MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower
Rhonda Pitka
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bert Frost, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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PROCEEDINGS

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(On record)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's recommended we take another break.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Actually, I'm sorry, but defiantly let's call this meeting to order. Thank you all for your patience today. I know some of the things we've had scheduled are taking a little bit longer than anticipated but that's what we come to, today, is to deliberate, talk and to find the best path forward together. And so with that we'll call this meeting to order.

Welcome everybody.

MR. DOOLITTLE: I'd like to do the roll call.

National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

MR. FROST: Present.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land Management, Chad Padgett.

MR. PADGETT: Present.


MR. SIEKANIEC: Present.


MR. SCHMID: Present.

MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA.

MR. PELTOLA: Eeh.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Gene Peltola. I don't
know that was a subconscious slip, Gene, sorry about that.

Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

MS. PITKA: Here.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie Brower.

MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony Christianson.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Present.

MR. DOOLITTLE: We have a quorum.

Just to recognize our Chairs, our Regional Advisory Council Chairs, we should probably go around and introduce our Regional Advisory Council Chairs as a matter for public process in starting the meeting. We'll start with Alissa.

MS. ROGERS: Good afternoon and welcome folks. My name is Alissa Rogers. I'm the Chair of the Yukon Kuskokwim RAC out in Bethel.

MR. GERVÁIS: Good afternoon. Timothy Gervais from Ruby. I'm the Secretary of Western Interior, I'm taking the place of Jack Reakoff from Wiseman for this meeting.

MR. HERNÁNDEZ: Don Hernandez, I'm the Chair of the Southeast RAC.

MR. ENCELEWSKSI: I'm Greg Encelewski. I'm the Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.

MS. TRUMBLE: Good afternoon. My name is Della Trumble. I am the Chair of the Kodiak/Aleutians.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon. Molly Chythlook, Chair of Bristol Bay Regional Council.

MR. GREEN: And (indiscernible) Ladies,
first.

(Laughter)

MR. GREEN: I'm the Chairman of the Seward Peninsula out of the Nome area. My name is Louis Green.

MR. DOOLITTLE: I'd also like to recognize the Senior Advisor to the State -- to the Department of Interior for the State of Alaska, Steve Wackowski. And also recognize our State Departments, both Ben Mulligan and Mark Burch from the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources -- excuse me, Department of Alaska Fish and Game.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.

Before we move on in the agenda, we'd like to take a moment to recognize those people who have fallen in the past year and had service with either the Regional Advisory Council or the Board, and so we're going to read up some small information about the person and then have a moment of silence after I read. There are three people so it may take us a few minutes to read through and just, again, want to pay our respects to those who have put in the time to bring a meaningful process for the people forward and dedicate themselves to this.

First, we have, Dennis Thomas, from the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Dennis R. Thomas, a Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council member from Crooked Creek, Alaska passed away this past year. Dennis lived in Cooked Creek since 1973 and learned about subsistence fishing and hunting from his wife who is an Alaska Native. Dennis served as an elder to the tribe. He was vice chair of the local school board. And served as CEO of the Federal Highways Commission for the tribe. As a Council member he was committed to contacting tribal leadership at least once a month on subsistence issues. He was highly regarded by his local community and his fellow Council members. Dennis was always appreciative of the agency and public presentation at the Council meetings and often apologized to participants for the short periods of time allowing for their important work. Although Dennis served just one term on the Council, he was highly dedicated. At his last meeting in Galena he
traveled from Crooked Creek to Bethel, to Anchorage to Fairbanks to Galena and back again. He was an all around nice guy and will be sorely missed.

(Moment)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Lester Erhart.

Lester Erhart of Tanana was on the Eastern Interior Council member for 11 years. As the Council members were getting ready to fly into Tanana in the fall of 2018 for the fall RAC meeting is when they learned about Lester's passing. Lester was born and raised in Tanana and he was a hunter, trapper and subsistence and commercial fishermen most of his life. Lester was considered one of the most knowledgeable members of the community and he knew the region like the back of his hand. He was a respected leader who shared his knowledge and understanding of the people's way of life in the region. In addition to serving on the Council, he served as the Second Chief of the Denakkanaaga Inc., on the city of Tanana and Tanana Native Councils, the Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. Lester passed right on the bank of the mighty Yukon River doing what he loved to do, cutting fish, and it was reported that an Eagle flew into the town and was present for his funeral and remained in the village for a week. For his family, it was a manifestation of Lester's spirit.

(Moment)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, finally, Tim Towarak. It is with great sadness that the Federal Subsistence Board announced the passing of one of our previous Chairs, Tim Towarak. Mr. Towarak was appointed to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board by the Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and served in that position from 2010 until his retirement in 2016. Mr. Towarak guided the Board with professionalism and always sought out new ideas to include subsistence users and members of the public in the decisionmaking process. Regardless of the many challenges faced by the Federal Subsistence Management Program, everyone who had the privilege of working with Mr. Towarak always found him a pleasure to work with and incredibly knowledgeable on subsistence issues. The members of the Federal Subsistence Program, Staff, and the Office
of Subsistence Management would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Towarak. We will always honor his valuable contributions to the subsistence program and the caring approach he took in each issue that came before him.

(Moment)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, again, we want to thank you for just taking the time to let us read that and just take a moment of silence now to remember those folks. I learned a lot from Tim as he was the Chairman and I sat here as the rural public member, and, just again we'll take a moment of silence in honor and respect for the fallen.

(Moment of Silence)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: (Singing)

That's a spirit song from our Southeast and we always respect the cultural sharing that happens every time we come to these Board meetings and get to learn a lot from the northern cultures so I thought today would be a good time to share with you guys a song to uplift the spirits of those who have fallen here in the line of work that's so near and dear to our hearts.

Thank you.

With that we'll move on to review and adopt the agenda.

MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

MR. BROWER: Move to approve the agenda.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Board to add a non-rural determination policy discussion regarding a threshold analysis process to the agenda. I'd also suggest it might follow the request for reconsideration discussions which is currently Item 12 on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
to that from Dave.

(No objections)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll add that to the agenda after No. 12 so that would be D under number 12, to do a threshold analysis discussion.

Thank you.

MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, did you have something.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For fear that adding items to the agenda after a day that's gotten started like this, but I would like to add a discussion on the Migratory Bird apology presentation at the end of the agenda, following No. 15. It was an apology that was made with the Alaska Migratory Co-Management Council between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska. We would like to add that as an agenda item.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no opposition, yep, we'll add it, Migratory is 15a.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

MS. PITKA: I would like to move Proposal 17-05 to the non-consensus agenda.

MR. DOOLITTLE: It will be now included as part of 8, Part D.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So move it to 8, Part D.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there any opposition.

(No opposition)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So we'll
go ahead and move that to the non-consensus, 8, Subpart D, on the agenda, just so people who are trying to follow, where it's going.

Any other discussion on the agenda, as presented, additions, deletions.

MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.

MR. BROWER: On Item 11, for the upcoming Board meeting, do we need to set a date for that now as we approve the agenda?

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we'll work on the dates when we get there.

MR. BROWER: Say again.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we'll work on the dates when we get to that agenda.

MR. BROWER: All right, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the question.

MR. BROWER: Question.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been called, all in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposition, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries unanimously to approve the agenda with the additions.

At this time we'll open up the floor
for Federal Subsistence Board information sharing, from
any Board members who would like to share or have
information they'd like to relay to the public, you
have the floor.

Rhonda.

MS. PITKA: I forgot to acknowledge my
Traditional Chief, Paul Williams, Sr., is in the room.
He gave a beautiful prayer in the opening this morning
and I would like to thank him for that publicly. I
really appreciate that.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Dave.

MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If you
would indulge us, I would like to introduce some
students from Southeast Alaska that are here visiting
today. And I'd ask, if I could, that Heather Bauscher,
maybe come forward to one of the mics there and just
introduce a couple of the students that are visiting
and learning about our process here.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good.

MR. SCHMID: And maybe just tell
us.....

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, welcome
back. They're making it a regular thing, that's a good
thing. Right on.

MS. BAUSCHER: Hi. Thank you so much
for the introduction. My name is Heather Bauscher, I'm
an adjunct faculty at UAS now, Sitka Campus, doing
these practicum courses around understanding that
Federal Subsistence Board process. It's a dual
enrollment course offering targeting high school
students. We've got a mixture here from Sitka,
including folks from Mt. Edgcumbe High School, home-
school programs, and Pacific High. So I wanted to give
a chance for the students to introduce themselves and
mention, you know, where you're from, which school, and
why you wanted to do this.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.
MR. DETEMPLE: My name is Killian DeTemple. I'm from Sitka and I'm attending Pacific High. I came here because I have a passionate interest in our natural resources and protecting them and living off of them. And when I found out that there was actually a public process that catered to protecting the rights of subsistence users, I was all about it.

So, thank you for having me here today and the opportunity to be here.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MR. LEPERRIERE: My name's Blake LePerriere, and I'm home schooled and currently a junior in high school. And I decided to come up here and attend these meetings with Heather Bauscher and these other wonderful students here because, you know, in Sitka, where I'm from and all over the world I see, you know, a lot of problems with different things, you know, such as climate change, logging, things like that. And I feel like it's my responsibility as the future generation's -- future people who are going to be governing these resources, I feel like it's my responsibility to do all my can to prepare myself, and basically put all the effort that I can into learning how to manage these resources because it's going to be my responsibility some day.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MR. CRANSTON: My name is Carl Cranston. I am a student from Pacific High School. I came here because I thought it would be important to be a part of and I've never done anything like it before. So I thought it'd be a good thing to do.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MS. MARTINEZ: Hello. My name is Jaylynn Martinez. And I am attending Mt. Edgecumbe High School and I am from Tuluksak, Alaska. So a previous class that I took, I attended a Southeast RAC meeting and I've noticed some problems of the similarities that we've been having back home and I thought this would be a great opportunity to -- just to go over some of the things that I've never actually knew about, so I think this would be a great opportunity for me to learn about.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, thank you guys for taking an interest in the program and I wish you the best all week. I think you guys are here all week, and maybe we'll hear feedback from you. I think there's a couple of Southeast proposals. So you guys have a nice day.

MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there any other Board members who have something to share.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

So I think in the spirit of collaboration which the Board often asks our managers, in-season managers and folks to -- I'd like to make a couple of points.

As we already heard from Ivan Encelewski earlier this morning, Jeff Anderson, the Federal in-season manager for the Cook Inlet Federal subsistence fisheries and Andy Loranger, Refuge Manager in Kenai, recently had a very successful preseason consultation meeting with the Ninilchik Traditional Council, which also speaks to Ivan's compliment about last fall, that the process we asked them to undertake is effective and actually working.

So I'll mention that one.

I think I'd also like to note that Staff from our fisheries and ecological services and Refuges as well as OSM have worked to expand our partnership with the Organized Village of Kwethluk in developed a new relationship of which they have also submitted, I believe, a project, the cooperative developed proposal for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So I think that relationship continues to gain strength and is stronger.

Another note that may not feel like subsistence but it's the Alaska Conservation Law Enforcement Working Group in the Northwest. They've actually been meeting to address the Northwest Arctic
Regional Advisory Council's longstanding concerns about the impact of non-local hunters on the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, NANA trespass program, they all participate in this working group. And I think at the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Committee meeting recently, the Council members were very complimentary about this working group's efforts and felt their concerns were actually being addressed.

So, again, you know, in that spirit of collaboration, I think we're seeing some pretty good conversations and discussions happening out there.

And then a couple people have asked me, we've had a few changes in Refuge management, Jimmy Fox is the new Refuge manager at the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Joanna Fox is the new manager at the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. Many of you know Kenton Moos, he is moving over to Togiak as a Deputy Refuge Manager there. Bob Babarcick will be the Acting Refuge Manager for the Koyukuk Nowitna and Innoko complex. And then last, but the Board has been keenly interested in, we have filled the Park Ranger position in McGrath with Kelly Pearce. Kelly is actively working with McGrath and other local communities to assist them with subsistence opportunities and education and local science camp scheduled for this June.

So just a little update for the Board. It seems like it's been forever since we met so thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity.

MS. PITKA: Has been forever.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for that update, Greg. Yeah, the last time I was in Anchorage was the last Board meeting and that was six months ago.

Is there any other Board members who would like to share.

Bert.

MR. FROST: So the National Park Service Subsistence Team Lead has been vacant for
almost a year now and Clarence Summers behind me here has filled in admirably but we're on the verge of -- we've gone through the hiring process, I mean we're going through the hiring process, we flew an announcement right after the shutdown in late January and we're working -- we're doing interviews. We started interviews last week and we're going to finish them up at the end of this week and we hope to have a person hired by the middle of May, the first part of June. So Clarence can go back to his day job.

    Thanks, Clarence.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

Anybody else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good.

Oh, hey, and we have a new Board member so I'd like him to introduce himself.

    MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Just for the good of the order my name is Chad Padgett, I'm the new BLM State Director. So I just thought I'd take a second and say hello and I'm the new guy.

    Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It took us all morning to shake hands so I'm feeling goofy about it.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome aboard.

That's it there.

We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council Chairs, discussion, topics of concern with the Board and we'll start with Alissa since she looks ready.

    MS. ROGERS: If it's okay with you, Mr. Christianson, I'll defer to the next person and then go last.

    Thank you.
CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let's work our way around the room, no pressure.

(Laughter)

MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you, Chairman Christianson.

Timothy Gervais from Ruby. I'd like to as previously acknowledged in the meeting, the Council wanted to recognize Dennis Thomas from Crooked Creek, who passed away this year. Dennis played an important role for this Council by representing the GASH and for us it's lower Kuskokwim area but I guess in the overall scheme of the river it's middle Kuskokwim area. He was a good guy and we'll miss his presence.

We are actively requesting that the recruiting for our Council pick up another member from that area and hopefully a female member so we can get some better gender parody on our Council. Before I get into our Council report, I'd like to recognize Darrel Vent, from Huslia, he's a past WIRAC member and we hope we can get him back on the WIRAC and Tommy Kriska from Koyukuk, he's a current Board member, and I appreciate those two gentlemen being here to take part in our meeting.

The items of concern and interest expressed by Council members at our winter 2019 Council meeting in Fairbanks was, most notably the record snow fall of the past winter, and possible impacts on wildlife populations. We feel with the Bering Sea ice-pak and the ice edge being very far north and a lot of southwesterly wind, that was the cause of a lot of snow being dumped in our area. The snow depths were extremely high and then the second half of the winter, when we got the warm weather and some rain events, made tough conditions for the moose and we're concerned about a high moose mortality due to the wolves and also just some of the moose suffering hypothermia. However, prior to this winter we had really healthy moose populations so I think we'll have to see how it turns out but there's definitely going to be an impact but it was -- the moose population was in excellent condition prior to the winter.

Council members expressed good fishing
this summer of 2018, and we're extremely grateful for
new fishing opportunities to fish locally. Some
Council members are worried about high water this
spring and summer with the break up and subsequent
erosion due to snow melt.

The Western Interior Council has been
very frustrated with delays in receiving Federal
subsistence regulations.

The second item of delay is the
replacement of OSM Staff, particularly the Assistant
Regional Director.

The third item of frustration is the
slow pace of replacement of wildlife Refuge Staff.

And the final and fourth item of
frustration is delay in getting Council member
appointments.

The Council intends to respond to the
BLM regarding recent public comment period deadlines
for the Central Yukon and Bering Sea Western Interior
Resource Monitoring Plans along with the proposed
Ambler Road. The Council wants to see an extension for
public comment because documents have recently, or not
yet been released and there has been no time for the
Western Interior Council to review these critical
planning efforts and their impacts on subsistence.

The Council believes that Executive
Order 3355 to streamline the NEPA process and reduce
the time for input violates Title VIII, Section
.805(A)(3) capital A, capital B, capital C, which is
the authority of the Regional Councils to review
management plans that will affect subsistence and
Section .810(1)(2) and (3) requiring public input. It
is not possible for the Councils to comment on
important management plans if they are not out for
review within the meeting cycle of the Federal
Subsistence Program. The Council believes Emergency
Order 3355 should either be rescinded altogether or a
waiver provided for Alaska planning efforts due to the
geographic size and potential impacts on subsistence.

The Council has submitted two wildlife
proposals for this regulatory cycle and will be
submitting a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to
mirror one of those proposals in order to reduce regulatory confusion.

The Council approved recommended changes to its current charter to add one additional Council member and two alternates. As previously mentioned we're trying to recruit a member from lower Kuskokwim or the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross area.

The Western Interior Council did not wish to take a position on Fisheries Special Action 19-02 due to its complexity.

Thank you for the time, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Staff.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing none, I'm going to go to the on line, we have Sue Entsminger on line and so we're going to recognize here at this point.

Sue, are you on line?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Western Interior.

MR. DOOLITTLE: No, Eastern Interior.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, Eastern -- that one said W, oh, after the Western, okay, I got it. Eastern Interior, sorry, Susan.

Susan are you there.

(No comments)

REPORTER: Hang on a second, checking to see that we're connected.
REPORTER: No, she's not on line.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll go ahead and move forward with Donald.

Thanks.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a report from the Southeast RAC.

Our RAC has spent a fair amount of time in the last few meetings dealing with the customary and traditional use determinations. Last year at your meeting at this time you approved change in the customary and traditional use of deer in all units in Southeast. This past fall we submitted a proposal dealing with fish for all areas in Southeast and that proposal is on your consensus agenda for this meeting and I'd like to let you know that at our fall meeting this year we have submitted more proposals dealing with other wildlife species in Southeast for customary and traditional use determinations. So you can expect to seeing those as well.

It's kind of one of our priorities after the Secretarial Review to review customary and traditional use determinations and we've been working through that and we're pretty pleased with our results so far.

Another thing that's important to the Southeast Council is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Projects that have been ongoing in Southeast. There's a new round of proposals out this year that you'll be looking at. We have our recommendations in. Southeast Council is very supportive of the cooperative agreements we have with tribes doing these projects. It's worked out extremely well. We're getting some really good participation from local users and actually working on the projects. That's a very good capacity building for the local people to learn the whole process of doing these projects works and they're doing the work, which is great. And we also see a need for maybe some more monitoring type projects in wildlife areas and we actually do have some support going on right now from Mr. Christianson's tribe has been aiding in wolf population monitoring projects on Prince of
Wales Island, Unit 2. We see maybe some possibilities of other wildlife projects in the future that could be funded. So we look forward to seeing those.

Along those same lines, we have had a running failure, I guess you'd have to say, a number of years ago on the Unuk River for eulachons, a very important subsistence resource for Southeast residents, and since that time there's been a lot of efforts made to try and monitor that system more closely to see if the eulachon have had a chance of recovering. We're pretty pleased that we have had Forest Service fisheries biologists working with the members of the Ketchikan Indian Community to do some monitoring up there for the last two years. It's been a really good cooperative effort getting people with a lot of local knowledge on the river with Forest Service biologists to monitor that in hopes that maybe we could have a fishery again if we can keep a close watch on it and see if that stock does start rebuilding.

Also another resource area, this winter the Alaska Board of Game instituted a new wolf management plan for wolves in Unit 2 which has been a really contentious issue because of the endangered species listing that was proposed for that population. Fish and Game decided that they were going to change the whole management plan. Our Federal managers have been trying to work together with Fish and Game to come up with a plan that both agencies could cooperate on and we could have uniform regulations for both subsistence and non-subsistence hunters and trappers. And at our fall meeting we reviewed that management plan by the State as a Council, we endorsed it, we think it's the direction that the Federal Program needs to move in as well. And the Council has drafted a letter to the Board, which you'll probably see soon. We have a few recommendations on how to implement that kind of joint management strategy that we hope you'll be able to undertake.

Another issue that has gotten a lot of attention at our recent meetings was a proposal by the Secretary of Agriculture, it came to the Secretary of Agriculture, a petition from the State to change a Federal rule on roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. We had a lot of testimony on that at our previous two meetings. The Council sees it as a real important issue for subsistence uses. We have drafted
a couple of letters to the Board, which I don't know if you've seen those letters yet but they -- you will be receiving them soon. And one of the concerns that the Council has is that this initiative is kind of coming from the top and is working its way down. The Council always likes to see proposals of this type generated by the users and moving up through the process rather than having them brought from the Washington office and us having to try and deal with them. We have a lot of issues with how the whole process has been working with the public input that's allowed and how Title VIII of ANILCA, Section .810 provisions are going to be included in this process determining any changes to the rule so like I say, we have drafted several letters which the Board will see so I hope you take those under consideration.

One other issue that was pretty important at our fall meeting, which we met in Sitka, and Sitka subsistence users have had a lot of concern over recent years with the herring roe harvest, subsistence roe harvest and a lot of conflicts between the subsistence harvest and the commercial sac roe herring fishery that takes place in Sitka Sound. It came to the point where Sitka Tribe has filed a lawsuit against the State management plan for that fishery. We heard testimony at our fall meeting from Sitka residents that they had considered filing a petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction to the Secretary, so it's a very contentious issue. And that commercial fishery normally happens in the last week in March, first week in April, that fishery did not happen this year. The herring in Sitka Sound never came to good enough quality to hold a commercial fishery on so that fishery is essentially over, it never happened, they didn't fish on them. The subsistence fishery is going on kind of as we're meeting here so it's a little too soon to tell how the subsistence fishery is going this year. Some speculation that without any commercial fishing, maybe the subsistence harvest will be better, but given the fact that the reason they called off the fishery was due to the poor quality of the roe content in the fish, it kind of remains to be seen how the subsistence harvest will go. So you may be hearing more about this issue in the future as well.

That concludes my report, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
Any questions for Don.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Anthony. Mr. Christianson. Through the Chair. Would you like the short report or would you like a longer report.

(Laughter)

MS. PITKA: I'd like a thorough report.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: How about a thorough one, that sounds good. I will try to do my best. There's a lot of stuff going on in the Southcentral RAC. First I want to give you a little bit of positive feedback and I want to kind of tap on to what to Greg Siekaniec said.

On the Kenai we've had a really good working relationship with our memorandum of agreement on the Kenai and the fishing has been quite successful in the past few years and our Council has supported that unwavering. And I will testify as they come up in the agenda as to the comments on them.

Jeff Anderson has worked with us very well, actually as an in-season manager, it's been quite a turnaround. I'm not sure what he did but -- I shouldn't say that, Jeff, I take that back, but, anyway, it's been a good working relationship. We've been working with Andy Loranger and we appreciate that. So I wanted to mention that.

On the Southcentral RAC there's been a couple of changes with a couple of long-term members are not with us, Judy Caminer and Rick Geese and we got a couple new members and they seem to be very engaged and very knowledgeable, John Whissel and Bloomquist, and so we're working with them.

What I'm going to do, Anthony, I'm just going to tell you a little bit on this letter, and I'm not going to go into depth, Rhonda, it's going to be thorough, though. But basically under the annual report we had some areas of concerns.
One of them was on the delegation of authority and you hear that all the time, the
delegation of authority, the abuse of authority, the lack of authority, well, this actually was in the, they
were more specific, the Board sets the scope of the delegation of authority but one of the things they
highlighted and I could go into more detail with you, but you've read it, you know it, so the Council
recommends that the in-season manager with delegation of authority be allowed to designate an acting in-
season manager if they are not able to carry out the special actions to meet the requirements of Title VIII
of ANILCA. And why that came about was some of the in-
season managers moving around or not being there in a timely manner for a special action.

The other one was the Copper River weir, they wanted to keep that in place. The drainage
there, it was one of the areas that they brought up a concern, and you've heard a lot about it.

You also heard quite a bit about the Chitina dipnet fishery and they wanted some letters to
the Board of Fish which don't exactly involve you but some of them -- there was concern that some of it
wasn't tradition dipping out of the boat, that they used it from platforms. Quite a concern of who's using
that fishery, how it's getting abused, et cetera,
that's one of our concerns.

The non-rural determination, we supported that they take another look at that, especially in the Moose Pass area, we're working on that.

They want more comprehensive salmon research and in-season management. They're concerned about some of the biological data that we're getting.

A big emphasis on climate change, the effects of climate change, environmental subsistence users, these concerns include invasive species, they include various ecosystems, disruption to patterns, resource harvest use and change in water, and on and on and we all know that so that's there.

The other one they want to encourage is all Councils meeting. They want to really encourage that again of bringing us all back together and we
really thought that was positive. We had a lot of good ideas and we weren't able to followup on that, finish it up, excuse me, follow up.

And, lastly, we had an interesting thing, salmon predation. The Council heard public testimony regarding marine mammals preying on salmons migrating up the Copper River. We have reports of this, too, down on the Kenai. Marine mammals such as harbor seals, sea lions, whales are staging at the mouth of the Copper River and they're feeding on migrating salmon as the run reaches, the Miles Lakes, and the other places, seals have been observed in the area preying on salmon. The amount of salmon preyed upon by the marine mammals is unknown. And that was by local knowledge and that was a pretty interesting report.

Other than that, I think I covered most of it.

The Fisheries Resource Management Program, they would like to fund it, of course, to the max if you could and so on and so forth.

The last, and I'll just part with the last thing, there is concern with the shortage of game and fish and especially the Kenai kings and a few other things. I think our Council's clicking along pretty good and you'll see a couple little letters from us but that's my report.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Greg. Any questions.

Ken.

MR. LORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Greg, I'd like to respond to one thing you raised about somebody acting in Jeff's position. The letter of delegation is to the position, not to the person, so if Jeff is, you know, off in Algeria or somewhere, whoever's acting for him also holds that ability. So if there's some confusion on our side of things and people aren't understanding that I'm happy to help clear that up.
MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I appreciate that Ken. If you're out to lunch, Jeff, I'm going to call someone.

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. My comments are along the same lines. With the delegation of authority for wildlife and for fisheries, they are very seldom to an individual, they're to a position, District Ranger, Refuge Manager, Superintendent, so it's not tied to an individual, it's tied to a position.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, and I will say, if I may reply, Anthony, that Jeff has worked with us very well. He's informed us and we knew when he was in and out, so I didn't want that to be misinterpreted.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Greg.

Now, we'll go to Susan Entsminger on line, Eastern Interior.

MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, hi, this is Sue, can you hear me.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we can.

MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, sorry about the mishap earlier and thank you for allowing me to testify -- and come in on line on the teleconference.

The Eastern Interior, I'm going to go through like our annual report and some of the concerns.

We continue to support (indiscernible - telephone modulation) users in rural areas for better communication with the users.

And on the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan issues, this has been a very good success. I must say that it started back in 1990 when
my husband was the Chairman on the Fortymile Advisory Committee and this coalition continued, an Eastern Interior RAC member has been on it all along. We've been working along and the herd has grown a great deal, even (indiscernible - telephone modulation) Ft. Yukon area where they are now have an opportunity to take it so they're asking to do -- on the coalition, through the State Advisory -- (telephone cutting out).

And the Council also remains very concerned about the king salmon returns and escapement. They support quality of escapement with larger fecund older females. The Council also requests that fall chum salmon run be managed in a way to -- for the upper Yukon communities to get sufficient amount of fish to fulfill their subsistence needs while still providing for the lower Yukon River communities and meeting international treaty obligations.

The Council doubts the accuracy of subsistence harvest data for chinook salmon on the Yukon River. There's a significant disparity in numbers between the total recorded run coming into the Yukon (telephone cutting out) commercial catch and the subsistence harvest. In reviewing the data the Council observed that approximately 20,000 to 25,000 chinook salmon were unaccounted for in the 2018, which in the Council's opinion more than likely indicates that these salmon were not reported in the harvest. The Council would like the Board to work with the State to find ways to improve the accurate reporting of the customary trade of salmon on the Yukon. The Council would like to stress that accurate information and understanding of the harvest is essential for managers to be able to correctly manage the Yukon River chinook salmon especially in times of low abundance during rebuilding efforts.

The Council continues to stress the importance of (indiscernible - telephone cutting out) youth in hunting and fishing and the Council's activities. We have two younger members on our Council right now in their early 20s, which has really been a welcome and they're eager and willing to learn and willing to work with in all these committees and things like that, and it's really kind of neat to have them on there.

We've been working with this hunter
education program and we highly support it.

I reported at our last meeting that we -- my husband, my son and I have been working with the Mentasta school, just as an example, with the hunter education and cross cultures also taking care of -- I took two kids from Mentasta school bear hunting last year, they each shot a bear and then we took the hides to the school and taught them how to skin properly for having skins tanned for use in making things or even doing taxidermy. These kind of programs are the kind of things that we support. The school system here has been highly supportive of us going in and helping to teach with shooting activities, both .22 and (indiscernible - phone cutting out) so support of programs that kind of wish it could be done statewide somehow working with the State. We've been working with the Tetlin Fish and Wildlife Service here, they go into the schools and work on programs and they bring in the public, like us, to work with them. So it's a kind of neat program.

And the Council remains concerned about the patchwork of this area, uncoordinated Federal and State wildlife management decisions, including closures have on forcing hunters to go to different areas and creating a domino effect.

The Council is pleased with the process of the development of the hunter ethics education and outreach program for the Eastern Interior. You will hear a detailed report on what has been done for the development of the program later in the meeting. The Council would like to relate to the Board that it supports -- it has a meaningful effect on the progress of this project and requests continuation of this work. The Council also would like to inquire if the Federal agencies -- requested -- on the Board had any funding that can be directed towards implementing a pilot project. And I also would like to state that I'm on the southern end of the Eastern Interior and there's a lot of projects going on with Ahtna that are very cool and we're getting more information about wildlife and people working together.

And that's all I have.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any questions for Susan from the Board.
MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Susan. This is Tim Gervais from Western Interior. I had a comment on your -- you were talking about the amount of fish not getting counted in surveys and Western Interior has -- spends quite a bit of time on discussion talking about dropout mortality from gillnets, injuries from these catch and release practices of fishwheel, beach seining, dip gillnetting, this catch and release practice does not meet what -- what modern fishery management species as far as releasing fish back into the wild after capture. And we don't know what these exact mortality rates are, injury rates are, but the middle Yukon, we have some local users say they're getting 10 to 20 percent dropout rate using the six inch web. The amount of injury and trauma the king salmon would undergo being caught in a fishwheel and roll down the basket and out the chute and then just dumped back in the river without any kind of reviving technique creates a lot of stress on the fish. It's also from due to the length of the Yukon, the amount of harassment, how many times does a fish encounter some kind of harvest technique, whether it's gillnet or fishwheel or dipnet, I mean how many times does a salmon get caught on its way up to whatever tributary it'd want to spawn.

So the Western Interior, we'd like both State and Federal managers to have some consideration for what the mortality is from these events and also some kind of study, research effort to try to quantify what these losses are. Right now there is no component in the run strength that quantifies these mortalities.

MS. ENTSINGER: Are you asking me a question or just helping me out with information?

MR. GERVAIS: I'm not asking, Sue. I'm just saying that the Western Interior spent a lot of time as we have these different regulations come into play and proposals come up, we have different catch and release activities and different harvest methods where they're trying to release kings to allow fishing on the chums, commercially, and allow the kings to go up river, and I'm just stating that the Western Interior believes there's a significant amount of mortality and
injury, stress and trauma to the fish, to the king salmon from this catch and release and we're not -- we don't feel we're getting information from managers on what the.....

MS. ENSTMINGER: Okay.

MR. GERVAIS: .....significance of these catch and release techniques are.

MS. ENSTMINGER: That would be good information for them to gather.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any more questions for Sue or statements.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, thank you.

MS. ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Della.

MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll go through our annual report. The Kodiak/Aleutian meeting is coming up next week.

One of the issues that keeps coming up with our Council is the continued need for increased educational opportunities for Council members. And this comes to the 2016 when we had the stadewide meeting with all the RACs and I think, you know, if that can be done once every 10 years, it was very beneficial to have statewide, all the regions together and be able to interact with each other and educate each other on what the issues are in our regions. So they'd like you to keep that in mind.

Also kind of a one page, I want to call it a cheat sheet, as to what your responsibilities are as a Council member.

Resource -- Resource Monitoring Program project selection. This has been an issue, I think, with our Council and it had a lot to do with McClees Lake and Unalaska. And how the Council makes recommendation and
what the process, what happens after and how -- they feel there needs to be a little more, I think, communication between the Council or something when that process is being -- that selection process is being done.

Request for caribou surveys on Adak, I hear this -- we've heard it every year. I mean Adak is you're basically -- no surveys have been done, there's a big concern, I think for the amount of sportshunting that's going on down there and no actual numbers at all in place and what's going on.

Agencies. I think at the time of reports getting into -- we know everybody is busy and you get in town to these meetings, and trying to get reports in, but it's very helpful for Council members to have that information in enough time to be making good -- you know, having good decisions and making good decisions at our meetings. We only meet twice a year.

One of the issues that came up with Kodiak, you know, remember that Kodiak and Aleutians are basically two regions. And last summer in both our regions we know the lack of subsistence fish in both regions, it just wasn't there, the Buskin, Cold Bay, it was not there. However, decisions in Kodiak were made to close, I believe, the Buskin, and a couple other places but no Council members -- there was no discussion with Council members when that decision was made. And it's tough when you're basically working two regions, so there's five Council members from Kodiak, you know, some effort, I think, to reach out to those guys when these decisions are being made so that they can get that information out to tribal councils too, and people that are affected by these decisions.

Sea otters, Kodiak, big issue. This has been ongoing, and ongoing and ongoing and this next meeting, I believe, we are hopeful to try to get the tribal councils to try to create some sort of task force because this is overlapping agencies and marine mammals is a big issue with this. We've talked quite a bit and have had some help from like -- gosh, I can't think of his name, from Southeast, and he's been very helpful and I will talk with Don a little bit. But we're trying to get -- I think getting some sort of task force for them to try to get something off the ground and moving because sea otters in Kodiak is a big
issue.

Caribou, Unimak, we want to thank you, I think, you know, they were able to hunt, I'm thinking got the three caribou they were able to harvest but at least it's a start. Caribou in Unit 9D, I'm very happy to say that we were able to harvest caribou and thankful for that.

Izembek Staffing. I was told a couple occasions this past winter that people in Cold Bay are concerned as to why there are not people at Izembek and working there, I mean there should be people there, I'm not sure why there isn't. But I think you need to put that on your radar because we are going to be watching that closely.

I think that about covers it for now, but, yeah, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions, discussion for Della.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just want to say good luck with those sea otter, they are a problem in Southeast as well. We did create a local commission and the tribe does fund the hunting and so they put up the money, the gas, and the bullet, the boys, and then basically sign the pelts back over to the tribe if they don't want them. The tribe tans them up and uses them for cultural events or for stuff, and so that's how we've had to start to self-regulate and manage it because it's definitely -- they will eat you out of house and home and Prince of Wales is a prime example of just that.

So, yeah, I would do something sooner than later.

Molly.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly Chythlook, Bristol Bay RAC.

I want to start off with my wish list.

And it would be so wonderful to have a
map of each region, you know, when they're talking. It's hard for me to imagine where really abouts where these different RACs are even though they say well we're from Southwest, you know, we're from certain areas. And I think having a map, we have blacked out TVs here that can be useful for that. It would be so -- I think it would probably make the reports more meaningful and know where they're actually coming from. Even though we're Alaskans and live in different regions, it's -- thank you.

(Laughter)

MS. CHYTHLOOK: It would be nice to have like a map like this to look at.

Okay.

Like everybody else Bristol Bay RAC, you know, has several discussions and I think what's been so amazing and more cheerful, you know, when you have resources handy, when the resources are plentiful the people, the Council members had their resources harvested, the people, the Council members seem like more relaxed and happy that, you know, they're ready for the summer, they're ready for the winter because they've gotten their resources. And we have had plenty of salmon, I wish we could have shared some of our salmon with the rest of you folks this summer because we got flooded with salmon this summer in our bay. Our commercial fishermen were happy at the end of the season and so were the subsistence harvesters.

But like the other RACs we have several discussions during our RAC meetings and we just report on ones that were mostly discussed during the RAC meetings.

Our Bristol Bay RAC meets in two different locations, we have our spring meeting in Dillingham, and our winter meetings in Naknek, which makes it nice because people from Dillingham can fly down to Naknek and vice versa with the Naknek folks, Dillingham folks down to Naknek, and that makes us feel like we're -- you know, we're connecting with the lower regions of our region instead of being stationary in one location.

You know we've had wishes to go to
villages for our regional meetings but because of budgets and because of places to sleep and eat, I think that's gone down the drain but we still wish that that could happen because the -- the flying is so costly between the villages that our subsistence hunters can't come to our meetings so that's been a really -- even though we wish we had a roomful of people, you know, from our subsistence hunters to attend, we don't. What we've done is we've started meeting in schools, like the Dillingham High School, we'll meet there in the Dillingham High School and different classes of students will come to our meetings, which is good because those are our future leaders that we're hoping to educate and get their interests up. We haven't really had, I guess an opportunity to do that at Naknek but we're hoping, we're hoping that we'll be able to start that at the Naknek school at our next winter meeting.

So that's another area that, you know, the other RACs could do, is meet in your schools so that -- you know, if they have a gym, meet in their gym so that the students can come and, you know, participate. We've had really interesting -- the students participating at our meetings. So that's been really encouraging.

One of the issues -- I'll get into the issues, has been low level aircraft flights. I've heard one of the testimonies here today about that. We had -- this is in the eastern part of our Bristol Bay region. We had that issue in our western side of the region, fortunately or unfortunately most of our lands are State, we have patches of Federal down towards the eastern part of our region, and so when we had that issue about low flying planes in our region, I think we got that resolved through our Nushagak Advisory Council. And so we don't have that.

Because of our commercial fishery during the summer, sportsfishery comes in so we have lots of noise in the water, in the bay, and then the planes start flying so there's always a lot of conflict with the subsistence folks even during the salmon season but mostly during the moose season is where this low level aircraft flights have been a concern, over in that Lake Clark subsistence area.

Then there was another topic regarding
the historical Migratory Bird Management. I guess the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council co-Chair brought to the Council's attention a recent apology letter signed on September 13, 2018 by the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner, stating the need to reconcile the past and acknowledge those regulations harmed hunters and their families and we seek to continue rebuilding a relationship with the Alaska indigenous people who were affected by the unintended consequences of the past harvest regulations. And I was involved with the Migratory Bird Program when I was still working and I recognized that at that time, and it's great to see that this is -- they've recognized this and, you know, asking people for, I guess, their mistake.

Our other discussions have been all Council meetings. I think the all Council meeting that we had here was very productive. All the regions were able to get together and discuss. We have cultural differences even though we may all be Native, we all have cultural differences and our regulations, because of our cultural differences reflect some of our regulations in different ways. So having all Council meetings really helps, I think, each Regional Council to recognize the differences of their resources in each region and can understand each other's, I guess, issues.

And then we also discussed an all Chair Council meeting. That's been very productive, the few times that we've met. It gives us -- it gives all Chairs an opportunity to go over, discuss, the prior Federal Subsistence Board meeting, and when that happened, it really helped me to understand the process of the Federal Subsistence Board meetings. And so I think our Council is encouraging Federal Subsistence Board to possibly come up with an all Council and all Chair meetings in the future, if possible.

And then there was also a seagull population issue. You know, seagulls in our area are our first eggs of the season. We harvest those eggs as soon they start laying because that's what we grew up on, those are our eggs that we go and gather and eat and they're healthy. So the concern of the Council was that they noticed the low population of seagulls and they were wondering if other regions have noted the
low seagull population because of the subsistence need of their eggs, we're also concerned about the low population of seagulls.

And then at our spring meeting in 2018 in Dillingham we looked at the proposal on positioning of animals. And the Wildlife Proposal 18-24, proposal was opposed, because the regulations regarding, I guess the Federal regulations on that were kind of confusing and so that was discussed and after a lengthy discussion we -- the Council formed a working group to deal with this because of the closure of -- the working group wasn't able to meet as scheduled, but they quickly met before and after our March winter meeting in Naknek this last March, and the Council recessed our March meeting to have the working group deal with this positioning of animals and then after their March 26 working group meeting, we, the Council, reconvened on March 29th to deal with this positioning of animals and decided that we would go with a proposal to present to the call for wildlife proposals, I guess, at the next Federal Subsistence Board. I'm not going to go into details unless somebody asks me questions about this because I think Gayla will probably cover this information.

And I think that's all I have.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Molly. Any questions for Molly.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for your report -- oh, Molly, one second.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Molly, we made sure to put a map up there for you.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: I see that.

MR. DOOLITTLE: We actually weren't allowed to put up maps on the wall, so, of all things, so at least we found a map.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: You're welcome.
MS. CHYTHLOOK: It's also good for the
students.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Molly.

MR. GREEN: Hey, Molly, we're the
orange guys.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You're the
orange guys.

(Laughter)

MR. GREEN: Thank you. You got to have
a little humor every now and then.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

(Laughter)

MR. GREEN: I'd like to just speak a
little bit about Tim Towarak. He was a very well noted
leader in our region. I served on the Bering Straits
Board for nine years with him. He was very
knowledgeable. I've known the man probably 40-plus
years, it kind of surrounded basketball and then
eventually got into the herring fishery there in Norton
Sound out of Unalakleet. I've known his family all,
most of my life. Tim seen the Bering Straits region
through some really tough financial times and provided
some really rock solid leadership during that
timeframe. And he also was a very strong leader in his
community. If it weren't for some of Tim's smartness
about being where he was at at the table, I think we
would have suffered a lot more there in our regional
corporation when it was having financial problems.

So I'd just like to say thanks to that
man and for his family, too, have given us his time.

And noting that he served here, I think
it was 2010 is when he got on here, and that's the same
time I've been on here, so he'll be missed. I often
counseled under him when I needed some information and
things.

So I'll go on with my report which is kind of short.

The items of concern and interest expressed by the Seward Peninsula Council members in our fall 2018 meeting in Unalakleet, mostly notable included the changes in the weather. We've had early breakups. There's been notable sea bird mortality and altered behaviors of migrations and timing. Also the nesting, Molly mentioned egg gathering and we're seagull egg people too and we also have eiders and then out on the islands we have the puffins and murres and they're a little later in the year -- they're having their young later.

The sea ice is a big worry for people. March 11th over there in Nome the ice broke right off at the shoreline and went out, so when the Iditarod folks showed up they were driving down their trail there and there's open water that they've never had ever before. So it was alarming to a lot of people.

The idea that the animals out there, they're not seeing the ice that they've seen. I haven't had a chance to be out hunting myself at this point, but they're starting to have a success rate. So there must be some ice out in the area.

The salmon fishing was good, noted in the eastern region which is our eastern part of the region, which is down in the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik areas, I think even Koyuk, the chinook salmon runs were not that great.

Concerns over commercial fishing and bycatch were expressed by multiple Council members. You know there's -- you got the statewide fishery in Area M and then you've got the pollock industry out there in the Bering Sea and they do intercept chinook and they do intercept chum. So these are of concern for people in my region.

Concerns. The moose hunting went well down in that eastern part of the region, southeastern area, down there, but once you get up towards Nome, you know, we've got 300 miles of roads there, we've had our -- our quotas have gone down, and they just seem to
keep falling. The problem with the Nome area is that, as far as the RAC is concerned, the RAC doesn't have a lot of -- I guess you would say the Federal lands are limited around the Nome area. Where we do have outreach is in the Unalakleet area, we have some over there in the Shishmaref area where the Bering LandBridge Preserve is located. And we do have a little bit of in Interior of Nome there, out of Teller and that area, and we try to participate in these proposals for -- the taking of like say, cows, we don't want that to happen anymore, that's our breeding stock we figure.

A prime example of too much hunting pressure on the cows in the Nome area, where they had 20 cows a year right in 22C which is around Nome, they allowed 20 cows a year and that was for 20 years and we don't see our animals there.

The other major concern with the number of animals being fewer that we eat there, is that the bear predation and the wolf predation. Bears are a nuisance. They're something that people just don't go and shoot and eat. That is a social issue with the people where I'm from, is that, you eat what you shoot, so when it comes to these bears, that have been created through the management system, with a population that's basically exploded the last -- I'd say the last 20 years on the Seward Peninsula, we're in a crises and it takes out our ungulates. Our moose, our reindeer, caribou, and muskox are suffering. And we have these discussions.

So the Council, again, stressed the importance and continue increased research to monitor the extensive changes in the region due to the climate.

The Council remains concerned, again, about chinook and the chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and hopes that the Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage salmon so that local subsistence needs can be met.

The Council will continue to work on moose issues in Unit 22D and E. It's an area there that has Federal lands in there and State lands adjoining and there's a transfer of the population of moose back and forth between those two subunits and that has been a concern of the Seward Peninsula RAC,
knowing that there's targeted moose there by non-rural residents. So that's one of the proposals we'll be looking into.

And, like I said, about the predation of the moose by the bears and wolves, we hope that the State and Federal managers work together to conduct population surveys of the predators.

These, and other issues will be addressed by the Council through regulatory proposals, letters to the Federal Subsistence Board or Federal or State public land management agencies or the Council's annual report to the Board.

The Council's winter cycle meeting was cancelled this year due to storms, so it's been rescheduled to April 22nd and 23rd, so that'll be next week.

I think that pretty much covers it, Mr. Chairman and appreciate the time.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Louis, appreciate that.

Any questions for Louis.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Members of the Board. If I may, briefly, on behalf of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Mr. Chair and Members of the Board, for the record, Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Our Chair, Gordon Brower, and Vice Chair, Steve Oomittuk, were not able to be here at this meeting. It is beginning of the spring whaling season and a very busy time of year. There are not currently any fisheries regulatory proposals for the North Slope region. However, our Council Member Gordon Brower, Chair, had requested to bring to the attention of the
Federal Subsistence Board the Council's concern and
great interest to be able to meet in other rural
communities in the region, outside of Barrow, which is
the regional hub, as other Council members and Chairs
have discussed. It's a very vital part of the
Council's work to engage with subsistence communities
in the region and, one, that the North Slope
Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has not had an
opportunity except for a few times in the 20 years of
its existence. So the Chair did want to bring to the
Board's attention and to the Federal Subsistence Board
a request and understanding of how important that
opportunity is to engage with the communities directly
and be able to represent those communities that do not
currently have a representative sitting on the Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.

Alissa.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All
right, really quick, can you guys stand up and stretch,
you have a lot of people look like they're falling
asleep for a moment. If you guys could just get up and
give a good stretch.

(Laughter)

MS. ROGERS: I know I needed it.

All right.

Okay, so let's get to it.

Molly, we're the really light blue
picture all the way to the west.

(Laughter)

MS. ROGERS: The land acknowledgement,
I want to just give a shout out to the indigenous
people and thank them for allowing us to meet on their
traditional hunting lands that we currently are on.

(In Yup'ik)

John and Alice Hanson, granddaughter
from Alakanuk, and Fred and Bridget Joseph from Hooper Bay.

I want to just touch base on a few topics here. I was trying to get everything on to a paper so I know exactly what I'm talking about and not have to go on a tangent.

Weather is concerning for our safety under subsistence and the process and land, especially our environment.

Pike is booming and we can't catch enough of them.

There has been a decline in whitefish.

People want to harvest sheefish. We cannot hear it enough, we hear it all the time. And they want to harvest sheefish but when the river is closed too soon, because we all know that the sheefish come before the chinook, but if the river is closed too soon they can't go fishing for sheefish.

One of the biggest things that is concerning to me is that our chinook salmon is a species of concern, I mean how many years of my life have we been restricted to our subsistence fisheries for chinook salmon in our region, well, I guess that's pretty much now going all over, right, so it makes sense that chinook salmon should be a species of concern, not only to the Federal Subsistence Board but also to the Board of Fish. And why hasn't it been done already.

Lead shot. Yayy, good job U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Your help in receiving about 20,000 pounds, which is 70 caseloads were removed from Newtok, and swapped out, so good job to you guys, you guys are doing awesome.

We have a report of like our caribou has flatlined. There was no increase or decrease in our caribou, only time will tell if it was good or bad.

The people of Kwethluk have brought up concerns about using traditional lands in their headwaters. There is quite a bit of people that came to testify saying that they weren't allowed to use
their traditional lands because of boundary line issues. And, personally, on a note, they have oral traditions, they have hunting traditional practices, and it was also brought to my attention that some of the species up there are even closely related to the species on the Kuskokwim. So if that boundary line, if you think about it, even if it is historic, or if there was like some shift in the permafrost, the waters that drain, actually drain into the Kuskokwim.

The RAC is currently active with LKSD students. I have been hosting mock subsistence meetings on real proposals with seventh and eighth grade students. We take real concerns, like the proposals that are in here that you guys would be looking at, we've taken up to their classrooms and had an hour session where we had pretty much a mock Board session here and they brought up some really concerning issues. They might be young but they're not dumb, they're actually intelligently thinking about different ways of how to improve management, socialism and different types of things that we could be doing to improve our management strategies.

I want to bring in a concern that we have a decline in coho was last year, even though some people claim it was a late run, there was a lot of families, including my own family, that had a difficult time harvesting coho. Coho's are a tricky species because there is a lot less research and we don't know very much about coho in the Kuskokwim region and so it's really hard to tell or put a really, plot line, together.

We do have an increase in coyotes in our region. There's been families who are missing their animals, especially in my backyard, I saw a family of coyotes in my backyard and then my dog went missing.

Moose on the Yukon River, our habitat is being overgrazed and trampled. Productive spring greens concerning for who's relying on fresh vegetables, because we can't rely on the stores, there's no way we can get fresh produce out there, so spring time when the marigolds come out or the (In Yup'ik) come out, it's really important that we harvest those and if we can't harvest them because there's so much moose out there, then that becomes a concern for
Okay. Touchy subject.

I'm going to make this really short and I'm going to be sending you a letter in regards to Donlin Gold. I read through the Donlin .810 analysis and it says that there would be extensive restrictions on subsistence to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta communities. And when I read that phrase, it literally says it in that way, my heart broke.

The RAC had brought these concerns forward and is currently in the process of developing a letter highlighting the concerns and effects using it directly from the .810 analysis. And it's very concerning. And if you haven't read it yet you need to read it, especially you, being a subsistence -- protecting subsistence rights, taking care of our subsistence ways and allowing us to have these, and an ability to conserve for the future. It's alarming.

And I'm surprised, we don't have as many people from our hometowns, from our home region here advocating on their behalf. It startles me. It scares me. Because I'm going to have to live with it and my grandchildren are going to have to live with it and there's no way of stopping it right now. Because Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not see how important it is to us. Subsistence is our way of life. We are the last remaining subsistence region in this state, the last. It's important for us to work together regardless of how difficult it is.

And I'm sorry about -- because I told you, it's a touchy subject.

The people really want their cultural traditions, practices, subsistence and you can't take that away from them.

Okay.

Subsistence mammals on the coastal communities are appearing sick, including fish, ocean birds, sea birds, whales, et cetera. There has been visual inspections of major trauma done to these marine mammal resources that are essential for life and the livelihood of the YK Delta. People trade food that
they can't have because they're sick.

There's been a noted shift in salmon migration in the Hooper Bay communities, has not harvested salmon other than pink salmon if they're lucky. They're worried about the ability to sustain their community. They have to find new fishing grounds. And they're requesting the Federal Subsistence Board to help through a letter of request to the appropriate agencies in regards to finding more information and how we can help these people in the coastal communities.

The lower Yukon communities are observing deformities and diseased salmon. Pictures have been taken across the lower Yukon communities, and they have been notified to get in touch with the local agencies in their community or someone they can go to or be able to take that fish and then ship it off to a research lab or somewhere, if we can find out. And not only is it happening in our salmon but off the coast of our region, our halibut are getting affected too, they're coming up looking weird, discolored, unusual, like the eyes are on the bottom kind of thing. We've seen this happen, but I've never seen this happen in my lifetime.

And I can't echo enough to you guys, please may I have more Yukon people on my RAC. I only have 2 out of 13, and Yukon people are very important to my region as well as the Kuskokwim. But I see that I need more Yukon people on my Council and I cannot express that enough.

And one more thing it was brought to my attention that the Hairy Man is missing, he hasn't been seen in awhile.

That's it.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It got too warm.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He's all hairy.
(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He just made a movie Missing Link.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I was going to go see it last night.

Thank you. Any questions for Alissa.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate it, especially noting in that Donlin piece, they're recognizing it deserves some attention.

Was there any other region Chair on the phone.

REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. Okay, thanks, Tina.

Okay, we have one request today, without any Board opposition, and it's going to be the last order of business for the day, and I'm going to allow Gayla to come up and speak under public testimony.

MS. PITKA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

MS. PITKA: I just wanted to thank the Regional Advisory Chairs for your testimony. Engaging with Regional Advisory Councils has been instrumental in my understanding of issues. Having you be here in person has been really important to this process, and, thank you.

Thank you for all of your testimony and all of the time and work that you put into this, I really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for that Rhonda.
MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to make a comment to Alissa.

I've been -- to hear what you're talking about, about the salmon runs, Nome and the Seward Peninsula has been with that for almost 40 years and we were like the first red flags that went up and I recall back at meetings in the mid-90s where I was asking for people to pitch in to help because it's coming your way, I kept telling them that, and so I wasn't the only one, there was others, but it's all the way across now, like you said.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Louis.

Gayla.

MS. HOSETH: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, for allowing us to go now otherwise I won't be able to be here tomorrow because we'll be fighting Pebble.

So, with that, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. For the record, my name is Gayla Hoseth and I'm the director or natural resources for Bristol Bay Native Association in Dillingham, Alaska. Thank you for giving me time to talk with you today regarding the proposal from last spring on positioning animals with snowmachines while subsistence hunting.

The proposal was Proposal WP18-24, a snowmachine will be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest provided that the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine. This proposal failed with a 4/4 vote, which was due to a conflict with other Federal agency regulations. I will get right to the point of why I'm here to talk with you today.

As a Federally-qualified user living in rural Alaska, when I go to write proposals or help people within my region write proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board, we need to know if we need to
research all of the Federal agency regulations that are here today that serve on the Federal Subsistence Board. I just need clarification on how decisions are being made, because from my understanding if there's a conflict among Federal agencies, ANILCA is to prevail. Specifically, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under 610FW5 for special provisions for Alaska Wilderness states, this is their language:

We administer wilderness areas in Alaska in accordance with the policy in 610FW one through 5. The policy addresses the special provisions for Alaska wilderness and ANILCA and there should be no conflicts. If there is a conflict, we follow the more specific provisions of ANILCA and implementing regulations at 43 CFR Part 36, and 50 CFR Part 36, it also further states in Section .811(b) of ANILCA authorizes the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog teams and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged in subsistence activities. That's found in 50 CFR 36.12(a).

When these types of conflicts arise, who's responsibility is it to bring to the Federal Subsistence Board attention when voting, or, if a Federal agency voted no when there was a conflict.

I'm not the expert on the Federal Subsistence Board, but we all need to understand the rules and the structure of the Federal Subsistence Board. I would like to have clarification and a clear understanding for when the Federal Subsistence Board votes, is the U.S. Code Title XVI followed with the rules of ANILCA.

Over the past year my team at BBNA has researched this topic and after doing some research it seems as though this proposal should have passed a year ago and failed due to the conflict of 50 CFR 36. As I stated earlier, when there's a conflict, from what we understand, is agencies should default to ANILCA. This topic of positioning animals with the use of snowmachines will be revisited again in 2020 and as Molly stated, our Bristol Bay RAC Chair, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council submitted a proposal during this last wildlife call for proposals for the Federal Subsistence Board to vote on in 2020. And I just wanted to point out on the record that at the
spring Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council meeting, when they took up WP18-24, it wasn't opposed, it was opposed with an amendment to position a hunter. And the reason why it was opposed is because the region didn't want to have that language, and the original proposal was never voted on by the RAC.

So also during the spring meeting during 2018, a year ago from when we were all sitting here, all of the RACs were to review the positioning of animals with snowmachine at their fall meetings and everyone was to come back and talk about this issue during this meeting, however, no motion was formally made at the last Federal Subsistence Board so this didn't happen across the state. This issue we are talking about today is a statewide issue and not just a Bristol Bay region issue.

One more issue I wanted to bring to your attention is the fact that the Federal Register has the wrong information regarding WP18-24 regarding the 4/4 failed vote.

And it could be just the way that things are written in your language but this is what it says: It's located in 83 FR 50758 and it reads:

The Board rejected a proposal to allow for the use of snowmachines to position animals, caribou, wolves and wolverines in Unit 17. This proposal was found to violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation and was not supported by substantial evidence.

That's what's in the 83 FR 50758.

This is confusing and incorrect.

Because the proposal didn't violate any recognized principles of wildlife conservation, the vote clearly failed.

Why would it go on to say that this was not supported by substantial evidence.

As I stated earlier, the vote failed due to a conflict in Federal regulations and as we understand it ANILCA did not prevail.
Having the Federal Register reflect this type of language stating the proposal was rejected brings light to the issue of the horrific events that unfolded at the Federal Subsistence Board last year during public testimony on WP18-24. The Federal Register needs to be corrected to state the truth of how this proposal failed and was not rejected.

In summary, we are here today, I'm asking you to take action on this issue to provide clarity so we understand when we are submitting proposals.

The first clarification is no. 1, how Federal agencies will be voting when conflicts arise.

2. Who's responsibility is it to make sure ANILCA is being followed.

This positioning issue is just an example and we need to have the answers now, especially before we go into proposals at this meeting, if any of the Federal agencies sitting on this Board have a conflict.

Also in followup, it'd be good for this clarity to be in writing as a reference document for us Federally-qualified users.

I want to thank you so much for your time today and allowing me to speak to this issue regarding the positioning of caribou, wolves and wolverine and the use of snowmachine and let me remind you of ANILCA, Section .11

As this is a customary and traditional practice that is used across the state on all lands.

And, thank you for allowing me to bring a team up with me because we just wanted to highlight this issue further but I just don't want to forget about our asks that we have, of the two asks when we're done.

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I think we have it recorded as an agency conflict and is ANILCA being followed in our process. Correct.
MS. HOSETH: (Nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank you.

MS. HOSETH: Thank you. And I'll turn it over to Moses.

MOSES: Thank you. Hello Board of Game Chair and Board of Federal Subsistence Board of Game. My name is Moses (Indiscernible) from Manokotak, I live close to Dillingham. I was born in (Indiscernible) where my community members and other members from our region used to go fishing and Molly's one of them that used to go down there a long time ago and I've been a fisherman all my life, a hunter, trapper, and I went to high school first time I went out to Mt. Edgecumbe and transferred to Victory and then to Dillingham where I graduated in '73. I had some college, three years, up at Fairbanks ACC and then went to work on the Pipeline at Valdez when it was a started as a welder, and then after that got married to my wife Bessie for 42 years. I have lots of grandkids, 24 of them, I'm very rich with grandkids.

As a kid, while I was growing up my parents and other parents used to take us hunting for moose and big game, caribou, and they'd position us like in -- not too far away from our boats, so we can be close to our boats, and if we -- if they set us there they'd tell us to be quiet and they'd go in the trees and come back out, if they're tracking an animal called us, they'd holler (In Native) means okay, and they'd tell us before they go out is to holler, you start hollering, stand up and holler if you see the animal and try to scare it towards their way. And that's how we grew up.

Our parents, my parents didn't speak very much English. Hardly. My great-great grandmother, she didn't speak English at all. She told me (In Native), which is great-grandson, learn the English way, or their language and you can tell me what that person is saying and I did that for a little while, until she passed away.

But growing up, hunting animals, we used to wait for them, sometimes we'd wait a long time, and so, you know, positioning ourselves is one way to
get the animal. And then after that, you know, we used
to use dog team, they're slow but they keep moving and,
now days we have Sno-Gos that move a lot faster and
catch up to the animals quicker and safer too, and more
effective because like we're hunting the animals to put
them on our table to eat and you all know that, too,
because when we hunt we hunt to catch our prey and
that's how we were brought up.

It's been many years -- our -- my
parents, they used to talk to me in Yup'ik, or our
Native language with other older folks that have passed
on already. But hunting is our way of life to survive
and we all know that.

And we get fish all sizes.

In our area we get black fish that are
this big to that big, you know, in a trap. And during
our grade school years we had another older guy teach
us how to make (In Native), we call them black fish
traps and we helped our great-great grandmothers and
uppas and grandmas. Back then we didn't have water and
sewer, no electricity so it was all manual work for us.

And I'm hoping that, you know, you guys
can support us in our request for positioning the
animal or ourselves.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair. Members of
the Board. I just wanted to thank my chief from Beaver
for her recognition of me.

Thank you.

The proposal is very important for me,
that's why I'm up here in support. The way, in our
life, it means us, the way we are, the way we leave.
To me it's management by direction, and directing and
positioning an animal, we could pick out what we want
and what we -- we don't shoot caribou indiscrimently,
we let the young ones go, depending on the season and
depending on the sex, we can take out the one -- you
only take what you need and you share what you take.
I don't mean to holler but, you know, this is -- I'm talking about my life.

One time, you know, I felt so highly, so hard about they were going to take subsistence away, subsistence proposal No. 9, it was 1982 so I went to Ft. Yukon as one of the leaders to speak to the radio, it was Good Morning America from New York, and I went down to the camp where they were at and I told them, you know, if what they go through -- what they're trying to do, you know, you might as well just kill me because subsistence is my life. I don't want to live if there's no subsistence. I just came back from the United States Army and I was kind of foolish, if you know -- in them days, but this is what I said, truly what they say they're going to do, and just had it on Good Morning America in New York and that's the reason I'm up here to show you that I was born 83 years ago in a place called (Indiscernible) way up in Black River near the confluence of the Salmon River and the Black River, those people up there are my (indiscernible) and them days we see -- we catch fish like Moses was saying, you know, we direct with fences where the fish are going to get caught, we do the same way with the duck, you know, when we go out in the community and get a lot of (indiscernible) to a place where it's kind of narrow and kind of round on the end and they drive them in there is how they get them, and they've been doing this since time immemorial, that's the reason that (indiscernible) is located geographically where it is today because of that river called the (indiscernible) it brings a lot of fish and (in Native) duck and a good place to get fish and muskrat and moose, they got moose fences to direct them to position the moose for harvest and, again, they take the one that they want for management. You don't want to get too many, but they're selective in their harvest.

After the Army I went out to the village and I met my wife and I stayed there 20 years and then the same thing, you know, the caribou up there, they're selective about how they harvest each animal, what they want. And it took me awhile to learn that and now I know about it. I even know their names, you know, depending on the season and their age and their sex, they go by different names. And I stayed up there 20 years and I learned quite a bit about the caribou. In order to make a good decision for the people so they could continue to live in the manner
that they're accustomed to, that we would allow this
kind of thing to understand our position and where
we're coming from.

Then I moved back to Beaver after I
lost my wife 11 years ago and moved back and we do the
same thing down there, we position animals so that we
could harvest and we know what kind of moose we want to
get, caribou same way.

Thank you for letting me speak.

(In Native)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you very
much for that.

MR. VENT: Good afternoon, Board,
Chair, Staff. My name is Darrel Vent I'm from Huslia.
And I'm here to speak on behalf of how our people live.

We rely on our food sources more than
any other place that I know of. We have to depend on
it because this is our livelihood. Our people don't
have jobs in order to make a living. Some of them have
to improvise. Sometimes it's hard. And, now, we got
to, you know, follow and obey laws, statutes and make
sure that everybody complies with it. Sometimes we
feel like criminals because we have to, you know, go
beyond just to feed our family. It shouldn't be like
that but, you know, the management sometimes don't see,
or hear, you know, how hard it is in villages and so we
come here and speak to you guys. If we have a problem,
that's what we're going to keep -- you know, we're
going to have to keep coming to these kind of meetings
and it's true because you can see when people start
showing up, now you know it's -- it's something that
we're going to keep continuing just to make sure that
we all work together to feed these people out there.

I mean, you know, I'm fortunate, I have
a job and I'm able to provide. I don't live on food
stamps or anything like that. But when I see people at
home, they have to, you know, rely on this, it's a
necessity, they got to feed their kids, it's important
to them, it's a value. Tradition. When we're out
there looking at the land we're pursuing these animals,
it's something that, you know, you guys look at, is,
okay, are they following certain laws and orders, we
don't have the time to, you know, to go out there and be thinking about that while we're looking for that animal. It's out there to feed a family.

And whether they think we are being criminals or we're not following the laws, it's in our thought that, you know, hey, it's not about that. The bottom line is our people are hungry, they want to eat. No matter what we do we still have to feed them.

So we just want you to understand that what she's saying is, you know, little bits and parts of what's going on. The overall picture, we got a lot to talk about and we're just willing to talk with you guys and hoping you guys understand how we, you know, comply with all these laws.

So I thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MS. LINNELL: I'll be brief. My name is Karen Linnell for the record.

In regards to positioning, that's not new. If you look, you position animals by using a deer call, you do a moose call, you position animals. You look at using dogs when you're pheasant hunting, you're positioning animals. You look at some of the -- when I went down to South Carolina and I saw a deer hunter sitting in the back of their truck with their lawn chairs and their beer cooler and I asked my aunt what they were doing, she told me they were deer hunting, and they had, on the other side of the field, release dogs to chase the deer to them, that's positioning of animals. And it's done all over the place.

We have birders and folks that hunt in that way, that's positioning of animals.

In regards to upholding ANILCA and having it be a priority. The ability to subsist and why this Board is here is to protect the subsistence and make regulations over subsistence uses.

We had to remind our Park Superintendent about his responsibility for our salmon this last year because there was going to be a shortage and that there is a Federal trust responsibility in
That. That if there was going to be restrictions, there were going to be restrictions to other uses before it gets to the subsistence level.

So I just wanted to remind you about that. We talk about this and we have our own issues in regards to access and how we can get to subsistence trapping when the rivers aren't freezing enough, and so that's something that, you know, we're going to be working with the Park in regard to access and being able to uphold ANILCA and our right to subsist versus, you know, well, we can't use that method to get over there right now.

But I really would encourage this Board to remember your trust responsibility and then also ANILCA comes before the regulations that are on the table. ANILCA is law and we need to follow that first and then you can restrict it a little more but it can't be more restrictive than ANILCA.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MR. MAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. RAC representatives and Staff. My name is Christopher Maines, I'm from Dillingham, Alaska, 365 air miles southwest of Anchorage. I am an anthropologist currently working for the Bristol Bay Native Association Natural Resources Department.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today and taking a look at this issue.

I came here to the Federal Subsistence Board last year and I spoke towards WP18-24 and I thought it was going to be a slam dunk, I thought this was going to be thumb's up, we're good to go, especially since a modified proposal had passed at the State level, and that was really hard, but, you know, the State of Alaska saw reason and allowed us to use snowmachines in the way that people have been doing it for generations.

When it failed due to conflict in regulations and ANILCA didn't prevail, I was kind of disheartened.
I kind of obsessed over this over the last year, a little too much. I took it pretty hard.

And I kind of went back to square one in October when the final rule came out and it listed that the proposal was found to violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation. That really jumped out to me because ANILCA in its very essence doesn't require us to be held to wildlife conservation principles, it's scientific principles.

And so I went back to the beginning, and often times I've come to these meetings over the past year and I've heard elders and representatives from villages ask that you recognize their traditional ways and their values, so I took this opportunity to learn the Federal principles and what you guys find to be important to you. So I learned about the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. I learned about the Seven Sister Principles for Wildlife Conservation. And I realized, as I continued my research, and seeing how our Refuge managers and our Park Rangers and our Park managers are trained, that they are taught these principles, 49 states follow these models, and in these management books there's a tiny little section that says, hey guys everything that we've taught you, it doesn't apply to this state.

See, when I was growing up I was taught how to tie my shoes in the loop, sloop, pull method, and this is like telling you guys, who have been tying their shoelaces doing the bunny ears method, hey, you got to stop doing that and it can be very scare and very confusing and you want to fall back on things that are comfortable for you, which are those principles of wildlife conservation in the North American Wildlife Conservation Model.

ANILCA violates those principles and there's a reason for that.

ANILCA was passed before I was born. The McDowell Decision happened when I was playing on the beaches of Utqiagvik going to a Barrow preschool. The Federal Subsistence Board was created when I was playing little league. And you were supposed to be our allies, our defenders to uphold ANILCA in our best interest when the State didn't want to recognize it. My forefathers fought these battles so that I wouldn't
I have to be sitting here today, but I am here, and a lot
of these regulations actually prevented me, as a young
man of 18, I quit subsisting completely for a decade.
And it wasn't until I found out that I was going to be
a dad that I started doing it again.

So, again, the people who testify
before you often ask you to walk a mile in their shoes
and understand their principles and their ways of life.
I took this opportunity to learn the Federal Management
System and learn your way of doing things and I'm sorry
that the reasonable regulation that says that we have
to follow ANILCA is not sportshunting regulation, and
that's what we're being held to, to this very day, is
sportshunting regulation.

This is an opportunity to start
clarifying some things, like Gayla had originally
asked, and I thank you for allowing me to speak with
you today.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Members of the Board. For the record my name is Jim
Simon. I'm an anthropologist by training and work for
a number of interTribal organizations in the State of
Alaska and I'm originally from a multi-generational
non-Native in the Ahtna region. I grew up very near the
calving grounds of the Nelchina Caribou Herd.

21 years ago in my doctoral
dissertation I talked about the transition of
indigenous principles of hunting caribou and how they
were adopted and adapted to herding reindeer after
their introduction to the main land in 1892, and how
those principles continue to be utilized for those
remainder reindeer herds on the Seward Peninsula.

However, I'm not going to get into a
lot of detail on those topics, we've already heard from
two of our elders from various parts of the state about
how those customary and traditional practices have
taken place in a variety of Alaska Native cultures.
You have a very -- the Office of Subsistence Management
has a very talented team of anthropologists who have
been researching a lot of this information and has
presented it to this Board in the past.
However, I've also, through my various work, have seen a number of times when your Federal agencies have ignored the information and the recommendations provided from the Office of Subsistence Management, which is why I joined a number of tribal organizations and members of the public requesting that the Office of Subsistence Management be made independent and out from the arm of the Fish and Wildlife Service, so that they can better help you fulfill your responsibilities outlined in ANILCA where you are -- it is very clear that you are to defer to ANILCA instead of your organic acts for your respective Federal agencies.

I would just like to go back to two of the asks that Gayla originally put on the record with how will the -- and, I forgot to mention that I'm also adjunct faculty with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Tribal Management Program, so I'm putting -- asking Gayla's questions again on behalf of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks because how will the Federal agency members of the Federal Subsistence Board be voting when conflicts arise between ANILCA and your individual agency policy documents and organic acts; who is responsible for making sure that you, each Federal agency, follows the mandates of ANILCA as well as those situations where when there are conflicts it identifies that you are to follow ANILCA will prevail.

For instance, last year it's my recollection that the tied vote for the positioning proposal was based largely on deference to the Fish and Wildlife Service's policy, rather than the law of ANILCA, which is supposed to prevail when conflicts arise. If it is going to be incumbent on the public to make sure that you follow the primacy of ANILCA, then we need to know that, especially those of us in the faculty of the Tribal Management Program, that are helping to increase the public participation and especially the Alaska Native tribal citizens who we're trying to get back into these meetings because you do have a Federal Indian trust responsibility to tribal citizens and Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska.

So that guidance is really critical for us, as well as your process, so that we can make sure that tribal needs are being addressed.

Thank you.
CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Pretty in-depth conversation here and I thank all of you for bringing forth all of these concerns for us to consider. Again, it's a lot, and so I don't think tonight we're going to be able to give you a pointed answer as far as that, you're all aware of what the vote was, how it went, who voted, there was a lot of deliberation and a lot of context concerning a lot of your concerns, but it did go 4/4 and it failed to pass the Board here, that doesn't take away the issue you have with that. And so I think we'll be working on trying to answer those couple of key questions for you in a letter or some type of response from the Board here sooner than later. I don't know that we can act on it today, as I think it's an informational presentation at this moment, and then we'll have to look forward to how that process plays out.

Gayla.

MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know with all due respect, we really can't wait for a letter and we are here, we have representatives from Beaver, Huslia, Manokotak that have spoke here today and especially when you guys go to deliberate on these fisheries proposals, I don't understand why these can't be answered today and that is our ask, is when a conflict arises, how are Federal agencies going to vote.

The second question is, who's responsibility on this Board is it to make sure that ANILCA is being followed.

I don't think that should be a form of a letter because that should be what you guys are doing on this Board. I know it's late, but we have some really, really proposals that probably will generate a conflict with one of you. So we're here and I really appreciate this time but, you know, if we need to take a break or if we need to have some answers, but I really think we need answers on this issue. And to wait for a letter, just is not -- and like I said, I say this with all due respect, but I don't think it should be that hard of a question to answer if ANILCA is to prevail here.

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, thank you. I had, for notice, albeit short, that this was going to
be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board, so one
thing I did ask of the regional solicitor is that he
and his office provide the Federal Subsistence Board on
clear guidance on when we have a conflict and proposed
regulations and existing scenarios. And that differs
and varies for each one of us up here. And part of
that might entail a review of each of the land agency's
organic acts. And with those we're looking at '96,
'76, what 1912 or '13, and 1896, so some may address
subsistence, some may not.

And also along those lines we have the
Bureau of Indian Affairs who is not a land agency, but
we still have a requirement so our guidance comes from
ANILCA, and a lack of anything else. The public
members don't necessarily represent a land agency so to
speak, they represent the rural users. So part of my
request to the regional solicitor and he said he would
talk to his Staff about providing guidance to the
Board, that guidance may be a bit different for the
Fish and Wildlife Service versus the Forest Service
versus the public members, versus the Park Service, and
BLM and BIA. But I understand your concern and we, at
least, the Board, is working towards getting some final
say and direction on it, and hopefully that comes
sooner rather than later.

MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Members of the Board. Also to followup on what Gayla
was mentioning, answers to these questions are very
important to have prior to your Board's deliberations
on Proposal 17-05 and 19-02 with respect to the
Kuskokwim River. The Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
Commission is one of those intertribal organizations
that I also work for, so please keep that in mind.

Thank you.

You know the question is, with respect
to that, is when will Feds assume management in 2019,
and how, in the past, whether or not ANILCA has been
the primary decisionmaker or whether or not there are
other specific agency rules and deference affecting
those decisions.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I wish I had
the answer for you right now, but hopefully we can get
to there before this meeting ends and I think we have something strongly to consider for the evening and I'm glad Gene at least came in with some direction on that and we'll look forward to that answer and hopefully we can convey it before the end of the meeting, at least some direction and how that plays out here in the process and I'd like to know myself, as well.

So, thank you for that, and I really appreciate the presentation. Hopefully we can get somewhere here before the end of this meeting with it and thank everybody for their time today.

Is there any other questions from the Board or comments.

Oh, I got somebody coming up from the back.

MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. My name is Zach Stevenson, I work for the Federal Office of Subsistence Management.

I wanted to just take this opportunity to point out that our newly appointed Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Chair, Michael Chad Kramer is not here today. He contacted me this afternoon to point out that there have been three members of the community of Noatak who passed, fell through the ice, and out of respect for their loss he is not here today.

I am awaiting a response from Mr. Kramer as to whether he would like me to summarize their annual report. I have not yet heard back from him. But he does appreciate the Board's work and thanks them for their participation and support.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Zach. And if you feel it's necessary, in the morning, we can probably do that report if they feel it necessary.

Thank you.

With no more questions or discussion, I'm going to call a recess for the day.
(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Thank you.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )
STATE OF ALASKA )ss.

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 through contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 15th day of April in 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;

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of May 2019.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22