

1 any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
4 Eleanor, you got a question.

5

6 MS. DEMENTI: I'd like to say the
7 Native Village of Cantwell supports the appointment of
8 Jeff Burney as we have relied on him for this many
9 years and he's been doing a good job for us.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

14

15 Donald, go ahead.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
18 wanted to give this Council an opportunity to hear the
19 potential SRC appointments and at our last meeting we
20 didn't get a chance to hear their experience, like we
21 did for Ms. Dementi.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

26

27 MR. BURNEY: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go right ahead,
30 is this Burney?

31

32 MR. BURNEY: Yeah, this is Jeff Burney.
33 Thank you for the kind words Eleanor. I've been
34 listening. I've been in meeting hold for quite awhile
35 and it's interesting. You know, I wish I could attend
36 more. But, yes, I have been on the local Advisory
37 Committee, for, I don't know, I think about 10 years
38 now. And Clarence Summers is the guy that found me
39 years ago and I enjoy doing it. I want to preserve our
40 subsistence rights for sure, that's the main goal in my
41 book.

42

43 But I am in close contact with the
44 Superintendent Don Stryker so I'd like to stay on the
45 board, and speaking for myself. I don't know if you
46 can hear me real well, I have a bad cold.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We hear you loud
49 and clear, coming around good.

50

1 MR. BURNEY: Good. Good.
2
3 I have attended, I don't know, 90
4 percent of the meetings and would like to continue to
5 keep my seat on the Commission.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Tom.
8
9 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move
10 that we appoint Jeff Burney of Cantwell, Alaska to the
11 Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved,
14 is there a second.
15
16 MS. DEMENTI: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
19 Eleanor.
20
21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor of
24 that motion, aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There you go.
33
34 MR. SUMMERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Council members. And, Jeff, thanks for hanging in
36 there.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Jeff,
39 or your service and good call.
40
41 MR. BURNEY: Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got one
44 under new business and that's the letter to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board and that was from the Southeast?
46
47 MS. CAMINER: Yes.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Southeast
50 submitted a letter, I don't know if you guys all got a

1 chance to look at it. We'll take a couple minutes and
2 go through it and see if we want to support it, add to
3 it, amend it.

4
5 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, I haven't seen it.
6 I don't see it.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, I got a
11 question for you while we're reading this. You know,
12 this is having to come together pretty hastily and I
13 know that there's going to be a lot more comments and a
14 lot more things, is this something that we could
15 approve or support that they submitted, and we still
16 add our letter or comments later?

17
18 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I have no idea
19 how soon that letter is going to be submitted to the
20 Federal Subsistence Board, but you can reserve the
21 right to include more comments if you wish to do so and
22 just pass it on to me and I'll submit it as part of the
23 letter, or part of your action taken on the letter to
24 support.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
29 Donald.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,
34 Andy.

35
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'd make a motion to
37 accept as is and sign on.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40
41 MS. MILLS: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been
44 moved and seconded by Mary Ann, now we have it on the
45 table, let's go ahead and open it up for discussion.

46
47 Ricky.

48
49 MR. GEASE: Just for a point, on point
50 No. 3, the Governor's nominations for the North Pacific

1 Fisheries Management Council came out today and one of
2 the preferred alternatives does have a background, I
3 believe, the lady from Kodiak, has a strong background
4 in subsistence. So although it may not be a formalized
5 designated subsistence seat, I do believe that the
6 Governor's office heard the request for more of a
7 subsistence background on a person on the North Pacific
8 Fisheries Management Council and was responsive to
9 that.

10

11 On point No. 7 where it asks for these
12 joint sessions to occur at least every five years, it
13 seems like on the hunting years we do have a timeframe
14 where we could potentially have every two years or
15 every four years into the cycle and in talking with
16 Staff it does seem that these meetings in Anchorage do
17 save money which could then maybe be used elsewhere to
18 have more meetings in rural communities. So maybe we
19 could amend that last point with a specific
20 recommendation to a two or four year cycle.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any
23 comments.

24

25 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

28

29 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Southeast had shown me a draft of this and I think they
31 misunder -- and many of these recommendations we've put
32 in our annual reports before so some of them are not
33 really knew but because, as you know, I felt so
34 strongly that we need the Fisheries Program to have
35 technical assistance at the pre-proposal stage, I think
36 they misunderstood so I would like to modify point No.
37 6 here, the last sentence, the Councils request that
38 the Board continue to support the provision of adequate
39 technical support at the pre-proposal level.

40

41 That was my main point. I think
42 they're doing a good job of trying to get us the
43 priorities, but, again, we just had the discussion with
44 Stewart, the technical assistance needs to be earlier.

45

46 So I'd like to submit some
47 modifications to the letter along those lines.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We have a
50 motion on the floor and a seconded, and now it's

1 modified.

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would change my
4 motion to include Ricky's change about the even years
5 thing on No. 7 as well as Judy's on the -- crossing
6 off, that will enable us to make meaningful
7 recommendations and add at the pre-proposal level, on
8 No. 6, yeah.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Mary Ann, you
11 seconded that, would you agree to that.

12

13 MS. MILLS: Yes, I would.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
16 other comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. CARPENTER: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
23 called for. We have a letter to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board that we're going to vote on to
25 support. A motion's been made and amended on 6 and 7,
26 you heard the amendments, all in favor, aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Passes

35 unanimously.

36

37 Okay, now, go ahead, Donald.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 There's one other business item under new business, it
41 was a motion by the YK Regional Advisory Council, and
42 their motion states develop a joint statement with the
43 other Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
44 with similar concerns of opposition to the US Fish and
45 Wildlife Service's proposed rule for predator
46 management on refuges that includes a request that the
47 Federal Subsistence Board advocate on behalf of the
48 Councils for withdrawal of the proposed rule.

49

50 So that's another action item that the

1 Council needs to consider, either to endorse their
2 motion, or support.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You just
7 heard it to support or endorse read by Donald for the
8 Yk. Go ahead Andy.

9

10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would make a motion
11 to endorse that YK proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I have a motion
14 on the floor to endorse the YK proposal, is there a
15 second to that.

16

17 MR. GEASE: I second for purposes of
18 discussion.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ricky,
21 it's been seconded. And now we will open it up for
22 discussion.

23

24 Go ahead, Judy.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Well, I mean we made comments on these regulations and
28 we passed a motion so I don't think we have to take
29 action on their motion or recommendation.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donald.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Judy.
34 What we can do as far as if the Council wants to take
35 action, you can withdraw your main motion and either I
36 can just share a letter stating that this Council
37 supports the YK's intent through their motion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we've got
40 some options, but we have a motion on the floor and we
41 have a second.

42

43 Go ahead.

44

45 MR. GEASE: Point of clarification.
46 Was our earlier action was to submit comments through
47 the rulemaking process, I believe this is a separate
48 action to direct the Federal Subsistence Board to take
49 action also on behalf of all the Councils in -- so I do
50 believe that these are separate actions.

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I believe you're
2 correct and I think that's a good point. Thank you,
3 Ricky for clarification.

4
5 Okay. Now, I have a motion on the
6 floor and we have a second, we're in discussion. Any
7 more discussion.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
12 in favor of that motion aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

17
18 MS. CAMINER: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One opposed.

21
22 MS. PETERSON: Aye -- nay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Motion carries,
25 we'll support that.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 Donald, is there anything else that I
30 got hid in there we missed, there was two asterisks.

31
32 MR. MIKE: (Shakes head negatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
35 we've got 8 minutes so we're doing real good. Agency
36 reports, Native Village of Eyak, Partners Reports.

37
38 Don't be intimidated by the 8 minutes.
39 It's my first time I'm going to blame it on someone.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

44
45 MR. PICHE: You'll be able to blame it
46 on me.

47
48 Hi, my name is Matt Piche. I work for
49 the Native Village of Eyak in Cordova as a fish
50 biologist and a natural resources coordinator. My

1 position is funded through OSM's Partners Program. I'm
2 a Partners biologist. And the research that I'm
3 presenting on is funded through Fisheries Resource
4 Monitoring Program, the FRMP, the very same program
5 that you were discussing opinions on earlier today. So
6 I'm part of that whole process too. I'm an
7 investigator for that.

8
9 So as you look through the slides here,
10 just to update those who might not know, in 2002, a
11 sustainable escapement goal, SEG, was established for
12 the Copper River, chinook salmon population. So as a
13 followup to that in 2003 NVE produced its first
14 defensible abundance value. We went out on the Copper
15 River and we set up a fishwheel mark/recapture project
16 and every year since 2003 we've provided the number
17 that Federal and State fisheries managers use to
18 determine if escapement had been met for that season.

19
20 So I'll try to move on quickly.

21
22 Our 2015 abundance value for the Copper
23 River was 32,306 chinook salmon. Now, these are
24 chinook salmon that are escaping past the commercial
25 fishery into the Copper River. This number represents
26 chinook salmon passing through Baird Canyon, which is
27 below all of the in-river fisheries so this value does
28 not represent true escapement. The true escapement is
29 calculated once the Federal subsistence, State
30 subsistence, State personal use and State sportfishery,
31 once those numbers are added up they take those values
32 and they subtract it from our value and that's how they
33 determine escapement every year.

34
35 And just so you know, the total
36 drainage sustainable escapement was set at 24,000 or
37 more fish. So our -- in 2014 our escapement value --
38 or abundance value was 24,158 chinook salmon so if you
39 look at that, that only leaves 158 chinook salmon for
40 harvest up river in order to meet escapement. We did
41 not meet escapement in 2014. The number was just below
42 21,000 once the State and Federal managers subtracted
43 the estimated harvest. In the past -- since 1999 we
44 have failed to meet escapement on the Copper River five
45 years. I believe it was 1999, 2005, 2010, 2014 and I
46 skipped one, 2002.

47
48 So I know the project that we're
49 looking at, and, again, I'll try to be brief here, the
50 feasibility of stream RFID readers for long-term salmon

1 population monitoring on the Copper River. One of the
2 immense challenges for monitoring individual chinook
3 stocks on the Copper River is that many of the stocks
4 are located in glacially occluded rivers, turbid rivers
5 and monitoring the population or estimating
6 distribution is inherently difficult. So we started a
7 feasibility study in 2012 that looked at taking
8 essentially an antenna array placing it on the bottom
9 of a river and all of our fish that we tag, when they
10 cross over this array it logs that fish. So we were
11 just trying to test the feasibility, can this thing
12 hold up to the conditions, what's our tag detection
13 efficiency and it was a very successful feasibility
14 study and I think the technology needs to advance a
15 little further. But once read range improves,
16 hopefully these things will be able to be mounted on
17 pilings and bridges such as the highway that crosses
18 the Klutina and things like that, and probably in the
19 next five to 10 years the technology will advance to
20 the point where this tool can be used to monitor
21 individual stocks and individual stock distribution
22 throughout the Copper River. It doesn't need to be
23 manned. You can just put these in the river and let
24 them log away. So as far as a reoccurring cost it's
25 extremely minimal. And this is the direction that
26 we're heading, hopefully. So we'll keep you guys
27 updated as that progresses.

28
29 So the next thing that I'd like to talk
30 about is the importance of coho salmon to the Native
31 Village of Eyak and the community of Cordova. And this
32 will just help justify a little bit of why we think the
33 Ibeck Creek pin should remain in the language for the
34 2018 PINs.

35
36 Essentially if you look at the pie
37 chart that I provided you, ADF&G came into Cordova,
38 ADF&G Subsistence and they did a survey on the total
39 harvest of fish that's harvested by Cordova residents,
40 including the Native Village of Eyak that remains in
41 Cordova and is used as food. It kind of takes a step
42 back, it doesn't matter if you harvested that fish
43 through sportfish, or Federal subsistence permit, or
44 with your State subsistence permit, it's looking at
45 what's harvested by the community of Cordova that's
46 remaining in Cordova. And this excludes commercial
47 catch -- it excludes commercially sold fish.

48
49 So it's a unique thing and it teased
50 out some interesting facts that I think not many people

1 were aware of. If you look at this pie chart, I mean
2 salmon is obviously the number 1 harvested and number 1
3 consumed wild resource for Cordova and the Native
4 Village of Eyak but I think most people would assume
5 that sockeye salmon make up the large majority of that,
6 which they do, at 43 percent of the total harvest, but
7 what we were able to find through this study is that
8 coho salmon actually makes up 36 percent of this
9 harvest, that's a huge portion when you're talking just
10 under 114,000 pounds harvested in 2014 and 36 percent
11 of that was coho salmon and only 43 was sockeye,
12 chinook came in at 19 percent and pink and chum came in
13 at two percent. This shows you the importance of coho
14 salmon for Cordova. And on the next page it takes this
15 number, these stats another step further. And I think
16 this is where it becomes real important to understand
17 Cordova and where we're coming from on the importance
18 of the coho stock on Ibeck Creek. So this takes that
19 coho, that 36 percent and it apportions it out by gear
20 type used. The very first bar, that dark blue ADF&G
21 color blue, that represents home pack, so that's the
22 amount of fish that are harvested but commercial
23 fishing permit holders, but rather than them selling it
24 for money, they, instead, retain the fish and use it to
25 feed their families. This, again, was just Cordova
26 residents that this looked at. But as you can see
27 there's a huge portion of home pack for sockeye salmon,
28 small portion of coho and a decent portion of chinook.
29 If we take these stats on this home pack out, again, to
30 participate in home pack you have to have a commercial
31 fishing license. The majority of Native Village of
32 Eyak tribal members as well as a lot of Cordova doesn't
33 have the opportunity to -- or doesn't have the money to
34 participate in the commercial fishery, so you have a
35 large -- you have a significant portion of the
36 population that doesn't have access to this home pack,
37 so when you take that away the only options for
38 harvesting Copper River fish is through the subsistence
39 -- State subsistence gillnet fishery on the Flats.
40 That's it. We can't go -- there's no harvest in the
41 Copper River. You have to harvest out on the Flats.
42 And in order to do this you need to have a vessel and
43 you need to have time and you're required by State law
44 to fish at the exact same times that the commercial
45 fishery is open. When the commercial fishery closes
46 you're done subsistence fishing. So they're out there
47 competing with these boats that are designed to harvest
48 fish, they're much larger and the majority of the
49 subsistence users don't have access and can't afford
50 that type of vessel to go out and fish. So they're

1 left with, essentially, if you look at this graph here
2 the only species that are left to harvest is coho
3 salmon and that's because coho salmon come into the
4 fresh waters and they're easily accessible. It's an
5 accessible species for the community of Cordova. So
6 when you take out that home pack, coho salmon,
7 immediately that -- that light aqua blue color there,
8 immediately becomes the most important salmon resource
9 for Cordova as far as fish that's staying in the
10 community and feeding the community.

11
12 So I'm basically just showing this
13 information to show you how important coho salmon is
14 for Cordova and the Native Village of Eyak.

15
16 If we look at the next slide, the
17 reason that the Native Village of Eyak is so concerned
18 is because we just went out and looked at what data is
19 available and it's quite alarming. If you look at --
20 now, just to give you a little bit of a background,
21 there's no escapement estimate for Ibeck Creek coho
22 salmon, it just doesn't exist. Out of all the Copper
23 River Delta tributaries they're all assessed using
24 aerial indices. So commercial Fish and Game goes out
25 and they fly over the streams and that's how they
26 assess the relative population size. Out of all of the
27 Delta tributaries, obviously excluding the Copper River
28 itself, Ibeck Creek hosts the largest coho salmon
29 population. So it's the most important tributary in
30 Cordova for all fishermen, whether you're subsistence,
31 sport or commercial, Ibeck Creek hosts the largest
32 population.

33
34 If you look at these numbers, the five
35 year average relative coho salmon abundance, 2001-2005
36 was 29,200, that's the five year average. 2006-2010
37 we're at just over 14.5 thousand. If you look at 2011
38 to 2014 we're just under 11,000. So it's decreased by
39 two-thirds since 2001.

40
41 Now, if you combine this with looking
42 at the harvest data on Ibeck Creek, which, again,
43 there's no krill survey that's taken place, they
44 estimate harvest based solely on the ADF&G mailout
45 surveys, but if you look at that data because that's
46 the only data available right now, you look at those
47 same five year average periods and 2001-2005 just over
48 1,300 fish were harvested; 2006-2010 2,200 fish were
49 harvested; you look at 2011-2014 and just under 7,300
50 fish were harvested. That's a seven-fold increase

1 since 2001. So since 2001 the Ibeck Creek coho salmon
2 fishery, based on the indices has decreased by two-
3 thirds, the total run size, and the sportfishing
4 harvest has increased seven-fold.

5
6 So I think that the tools that we have
7 available to us have worked. You know the aerial
8 indices and the mailout sportfish harvest survey is
9 there to look at large overall trends. And, you know,
10 they've done a great job at pointing out the fact that
11 there's something going on here at Ibeck. But, again,
12 those only provide a limited amount of information.
13 And in order to really understand what's going on here
14 you need to do detailed krill surveys, you need to
15 start monitoring escapement, and that's why we want
16 this included and we'd like to see this included on the
17 2018 PINs. We think it's time for a more effective way
18 of looking at this population because it is one of the
19 most important salmon populations for the Cordova
20 community and the Native Village of Eyak as far as what
21 stays in our community and what we feed on.

22
23 So anyways some research priorities are
24 to establish a weir or some other method for accurately
25 counting escapement and to take a closer look at the
26 harvest that's occurring, the catch and release that's
27 occurring and we've worked pretty hard on this,
28 establishing a relationship with the local US Forest
29 Service and we've begun to -- we've had a few meetings
30 with local ADF&G and we were able to submit a proposal
31 for this last round of FRMP funding. We did meet all
32 the criteria, however, the cost was a little high,
33 that's what we were told for why it didn't get funded,
34 but we're looking forward to submitting another
35 proposal for this next round.

36
37 And another important thing that I
38 would just like to point out before I finish up here is
39 that -- sorry about that -- anyways, continuing to
40 provide accurate and defensible -- to step away from
41 the Ibeck Creek real quick -- another one of our
42 priorities is to continue providing an accurate and
43 defensible Copper River chinook salmon abundance value.
44 This abundance value is used to determine escapement.
45 It's the sole method for the State and Federal managers
46 to see if escapement was met every year.

47
48 For this next round of funding we'll
49 also be applying to continue our chinook salmon project
50 on the Copper River.

1 I wanted to talk to you guys about this
2 now and start a dialogue because I'm really interested
3 in seeing how the RAC Council feels about these
4 proposals and what direction they want some of the
5 investigators to take with the priority information
6 needs and anyways I'd just like to open up that
7 dialogue and I'll give you all my contact information
8 and let's start discussing what we want to see funded
9 for 2018 FRMP in our region.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.

14 Good report.

15

16 Ricky, go ahead.

17

18 MR. GEASE: Thank you. Yeah, excellent
19 report. Can I have a point of clarification on the
20 relative abundance, are those aerial surveys, when are
21 they done and is that before, during or after the
22 harvest or during the season -- so from 2006 to 2010
23 there's about 2,200 harvest, is that coming out of the
24 14,000 or is that the -- the harvest comes after they
25 -- I mean the survey comes after, since there's no real
26 weir and these are aerial surveys, are those done after
27 the season?

28

29 MR. PICHE: No, so Ibeck Creek, it's
30 kind of unique and ideal the way that the management is
31 set up. Three miles above the Copper River Highway
32 it's closed to all fishing; subsistence, sportfish,
33 it's closed after three miles. The majority of the
34 spawning grounds don't occur until you get about eight
35 miles north of the Copper River Highway so that's where
36 the aerial indices surveys take place, they take place
37 on the upper Ibeck Creek where fishing is closed.

38

39 MR. GEASE: So then kind of the in-
40 river escapement would be the harvest plus the relative
41 abundance then, so in the last couple of years -- in
42 the last decade, from the information, the in-river
43 return would be around 17,000 for a decade going, it's
44 just that the harvest has increased, the returns have
45 stayed consistent, but for the last 10 years then the
46 harvest has increased as a proportion of the in-river
47 escapement; would that be accurate to say, in terms of
48 understanding this?

49

50 MR. PICHE: Kind of. I think it's

1 fairly common knowledge that the ADF&G mailout harvest
2 surveys are not very accurate when you talk about small
3 systems, like Ibeck Creek, especially if you just look
4 at what was harvested in 2014, in the ADF&G subsistence
5 survey, I mean nothing really meshes up. I think that
6 -- you're thinking about it the right way but I just
7 want to stress that these numbers here shouldn't be
8 taken as this is what's actually going on in the river,
9 this is just a very, very rough, rough guide as to
10 what's going on in the river but it's sending up alarms
11 for us.

12

13 MR. GEASE: Sure. Sure. But when --
14 my point is when you do get -- you're basically going
15 to have much -- I'm trying to put an argument in to
16 support what you're trying to do, but you'd get a
17 better escapement, basically, number, instead of an
18 aerial survey and you'd have a better harvest number,
19 correct, just kind of.....

20

21 MR. PICHE: Correct.

22

23 MR. GEASE:ground-truthing these
24 numbers in terms of where stuff is?

25

26 MR. PICHE: Correct.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
29 questions for Matt.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

34

35 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

36

37 MR. ADLER: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Lee.

40

41 MR. ADLER: It's not a question so much
42 as you're probably aware that some of the silvers,
43 cohos, get up into the upper reaches of the Copper
44 River, they spawn in the Little Tonsina, there's quite
45 a bit of spawning there in September and some of the
46 sloughs, too, I know there's -- down at Lower Tonsina
47 there's a little creek that runs through, kind of a
48 slough that runs into the river, not many people know
49 about it but the silvers come in there and I assume
50 they're spawning, you know, and I think there's a lot

1 of places that we don't know about, just like that,
2 where I have caught them in the Klutina River, up near
3 Klutina Lake, right in the river, I've caught them
4 there, so there's some escapement that is probably
5 helping out that you're not really thinking about too
6 much; is that right?

7

8 MR. PICHE: Yes, to-date there is no
9 escapement data on Copper River coho salmon. It's the
10 system -- the only coho salmon streams that are
11 monitored right now are the Copper River Delta
12 tributaries, so these are separate from the Copper
13 River itself. The Copper River itself is not studied
14 for coho salmon.

15

16 MR. ADLER: But you're saying the bulk
17 of them spawn pretty close to the outlet there of the
18 Copper River and around the bridge?

19

20 MR. PICHE: Out of all of the Copper
21 River Delta tributaries that are surveyed, so, again,
22 this excludes the Copper River itself, Ibeck hosts the
23 largest run. If that answers your question.

24

25 MR. ADLER: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

28

29 MR. LOHSE: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ralph.

32

33 MR. LOHSE: A little explanation about
34 that stream, Copper River tributary streams, Ibeck
35 Creek doesn't have the biggest run when you compare it
36 with Katella, Bering River, and all of those down
37 there, but it has the biggest run that is road
38 accessible right out of Cordova and it is also -- we
39 call it our Cabela Stream, it's also the stream that
40 they land at the airport and our whole bed and
41 breakfast set up is around it and car rental is around
42 it and everything and you have to park -- it'd be like
43 -- it's Cordova's Kenai River, let's put it that way.
44 And from that standpoint it's extremely important to
45 Cordova because it provides -- it is the -- I'll say it
46 is the tourist stream in Cordova and it's also, at the
47 same time, a major stream that Cordova residents use
48 because it's nice clear water -- if you ever get a
49 chance to get there, it's nice clear water and you can
50 see the fish coming up and it's just a beautiful place

1 to fish.

2

3 MR. GEASE: What's the bag limit.

4

5 MR. CARPENTER: Three.

6

7 MR. LOHSE: Three in freshwater, bag
8 limit's three.

9

10 MR. ADLER: What's the peak of the run
11 there?

12

13 MR. LOHSE: You want me to tell you
14 that too.

15

16 MR. GEASE: What do you use.....

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair, if I
21 could just address that, the sportfish bag limit is
22 three, however, recently implemented Federal
23 subsistence fishery, which takes place in the Copper
24 River Delta and it allows for, I believe 30 salmon for
25 a household of two to be harvested, and this is any
26 salmon species on any Copper River Delta tributary --
27 or actually it's Prince William Sound, I believe --
28 yeah, well, Milo should come up and explain it.

29

30 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
31 Forest. We can't have a Regional Advisory Council
32 meeting without me coming up here once.....

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. BURCHAM:but I'll make it
37 short.

38

39 Just for clarification on the Federal
40 subsistence fishing regulations on the Copper River
41 Delta it's freshwater streams, excluding the Copper
42 River, the bag limit is 15 fish for the two -- first
43 two household members, 10 fish for additional household
44 members and our use of it, as he's documented, has just
45 climbed steadily over the last 10 years. The permit's
46 been in effect for probably close to 10 years now and
47 it's a very popular fishery and Ibeck has become, you
48 know, the focus of that fishery.

49

50 So he did a good job of portraying

1 that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

4 Thanks, Milo. Thanks Matt.

5

6 So we're going to move on.

7

8 My agenda, Donald, says future meeting
9 dates, is that still good for everyone, do you want to
10 talk to it Donald.

11

12 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.
13 If you can confirm your fall meeting dates on Page 235
14 and then we'll select a new winter 2017 meeting date
15 and location.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ricky, go ahead,
18 while we're looking at it.

19

20 MR. GEASE: I would just like to bring
21 to the attention to the Council, every three years the
22 Board of Fisheries meet in Cook Inlet, both the Lower
23 and Upper Cook Inlet meeting. At their work session
24 they are taking public comment for both the Lower Cook
25 Inlet and Upper Cook Inlet finfish meetings. The Board
26 of Fish work session this year is going to be held the
27 18th through the 20th in the Soldotna SportsCenter on
28 the Kenai Peninsula. It does overlap with the
29 Southcentral RAC meeting. And then in February the
30 Upper Cook Inlet finfish meeting is from February 23rd
31 through March 8th. And if possible I would like to
32 attend everything.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that one is
35 kind of a tough one, Ricky, I don't know but we'll
36 discuss it.

37

38 MR. GEASE: Yeah, I know.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: One of the
41 reasons I recall the Southcentral RAC, 18th and 19th,
42 and AFN is right next to it up in Fairbanks and we
43 wanted to kind of put it there and then -- but you're
44 looking at.

45

46 MR. GEASE: So on the Board of
47 Fisheries, the 18th is the public comment day for the
48 Lower Cook Inlet and Upper Cook Inlet meetings. I
49 wonder if we could entertain a motion to move it to the
50 17th and 18th, and that way the two morning days of the

1 meeting I could attend or anyone else on the RAC could
2 as well.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I tried to
5 support that earlier because it gives me an extra day
6 to get to Fairbanks, but I'm okay with it. Does that
7 work for everyone else?

8

9 MS. PETERSON: What date?

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: 17th and 18th of
12 October, Southcentral, Anchorage.

13

14 MR. CARPENTER: Do you need a motion?

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. You can do
17 a motion, yeah.

18

19 MR. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman. I move
20 that the fall 2016 meeting be October 17th and 18th in
21 Anchorage.

22

23 MR. GEASE: I second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been
26 seconded. It's been moved and seconded to have the
27 fall meeting the 17th and 18th in Anchorage, moving it
28 one day forward. Any other discussion on the matter.

29

30 MR. SHOWALTER: I think you meant
31 backwards, moving it back a day?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

34

35 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good point.

40

41 MR. GEASE: Fall back, spring forward.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's take
44 a vote on it, 17th and 18th, all in favor aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's when we'll
2 meet.
3
4 MR. ADLER: Oppose.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Lee opposed.
7
8 MR. ADLER: Yeah.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're kind of
11 late to the draw there, Lee.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're still
16 chasing moose man. You could start your vacation right
17 here.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next
22 winter meeting, 235, is that still on there.
23
24 MS. CAMINER: Donald, do you know if
25 any other Councils have scheduled meetings that would
26 prohibit you from certain times?
27
28 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 The only dates I've received so far is the Yukon
30 Kuskokwim and they're meeting February 15th and 16th.
31
32 MS. CAMINER: But that doesn't affect
33 you, does it, Donald?
34
35 MR. MIKE: No, it doesn't. The only
36 region that affects me will be Bristol Bay and we
37 haven't met yet.
38
39 MS. CAMINER: Okay.
40
41 MR. MIKE: And the other thing, too, to
42 consider -- well, I don't think Eastern Interior has
43 met, but we usually try to not overlap with them.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Rick.
48
49 MR. GEASE: I would make a motion that
50 we meet either the 13th or 14th or 14th and 15th of

1 March, that way that would be after the Upper Cook
2 Inlet finfish meeting.
3
4 MS. CAMINER: 14 and 15.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got a
7 motion, it was kind of a waffley motion, it had two
8 dates in it.
9
10 MR. GEASE: I'd suggest we do the 14th
11 and 15th, a Tuesday and Wednesday.
12
13 MR. CARPENTER: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been
16 moved, Ricky's motion, the 14th and 15th and it was
17 seconded by Tom.
18
19 MR. CARPENTER: Yes.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any discussion on
22 that matter.
23
24 MS. MILLS: Call for the question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's called
27 for. All in favor of those dates for the winter
28 meeting, aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none,
37 that carries.
38
39 MS. CAMINER: Location.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Location.
42 Location. Location. Donald, you figure it out.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Usually the winter meetings are held in Anchorage and
48 that's traditionally what this Council prefers, and the
49 fall meetings -- will be in Anchorage too, so it's open
50 for discussion.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Discussion. Go
4 ahead, Judy.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, one
7 thought I had, and, Donald, we can certainly work on
8 this, the idea of maybe holding our meeting at the
9 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program building,
10 if school's in session then, or maybe the Alaska Native
11 Charter School, and maybe that way some of the younger
12 people can attend our meeting, and, also, perhaps
13 between now and when Southeast decides on their
14 schedule, we could think about whether we would want
15 someone from our Council to go to the Southeast Council
16 meeting, just every once in awhile or on a rotating
17 basis, I think we really proved from our joint meeting
18 a couple years ago, there were a lot of issues in
19 common, more than we realized. So let's keep that open
20 as an option.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I like your
23 idea Judy, it does create some difficulties for
24 everyone to travel up there and back and forth and all
25 the Staff because you got to go, so there's pros and
26 cons to that, so I'll let you work on that Donald.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 Any other discussion on that.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, closing
35 comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Closing comments.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Go ahead, Ralph.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Closing comments,
44 Ralph.

45

46 MR. LOHSE: Thank you for allowing me
47 to sit here. I hope you guys all have lots of fun next
48 year.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MS. CAMINER: Come again.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you,
4 Ralph. Sorry to see you leave but it's been fun, yeah,
5 love your new book, too.
6
7 Gloria, go ahead.
8
9 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to thank
10 Ralph for being here and would you consider being an
11 advisory, like an advisor to our -- because you do
12 bring up a lot of good comments and, I'm not saying
13 every meeting but.....
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MS. STICKWAN:but when you think
18 about it.
19
20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I second that motion.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: By invitation
23 only, Ralph.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, next
28 comment, Eleanor, anything.
29
30 MS. DEMENTI: I'm attending all these
31 meetings, all these programs they had here, it's just
32 really informative. Because I mostly know a lot about
33 Cantwell, how we do things in Cantwell, but I really
34 don't know too much about how they do things in other
35 areas so I really appreciated it.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
40
41 Mary Ann.
42
43 MS. MILLS: Well, I really appreciate
44 Donald Mike. He has been so good in getting
45 information to us and so thank you so much, Donald.
46 And also, Ralph, I am so glad you were here, and any
47 meeting we have you are more than welcome. You do have
48 a lot of information and we really appreciate you being
49 here and everything you've done and do for us.
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: James.
4
5 MR. SHOWALTER: Well, I can't add much
6 to it but like you said, if you could come here, you're
7 more than welcome and if invited by the Chair I won't
8 disagree.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
13
14 Andy.
15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Ditto on that about
17 Ralph, thanks for coming. I was thrilled to see you
18 here, surprised. And also the Office of Subsistence
19 Management for arranging this whole thing and
20 organizing amongst all these different RACs was just a
21 phenomenon, you did a great job of pulling that off,
22 and great job.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
25
26 Mike.
27
28 MR. OPHEIM: It was a great meeting.
29 Lots of information coming at us. I'll go back and
30 absorb some of it.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Judy.
35 No, I got him once, I'm not going again.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 MS. CAMINER: It was good to see
40 everybody. I mean we're a widespread region and so
41 you're absolutely right the information we exchange is
42 fantastic but multiply that by 10 has really been
43 helpful and just to understand and know how many
44 changes everybody in all the communities are going
45 through, and so I hope we are able to -- we've been
46 kind of pushing Carl and Gene to have a little bit of a
47 closing session, summary comments among the regions
48 because I think we all benefitted from that before our
49 meeting.
50

1 So, thank you, everybody.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Judy.
4 I'm going to go over to Tom here.

5

6 MR. CARPENTER: Oh, I'd just make a
7 couple comments about the format here. It was good to
8 get all the RACs together, I appreciate all the Staff's
9 effort.

10

11 One presentation, in particular, was
12 the Title VIII presentation that Ken Lord did, and I
13 think that the Office of Subsistence Management ought
14 to seriously consider putting that sort of presentation
15 into a -- maybe even something on line, on your website
16 or a DVD that could be given out to new RAC members.
17 Because I think a lot of that information that he
18 presented would answer a lot of questions that people
19 have and it would help in their decisionmaking process,
20 especially when you're a new RAC member and you don't
21 really understand all the ins and outs of the system.

22

23 So that's all I have.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

26

27 Lee.

28

29 MR. ADLER: Well, this was the best RAC
30 meeting I've been to, and those two training sessions
31 this morning on tribal law and that other one, I just
32 wished I had have got that four and a half years ago
33 because it kind of put things in perspective, and I
34 kind of came into this like what's going on here, you
35 know, it took me a while. But it's been very good, and
36 I was glad to have my little presentation today and I
37 tried to get, you know, mention things that -- you
38 know, look at the actual animal resource and a little
39 bit of the history and the background and where we're
40 at and hopefully keep heading in the right direction.
41 That's good, yeah.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Lee.

46

47 Ricky.

48

49 MR. GEASE: Yes, it's nice to be back
50 on the RAC. I will concur with the comments on

1 thanking Ralph, it's great to see you again Ralph,
2 appreciate your insights and everything.

3

4 Dittos on the -- I think this large
5 meeting is very productive and I think it's more
6 productive than just having isolated meetings where the
7 RACs are not interacting with each other. I think
8 there's a lot of power in the room when you have all
9 RAC members in the same room, and I think it's powerful
10 for the Federal Subsistence Board to see the
11 number.....

12

13 (Teleconference interruption)

14

15 REPORTER: I'm sorry. Go ahead, Ricky.

16

17 MR. GEASE: I think it's powerful to
18 see all the RAC members in one room and for the Federal
19 Subsistence Board to understand that also, and then for
20 RAC members to understand that they're part of a larger
21 process that's happening.

22

23 I would like to see a two to four year
24 cycle on that and to have that incorporated as a
25 regular feature of the RAC processes.

26

27 I think in future years there are some
28 significant things that we could put on and a lot of
29 these meetings have been introductory in nature, and I
30 think there can be some more in-depth workshops, one or
31 two day workshops that could go into these.....

32

33 (Teleconference interruption)

34

35 REPORTER: I'm sorry. We'll take care
36 of that right now.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. GEASE:in future years, such
41 as, for example, prioritizing fisheries research on the
42 Copper River and the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers in terms
43 of research and gaps and we have many of the Federal
44 people here, we could invite State, University
45 researchers and then engage with RACs, kind of get a
46 prioritization process where we prioritize research.
47 We could invite youth to engage and participate in the
48 meetings in a more meaningful manner. And I think
49 those are things that could be done.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ricky
2 comments, I.....

3
4 MS. PETERSON: No, I'll let everybody
5 get to dinner.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, I'm
8 going to make my comments then. Just a couple of
9 comments.

10
11 First, I'm humbled that you've chose me
12 to Chair this Council, I'll try and do my best, you
13 know. If I invite Ralph every time I'll never get
14 recognized.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm just kidding
19 him really.

20
21 But anyway there's a lot of things here
22 I would like to talk about. One thing, and I can't say
23 enough of, Ricky hit right on, and him and I don't
24 agree on a lot of things, but I'll tell you what, on
25 all the RACs getting together -- I shouldn't say that,
26 Ricky, just on fishery, not -- but, anyway.....

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:but you know
31 I heard from the souls of many subsistence users. I
32 also heard that subsistence is broken and, how, we, as
33 the subsistence users, need to unite, need to use the
34 tools in the toolbox to truly get the preference to the
35 subsistence users and the best bang for your buck. And
36 so I think there's a lot of work here. I think Ricky
37 came up with some good ideas. I think there was some
38 great things from all of your comments and I look
39 forward to seeing maybe us fill some of those gaps and
40 work on some of those priorities because it's really
41 meaningful. And the communications, you know, the
42 communications between us and OSM and Staff, I mean
43 Jeff's sitting there and we didn't even get to talk to
44 him today but, anyway, you know, these meetings, we had
45 to cut this one kind of short because that's all the
46 time we had but -- I still went over a little bit but
47 that's -- next time you won't have that liberty, but,
48 anyway.

49
50 I think there's a lot we need to work

1 on and I think there's so much been accomplished, but
2 you're hearing with these RACs, it's really powerful,
3 and, you know, there's one thing that was really
4 portrayed to me, I'm going to say it one more time,
5 time is of the essence of change in this country, in
6 Alaska, and for the subsistence program so we need to
7 be on top of it.

8

9 Thank you, very much.

10

11 And with that, I'll entertain a motion
12 to adjourn.

13

14 MR. CARPENTER: Move we adjourn.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
17 to adjourn.

18

19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

20

21 MS. MILLS: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded, we
24 stand adjourned.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 122 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 9th day of March at Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of March 2016.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18