

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME I

Egan Convention Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

April 15, 2019

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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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/15/2019)

(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. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Present.

MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

MR. SCHMID: Present.

MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA.

MR. PELTOLA: Eeeh.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Gene Peltola. I don't

1 know that was a subconscious slip, Gene, sorry about
2 that.

3

4 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

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6 MS. PITKA: Here.

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8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
9 Brower.

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11 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

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13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
14 Christianson.

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16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Present.

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18 MR. DOOLITTLE: We have a quorum.

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

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

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

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35 MR. HERNANDEZ: Don Hernandez, I'm the
36 Chair of the Southeast RAC.

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg Encelewski.
39 I'm the Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory
40 Council. Thank you.

41

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

45

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

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49 MR. GREEN: And (indiscernible) Ladies,

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1 first.

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(Laughter)

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

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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

1 traveled from Crooked Creek to Bethel, to Anchorage to
2 Fairbanks to Galena and back again. He was an all
3 around nice guy and will be sorely missed.

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(Moment)

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

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(Moment)

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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

1 of Subsistence Management would like to extend our
2 deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr.
3 Towarak. We will always honor his valuable
4 contributions to the subsistence program and the caring
5 approach he took in each issue that came before him.

6

7

(Moment)

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

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(Moment of Silence)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: (Singing)

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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.

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Thank you.

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

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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

1 to that from Dave.

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(No objections)

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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>

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Thank you.

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MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, did you
have something.

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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.

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

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MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

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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

1 go ahead and move that to the non-consensus, 8, Subpart
2 D, on the agenda, just so people who are trying to
3 follow, where it's going.
4

5 Any other discussion on the agenda, as
6 presented, additions, deletions.
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8 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chairman.
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10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.
11

12 MR. BROWER: On Item 11, for the
13 upcoming Board meeting, do we need to set a date for
14 that now as we approve the agenda?
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16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we'll
17 work on the dates when we get there.
18

19 MR. BROWER: Say again.
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21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we'll
22 work on the dates when we get to that agenda.
23

24 MR. BROWER: All right, thank you.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
27 discussion.
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29 (No comments)
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31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
32 question.
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34 MR. BROWER: Question.
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36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
37 called, all in favor say aye.
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39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposition,
42 same sign.
43

44 (No opposing votes)
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
47 unanimously to approve the agenda with the additions.
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49 At this time we'll open up the floor
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1 for Federal Subsistence Board information sharing, from
2 any Board members who would like to share or have
3 information they'd like to relay to the public, you
4 have the floor.

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Rhonda.

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

13

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Dave.

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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.

1 MR. DETEMPLE: My name is Killian
2 DeTemple. I'm from Sitka and I'm attending Pacific
3 High. I came here because I have a passionate interest
4 in our natural resources and protecting them and living
5 off of them. And when I found out that there was
6 actually a public process that catered to protecting
7 the rights of subsistence users, I was all about it.
8

9 So, thank you for having me here today
10 and the opportunity to be here.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
13

14 MR. LEPERRIERE: My name's Blake
15 LePerriere, and I'm home schooled and currently a
16 junior in high school. And I decided to come up here
17 and attend these meetings with Heather Bauscher and
18 these other wonderful students here because, you know,
19 in Sitka, where I'm from and all over the world I see,
20 you know, a lot of problems with different things, you
21 know, such as climate change, logging, things like
22 that. And I feel like it's my responsibility as the
23 future generation's -- future people who are going to
24 be governing these resources, I feel like it's my
25 responsibility to do all my can to prepare myself, and
26 basically put all the effort that I can into learning
27 how to manage these resources because it's going to be
28 my responsibility some day.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
31

32 MR. CRANSTON: My name is Carl
33 Cranston. I am a student from Pacific High School. I
34 came here because I thought it would be important to be
35 a part of and I've never done anything like it before.
36 So I thought it'd be a good thing to do.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39

40 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello. My name is
41 Jaylynn Martinez. And I am attending Mt. Edgecumbe
42 High School and I am from Tuluksak, Alaska. So a
43 previous class that I took, I attended a Southeast RAC
44 meeting and I've noticed some problems of the
45 similarities that we've been having back home and I
46 thought this would be a great opportunity to -- just to
47 go over some of the things that I've never actually
48 knew about, so I think this would be a great
49 opportunity for me to learn about.
50

1 Thank you.

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

9

10 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you so much.

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

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15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

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17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

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19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 So I think in the spirit of collaboration which the
21 Board often asks our managers, in-season managers and
22 folks to -- I'd like to make a couple of points.

23

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

33

34 So I'll mention that one.

35

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

45

46 Another note that may not feel like
47 subsistence but it's the Alaska Conservation Law
48 Enforcement Working Group in the Northwest. They've
49 actually been meeting to address the Northwest Arctic

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1 Regional Advisory Council's longstanding concerns about
2 the impact of non-local hunters on the migration of the
3 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. National Park Service,
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, the Alaska
5 Wildlife Troopers, NANA trespass program, they all
6 participate in this working group. And I think at the
7 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Committee meeting
8 recently, the Council members were very complimentary
9 about this working group's efforts and felt their
10 concerns were actually being addressed.

11

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

15

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

31

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

35

36 MS. PITKA: Is has been forever.

37

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

42

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

45

46 Bert.

47

48 MR. FROST: So the National Park
49 Service Subsistence Team Lead has been vacant for

50

1 almost a year now and Clarence Summers behind me here
2 has filled in admirably but we're on the verge of --
3 we've gone through the hiring process, I mean we're
4 going through the hiring process, we flew an
5 announcement right after the shutdown in late January
6 and we're working -- we're doing interviews. We
7 started interviews last week and we're going to finish
8 them up at the end of this week and we hope to have a
9 person hired by the middle of May, the first part of
10 June. So Clarence can go back to his day job.

11

12 Thanks, Clarence.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

15

16 Anybody else.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good.
21 Oh, hey, and we have a new Board member so I'd like him
22 to introduce himself.

23

24 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Just for the good of the order my name is Chad Padgett,
26 I'm the new BLM State Director. So I just thought I'd
27 take a second and say hello and I'm the new guy.

28

29 Thank you.

30

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

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome aboard.

37

38 That's it there.

39

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

44

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

48

49 Thank you.

50

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

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you,
7 Chairman Christianson.

8
9 Timothy Gervais from Ruby. I'd like to
10 as previously acknowledged in the meeting, the Council
11 wanted to recognize Dennis Thomas from Crooked Creek,
12 who passed away this year. Dennis played an important
13 role for this Council by representing the GASH and for
14 us it's lower Kuskokwim area but I guess in the overall
15 scheme of the river it's middle Kuskokwim area. He was
16 a good guy and we'll miss his presence.

17
18 We are actively requesting that the
19 recruiting for our Council pick up another member from
20 that area and hopefully a female member so we can get
21 some better gender parody on our Council.

22
23 Before I get into our Council report,
24 I'd like to recognize Darrel Vent, from Huslia, he's a
25 past WIRAC member and we hope we can get him back on
26 the WIRAC and Tommy Kriska from Koyukuk, he's a current
27 Board member, and I appreciate those two gentlemen
28 being here to take part in our meeting.

29
30 The items of concern and interest
31 expressed by Council members at our winter 2019 Council
32 meeting in Fairbanks was, most notably the record snow
33 fall of the past winter, and possible impacts on
34 wildlife populations. We feel with the Bering Sea ice-
35 pak and the ice edge being very far north and a lot of
36 southwesterly wind, that was the cause of a lot of snow
37 being dumped in our area. The snow depths were
38 extremely high and then the second half of the winter,
39 when we got the warm weather and some rain events, made
40 tough conditions for the moose and we're concerned
41 about a high moose mortality due to the wolves and also
42 just some of the moose suffering hypothermia. However,
43 prior to this winter we had really healthy moose
44 populations so I think we'll have to see how it turns
45 out but there's definitely going to be an impact but it
46 was -- the moose population was in excellent condition
47 prior to the winter.

48
49 Council members expressed good fishing
50

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

6
7 The Western Interior Council has been
8 very frustrated with delays in receiving Federal
9 subsistence regulations.

10
11 The second item of delay is the
12 replacement of OSM Staff, particularly the Assistant
13 Regional Director.

14
15 The third item of frustration is the
16 slow pace of replacement of wildlife Refuge Staff.

17
18 And the final and fourth item of
19 frustration is delay in getting Council member
20 appointments.

21
22 The Council intends to respond to the
23 BLM regarding recent public comment period deadlines
24 for the Central Yukon and Bering Sea Western Interior
25 Resource Monitoring Plans along with the proposed
26 Ambler Road. The Council wants to see an extension for
27 public comment because documents have recently, or not
28 yet been released and there has been no time for the
29 Western Interior Council to review these critical
30 planning efforts and their impacts on subsistence.

31
32 The Council believes that Executive
33 Order 3355 to streamline the NEPA process and reduce
34 the time for input violates Title VIII, Section
35 .805(A)(3) capital A, capital B, capital C, which is
36 the authority of the Regional Councils to review
37 management plans that will affect subsistence and
38 Section .810(1)(2) and (3) requiring public input. It
39 is not possible for the Councils to comment on
40 important management plans if they are not out for
41 review within the meeting cycle of the Federal
42 Subsistence Program. The Council believes Emergency
43 Order 3355 should either be rescinded altogether or a
44 waiver provided for Alaska planning efforts due to the
45 geographic size and potential impacts on subsistence.

46
47 The Council has submitted two wildlife
48 proposals for this regulatory cycle and will be
49 submitting a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to

1 mirror one of those proposals in order to reduce
2 regulatory confusion.

3
4 The Council approved recommended
5 changes to its current charter to add one additional
6 Council member and two alternates. As previously
7 mentioned we're trying to recruit a member from lower
8 Kuskokwim or the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy
9 Cross area.

10
11 The Western Interior Council did not
12 wish to take a position on Fisheries Special Action 19-
13 02 due to its complexity.

14
15 Thank you for the time, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
18 questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Staff.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing
27 none, I'm going to go to the on line, we have Sue
28 Entsminger on line and so we're going to recognize here
29 at this point.

30
31 Sue, are you on line?

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Western
36 Interior.

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, Eastern Interior.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, Eastern --
41 that one said W, oh, after the Western, okay, I got it.
42 Eastern Interior, sorry, Susan.

43
44 Susan are you there.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 REPORTER: Hang on a second, checking
49 to see that we're connected.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 REPORTER: No, she's not on line.

4

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

7

8 Thanks.

9

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

12

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

26

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

32

33 Another thing that's important to the
34 Southeast Council is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
35 Projects that have been ongoing in Southeast. There's
36 a new round of proposals out this year that you'll be
37 looking at. We have our recommendations in. Southeast
38 Council is very supportive of the cooperative
39 agreements we have with tribes doing these projects.
40 It's worked out extremely well. We're getting some
41 really good participation from local users and actually
42 working on the projects. That's a very good capacity
43 building for the local people to learn the whole
44 process of doing these projects works and they're doing
45 the work, which is great. And we also see a need for
46 maybe some more monitoring type projects in wildlife
47 areas and we actually do have some support going on
48 right now from Mr. Christianson's tribe has been aiding
49 in wolf population monitoring projects on Prince of

50

1 Wales Island, Unit 2. We see maybe some possibilities
2 of other wildlife projects in the future that could be
3 funded. So we look forward to seeing those.

4
5 Along those same lines, we have had a
6 running failure, I guess you'd have to say, a number of
7 years ago on the Unuk River for eulachons, a very
8 important subsistence resource for Southeast residents,
9 and since that time there's been a lot of efforts made
10 to try and monitor that system more closely to see if
11 the eulachon have had a chance of recovering. We're
12 pretty pleased that we have had Forest Service
13 fisheries biologists working with the members of the
14 Ketchikan Indian Community to do some monitoring up
15 there for the last two years. It's been a really good
16 cooperative effort getting people with a lot of local
17 knowledge on the river with Forest Service biologists
18 to monitor that in hopes that maybe we could have a
19 fishery again if we can keep a close watch on it and
20 see if that stock does start rebuilding.

21
22 Also another resource area, this winter
23 the Alaska Board of Game instituted a new wolf
24 management plan for wolves in Unit 2 which has been a
25 really contentious issue because of the endangered
26 species listing that was proposed for that population.
27 Fish and Game decided that they were going to change
28 the whole management plan. Our Federal managers have
29 been trying to work together with Fish and Game to come
30 up with a plan that both agencies could cooperate on
31 and we could have uniform regulations for both
32 subsistence and non-subsistence hunters and trappers.
33 And at our fall meeting we reviewed that management
34 plan by the State as a Council, we endorsed it, we
35 think it's the direction that the Federal Program needs
36 to move in as well. And the Council has drafted a
37 letter to the Board, which you'll probably see soon.
38 We have a few recommendations on how to implement that
39 kind of joint management strategy that we hope you'll
40 be able to undertake.

41
42 Another issue that has gotten a lot of
43 attention at our recent meetings was a proposal by the
44 Secretary of Agriculture, it came to the Secretary of
45 Agriculture, a petition from the State to change a
46 Federal rule on roadless areas on the Tongass National
47 Forest. We had a lot of testimony on that at our
48 previous two meetings. The Council sees it as a real
49 important issue for subsistence uses. We have drafted
50

1 a couple of letters to the Board, which I don't know if
2 you've seen those letters yet but they -- you will be
3 receiving them soon. And one of the concerns that the
4 Council has is that this initiative is kind of coming
5 from the top and is working its way down. The Council
6 always likes to see proposals of this type generated by
7 the users and moving up through the process rather than
8 having them brought from the Washington office and us
9 having to try and deal with them. We have a lot of
10 issues with how the whole process has been working with
11 the public input that's allowed and how Title VIII of
12 ANILCA, Section .810 provisions are going to be
13 included in this process determining any changes to the
14 rule so like I say, we have drafted several letters
15 which the Board will see so I hope you take those under
16 consideration.

17
18 One other issue that was pretty
19 important at our fall meeting, which we met in Sitka,
20 and Sitka subsistence users have had a lot of concern
21 over recent years with the herring roe harvest,
22 subsistence roe harvest and a lot of conflicts between
23 the subsistence harvest and the commercial sac roe
24 herring fishery that takes place in Sitka Sound. It
25 came to the point where Sitka Tribe has filed a lawsuit
26 against the State management plan for that fishery. We
27 heard testimony at our fall meeting from Sitka
28 residents that they had considered filing a petition
29 for extraterritorial jurisdiction to the Secretary, so
30 it's a very contentious issue. And that commercial
31 fishery normally happens in the last week in March,
32 first week in April, that fishery did not happen this
33 year. The herring in Sitka Sound never came to good
34 enough quality to hold a commercial fishery on so that
35 fishery is essentially over, it never happened, they
36 didn't fish on them. The subsistence fishery is going
37 on kind of as we're meeting here so it's a little too
38 soon to tell how the subsistence fishery is going this
39 year. Some speculation that without any commercial
40 fishing, maybe the subsistence harvest will be better,
41 but given the fact that the reason they called off the
42 fishery was due to the poor quality of the roe content
43 in the fish, it kind of remains to be seen how the
44 subsistence harvest will go. So you may be hearing
45 more about this issue in the future as well.

46
47 That concludes my report, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.

50

1 Any questions for Don.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Anthony. Mr.
8 Christianson. Through the Chair. Would you like the
9 short report or would you like a longer report.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MS. PITKA: I'd like a thorough report.
14
15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: How about a thorough
16 one, that sounds good. I will try to do my best.
17 There's a lot of stuff going on in the Southcentral
18 RAC. First I want to give you a little bit of positive
19 feedback and I want to kind of tap on to what to Greg
20 Siekaniec said.
21
22 On the Kenai we've had a really good
23 working relationship with our memorandum of agreement
24 on the Kenai and the fishing has been quite successful
25 in the past few years and our Council has supported
26 that unwavering. And I will testify as they come up in
27 the agenda as to the comments on them.
28
29 Jeff Anderson has worked with us very
30 well, actually as an in-season manager, it's been quite
31 a turnaround. I'm not sure what he did but -- I
32 shouldn't say that, Jeff, I take that back, but,
33 anyway, it's been a good working relationship. We've
34 been working with Andy Loranger and we appreciate that.
35 So I wanted to mention that.
36
37 On the Southcentral RAC there's been a
38 couple of changes with a couple of long-term members
39 are not with us, Judy Caminer and Rick Geese and we got
40 a couple new members and they seem to be very engaged
41 and very knowledgeable, John Whissel and Bloomquist,
42 and so we're working with them.
43
44 What I'm going to do, Anthony, I'm just
45 going to tell you a little bit on this letter, and I'm
46 not going to go into depth, Rhonda, it's going to be
47 thorough, though. But basically under the annual
48 report we had some areas of concerns.
49
50

1 One of them was on the delegation of
2 authority and you hear that all the time, the
3 delegation of authority, the abuse of authority, the
4 lack of authority, well, this actually was in the, they
5 were more specific, the Board sets the scope of the
6 delegation of authority but one of the things they
7 highlighted and I could go into more detail with you,
8 but you've read it, you know it, so the Council
9 recommends that the in-season manager with delegation
10 of authority be allowed to designate an acting in-
11 season manager if they are not able to carry out the
12 special actions to meet the requirements of Title VIII
13 of ANILCA. And why that came about was some of the in-
14 season managers moving around or not being there in a
15 timely manner for a special action.

16
17 The other one was the Copper River
18 weir, they wanted to keep that in place. The drainage
19 there, it was one of the areas that they brought up a
20 concern, and you've heard a lot about it.

21
22 You also heard quite a bit about the
23 Chitina dipnet fishery and they wanted some letters to
24 the Board of Fish which don't exactly involve you but
25 some of them -- there was concern that some of it
26 wasn't tradition dipping out of the boat, that they
27 used it from platforms. Quite a concern of who's using
28 that fishery, how it's getting abused, et cetera,
29 that's one of our concerns.

30
31 The non-rural determination, we
32 supported that they take another look at that,
33 especially in the Moose Pass area, we're working on
34 that.

35
36 They want more comprehensive salmon
37 research and in-season management. They're concerned
38 about some of the biological data that we're getting.

39
40 A big emphasis on climate change, the
41 effects of climate change, environmental subsistence
42 users, these concerns include invasive species, they
43 include various ecosystems, disruption to patterns,
44 resource harvest use and change in water, and on and on
45 and we all know that so that's there.

46
47 The other one they want to encourage is
48 all Councils meeting. They want to really encourage
49 that again of bringing us all back together and we
50

1 really thought that was positive. We had a lot of good
2 ideas and we weren't able to follow up on that, finish
3 it up, excuse me, follow up.
4

5 And, lastly, we had an interesting
6 thing, salmon predation. The Council heard public
7 testimony regarding marine mammals preying on salmon
8 migrating up the Copper River. We have reports of
9 this, too, down on the Kenai. Marine mammals such as
10 harbor seals, sea lions, whales are staging at the
11 mouth of the Copper River and they're feeding on
12 migrating salmon as the run reaches, the Miles Lakes,
13 and the other places, seals have been observed in the
14 area preying on salmon. The amount of salmon preyed
15 upon by the marine mammals is unknown. And that was by
16 local knowledge and that was a pretty interesting
17 report.
18

19 Other than that, I think I covered most
20 of it.
21

22 The Fisheries Resource Management
23 Program, they would like to fund it, of course, to the
24 max if you could and so on and so forth.
25

26 The last, and I'll just part with the
27 last thing, there is concern with the shortage of game
28 and fish and especially the Kenai kings and a few other
29 things. I think our Council's clicking along pretty
30 good and you'll see a couple little letters from us but
31 that's my report.
32

33 Thank you very much.
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Greg. Any questions.
37

38 Ken.
39

40 MR. LORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Greg,
41 I'd like to respond to one thing you raised about
42 somebody acting in Jeff's position. The letter of
43 delegation is to the position, not to the person, so if
44 Jeff is, you know, off in Algeria or somewhere,
45 whoever's acting for him also holds that ability. So
46 if there's some confusion on our side of things and
47 people aren't understanding that I'm happy to help
48 clear that up.
49

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I appreciate
2 that Ken. If you're out to lunch, Jeff, I'm going to
3 call someone.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene.

8

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

16

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

21

22 Thank you very much.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Greg.

26

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

29

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

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we can.

34

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

38

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

42

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

46

47 And on the Fortymile Caribou Herd
48 Management Plan issues, this has been a very good
49 success. I must say that it started back in 1990 when

50

1 my husband was the Chairman on the Fortymile Advisory
2 Committee and this coalition continued, an Eastern
3 Interior RAC member has been on it all along. We've
4 been working along and the herd has grown a great deal,
5 even (indiscernible - telephone modulation) Ft. Yukon
6 area where they are now have an opportunity to take it
7 so they're asking to do -- on the coalition, through
8 the State Advisory -- (telephone cutting out).
9

10 And the Council also remains very
11 concerned about the king salmon returns and escapement.
12 They support quality of escapement with larger fecund
13 older females. The Council also requests that fall chum
14 salmon run be managed in a way to -- for the upper
15 Yukon communities to get sufficient amount of fish to
16 fulfill their subsistence needs while still providing
17 for the lower Yukon River communities and meeting
18 international treaty obligations.
19

20 The Council doubts the accuracy of
21 subsistence harvest data for chinook salmon on the
22 Yukon River. There's a significant disparity in
23 numbers between the total recorded run coming into the
24 Yukon (telephone cutting out) commercial catch and the
25 subsistence harvest. In reviewing the data the Council
26 observed that approximately 20,000 to 25,000 chinook
27 salmon were unaccounted for in the 2018, which in the
28 Council's opinion more than likely indicates that these
29 salmon were not reported in the harvest. The Council
30 would like the Board to work with the State to find
31 ways to improve the accurate reporting of the customary
32 trade of salmon on the Yukon. The Council would like
33 to stress that accurate information and understanding
34 of the harvest is essential for managers to be able to
35 correctly manage the Yukon River chinook salmon
36 especially in times of low abundance during rebuilding
37 efforts.
38

39 The Council continues to stress the
40 importance of (indiscernible - telephone cutting out)
41 youth in hunting and fishing and the Council's
42 activities. We have two younger members on our Council
43 right now in their early 20s, which has really been a
44 welcome and they're eager and willing to learn and
45 willing to work with in all these committees and things
46 like that, and it's really kind of neat to have them on
47 there.
48

49 We've been working with this hunter
50

1 education program and we highly support it.

2

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

22

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

28

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

45

46 And that's all I have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
49 questions for Susan from the Board.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

4

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

30

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

37

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

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: I'm not asking, Sue. I'm
42 just saying that the Western Interior spent a lot of
43 time as we have these different regulations come into
44 play and proposals come up, we have different catch and
45 release activities and different harvest methods where
46 they're trying to release kings to allow fishing on the
47 chums, commercially, and allow the kings to go up
48 river, and I'm just stating that the Western Interior
49 believes there's a significant amount of mortality and

50

1 injury, stress and trauma to the fish, to the king
2 salmon from this catch and release and we're not -- we
3 don't feel we're getting information from managers on
4 what the.....
5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.
7

8 MR. GERVAIS:significance of
9 these catch and release techniques are.
10

11 MS. ENTSMINGER: That would be good
12 information for them to gather.
13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
15 more questions for Sue or statements.
16

17 (No comments)
18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
20 thank you.
21

22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Della.
25

26 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 I'll go through our annual report. The Kodiak/Aleutian
28 meeting is coming up next week.
29

30 One of the issues that keeps coming up
31 with our Council is the continued need for increased
32 educational opportunities for Council members. And
33 this comes to the 2016 when we had the statewide
34 meeting with all the RACs and I think, you know, if
35 that can be done once every 10 years, it was very
36 beneficial to have statewide, all the regions together
37 and be able to interact with each other and educate
38 each other on what the issues are in our regions. So
39 they'd like you to keep that in mind.
40

41 Also kind of a one page, I want to call
42 it a cheat sheet, as to what your responsibilities are
43 as a Council member.
44

45 Request for Fisheries Monitoring
46 Resource -- Resource Monitoring Program project
47 selection. This has been an issue, I think, with our
48 Council and it had a lot to do with McClees Lake and
49 Unalaska. And how the Council makes recommendation and
50

1 what the process, what happens after and how -- they
2 feel there needs to be a little more, I think,
3 communication between the Council or something when
4 that process is being -- that selection process is
5 being done.
6

7 Request for caribou surveys on Adak, I
8 hear this -- we've heard it every year. I mean Adak is
9 you're basically -- no surveys have been done, there's
10 a big concern, I think for the amount of sportshunting
11 that's going on down there and no actual numbers at all
12 in place and what's going on.
13

14 Agencies. I think at the time of
15 reports getting into -- we know everybody is busy and
16 you get in town to these meetings, and trying to get
17 reports in, but it's very helpful for Council members
18 to have that information in enough time to be making
19 good -- you know, having good decisions and making good
20 decisions at our meetings. We only meet twice a year.
21

22 One of the issues that came up with
23 Kodiak, you know, remember that Kodiak and Aleutians
24 are basically two regions. And last summer in both our
25 regions we know the lack of subsistence fish in both
26 regions, it just wasn't there, the Buskin, Cold Bay, it
27 was not there. However, decisions in Kodiak were made
28 to close, I believe, the Buskin, and a couple other
29 places but no Council members -- there was no
30 discussion with Council members when that decision was
31 made. And it's tough when you're basically working two
32 regions, so there's five Council members from Kodiak,
33 you know, some effort, I think, to reach out to those
34 guys when these decisions are being made so that they
35 can get that information out to tribal councils too,
36 and people that are affected by these decisions.
37

38 Sea otters, Kodiak, big issue. This
39 has been ongoing, and ongoing and ongoing and this next
40 meeting, I believe, we are hopeful to try to get the
41 tribal councils to try to create some sort of task
42 force because this is overlapping agencies and marine
43 mammals is a big issue with this. We've talked quite a
44 bit and have had some help from like -- gosh, I can't
45 think of his name, from Southeast, and he's been very
46 helpful and I will talk with Don a little bit. But
47 we're trying to get -- I think getting some sort of
48 task force for them to try to get something off the
49 ground and moving because sea otters in Kodiak is a big
50

1 issue.

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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

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

11

12 (Laughter)

13

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

16

17 Okay.

18

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

33

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

38

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

48

49 You know we've had wishes to go to

50

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

19
20 So that's another area that, you know,
21 the other RACs could do, is meet in your schools so
22 that -- you know, if they have a gym, meet in their gym
23 so that the students can come and, you know,
24 participate. We've had really interesting -- the
25 students participating at our meetings. So that's been
26 really encouraging.

27
28 One of the issues -- I'll get into the
29 issues, has been low level aircraft flights. I've
30 heard one of the testimonies here today about that. We
31 had -- this is in the eastern part of our Bristol Bay
32 region. We had that issue in our western side of the
33 region, fortunately or unfortunately most of our lands
34 are State, we have patches of Federal down towards the
35 eastern part of our region, and so when we had that
36 issue about low flying planes in our region, I think we
37 got that resolved through our Nushagak Advisory
38 Council. And so we don't have that.

39
40 Because of our commercial fishery
41 during the summer, sportsfishery comes in so we have
42 lots of noise in the water, in the bay, and then the
43 planes start flying so there's always a lot of conflict
44 with the subsistence folks even during the salmon
45 season but mostly during the moose season is where this
46 low level aircraft flights have been a concern, over in
47 that Lake Clark subsistence area.

48
49 Then there was another topic regarding
50

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

17
18 Our other discussions have been all
19 Council meetings. I think the all Council meeting that
20 we had here was very productive. All the regions were
21 able to get together and discuss. We have cultural
22 differences even though we may all be Native, we all
23 have cultural differences and our regulations, because
24 of our cultural differences reflect some of our
25 regulations in different ways. So having all Council
26 meetings really helps, I think, each Regional Council
27 to recognize the differences of their resources in each
28 region and can understand each other's, I guess,
29 issues.

30
31 And then we also discussed an all Chair
32 Council meeting. That's been very productive, the few
33 times that we've met. It gives us -- it gives all
34 Chairs an opportunity to go over, discuss, the prior
35 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, and when that
36 happened, it really helped me to understand the process
37 of the Federal Subsistence Board meetings. And so I
38 think our Council is encouraging Federal Subsistence
39 Board to possibly come up with an all Council and all
40 Chair meetings in the future, if possible.

41
42 And then there was also a seagull
43 population issue. You know, seagulls in our area are
44 our first eggs of the season. We harvest those eggs as
45 soon they start laying because that's what we grew up
46 on, those are our eggs that we go and gather and eat
47 and they're healthy. So the concern of the Council
48 was that they noticed the low population of seagulls
49 and they were wondering if other regions have noted the
50

1 low seagull population because of the subsistence need
2 of their eggs, we're also concerned about the low
3 population of seagulls.
4

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

27 And I think that's all I have.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Molly. Any questions for Molly.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 your report -- oh, Molly, one second.
36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Molly, we made sure to
38 put a map up there for you.
39

40 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I see that.
41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: We actually weren't
43 allowed to put up maps on the wall, so, of all things,
44 so at least we found a map.
45

46 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: You're welcome.
49
50

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: It's also good for the
2 students.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Molly.

8
9 Louis.

10
11 MR. GREEN: Hey, Molly, we're the
12 orange guys.

13
14 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You're the
15 orange guys.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. GREEN: Thank you. You got to have
20 a little humor every now and then.

21
22 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. GREEN: I'd like to just speak a
27 little bit about Tim Towarak. He was a very well noted
28 leader in our region. I served on the Bering Straits
29 Board for nine years with him. He was very
30 knowledgeable. I've known the man probably 40-plus
31 years, it kind of surrounded basketball and then
32 eventually got into the herring fishery there in Norton
33 Sound out of Unalakleet. I've known his family all,
34 most of my life. Tim seen the Bering Straits region
35 through some really tough financial times and provided
36 some really rock solid leadership during that
37 timeframe. And he also was a very strong leader in his
38 community. If it weren't for some of Tim's smartness
39 about being where he was at at the table, I think we
40 would have suffered a lot more there in our regional
41 corporation when it was having financial problems.

42
43 So I'd just like to say thanks to that
44 man and for his family, too, have given us his time.

45
46 And noting that he served here, I think
47 it was 2010 is when he got on here, and that's the same
48 time I've been on here, so he'll be missed. I often
49 counseled under him when I needed some information and
50

1 things.

2

3

4

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

5

6

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

17

18

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24

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.

25

26

27

28

29

30

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.

31

32

33

34

35

36

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.

37

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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.

45

46

47

48

49

50

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

1 keep falling. The problem with the Nome area is that,
2 as far as the RAC is concerned, the RAC doesn't have a
3 lot of -- I guess you would say the Federal lands are
4 limited around the Nome area. Where we do have
5 outreach is in the Unalakleet area, we have some over
6 there in the Shishmaref area where the Bering
7 LandBridge Preserve is located. And we do have a
8 little bit of in Interior of Nome there, out of Teller
9 and that area, and we try to participate in these
10 proposals for -- the taking of like say, cows, we don't
11 want that to happen anymore, that's our breeding stock
12 we figure.

13

14 A prime example of too much hunting
15 pressure on the cows in the Nome area, where they had
16 20 cows a year right in 22C which is around Nome, they
17 allowed 20 cows a year and that was for 20 years and we
18 don't see our animals there.

19

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

33

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

37

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

43

44 The Council will continue to work on
45 moose issues in Unit 22D and E. It's an area there
46 that has Federal lands in there and State lands
47 adjoining and there's a transfer of the population of
48 moose back and forth between those two subunits and
49 that has been a concern of the Seward Peninsula RAC,

50

1 knowing that there's targeted moose there by non-rural
2 residents. So that's one of the proposals we'll be
3 looking into.

4
5 And, like I said, about the predation
6 of the moose by the bears and wolves, we hope that the
7 State and Federal managers work together to conduct
8 population surveys of the predators.

9
10 These, and other issues will be
11 addressed by the Council through regulatory proposals,
12 letters to the Federal Subsistence Board or Federal or
13 State public land management agencies or the Council's
14 annual report to the Board.

15
16 The Council's winter cycle meeting was
17 cancelled this year due to storms, so it's been
18 rescheduled to April 22nd and 23rd, so that'll be next
19 week.

20
21 I think that pretty much covers it, Mr.
22 Chairman and appreciate the time.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Louis, appreciate that.

28
29 Any questions for Louis.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Members of
36 the Board. If I may, briefly, on behalf of the North
37 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

38
39 Mr. Chair and Members of the Board, for
40 the record, Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for the
41 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

42
43 Our Chair, Gordon Brower, and Vice
44 Chair, Steve Oomittuk, were not able to be here at this
45 meeting. It is beginning of the spring whaling season
46 and a very busy time of year. There are not currently
47 any fisheries regulatory proposals for the North Slope
48 region. However, our Council Member Gordon Brower,
49 Chair, had requested to bring to the attention of the

50

1 Federal Subsistence Board the Council's concern and
2 great interest to be able to meet in other rural
3 communities in the region, outside of Barrow, which is
4 the regional hub, as other Council members and Chairs
5 have discussed. It's a very vital part of the
6 Council's work to engage with subsistence communities
7 in the region and, one, that the North Slope
8 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has not had an
9 opportunity except for a few times in the 20 years of
10 its existence. So the Chair did want to bring to the
11 Board's attention and to the Federal Subsistence Board
12 a request and understanding of how important that
13 opportunity is to engage with the communities directly
14 and be able to represent those communities that do not
15 currently have a representative sitting on the Council.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.

20
21 Alissa.

22
23 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All
24 right, really quick, can you guys stand up and stretch,
25 you have a lot of people look like they're falling
26 asleep for a moment. If you guys could just get up and
27 give a good stretch.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. ROGERS: I know I needed it.

32
33 All right.

34
35 Okay, so let's get to it.

36
37 Molly, we're the really light blue
38 picture all the way to the west.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MS. ROGERS: The land acknowledgement,
43 I want to just give a shout out to the indigenous
44 people and thank them for allowing us to meet on their
45 traditional hunting lands that we currently are on.

46
47 (In Yup'ik)

48
49 John and Alice Hanson, granddaughter

50

1 from Alakanuk, and Fred and Bridget Joseph from Hooper
2 Bay.

3
4 I want to just touch base on a few
5 topics here. I was trying to get everything on to a
6 paper so I know exactly what I'm talking about and not
7 have to go on a tangent.

8
9 Weather is concerning for our safety
10 under subsistence and the process and land, especially
11 our environment.

12
13 Pike is booming and we can't catch
14 enough of them.

15
16 There has been a decline in whitefish.

17
18 People want to harvest sheefish. We
19 cannot hear it enough, we hear it all the time. And
20 they want to harvest sheefish but when the river is
21 closed too soon, because we all know that the sheefish
22 come before the chinook, but if the river is closed too
23 soon they can't go fishing for sheefish.

24
25 One of the biggest things that is
26 concerning to me is that our chinook salmon is a
27 species of concern, I mean how many years of my life
28 have we been restricted to our subsistence fisheries
29 for chinook salmon in our region, well, I guess that's
30 pretty much now going all over, right, so it makes
31 sense that chinook salmon should be a species of
32 concern, not only to the Federal Subsistence Board but
33 also to the Board of Fish. And why hasn't it been done
34 already.

35
36 Lead shot. Yayy, good job U.S. Fish
37 and Wildlife Service. Your help in receiving about
38 20,000 pounds, which is 70 caseloads were removed from
39 Newtok, and swapped out, so good job to you guys, you
40 guys are doing awesome.

41
42 We have a report of like our caribou
43 has flatlined. There was no increase or decrease in
44 our caribou, only time will tell if it was good or bad.

45
46 The people of Kwethluk have brought up
47 concerns about using traditional lands in their
48 headwaters. There is quite a bit of people that came
49 to testify saying that they weren't allowed to use
50

1 their traditional lands because of boundary line
2 issues. And, personally, on a note, they have oral
3 traditions, they have hunting traditional practices,
4 and it was also brought to my attention that some of
5 the species up there are even closely related to the
6 species on the Kuskokwim. So if that boundary line, if
7 you think about it, even if it is historic, or if there
8 was like some shift in the permafrost, the waters that
9 drain, actually drain into the Kuskokwim.

10

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

24

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

34

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

40

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

50

1 the safety and the well-being of the health of the
2 people.

3

4 Okay. Touchy subject.

5

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

13

14 The RAC had brought these concerns
15 forward and is currently in the process of developing a
16 letter highlighting the concerns and effects using it
17 directly from the .810 analysis. And it's very
18 concerning. And if you haven't read it yet you need to
19 read it, especially you, being a subsistence --
20 protecting subsistence rights, taking care of our
21 subsistence ways and allowing us to have these, and an
22 ability to conserve for the future. It's alarming.
23 And I'm surprised, we don't have as many people from
24 our hometowns, from our home region here advocating on
25 their behalf. It startles me. It scares me. Because
26 I'm going to have to live with it and my grandchildren
27 are going to have to live with it and there's no way of
28 stopping it right now. Because Alaska Department of
29 Fish and Game does not see how important it is to us.
30 Subsistence is our way of life. We are the last
31 remaining subsistence region in this state, the last.
32 It's important for us to work together regardless of
33 how difficult it is.

34

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

37

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

41

42 Okay.

43

44 Subsistence mammals on the coastal
45 communities are appearing sick, including fish, ocean
46 birds, sea birds, whales, et cetera. There has been
47 visual inspections of major trauma done to these marine
48 mammal resources that are essential for life and the
49 livelihood of the YK Delta. People trade food that

50

1 they can't have because they're sick.

2

3

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

13

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

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

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

39 That's it.

41 (Laughter)

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It got too
44 warm.

46 (Laughter)

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He's all hairy.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He just made a
4 movie Missing Link.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

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

10

11 Thank you. Any questions for Alissa.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate it,
16 especially noting in that Donlin piece, they're recogni
17 -- it deserves some attention.

18

19 Was there any other region Chair on the
20 phone.

21

22 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. Okay,
25 thanks, Tina.

26

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

32

33 MS. PITKA: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

36

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

43

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

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
49 that Rhonda.

50

1 Louis.

2

3 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 just wanted to make a comment to Alissa.

5

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

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Louis.

20

21 Gayla.

22

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

27

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

36

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

45

46 As a Federally-qualified user living in
47 rural Alaska, when I go to write proposals or help
48 people within my region write proposals to the Federal
49 Subsistence Board, we need to know if we need to

50

1 research all of the Federal agency regulations that are
2 here today that serve on the Federal Subsistence Board.
3 I just need clarification on how decisions are being
4 made, because from my understanding if there's a
5 conflict among Federal agencies, ANILCA is to prevail.
6 Specifically, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7 under 610FW5 for special provisions for Alaska
8 Wilderness states, this is their language:
9

10 We administer wilderness areas in
11 Alaska in accordance with the policy in 610FW one
12 through 5. The policy addresses the special provisions
13 for Alaska wilderness and ANILCA and there should be no
14 conflicts. If there is a conflict, we follow the more
15 specific provisions of ANILCA and implementing
16 regulations at 43 CFR Part 36, and 50 CFR Part 36, it
17 also further states in Section .811(b) of ANILCA
18 authorizes the use of snowmobiles, motorboats, dog
19 teams and other means of surface transportation
20 traditionally employed by local rural residents engaged
21 in subsistence activities. That's found in 50 CFR
22 36.12(a).
23

24 When these types of conflicts arise,
25 who's responsibility is it to bring to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board attention when voting, or, if a
27 Federal agency voted no when there was a conflict.
28

29 I'm not the expert on the Federal
30 Subsistence Board, but we all need to understand the
31 rules and the structure of the Federal Subsistence
32 Board. I would like to have clarification and a clear
33 understanding for when the Federal Subsistence Board
34 votes, is the U.S. Code Title XVI followed with the
35 rules of ANILCA.
36

37 Over the past year my team at BBNA has
38 researched this topic and after doing some research it
39 seems as though this proposal should have passed a year
40 ago and failed due to the conflict of 50 CFR 36. As I
41 stated earlier, when there's a conflict, from what we
42 understand, is agencies should default to ANILCA. This
43 topic of positioning animals with the use of
44 snowmachines will be revisited again in 2020 and as
45 Molly stated, our Bristol Bay RAC Chair, the Bristol
46 Bay Regional Advisory Council submitted a proposal
47 during this last wildlife call for proposals for the
48 Federal Subsistence Board to vote on in 2020. And I
49 just wanted to point out on the record that at the
50

1 spring Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council meeting,
2 when they took up WP18-24, it wasn't opposed, it was
3 opposed with an amendment to position a hunter. And
4 the reason why it was opposed is because the region
5 didn't want to have that language, and the original
6 proposal was never voted on by the RAC.
7

8 So also during the spring meeting
9 during 2018, a year ago from when we were all sitting
10 here, all of the RACs were to review the positioning of
11 animals with snowmachine at their fall meetings and
12 everyone was to come back and talk about this issue
13 during this meeting, however, no motion was formally
14 made at the last Federal Subsistence Board so this
15 didn't happen across the state. This issue we are
16 talking about today is a statewide issue and not just a
17 Bristol Bay region issue.
18

19 One more issue I wanted to bring to
20 your attention is the fact that the Federal Register
21 has the wrong information regarding WP18-24 regarding
22 the 4/4 failed vote.
23

24 And it could be just the way that
25 things are written in your language but this is what is
26 says: It's located in 83 FR 50758 and it reads:
27

28 The Board rejected a proposal to allow
29 for the use of snowmachines to position animals,
30 caribou, wolves and wolverines in Unit 17. This
31 proposal was found to violate recognized principles of
32 wildlife conservation and was not supported by
33 substantial evidence.
34

35 That's what's in the 83 FR 50758.
36

37 This is confusing and incorrect.
38

39 Because the proposal didn't violate any
40 recognized principles of wildlife conservation, the
41 vote clearly failed.
42

43 Why would it go on to say that this was
44 not supported by substantial evidence.
45

46 As I stated earlier, the vote failed
47 due to a conflict in Federal regulations and as we
48 understand it ANILCA did not prevail.
49
50

1 Having the Federal Register reflect
2 this type of language stating the proposal was rejected
3 brings light to the issue of the horrific events that
4 unfolded at the Federal Subsistence Board last year
5 during public testimony on WP18-24. The Federal
6 Register needs to be corrected to state the truth of
7 how this proposal failed and was not rejected.
8

9 In summary, we are here today, I'm
10 asking you to take action on this issue to provide
11 clarity so we understand when we are submitting
12 proposals.
13

14 The first clarification is no. 1, how
15 Federal agencies will be voting when conflicts arise.
16

17 2. Who's responsibility is it to make
18 sure ANILCA is being followed.
19

20 This positioning issue is just an
21 example and we need to have the answers now, especially
22 before we go into proposals at this meeting, if any of
23 the Federal agencies sitting on this Board have a
24 conflict.
25

26 Also in followup, it'd be good for this
27 clarity to be in writing as a reference document for us
28 Federally-qualified users.
29

30 I want to thank you so much for your
31 time today and allowing me to speak to this issue
32 regarding the positioning of caribou, wolves and
33 wolverine and the use of snowmachine and let me remind
34 you of ANILCA, Section .11
35

36 As this is a customary and traditional
37 practice that is used across the state on all lands.
38

39 And, thank you for allowing me to bring
40 a team up with me because we just wanted to highlight
41 this issue further but I just don't want to forget
42 about our asks that we have, of the two asks when we're
43 done.
44

45 Mr. Chairman.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I think we
48 have it recorded as an agency conflict and is ANILCA
49 being followed in our process. Correct.
50

1 MS. HOSETH: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5

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

8

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

25

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

38

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

46

47 But growing up, hunting animals, we
48 used to wait for them, sometimes we'd wait a long time,
49 and so, you know, positioning ourselves is one way to

50

1 get the animal. And then after that, you know, we used
2 to use dog team, they're slow but they keep moving and,
3 now days we have Sno-Gos that move a lot faster and
4 catch up to the animals quicker and safer too, and more
5 effective because like we're hunting the animals to put
6 them on our table to eat and you all know that, too,
7 because when we hunt we hunt to catch our prey and
8 that's how we were brought up.
9

10 It's been many years -- our -- my
11 parents, they used to talk to me in Yup'ik, or our
12 Native language with other older folks that have passed
13 on already. But hunting is our way of life to survive
14 and we all know that.
15

16 And we get fish all sizes.
17

18 In our area we get black fish that are
19 this big to that big, you know, in a trap. And during
20 our grade school years we had another older guy teach
21 us how to make (In Native), we call them black fish
22 traps and we helped our great-great grandmothers and
23 uppas and grandmas. Back then we didn't have water and
24 sewer, no electricity so it was all manual work for us.
25

26 And I'm hoping that, you know, you guys
27 can support us in our request for positioning the
28 animal or ourselves.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair. Members of
35 the Board. I just wanted to thank my chief from Beaver
36 for her recognition of me.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 The proposal is very important for me,
41 that's why I'm up here in support. The way, in our
42 life, it means us, the way we are, the way we leave.
43 To me it's management by direction, and directing and
44 positioning an animal, we could pick out what we want
45 and what we -- we don't shoot caribou indiscriminently,
46 we let the young ones go, depending on the season and
47 depending on the sex, we can take out the one -- you
48 only take what you need and you share what you take.
49

50

1 I don't mean to holler but, you know,
2 this is -- I'm talking about my life.

3
4 One time, you know, I felt so highly,
5 so hard about they were going to take subsistence away,
6 subsistence proposal No. 9, it was 1982 so I went to
7 Ft. Yukon as one of the leaders to speak to the radio,
8 it was Good Morning America from New York, and I went
9 down to the camp where they were at and I told them,
10 you know, if what they go through -- what they're
11 trying to do, you know, you might as well just kill me
12 because subsistence is my life. I don't want to live if
13 there's no subsistence. I just came back from the
14 United States Army and I was kind of foolish, if you
15 know -- in them days, but this is what I said, truly
16 what they say they're going to do, and just had it on
17 Good Morning America in New York and that's the reason
18 I'm up here to show you that I was born 83 years ago in
19 a place called (Indiscernible) way up in Black River
20 near the confluence of the Salmon River and the Black
21 River, those people up there are my (indiscernible) and
22 them days we see -- we catch fish like Moses was
23 saying, you know, we direct with fences where the fish
24 are going to get caught, we do the same way with the
25 duck, you know, when we go out in the community and get
26 a lot of (indiscernible) to a place where it's kind of
27 narrow and kind of round on the end and they drive them
28 in there is how they get them, and they've been doing
29 this since time immemorial, that's the reason that
30 (indiscernible) is located geographically where it is
31 today because of that river called the (indiscernible)
32 it brings a lot of fish and (in Native) duck and a good
33 place to get fish and muskrat and moose, they got moose
34 fences to direct them to position the moose for harvest
35 and, again, they take the one that they want for
36 management. You don't want to get too many, but
37 they're selective in their harvest.

38
39 After the Army I went out to the
40 village and I met my wife and I stayed there 20 years
41 and then the same thing, you know, the caribou up
42 there, they're selective about how they harvest each
43 animal, what they want. And it took me awhile to learn
44 that and now I know about it. I even know their names,
45 you know, depending on the season and their age and
46 their sex, they go by different names. And I stayed up
47 there 20 years and I learned quite a bit about the
48 caribou. In order to make a good decision for the
49 people so they could continue to live in the manner
50

1 that they're accustomed to, that we would allow this
2 kind of thing to understand our position and where
3 we're coming from.

4
5 Then I moved back to Beaver after I
6 lost my wife 11 years ago and moved back and we do the
7 same thing down there, we position animals so that we
8 could harvest and we know what kind of moose we want to
9 get, caribou same way.

10

11 Thank you for letting me speak.

12

13 (In Native)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you very
16 much for that.

17

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

21

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

40

41 I mean, you know, I'm fortunate, I have
42 a job and I'm able to provide. I don't live on food
43 stamps or anything like that. But when I see people at
44 home, they have to, you know, rely on this, it's a
45 necessity, they got to feed their kids, it's important
46 to them, it's a value. Tradition. When we're out
47 there looking at the land we're pursuing these animals,
48 it's something that, you know, you guys look at, is,
49 okay, are they following certain laws and orders, we

50

1 don't have the time to, you know, to go out there and
2 be thinking about that while we're looking for that
3 animal. It's out there to feed a family.
4

5 And whether they think we are being
6 criminals or we're not following the laws, it's in our
7 thought that, you know, hey, it's not about that. The
8 bottom line is our people are hungry, they want to eat.
9 No matter what we do we still have to feed them.
10

11 So we just want you to understand that
12 what she's saying is, you know, little bits and parts
13 of what's going on. The overall picture, we got a lot
14 to talk about and we're just willing to talk with you
15 guys and hoping you guys understand how we, you know,
16 comply with all these laws.
17

18 So I thank you for your time.
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
21

22 MS. LINNELL: I'll be brief. My name
23 is Karen Linnell for the record.
24

25 In regards to positioning, that's not
26 new. If you look, you position animals by using a deer
27 call, you do a moose call, you position animals. You
28 look at using dogs when you're pheasant hunting, you're
29 positioning animals. You look at some of the -- when I
30 went down to South Carolina and I saw a deer hunter
31 sitting in the back of their truck with their lawn
32 chairs and their beer cooler and I asked my aunt what
33 they were doing, she told me they were deer hunting,
34 and they had, on the other side of the field, release
35 dogs to chase the deer to them, that's positioning of
36 animals. And it's done all over the place.
37

38 We have birders and folks that hunt in
39 that way, that's positioning of animals.
40

41 In regards to upholding ANILCA and
42 having it be a priority. The ability to subsist and
43 why this Board is here is to protect the subsistence
44 and make regulations over subsistence uses.
45

46 We had to remind our Park
47 Superintendent about his responsibility for our salmon
48 this last year because there was going to be a shortage
49 and that there is a Federal trust responsibility in
50

1 that. That if there was going to be restrictions, there
2 were going to be restrictions to other uses before it
3 gets to the subsistence level.
4

5 So I just wanted to remind you about
6 that. We talk about this and we have our own issues in
7 regards to access and how we can get to subsistence
8 trapping when the rivers aren't freezing enough, and so
9 that's something that, you know, we're going to be
10 working with the Park in regard to access and being
11 able to uphold ANILCA and our right to subsist versus,
12 you know, well, we can't use that method to get over
13 there right now.
14

15 But I really would encourage this Board
16 to remember your trust responsibility and then also
17 ANILCA comes before the regulations that are on the
18 table. ANILCA is law and we need to follow that first
19 and then you can restrict it a little more but it can't
20 be more restrictive than ANILCA.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25

26 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Members of the Board. RAC representatives and Staff.
28 My name is Christopher Maines, I'm from Dillingham,
29 Alaska, 365 air miles southwest of Anchorage. I am an
30 anthropologist currently working for the Bristol Bay
31 Native Association Natural Resources Department.
32

33 Thank you for allowing me to speak with
34 you today and taking a look at this issue.
35

36 I came here to the Federal Subsistence
37 Board last year and I spoke towards WP18-24 and I
38 thought it was going to be a slam dunk, I thought this
39 was going to be thumb's up, we're good to go,
40 especially since a modified proposal had passed at the
41 State level, and that was really hard, but, you know,
42 the State of Alaska saw reason and allowed us to use
43 snowmachines in the way that people have been doing it
44 for generations.
45

46 When it failed due to conflict in
47 regulations and ANILCA didn't prevail, I was kind of
48 disheartened.
49
50

1 I kind of obsessed over this over the
2 last year, a little too much. I took it pretty hard.

3
4 And I kind of went back to square one
5 in October when the final rule came out and it listed
6 that the proposal was found to violate recognized
7 principles of wildlife conservation. That really
8 jumped out to me because ANILCA in its very essence
9 doesn't require us to be held to wildlife conservation
10 principles, it's scientific principles.

11
12 And so I went back to the beginning,
13 and often times I've come to these meetings over the
14 past year and I've heard elders and representatives
15 from villages ask that you recognize their traditional
16 ways and their values, so I took this opportunity to
17 learn the Federal principles and what you guys find to
18 be important to you. So I learned about the North
19 American Wildlife Conservation Model. I learned about
20 the Seven Sister Principles for Wildlife Conservation.
21 And I realized, as I continued my research, and seeing
22 how our Refuge managers and our Park Rangers and our
23 Park managers are trained, that they are taught these
24 principles, 49 states follow these models, and in these
25 management books there's a tiny little section that
26 says, hey guys everything that we've taught you, it
27 doesn't apply to this state.

28
29 See, when I was growing up I was taught
30 how to tie my shoes in the loop, sloop, pull method,
31 and this is like telling you guys, who have been tying
32 their shoelaces doing the bunny ears method, hey, you
33 got to stop doing that and it can be very scare and
34 very confusing and you want to fall back on things that
35 are comfortable for you, which are those principles of
36 wildlife conservation in the North American Wildlife
37 Conservation Model.

38
39 ANILCA violates those principles and
40 there's a reason for that.

41
42 ANILCA was passed before I was born.
43 The McDowell Decision happened when I was playing on
44 the beaches of Utqiagvik going to a Barrow preschool
45 The Federal Subsistence Board was created when I was
46 playing little league. And you were supposed to be our
47 allies, our defenders to uphold ANILCA in our best
48 interest when the State didn't want to recognize it.
49 My forefathers fought these battles so that I wouldn't
50

1 have to be sitting here today, but I am here, and a lot
2 of these regulations actually prevented me, as a young
3 man of 18, I quit subsisting completely for a decade.
4 And it wasn't until I found out that I was going to be
5 a dad that I started doing it again.

6
7 So, again, the people who testify
8 before you often ask you to walk a mile in their shoes
9 and understand their principles and their ways of life.
10 I took this opportunity to learn the Federal Management
11 System and learn your way of doing things and I'm sorry
12 that the reasonable regulation that says that we have
13 to follow ANILCA is not sportshunting regulation, and
14 that's what we're being held to, to this very day, is
15 sportshunting regulation.

16
17 This is an opportunity to start
18 clarifying some things, like Gayla had originally
19 asked, and I thank you for allowing me to speak with
20 you today.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

23
24 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Jim
26 Simon. I'm an anthropologist by training and work for
27 a number of interTribal organizations in the State of
28 Alaska and I'm originally from a multi-generational
29 non-Native in the Ahtna region. I grew up very near the
30 calving grounds of the Nelchina Caribou Herd.

31
32 21 years ago in my doctoral
33 dissertation I talked about the transition of
34 indigenous principles of hunting caribou and how they
35 were adopted and adapted to herding reindeer after
36 their introduction to the main land in 1892, and how
37 those principles continue to be utilized for those
38 remainder reindeer herds on the Seward Peninsula.

39
40 However, I'm not going to get into a
41 lot of detail on those topics, we've already heard from
42 two of our elders from various parts of the state about
43 how those customary and traditional practices have
44 taken place in a variety of Alaska Native cultures.
45 You have a very -- the Office of Subsistence Management
46 has a very talented team of anthropologists who have
47 been researching a lot of this information and has
48 presented it to this Board in the past.

49
50

1 However, I've also, through my various
2 work, have seen a number of times when your Federal
3 agencies have ignored the information and the
4 recommendations provided from the Office of Subsistence
5 Management, which is why I joined a number of tribal
6 organizations and members of the public requesting that
7 the Office of Subsistence Management be made
8 independent and out from the arm of the Fish and
9 Wildlife Service, so that they can better help you
10 fulfill your responsibilities outlined in ANILCA where
11 you are -- it is very clear that you are to defer to
12 ANILCA instead of your organic acts for your respective
13 Federal agencies.

14
15 I would just like to go back to two of
16 the asks that Gayla originally put on the record with
17 how will the -- and, I forgot to mention that I'm also
18 adjunct faculty with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks
19 Tribal Management Program, so I'm putting -- asking
20 Gayla's questions again on behalf of the University of
21 Alaska-Fairbanks because how will the Federal agency
22 members of the Federal Subsistence Board be voting when
23 conflicts arise between ANILCA and your individual
24 agency policy documents and organic acts; who is
25 responsible for making sure that you, each Federal
26 agency, follows the mandates of ANILCA as well as those
27 situations where when there are conflicts it identifies
28 that you are to follow ANILCA will prevail.

29
30 For instance, last year it's my
31 recollection that the tied vote for the positioning
32 proposal was based largely on deference to the Fish and
33 Wildlife Service's policy, rather than the law of
34 ANILCA, which is supposed to prevail when conflicts
35 arise. If it is going to be incumbent on the public to
36 make sure that you follow the primacy of ANILCA, then
37 we need to know that, especially those of us in the
38 faculty of the Tribal Management Program, that are
39 helping to increase the public participation and
40 especially the Alaska Native tribal citizens who we're
41 trying to get back into these meetings because you do
42 have a Federal Indian trust responsibility to tribal
43 citizens and Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska.

44
45 So that guidance is really critical for
46 us, as well as your process, so that we can make sure
47 that tribal needs are being addressed.

48
49 Thank you.

50

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

18
19 Gayla.

20
21 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
22 know with all due respect, we really can't wait for a
23 letter and we are here, we have representatives from
24 Beaver, Huslia, Manokotak that have spoke here today
25 and especially when you guys go to deliberate on these
26 fisheries proposals, I don't understand why these can't
27 be answered today and that is our ask, is when a
28 conflict arises, how are Federal agencies going to
29 vote.

30
31 The second question is, who's
32 responsibility on this Board is it to make sure that
33 ANILCA is being followed.

34
35 I don't think that should be a form of
36 a letter because that should be what you guys are doing
37 on this Board. I know it's late, but we have some
38 really, really proposals that probably will generate a
39 conflict with one of you. So we're here and I really
40 appreciate this time but, you know, if we need to take
41 a break or if we need to have some answers, but I
42 really think we need answers on this issue. And to
43 wait for a letter, just is not -- and like I said, I
44 say this with all due respect, but I don't think it
45 should be that hard of a question to answer if ANILCA
46 is to prevail here.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
49 had, for notice, albeit short, that this was going to
50

1 be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board, so one
2 thing I did ask of the regional solicitor is that he
3 and his office provide the Federal Subsistence Board on
4 clear guidance on when we have a conflict and proposed
5 regulations and existing scenarios. And that differs
6 and varies for each one of us up here. And part of
7 that might entail a review of each of the land agency's
8 organic acts. And with those we're looking at '96,
9 '76, what 1912 or '13, and 1896, so some may address
10 subsistence, some may not.

11

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

27

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

36

37 Thank you.

38

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

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I wish I had
49 the answer for you right now, but hopefully we can get

50

1 to there before this meeting ends and I think we have
2 something strongly to consider for the evening and I'm
3 glad Gene at least came in with some direction on that
4 and we'll look forward to that answer and hopefully we
5 can convey it before the end of the meeting, at least
6 some direction and how that plays out here in the
7 process and I'd like to know myself, as well.
8

9 So, thank you for that, and I really
10 appreciate the presentation. Hopefully we can get
11 somewhere here before the end of this meeting with it
12 and thank everybody for their time today.
13

14 Is there any other questions from the
15 Board or comments.
16

17 Oh, I got somebody coming up from the
18 back.
19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. Members of
21 the Board. My name is Zach Stevenson, I work for the
22 Federal Office of Subsistence Management.
23

24 I wanted to just take this opportunity
25 to point out that our newly appointed Northwest Arctic
26 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Chair, Michael
27 Chad Kramer is not here today. He contacted me this
28 afternoon to point out that there have been three
29 members of the community of Noatak who passed, fell
30 through the ice, and out of respect for their loss he
31 is not here today.
32

33 I am awaiting a response from Mr.
34 Kramer as to whether he would like me to summarize
35 their annual report. I have not yet heard back from
36 him. But he does appreciate the Board's work and
37 thanks them for their participation and support.
38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Zach. And if you feel it's necessary, in the morning,
43 we can probably do that report if they feel it
44 necessary.
45

46 Thank you.
47

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

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

Thank you.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered _____ 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;

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

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

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