

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD  
PUBLIC REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME VI

GORDON WATSON CONFERENCE ROOM  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

May 17, 2018  
8:30 o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman  
Charles Brower  
Rhonda Pitka  
Marlo Draper, Bureau of Land Management  
Karen Clark, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bert Frost, National Park Service  
Keith Kahklen, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Wayne Owen, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 5/17/2018)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,  
8 we'll get this meeting called to order this morning.  
9  
10 (Pause)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, good  
13 morning everybody. We'll get this meeting started.  
14  
15 So at the beginning of each morning we  
16 offer first information sharing from Board members. So  
17 if there's anything the Board members would like to  
18 share this morning, the floor is yours.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. The  
23 second part of our morning then.....  
24  
25 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,  
28 Charlie.  
29  
30 MR. C. BROWER: I do. (In Inupiaq).  
31  
32 Good morning.  
33  
34 (In Inupiaq) means good morning in  
35 Inupiaq, so good morning.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, now  
38 we're on to public comment period on non-agenda item.  
39 We provide an opportunity for people to testify on non-  
40 agenda items this morning. Again, the white cards with  
41 the Staff in the back and so we'll call you up one by  
42 one.  
43  
44 Chariton Epchook.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is Chariton  
49 here.  
50

1 OPERATOR: We do have someone on the  
2 phone that would like to speak.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on  
5 them in order, thank you Operator.

6  
7 OPERATOR: Thank you.

8  
9 MR. EPCHOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 I guess what I wanted to talk about, the Kuskokwim  
11 River InterTribal Fish Commission is going to, I guess,  
12 make with whoever, regarding openers for our area  
13 before June 12, I think.

14  
15 But I was going to speak to that and  
16 request that we be given an opportunity to fish for our  
17 family for taste of chinook or other salmon, so that's  
18 what I wanted to speak on.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
23 John Andrew.

24  
25 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
26 Board. I still feel pretty upset about what happened  
27 yesterday but probably it has to -- a misunderstanding  
28 of the -- misunderstanding of the timing of the runs in  
29 my area. From the village from Tuluksak and below, the  
30 peak of the runs, mixture of the runs are -- when we go  
31 out after our subsistence fishing, the peak of the runs  
32 are right in the 20s and most of us that usually used  
33 to fishing that timeframe are done with our fishing  
34 right before end of June. There's no way we can come  
35 back and -- if the -- the proposed closure is in your  
36 time where -- where a lot of my subsistence fishermen  
37 for reds and chums go for -- go for the end of June --  
38 in the June 20s. Because for me my family used to be  
39 done with fishing before end of June.

40  
41 Yesterday, someone from up river made a  
42 recommendation for the sake of -- to keep it closed  
43 during the peak of the run for our area from Tuluksak  
44 and below to the bay, it's going to hurt us really bad.  
45 And we'd like to -- for me, I felt like we let our  
46 Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission -- we've tried to  
47 work with them to see what we can come up with -- try  
48 to work out something that would get a taste of fish  
49 between, you know, within that timeframe.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
4 John.

5  
6 Mike Williams.

7  
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.

11  
12 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Michael  
13 Williams. I'm on the tribal council and also the vice  
14 Chair of the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish  
15 Commission.

16  
17 We really worked hard on that MOU, and  
18 the trust was there and we worked together and it was a  
19 hard process. And the signatories to that MOU, we went  
20 into that with -- in good faith. But the action  
21 yesterday took that out and stamped it on the floor,  
22 and what do you call that, a trust obligation or not  
23 living up to the obligations that the Federal  
24 government has to the tribes. But the history shows  
25 that all of the treaties have been broken.

26  
27 And I just was a little disappointed  
28 yesterday with the outcome because we have been working  
29 to rebuild the stock. The chinook stock on the river.  
30 And we sacrificed 100 percent by our people on the  
31 river. We did that. And I hate like heck to see our  
32 elders crying, those elderly women crying, to have that  
33 taste of fish. If you could understand living in the  
34 village, you see the pain. But we can do it in a way  
35 we conserve the salmon and to keep them healthy and  
36 we've done a good job the last few years, and then also  
37 keep our people healthy. We need that food. We need  
38 that fish to feed our elders and to feed our children.  
39 But, you know, the action yesterday took that off from  
40 May 25 until June 12.

41  
42 If we could somehow have that  
43 opportunity to come up with good decisions, I think we  
44 worked very hard to have that partnership between the  
45 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska,  
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the tribes. We  
47 made huge progresses and successes the last few years  
48 and that recommendation, I really appreciate the Yukon  
49 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council, that

50

1 recommendation that was read was undermined yesterday.  
2 And I listened very carefully yesterday. But I think  
3 with that partnership that we have, we will continue  
4 that partnership regardless of what happened.  
5

6 But when that trust is broken, I do not  
7 want to see that 2012 repeat of protest fishing. Civil  
8 disobedience. We've worked hard, the Kuskokwim  
9 InterTribal Fish Commission worked hard to avert that  
10 in the last few years. As the Chairman of the  
11 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, I traveled  
12 to each of those communities to avert that, to have  
13 that conservation, that sacrifice that we agreed on.  
14 And you see the citation level of our fishermen was  
15 almost to zero because of our involvement, the  
16 communication that we had.  
17

18 But I just wanted to communicate to you  
19 that I really appreciate all the work that you are  
20 obligated to, to deliver, but it's going to have to --  
21 as an individual tribe and individual person, a  
22 subsistence fisherman, I'm going to have to work  
23 harder. I hate doing special action requests over and  
24 over again, I hate that. But my recommendation, most  
25 logical timeframe is May 25th until June 30th. That's  
26 when the conservation of the kings are most sensitive  
27 in that timeframe. But after July 1, you know, we're  
28 not going out fishing, nobody is, because we have  
29 already dry fish and, you know, salted some fish.  
30

31 But I just wanted to make sure that my  
32 comments are, you know, written down and they're on  
33 record. But, again, I really appreciate this  
34 opportunity to hear us but we're going to go back and  
35 roll up our sleeves and continue to work because on the  
36 Kuskokwim River, we're not going anywhere. We're from  
37 there. The fish are there. The wildlife is there.  
38 We're the best conservationists on Earth.  
39

40 And, please, respect that.  
41

42 Thank you for hearing me out.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
45 Mike.

46  
47 Moses Owen.

48  
49 MR. OWEN: Good morning. I'm Moses  
50

1 Owen from Akiak, Akiak Native Community. I represent  
2 the IRA Council and the vice Chief of our council there  
3 in Akiak. Our Chief couldn't be here for this meeting  
4 because he had other business to attend to. But I  
5 represent Akiak Native Community with a population of  
6 about 367 people, residents in Akiak. And out of those  
7 376, about 15, 20 percent are on the work force. The  
8 rest of the community is -- they live a life of our  
9 Yup'ik people with no income and whatever we can  
10 survive on out there is by our means, living off the  
11 land. The way we've been living ever since I can  
12 remember and ever since we were created. And I don't  
13 know how many of you are in faith and look to God as  
14 our provider and our source of life in this world. We  
15 were given these resources and we were placed in our  
16 land where we are to survive and we're provided these  
17 resources, the animals to live off of. I don't know  
18 how you can imagine each and every one of you, and I'd  
19 invite you to come out to Akiak and live with me for  
20 about a couple years, no income, just you and I'll even  
21 give you a tent to live in.

22

23 (Laughter)

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MR. OWEN: But if you understand where  
I'm coming from and where are our people are coming  
from, with no income and living off the land, it's just  
-- I look at it this way, the people in the communities  
where they have income and stores like Walmart and  
other stores around here, where you can buy your food  
and resources, you know, how would you feel if we came  
in there and told you, you can't do this, you can't go  
to the store today because we locked it. You can't do  
any -- buy any food, you can't buy your clothing or  
whatever because we closed it today. Now, we have  
people out there and you've heard testimony from our  
people here, you know, how our elders and our community  
members look forward to these resources that we live  
off of, and it's hard for our elders to comprehend, you  
know, why someone outside of our community and that  
doesn't live there would control our way of life and  
what we eat or what we shouldn't eat to survive on.  
But, you know, we'd like to see it, just like I  
remember when growing up, we didn't have no closures,  
we didn't have no openers. And our elders always told  
us, get the fish, get the natural resources while you  
can to survive on during this harsh winter that's  
coming up and we always did that with no restriction,  
and we'd like to get back to that stage where we can,

1 you know, control our own destiny, not somebody else  
2 outside who doesn't live there in the community.

3  
4 But we appreciate what you are doing  
5 here and we understand your work here and we want to  
6 see some good outcomes with the -- you know, our  
7 testimonies are coming from our heart, from our people,  
8 from home.

9  
10 Thank you very much.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
13 Moses.

14  
15 Phillip.

16  
17 MR. PETERSON: Good morning.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.

20  
21 MR. PETER: My name is Phillip Peter.  
22 I'm the vice Chairman of the IRA Council. I'm a former  
23 judge for 25 years in my community, I run the tribal  
24 court.

25  
26 And I'm really upset, yesterday.

27  
28 Even though we're divided, we could  
29 unit in one place, especially on subsistence issue for  
30 all the Natives and non-Natives in our state, work  
31 together, just like our elders. Like I mentioned  
32 yesterday there's only two left, two old women in my  
33 community, after that there's none.

34  
35 But my -- but who I am, I'm not going  
36 to change it. I'm just full blooded Yup'ik, and I know  
37 my place, Akiachak area, including my river. I travel  
38 to the Bering Sea all the way to Lime Village, and I  
39 know all those creeks in my area. I am a full blooded  
40 -- I'm a subsistence and commercial fisherman in my  
41 area. Ever since chinook conservation, we never -- I  
42 never -- us in my community -- not partic -- not  
43 participated in commercial fishing. There are 800-plus  
44 commercial fishermen, we never fished for three years,  
45 no income, nothing, especially those people that don't  
46 have no job in my community, in our villages. The only  
47 source we got when we have commercial fishing. How  
48 could we survive like.

49  
50

1 I always get afraid of my younger  
2 generations. I always get afraid of them. They got no  
3 fear, nothing. But only talking to them, let them  
4 understand, as a Chairman in my community, when this  
5 fishing comes up, there are a lot of complaints that  
6 come to me, for help, it's really hard to control those  
7 people in my community and surrounding villages. Good  
8 thing they never threaten me to this day because this,  
9 what we've been talking about. I always get afraid,  
10 every day, especially in summertime when the fishing  
11 comes in. When I go home, those young people and old  
12 people, heaven knows, they'll ask me, are we going to  
13 fish, are we going to fish early.

14  
15 We've been following these Federal  
16 regulations for a long, long time. Year after year we  
17 negotiated, nothing happens. No action. Nothing.  
18 Good action. I need good action, keep moving forward,  
19 not just talk. Once we agree we go forward, straight  
20 forward, just like our elders.

21  
22 When I was young I was no boss for them  
23 elders, elders are the boss, they told me go out, I go  
24 out.

25  
26 There's no more dog teams in our area,  
27 only for recreation. All the dogs are lost. In my  
28 community there's only four, four mushers, just for  
29 recreation. Everything is changing really fast and the  
30 technologies are coming and we couldn't keep up with  
31 the technology.

32  
33 I'm going to make a short story, one of  
34 the biologists I used to see him, Ray Baxter, the old  
35 man, that biologist. He lived with us. I used to see  
36 him boating from the mouth of the river all the way up  
37 to McGrath to observe with his own body, using his own  
38 body. That's why those old people, those elders like  
39 him. They lead us. In my days, they showed me --  
40 there's no opener and closure on subsistence, only the  
41 commercial fishing. Only the commercial fishing.

42  
43 And I'll tell you the truth, the true  
44 story.

45  
46 When I was 12 years old, we got the  
47 lagoon -- we got the lagoon, we're inside the lagoon,  
48 the Kuskokwim is outside from the lagoon, there's a  
49 point where my father used to set his net every summer,  
50



1 every summer and his favorite, in his spot, and in the  
2 morning he used to wake me up 6:00 in the morning,  
3 especially in summer, Phillip, get up, let's go check  
4 the set net, we went out on June, it was June. When I  
5 was just a little boy, 12 years old, and we checked the  
6 net. And those brown coats with the badge on it, with  
7 the pistol on it, and two of them, I didn't know who  
8 they all were. They stopped and he told my dad, and my  
9 dad don't understand English, he don't speak in  
10 English, those Fish and Wildlife were talking and then  
11 I didn't know -- the Fish and Wildlife -- my dad didn't  
12 understand so he dropped the net, dropped his net  
13 through the water and then they cut the anchor, and my  
14 dad holler, in Yup'ik, what the hell you guys are doing  
15 to my net, how come you guys cut it. I didn't know  
16 what they were doing, I was 12 years old, I don't speak  
17 English, I don't understand in English. So he pulled  
18 his net and we went into our -- went into Akiachak and  
19 we stopped, both of stopped, Fish and Wildlife, those  
20 troopers and my dad. I was front of -- I was standing  
21 right there. Those troopers with pistols on them,  
22 right there, they were talking. And I stood up like  
23 this.

24  
25 (Acting out)

26  
27 And I stood up like this, my dad, the  
28 tears come out from the eyes, the water. I was looking  
29 up and I tell dad, what's wrong, what's wrong, in  
30 Yup'ik, he didn't answer. I put that into my brian and  
31 tell myself I'll go to school and finish the house  
32 school and graduate, if I return, if you're alive, I'll  
33 come back and help you, interpret you, I'll be your  
34 interpreter for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and  
35 Fish and Game.

36  
37 That's the true story.

38  
39 We've been doing it for long time. It  
40 was tough restrictions, I guess them days, whenever  
41 they go out hunting they always run away from those  
42 Fish and Wildlife troopers for duck hunting. We need  
43 to work together. Let's start work together. We're  
44 not trying to finish the chinook. It's been closed  
45 since 1984 to the state and I never use my king net to  
46 this day. Long time. Please open for consumption and  
47 bring the authority back to us.

48  
49 Thank you, very much.  
50

1                                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for  
2 your testimony.

3  
4                                   Jackson.

5  
6                                   MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Board. I  
7 don't know if you guys were in Bethel, you know, I done  
8 a lot of testimonies. I was wondering, listening to my  
9 cousin, Phillip, if those elders that are still alive,  
10 I was really shooked up. That elder was old, very old.  
11 He let me listen. He tell me this -- she tell me like  
12 this, I am craving to eat my own food. Craving. I was  
13 so really shooked up. Why are we being treated like  
14 that. Why.

15  
16                                   Does our words go to your ear and come  
17 out the other ear, it seems like it. Nobody's helping  
18 us. Nobody. I don't know -- I just mentioned it  
19 earlier. One time I don't know, I was wonder if it was  
20 you guys, high schools were at meeting, and those Fish  
21 and Wildlife, or who they were, Board or somebody,  
22 praise them and you know what I told them, when they  
23 were done, hey, you high school kids, us Native need  
24 help, if any one of you go college become a lawyer. I  
25 told those kids, become a lawyer. I tell them, us  
26 Native, we need help, nobody's helping us. I hope what  
27 I told those kids, there were maybe 20 or so or more, I  
28 hope one of them pick up what I said, and they're  
29 Native.

30  
31                                   You know, how many years back, one guy  
32 from Napaskiak, I'm really grateful when we went to  
33 Board of Fish maybe here in Anchorage, meeting, and he  
34 testified to the Board of Fish and tell them, hey, like  
35 (indiscernible) say and elders, one thing about us  
36 Native, like him, like I mentioned yesterday, they  
37 taught us how to survive, they taught us. You know I  
38 tell you that summer when me and my dad, all day  
39 fishing, Akiak nothing, early morning like Phillip,  
40 woke me up and tell me, we can't catch fish in here,  
41 we're going to go down where Phillip is from Akiachak  
42 and try to fish there. Nothing. I get -- I learned  
43 from that. Some season these fish, they're not  
44 abundant, they go up and down. They do.

45  
46                                   And we had a teleconference this month  
47 or last month and, you know, when we had a Unit 4  
48 meeting in Akiak maybe three years or so ago or less,  
49 there's Akiak, Akiachak, Kwethluk, Tuluksak, we had  
50

1 this meeting in Tuluksak on fishing, and this guy from  
2 Kalskag, I won't tell his name, came to us and made a  
3 testimony like me right now to you guys, and he tell us  
4 like this, he's from up river, Kalskag, and where he  
5 work, AVCP, that spring send him to Stony River, stayed  
6 there all summer, work, he's from up river, these  
7 people know him, and this guy, tell him to follow and  
8 they did follow and on their way he saw -- it seemed  
9 like a smokehouse, he could tell, smoke coming out, and  
10 this owner open the door, holy cow, that smokehouse was  
11 filled with chinook already. Already. And this guy  
12 tell him, after he saw it, come in the evening I'll  
13 show you my set net, I'm assuming it was 10 foot long  
14 or 15 foot long, and before he left he tell him,  
15 there's so many chinooks hit the net and those buoy  
16 sink. What is happening here. Like you guys going to  
17 be closing us out again and let the fish pass by.  
18 You're hurting -- I mean you -- us four villages are  
19 witness to that, what he said, so many chinooks pass by  
20 and we never even fish.

21  
22 Two, three years ago, or somewhere  
23 there the Board of fish for elders, Kalskag on up or  
24 Aniak on up they let them fish, you know, for elders.  
25 For elders up there. Even the Board of Fish approved  
26 for elders to fish; from Tuluksak on down, we still  
27 never fish. And the Board of Fish did approve that.  
28 What's going on.

29  
30 Is somebody going to help us out.

31  
32 I'm in the lower Kuskokwim Advisory  
33 Committee and when we go Board of Fish, Board of Game,  
34 I attended those maybe two, three times, both of them,  
35 and I realize, like right now, and I realized, hey,  
36 I've become a beggar, like right now, I am begging to  
37 you guys. And what happened, nothing. Who are we.  
38 Aren't we have the Creator that made us who we are, and  
39 should work together.

40  
41 I'll tell you my -- from that -- I'll  
42 go back to that fishing with my dad. There was a 60  
43 mesh king net, I learned from that. I'm -- number 1,  
44 in one day I can finish 50 fathom in one day, get up  
45 maybe 4 or 5 start working on it. I had to practice to  
46 learn that. I hung -- I make that king net 60 mesh  
47 deep. And I -- one of my testimonies here in  
48 Anchorage, those Fish and Wildlife in Bethel or Fish  
49 and Game, they should check the fish with a 60 mesh  
50

1 deep, why, my elders growing up they tell me, (In  
2 Yup'ik), they call these chinook (In Yup'ik), in other  
3 words, these fish they're a bottom fish swimmer. These  
4 king salmon that you guys are -- we're talking about,  
5 they're a bottom fish swimmer. And I tell you, I made  
6 a record with the 60 mesh commercial time, I was the  
7 only one in Akiak, high boat, we fish really close to  
8 the shore when the water is really high, our elders, my  
9 dad taught me that. Not even one buoy moved, me and my  
10 wife, we used to fish, she was my helper. I told my  
11 wife when we was going to check it out, I don't think  
12 we catch, not even one buoy moved, holy cow, when I  
13 checked that net every single one of them in the  
14 bottom. One drift, over 40 kings. I did learn from my  
15 dad.

16

17 I'll share you one more and I'll quit.

18

19 I watched Jesus of Nazareth movie, I  
20 really liked that movie. You know when Peter was --  
21 was telling Jesus, there's no fish down there, but  
22 Jesus replied to Peter, go down, I'll go with you, I  
23 don't know if you guys ever watched that movie, if you  
24 never watch it -- and Jesus looked at the water, he's  
25 the provider of everything, when I commercial for chum  
26 and red, it came to me, he let it come to my mind, I  
27 did exactly that, I looked at the water and just like  
28 in the movie I say, come on fish, and you know what I  
29 -- I got a Yukon Raider 22-foot long or six or seven  
30 feet wide and my helpers were my youngest -- I mean  
31 they were young at the time, two boys, holy cow, three  
32 of us, I couldn't even hardly pull in fish, it took us  
33 more than an hour, finally finish, where the motor is,  
34 there was only two inch space from not sinking. Not  
35 sinking. You know who provided that fish to me, like  
36 in the movie, he's the one that give us food.

37

38 Thank you, very much.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
41 Jackson.

42

43 That concludes everybody here with a  
44 white card. I believe there was somebody on line,  
45 Operator.

46

47 OPERATOR: Yes, Matthew your line is  
48 open.

49

50

1 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Operator. Good  
2 morning, Mr. Chairman and Board members. My name is  
3 Matthew Robus, and I'm representing the Territorial  
4 Sportsmen, which is a non-profit outdoors people's  
5 group based in Juneau. It is our understanding that  
6 the Federal Subsistence Board may reconsider its recent  
7 action to adopt a portion of WP18-01, mainly at the  
8 April meeting you reduced the Unit 2 deer bag limit for  
9 non-Federally-qualified hunters. My comments are  
10 offered in anticipation of a discussion about that  
11 today.  
12

13 Having reviewed the transcript of your  
14 April 11th meeting, I think one could summarize the  
15 discussion of Unit 2 proposal by saying that the  
16 biological and hunt data through 2016, which was the  
17 latest season for which such data were available lined  
18 up pretty well to show that there was no conservation  
19 issue that would require a reduction in hunter effort.  
20 On the other hand there was testimony from experienced  
21 Unit 2 deer hunters that indicated that they had real  
22 problems finding deer during the most recent season.  
23 We, at Territorial Sportsmen, do not dispute the  
24 difficulties reported by hunters during the most recent  
25 Unit 2 deer season, but there are several potential  
26 reasons for such problems other than a drastic decline  
27 in the supply of deer. There are no indications that  
28 we're aware of deer die-offs caused by weather or  
29 disease and weather related distribution changes,  
30 predation patterns, hunter distribution patterns and so  
31 on could all have a role in reducing the availability  
32 of deer in a given season.  
33

34 It's our opinion the change in  
35 regulations to reduce opportunity for non-Federally-  
36 qualified hunters based only on hunter input from a  
37 single season is premature in the absence of any other  
38 indications that there is a conservation problem for  
39 deer in Unit 2.  
40

41 We believe that hunter observations are  
42 certainly valuable and should be used to help guide and  
43 focus monitoring and research programs by the agencies,  
44 but depriving non-Federally-qualified hunters of  
45 opportunity is not warranted at this time. Once the  
46 deer harvest and population monitoring data sets for  
47 Unit 2 are updated, the Board will be in a better  
48 position to consider whether regulation changes are  
49 needed in the context of the combination of biological  
50

1 status, hunter effort and traditional ecological  
2 knowledge.

3  
4 We would encourage the Board to  
5 reconsider its decision to reduce opportunity for non-  
6 Federally-qualified hunters and wait until 2017 hunter  
7 data and spring 2018 population monitoring information  
8 can be considered in conjunction with what hunter's  
9 reported. If, for some reason, the hunter observations  
10 do not match the biological status of the herd, the  
11 Board will have restricted opportunity without there  
12 having been a conservation problem. It would be much  
13 better, in our view, and more credible if the Board  
14 pauses to allow the picture to be filled in prior to  
15 making such a decision.

16  
17 So to summarize, the Territorial  
18 Sportsmen asks the Board to reconsider its decision to  
19 reduce hunter opportunity in Unit 2 in order that hunt  
20 reports and population status may be incorporated into  
21 any decision regarding hunting regulations.

22  
23 And I'd like to thank you for the  
24 opportunity to comment today.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for  
27 calling in, we appreciate it.

28  
29 Any questions.

30  
31 Wayne.

32  
33 MR. OWEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
34 understand from Staff that there has been a request for  
35 reconsideration on this proposal and I think we'd all  
36 appreciate an update on that.

37  
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Deputy  
39 Assistant Regional Director. Absolutely. Jennifer  
40 Hardin is prepared to go over the request for  
41 reconsideration process, the threshold process and the  
42 -- that we have received letters requesting requests  
43 for reconsideration on Unit 2 deer.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm going to  
46 just ask if there's anybody else on line first, just to  
47 make sure that we have given everybody a chance.

48  
49 Is there anybody else on line who would  
50

1 like to testify on non-agenda items.

2

3 OPERATOR: I'm showing no further  
4 questions in cue.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
7 Jennifer.

8

9 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Jennifer Hardin for the record, the subsistence  
11 coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management.  
12 And I believe the proposal that we're talking about  
13 right now is Wildlife Proposal 18-01.

14

15 And to answer, Mr. Owen, we have  
16 received a number of requests for the Board to  
17 reconsider their decision on WP18-01. Most recently we  
18 received a request from the Alaska Department of Fish  
19 and Game.

20

21 The window -- any person who feels that  
22 they are adversely affected by a Federal subsistence  
23 regulation regulatory change has the ability to submit  
24 a request for reconsideration of the Board's action.  
25 We do have a process in place for that, as you know,  
26 and the information is contained in the Federal  
27 subsistence regulations, but if you'd like I can just  
28 summarize the process for folks.

29

30 Okay.

31

32 So first of all a request for  
33 reconsideration of a Board action must be submitted in  
34 writing and anyone can do so. There is a window in  
35 which we will accept these requests for  
36 reconsideration. A request for reconsideration must be  
37 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board within 60  
38 days after a regulation takes effect, or is published  
39 in the Federal Register, whichever is earlier. So in  
40 the case of this particular action, those regulations  
41 would become effective, ideally, they'd become  
42 effective July 1. As you all are aware there have been  
43 some delays in the regulatory process, but 60 days, so  
44 the window is within 60 days after the regulation takes  
45 effect or is published in the Federal Register,  
46 whichever is earlier.

47

48 It's also incumbent on the individuals,  
49 or organizations to submit a written request that

50

1 provides the Board with enough information to show why  
2 the action should be reconsidered and the regulations  
3 do contain specific criteria, and those are:

4  
5 The Board will accept a request for  
6 reconsideration only if it is based upon information  
7 not previously considered by the Board.

8  
9 If it demonstrates that the information  
10 used by the Board was incorrect.

11  
12 Or it demonstrates that the Board's  
13 interpretation of information, applicable law, or  
14 regulation is in error or contrary to existing law.

15  
16 So we have information on our website  
17 that describes under the frequently asked questions,  
18 provides anybody in the public with very specific  
19 information about how to submit these requests and what  
20 information to include in the request.

21  
22 Once we receive a request for  
23 reconsideration and the window closes, Staff at the  
24 Office of Subsistence Management conducts a, what we  
25 call a threshold analysis, so we look at the claims in  
26 the request for reconsideration to see if they meet the  
27 threshold for reconsideration, again, based on those  
28 three criteria that I just outlined.

29  
30 The threshold analysis comes to the  
31 Federal Subsistence Board and you make the final  
32 decision on whether or not the request that we received  
33 have reached that bar, have met the threshold  
34 requirements for reconsideration. If a request is  
35 found to have met the threshold requirements, we then  
36 carry out a full analysis of the request for  
37 reconsideration and, finally, that's brought back to  
38 the Board and you make a final decision on whether or  
39 not you will reconsider your decision.

40  
41 I'm happy to answer any questions.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Bert.

44  
45 MR. FROST: So you said the request has  
46 to be done within 60 days of the regulation taking  
47 effect, it sounds like these requests have come in  
48 before the regulations have even taken effect, so are  
49 they -- do they need to resubmit after the July 1st.

50



1 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. That's  
2 a great question. No, they do not. They can come in  
3 at any time between now and at the end of that window,  
4 and we will continue to accept them.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other  
7 questions.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
12 Jennifer.

13  
14 Well, I guess we're done with testimony  
15 this morning. It sounds like the biggest issue this  
16 morning was our action yesterday and as confusing as it  
17 was, I need, I think, this morning, some clarification  
18 what our decision was based on access to the  
19 subsistence resources by the Federally-qualified  
20 subsistence user, and so if somebody here around the  
21 table could maybe explain exactly what our action was  
22 yesterday and how that affects the public because it  
23 seems as -- the feeling is is that we cut them out  
24 completely and I don't know that that's what we've done  
25 and so I'm just going to ask maybe the maker of the  
26 motion if we can explain how that affects -- how we're  
27 going to manage that fishery and how the subsistence  
28 user is impacted by that decision that we made  
29 yesterday. Just so that my mind can be informed enough  
30 to discuss it with the people in the audience and the  
31 -- I think the people in the audience know exactly what  
32 it is our decision was based on and how that affects  
33 them.

34  
35 Because we did vote and changed the  
36 deference to the RAC yesterday so I just need  
37 clarification because I'm still not clear on it.

38  
39 MS. CLARK: Okay. So the -- there --  
40 we did provide a justification yesterday but I'm happy  
41 to speak a little more to the intention of that -- of  
42 the motion. And I think the -- the intention is for  
43 the Partnership Project to be the place that these  
44 decisions are made so the users on the river and the  
45 managers on the river can work to address the issues  
46 and the -- with -- with new information, if that  
47 exists, with the information on the run, on escapement,  
48 everything that goes into that, everything that went  
49 into the initial decision was considered from --

50

1 through the Partnership Project and we want to continue  
2 to do that in the future.

3  
4 So I think in -- to be clear, the  
5 action yesterday is not intended to say May 25th is not  
6 an option. I think the decision is that the  
7 Partnership, the in-season manager, the InterTribal  
8 Fish Commission, and the State should work together to  
9 determine if that is a good option when the time comes,  
10 versus making the decision now.

11  
12 Therefore, I don't believe that it --  
13 it actually is allowing for more communication, more  
14 interaction about what happens in-season as compared to  
15 making a clear decision right now at this point.

16  
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Karen, one thing  
18 for the administrative record, you know, when we look  
19 at any time we did not show deference to the RAC, could  
20 you provide something for the record on why we didn't  
21 show deference to the -- why the Board did not show  
22 deference to the RAC relative to the decision as  
23 written by the RAC.

24  
25 And it's usually supported, you know,  
26 again, by substantial efforts, violates recognized  
27 principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would  
28 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence  
29 needs.

30  
31 MS. CLARK: So I believe that my  
32 previous justification did speak to that. So I think  
33 what I might need to do is ask for a few minutes to  
34 consult with maybe Ken on making sure that what we have  
35 out there is appropriate because I consider what we put  
36 out there yesterday as a justification, excuse me, to  
37 be adequate. So I just want to make sure that we have  
38 that right so can we take a few minutes to do that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, let's do  
41 that.

42  
43 MS. CLARK: Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I just  
46 want some clarity for everybody.

47  
48 MS. CLARK: Yeah.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Because I think  
2 we're still kind of mulling it, so, yes, we'll take a  
3 five minute here to get some clarification for the  
4 record.

5

6 MS. CLARK: Okay, thank you.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Even for a  
13 Haida that was a long five minutes, according to Mike.

14

15 Well, welcome back everybody from our  
16 recess.

17

18 I know I told Charlie I'd wait for him  
19 but he'll be in here in a minute.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, Karen, you  
24 have the floor.

25

26 MS. CLARK: Okay, thank you.

27

28 I'm going to hopefully, more clearly,  
29 define the justification for the motion that was passed  
30 yesterday.

31

32 The closure of chinook salmon harvest  
33 prior to June 12th is based on a long-term Bethel test  
34 fishery data -- data set indicating that only 13 to 19  
35 percent of the chinook salmon run passes the lower  
36 river near Bethel during the closure period. Since  
37 tagging studies suggest the early portion of the run is  
38 dominated by chinook salmon destined for headwaters  
39 spawning locations, minimizing exploitation of these  
40 stocks is generally deemed desirable by stakeholders  
41 and managers alike to continue the trend of robust  
42 escapements observed in the headwaters during 2015 to  
43 2017.

44

45 There is currently no new information  
46 regarding the strength of the 2018 Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users River chinook salmon run available to  
48 guide 2018 management decisions, therefore, providing  
49 an intentional opportunity to harvest chinook salmon

50

1 before June 12th and prior to receiving additional  
2 information about the strength of the 2018 chinook  
3 salmon run violates recognized principles of fish and  
4 wildlife conservation as it would diminish the  
5 likelihood of continuing the pattern of robust  
6 escapements in headwater spawning locations.

7  
8 Such an outcome is contrary to desires  
9 expressed by managers and a large fraction of the  
10 Kuskokwim River subsistence users.

11  
12 It is our belief that the State's  
13 regulations beginning May 25th for closing the river  
14 and implementation of four inch setnets would not be  
15 detrimental to achieving the robust escapement because  
16 escapement was met last year under similar State  
17 regulations and it has been specifically designed to  
18 target non-salmon species.

19  
20 Moreover, we believe there will be  
21 substantial subsistence opportunity in the lower river  
22 after June 12th when a higher percentage of chinook  
23 salmon are present in that portion of the river.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

26  
27 Any questions for Karen.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. It  
32 looks like we're moving on to the Kenai.

33  
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay, something  
35 easy.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hold on one  
38 second.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, the  
43 InterTribal Fish Commission would like to share some  
44 words here, I guess, I'm going to entertain that at  
45 this moment, prior to us starting the Kenai so if  
46 they'd bring their representative up here for a second.  
47 I just want everyone to feel like they've had their  
48 time to speak, I guess, so if we could keep it on point  
49 and brief, please.

50

1 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 for the record my name is Mary Peltola. I work for the  
3 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission. And this  
4 is Sky Starkey, he's counsel to the Kuskokwim River  
5 InterTribal Fish Commission.  
6

7 Very briefly, we do appreciate this  
8 issue coming up again today. We did leave this meeting  
9 yesterday feeling disappointed but we're very thankful  
10 to revisit the issue.  
11

12 There are inconsistencies now and there  
13 is concern that the Federally-qualified users  
14 opportunity to have subsistence, you know, fish soup,  
15 in June when we're accustomed to having it, a taste of  
16 fish, is being precluded and there are other  
17 opportunities then for users statewide to have access  
18 to those kings with a four inch Saturday opportunities  
19 as well as opportunities for household permits on the  
20 upper portion. And we did understand very clearly from  
21 the Refuge manager that it is within his purview and we  
22 will be, you know, going back and getting consensus on  
23 what kind of an allocation would be appropriate for the  
24 lower river before June 12th and we will be working  
25 very closely with the Refuge manager on that.  
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
28 questions for Mary.  
29

30 Wayne.  
31

32 MR. OWEN: Thank you.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
35 guys, appreciate that.  
36

37 (Pause)  
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,  
40 Kenai.  
41

42 MR. AYERS: Okay. A little change up  
43 here. Hello, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. For  
44 the record my name is Scott Ayers and I am the  
45 fisheries biologist at the Office of Subsistence  
46 Management for the Southcentral, Bristol Bay and  
47 Kodiak/Aleutians regions. I'm here today to provide an  
48 overview of the analysis of Fisheries Temporary Special  
49 Action 18-02 related to the Kenai River community  
50

1 gillnet fishery.

2

3 Similar to the special action you just  
4 worked through there's a lot of information to cover  
5 here but I will try to get us through this as quickly  
6 as possible, in light of the fact that this specific  
7 request was presented in the same format last year, I'm  
8 going to summarize the request and direct your  
9 attention to sections of the analysis rather than cover  
10 them in-depth as part of my presentation.

11

12 Mr. Chair, is that acceptable?

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

15

16 MR. AYERS: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
17 Service and the Ninilchik Traditional Council jointly  
18 submitted Fisheries Special 18-02. It's part of the  
19 agreement in principle negotiated between the Ninilchik  
20 Traditional Council and the Federal Subsistence Board  
21 as described in the pathway for implementation found on  
22 Page 76 of the analysis in Appendix C.

23

24 The pathway table is the framework for  
25 how we've proceeded in order to include all of the  
26 agreed upon changes to this fishery into regulation.  
27 The items at the top of the list were already in  
28 regulation. The next set in blue, numbers 4 through  
29 12, were implemented during the Board meeting in  
30 January 2017 through passage of Fisheries Proposal  
31 FP17-10. The remaining items in pink, numbers 13  
32 through 22 will be implemented through an ongoing  
33 rulemaking process for the 2019 season and beyond. The  
34 Temporary Special Action request before you today  
35 covers Item 13 through 22 for only the 2018 season.

36

37 The specific points of the request are  
38 on Pages 1 and 2 of the analysis if you'd like a moment  
39 to review.

40

41 The potential effects for each proposed  
42 change are covered on Pages 46 through 50 of the  
43 analysis. It's important to note that these proposed  
44 changes would result in more opportunity for Federally-  
45 qualified subsistence users and would resolve conflicts  
46 existing from the initial regulation for this fishery  
47 implemented by the Board in January 2015.

48

49 I'd be happy to take any specific

50

1 questions related to these effects upon the close of my  
2 presentation.

3  
4 A public hearing was held to accept  
5 comments on the special action request at the Kenai  
6 National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center on March  
7 16th. A summary of this starts on Page 19 of the  
8 analysis.

9  
10 Three people provided testimony in  
11 person. Of the three that testified two were in  
12 support of the special action and one was in  
13 opposition.

14  
15 Tribal consultation on the special  
16 action request was held telephonically on March 27th.  
17 A summary of the consultation starts on Page 20 of the  
18 analysis.

19  
20 Three representatives of the Ninilchik  
21 Traditional Council spoke in support of the special  
22 action.

23  
24 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
25 provided written comments on the special action request  
26 on March 23rd. Their comments can be found starting on  
27 Page 77 of the document in Appendix D. They recommend  
28 adopting the recent size change that requires release  
29 of chinook salmon 36 inches and larger above Slikok  
30 Creek for this fishery. ADF&G also points out a  
31 potential issue related to basing fishing opportunity  
32 on the optimal escapement goal, or OEG being met, and  
33 asked that the regulation or permit stipulation require  
34 the net be closely attended.

35  
36 The special action request currently  
37 states that up to 50 early run chinook salmon may be  
38 retained if ADF&G announces that the OEG has been met.  
39 The State takes harvest into account before determining  
40 whether the OEG has been met and this calculation does  
41 not occur until well past the timeframe for this  
42 portion of the fishery, which is July 1st to July 15th.

43  
44 We received two letters of  
45 correspondence on behalf of the Ninilchik Traditional  
46 Council following the Southcentral Council's telephonic  
47 meeting related to this issue. These are both located  
48 at the end of the special action analysis materials.

49  
50

1                   The first letter asks for changes to  
2 the request, switching the language regarding the OEG  
3 for early run chinook salmon from; has been met, to, is  
4 projected to be met. Our office reached out to the  
5 proponents to seek clarification on which part of the  
6 escapement goal this would refer to as it is a range  
7 from 3,900 to 6,600 fish.

8  
9                   The second letter states, it is the  
10 tribe's position that it would be inconsistent with  
11 State regulations and the spirit and intent of the  
12 settlement discussions between Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service and the tribe to require a specific number  
14 within the OEG range be met before the tribe is  
15 permitted to retain early run chinook salmon.

16  
17                   The proponents highlight that the State  
18 manages this run through the Kenai River and Kasilof  
19 River early run king salmon management plan, and that  
20 Federal managers have adopted this same plan to guide  
21 their management of this run within Federal public  
22 lands. They note that if preseason forecasts for Kenai  
23 River early run chinook salmon fell above or within the  
24 OEG range, the State, per the management plan, opens a  
25 sportfishery for these fish until an in-season  
26 projection is available.

27  
28                   They note that since the preseason  
29 forecast for this year released March 5th and included  
30 at the end of the letter, is for 5,499 early run  
31 chinook salmon, the State Department of Game is  
32 currently managing a sportfishery for these fish. The  
33 tribe believes that if the State is opening a  
34 sportfishery that allows the harvest of early run  
35 chinook salmon based on a preseason forecast that falls  
36 within the OEG range that it would be arbitrary for the  
37 Board to require a specific number within the OEG be  
38 achieved before the tribe is allowed to retain these  
39 same fish and doing so would be contrary to ANILCA's  
40 mandate for a subsistence priority for rural residents.  
41 They request the Board interpret the management plan  
42 consistent with the State such that, if the preseason  
43 forecast falls within or above the OEG range the tribe  
44 is permitted to retain up to 50 early run chinook  
45 salmon.

46  
47                   OSM has received communication from  
48 both proponents dated May 14th that they've agreed upon  
49 changed language related to this topic.  
50



1                   The agreed upon language is listed on  
2 the screen in front of you. This may be incorporated  
3 as part of a motion related to this fisheries temporary  
4 special action.

5  
6                   And that concludes my presentation.

7  
8                   Please let me know if you have any  
9 questions.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
12 Scott. Appreciate it.

13  
14                   Any questions for Scott.

15  
16                   (No comments)

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,  
19 thank you. Appreciate it.

20  
21                   With that, we open the floor to public  
22 testimony, and we have Anna Crary.

23  
24                   MS. CRARY: Good morning. It's nice to  
25 see everyone here again today. Thank you for the  
26 opportunity to provide public comments. I am here  
27 speaking on behalf of the Ninilchik Traditional  
28 Council, neither Ivan or Greg Encelewski were available  
29 today so they asked me to appear here in their stead.

30  
31                   And so just a few comments to just sort  
32 of add on to and summarize the excellent presentation  
33 that was just provided. I do want to emphasize that  
34 this special action request was submitted jointly by  
35 Fish and Wildlife and Ninilchik. It has been a, I  
36 think, a decent collaborative process up to now, and I  
37 think both parties are pleased -- well, I can speak for  
38 Ninilchik, are pleased with the language and the  
39 potential hopeful result of this special action.

40  
41                   Ninilchik does agree and believe that  
42 the language in this special action reflects both the  
43 agreement and principle that is referenced, I believe,  
44 in Appendix B of your packet, as well as the pathways  
45 that are agreed to and reproduced in Appendix C of your  
46 packet.

47  
48                   You know, I think that it's important  
49 that in 2016 and 2017 Ninilchik did prosecute this  
50

1 gillnet fishery and they did an excellent job of it. I  
2 believe in 2016 they fished from late July to mid-  
3 August and retained approximately 723 reds, they caught  
4 one late run chinook salmon. And 2017, they fished  
5 from approximately early July, I think they started  
6 July 3rd and kept a net in the water until early August  
7 with a few opportunities in September. They were able  
8 to catch 2,169 reds and distribute those to the  
9 households that signed up through the permitting system  
10 for this fishery. And they caught, again, one late run  
11 chinook.

12  
13 So previously the primary concern with  
14 this fishery had been early run chinook, and I think  
15 that the fact that the net goes in the water on July  
16 1st and the data that backs -- you know, the data that  
17 showing that minimal, minimal numbers of either early  
18 or late run chinook are being caught, it certainly  
19 supports their ability to execute this fishery and to  
20 do it absent the creation of conservation concerns for  
21 the stocks in that river.

22  
23 Regarding the OEG language, Ninilchik  
24 is in agreement with the language that's reflected here  
25 on the screen. I do want to emphasize that it's  
26 important that the -- that I think the interpretation  
27 of this OEG range be consistent with what's put in --  
28 you know, with what is expected of sportfishers to  
29 follow in the State fisheries and, you know, I think  
30 what was said previously is, you know, would be agreed  
31 with and reiterated by Ninilchik.

32  
33 Another important point that I do want  
34 to point out is that the special action request removes  
35 -- it changes the bag and the season limit for this  
36 fishery. So previously all Federally-qualified users  
37 had been -- which included, you know, not only  
38 residents of Ninilchik, but residents of Hope and  
39 Cooper Landing, had been subject to a 4,000 number,  
40 like 4,000 fish bag limit for reds and residents of  
41 Hope and Cooper Landing were concerned that, you know,  
42 if Ninilchik had a great year and caught, you know,  
43 3,999 reds in their net that would have negative  
44 implications for Hope and Cooper Landing's ability to  
45 go out and retain reds for their own subsistence needs.  
46 The way that this regulation -- or that this proposed  
47 special action request addresses that is by, you know,  
48 essentially removing what is retained in that gillnet  
49 fishery from that overall limit and so now it's just a  
50

1 household limit that's implemented for the gillnet  
2 fishery, so it's 25 fish plus one.

3  
4 It sounds kind of like gobbly-gook if  
5 you're not familiar with fisheries but what it means is  
6 the concerns of Hope and Cooper Landing residents have  
7 been satisfied. I think that's reflected in the  
8 analysis and it was reflected during some of the public  
9 meeting comments that are also in your packet, so if  
10 you have additional concerns about that, I think that I  
11 would just direct you, you know, back to the materials  
12 in front of you.

13  
14 And, you know, I think just a final  
15 point, you know, a couple of folks today, in comments,  
16 have referenced, you know, slow down in regulatory  
17 processing and, you know, Ninilchik is understandably  
18 frustrated with the amount of time that it's taken for,  
19 you know, the proposed regulation to be, you know,  
20 published and finalized. You know we're here again to  
21 go through this special action process because that  
22 regulation has not been finalized. And Ninilchik would  
23 like to request that this Board make a formal inquiry  
24 into both the status of that regulation and when they  
25 can expect it to be published, because, you know, as  
26 much as we enjoy the public process, you know, it takes  
27 time and it's expensive for subsistence users. And,  
28 you know, I think that there is not much that we  
29 disagree about about this fishery any more and there's  
30 no reason why that regulation should be held up, so if  
31 the Board could make an inquiry and help Ninilchik  
32 understand where that regulation is in the process,  
33 they would appreciate that.

34  
35 So that's all the comments that I have  
36 and if there are any questions from the Board members,  
37 I would be happy to answer them.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
40 questions.

41  
42 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken.

45  
46 MR. LORD: I'd just like to respond to  
47 the inquiry suggestion. Theo Matuskowitz, our  
48 regulatory specialist rides herd on these regulations  
49 as they go through the process, I mean he does a great  
50

1 job, and at any given moment he can probably tell you  
2 exactly where it is. It's not that we're not trying to  
3 get these things through, it's that there are hurdles  
4 in Washington, D.C., that sometimes are tough to  
5 overcome, and -- but he works very hard to try and do  
6 that.

7  
8 MS. CRARY: And through the Chair, in  
9 response to that. We understand. And it's not my  
10 intention to suggest that the Board or OSM is not doing  
11 their job because we do think that you are doing your  
12 job and we appreciate it. It's -- you know, I think  
13 that there's -- as you said, there's things that are  
14 outside of your control, but, you know, you also have a  
15 somewhat closer pipeline to that center of control than  
16 the tribe does and so to the extent that you can use  
17 that, the tribe appreciates that and I will definitely  
18 be coordinating with Theo, then, to understand where we  
19 are and when we can expect to get to the destination.

20  
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: And, Anna, this is Tom  
22 Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director for OSM.  
23 Yeah, Theo and I have actually discussed this recently  
24 and we're looking at trying to move things, you know,  
25 forward as quickly as possible and so I have put  
26 deadlines to mid- to late summer on trying to move  
27 things -- at least from our shop out into the process.  
28 And so that's where we're at. So it hasn't even --  
29 it's not come close to falling off our radar screen so  
30 I want you to know that and, please, inform your  
31 clients of that too.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other  
34 questions or discussion.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

39  
40 Anybody on line.

41  
42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing nobody  
46 on line we'll call on the Regional Advisory Council  
47 recommendation. Chair.

48  
49 Judy.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
2 Board members. My name is Judy Caminer. I'm the Vice  
3 Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.  
4 As you heard, Chairman Encelewski was not able to be  
5 here today. Was listening in yesterday in the hopes he  
6 might be heard yesterday but we know that didn't  
7 happen, which is fine.

8  
9 The RAC had a special meeting to  
10 discuss this issue and we were also grateful that most  
11 of you were able to actually see the fishing site last  
12 summer when Fish and Wildlife arranged a field trip  
13 there and that was, I think, very useful for  
14 everybody's understanding.

15  
16 So the Council does feel that this  
17 proposal enhances and improves subsistence  
18 opportunities and does not present any conservation  
19 concerns. The Council appreciates the measures that  
20 have been included in the proposal to look at  
21 conservation. Some Council members were very happy, or  
22 most of us were very happy that Cooper Landing and  
23 Hope, their concerns have been adequately addressed by  
24 changes that are reflected in this proposed language.  
25 And it's good to hear -- to know that public can be  
26 heard and that changes can accommodate those concerns.

27  
28 The Council notes, as was stated  
29 before, that this same special action request worked  
30 very well last year even though we didn't have this  
31 precise language, there's a consistent history of the  
32 Council supporting the concept of this proposal, and we  
33 assume that everything will work well again this  
34 summer, so we heartedly endorse this proposal.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
37 Judy. Any questions for the Chair.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate it,  
42 thank you.

43  
44 OPERATOR: And we do have someone on  
45 the phone with comment.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

48  
49 OPERATOR: One moment, your line is

50

1 open.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You're coming  
4 in choppy, somebody's on line?

5

6 OPERATOR: Yes. Mark Leary, your line  
7 is open.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead and  
10 see if you can come through.

11

12 OPERATOR: Please check the mute  
13 feature on your phone.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 OPERATOR: Okay, I'll go ahead and  
18 remove him, thank you.

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was there  
24 somebody on line that wanted to speak?

25

26 OPERATOR: Yes. But they did not  
27 respond so I took them out of the cue.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank  
30 you.

31

32 OPERATOR: You're welcome.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alaska  
37 Department of Fish and Game.

38

39 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Good morning, Mr.  
40 Chair, and members of the Board. Again, for the  
41 record, my name is Jill Klein with the Alaska  
42 Department of Fish and Game.

43

44 And as you heard earlier, the Alaska  
45 Department of Fish and Game submitted written comments  
46 to the Federal Subsistence Board and can be found  
47 starting on Page 77 of the OSM analysis for FSA18-02.

48

49 The Department is not taking a position

50

1 of support or opposition to this fisheries special  
2 action and, instead, offers up suggestions or  
3 recommendations for regulations and implementation of  
4 the gillnet in the Kenai River.  
5

6 So as you heard the Department does  
7 recommend that the newly adopted language by the Board  
8 of Fisheries be also adopted in this fisheries special  
9 action request for the 2019 fishery and also as part of  
10 the upcoming rulemaking. We believe it's appropriate  
11 for all fisheries, both State and Federal to aide in  
12 the conservation efforts to protect larger, older  
13 female chinook salmon.  
14

15 And we do agree with the suggested  
16 revisions that also had been read from the Ninilchik  
17 Traditional Council with respect to changing the  
18 wording in the section of up to 50 early run chinook  
19 salmon may be retained or released according to the  
20 following conditions:  
21

22 And so retention of early run chinook  
23 salmon less than 46 inches or 55 inches and longer in  
24 length is permitted if the State of Alaska Department  
25 of Fish and Game announces that the OEG for early run  
26 chinook salmon is projected to be met. The caveat here  
27 is that this slot limit was repealed by the Board of  
28 Fisheries in 2017 and replaced by the maximum size  
29 limit of 36 inches. So the language the Department  
30 would recommend is that only chinook salmon that are 36  
31 inches or less are allowed to be retained in the early  
32 run if the preseason forecast projects the in-river run  
33 to be within the OEG or if the in-season run projection  
34 is within the OEG.  
35

36 With respect to when the Department  
37 allows liberalization, which includes increased size  
38 harvests and also the use of bait, our language reads  
39 if the in-season, in-river run projection exceeds the  
40 OEG range of 3,900 to 6,600 king salmon, that 75  
41 centimeters mid-eye to tail fork length or longer the  
42 Department may liberalize the sportfishery by allowing  
43 the use of bait and/or modifying the maximum size limit  
44 allowed for retention. And this is in the waters down  
45 stream of Slikok Creek.  
46

47 So just a comment about the  
48 Department's escapement goals. They are typically  
49 expressed as a range. We do have some threshold  
50

1 goals, but for the goals that are expressed as a range,  
2 which is in this case for the Kenai River, when the  
3 projection exceeds that range, which would be the upper  
4 end, that is when we may liberalize. And the  
5 Department is charged with managing escapements  
6 throughout the entire range of the goal.

7  
8 The Department does continually update  
9 in-river run projections throughout the season as well  
10 as the escapement projections during the season. And,  
11 as you heard earlier, also I think just as a reminder,  
12 the in-river run projection means how many kings we  
13 think are entering the river and the escapement  
14 projections are how many kings we think will be left to  
15 spawn after harvest is subtracted. So harvest occurs  
16 above and below the sonar where we generate those  
17 harvest estimates and we generate them from our krill  
18 survey.

19  
20 In closing, the Department suggests  
21 utilizing similar language that's found in the Kenai  
22 River and Kasilof River early run king salmon  
23 management plan. And, finally, as you heard, we have  
24 provided comments in the past and still recommend today  
25 that the net be closely attended, and we have heard  
26 from Ninilchik Traditional Council that they do this,  
27 but we do recommend it either being in the permit  
28 stipulation or the regulation if possible.

29  
30 And just with respect to the language  
31 that was shared on the screen, we just wanted to point  
32 out that A is mentioning the preseason forecast, it's  
33 our understanding this fishery starts July 1, so you'll  
34 have in-river information and the Department may have  
35 already changed its management decisions before then.  
36 You know, we have made a decision based on preseason  
37 but due to in-season information, there may be changes  
38 by July 1. But B seems to cover the in-season  
39 assessment information.

40  
41 And I just wanted to mention Tom Vanya,  
42 who's our regional supervisor for the Kenai River area  
43 is on line if folks do have additional questions.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
48 questions for the State.

49  
50



1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
4 Jill.

5

6 InterAgency Staff Committee.

7

8 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Members of the Board. For the record my name is  
10 Jennifer Hardin, and I'm the subsistence policy  
11 coordinator for OSM and the Chair of the Interagency  
12 Staff Committee.

13

14 The InterAgency Staff Committee  
15 comments on FSA18-02 are located on Page 59 of the  
16 Staff analysis. The InterAgency Staff Committee  
17 supports approval of Temporary Special Action Request  
18 FSA18-02 for the following reasons:

19

20 Approval of Temporary Special Action  
21 FSA18-02 to implement the community gillnet fishery  
22 during the 2018 season will provide residents of the  
23 community of Ninilchik with a Federal subsistence  
24 harvest opportunity in the Kenai River that was  
25 authorized by the Board in 2015. The action also  
26 alleviates concerns raised by Cooper Landing and Hope  
27 residents concerning the impact of the community  
28 gillnet fishery on their customary and traditional use  
29 of the resource.

30

31 The commitment statement by the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
33 Service states that in the event that final regulations  
34 implementing all elements of the pathway table, which  
35 is located in Appendix C of your analysis on Page 76.  
36 In the event that those elements are not in effect by  
37 February 1, 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
38 and the Ninilchik Traditional Council will jointly  
39 submit a special action request to authorize all  
40 elements. This action fulfills that commitment.

41

42 The proponents request to implement the  
43 community gillnet fishery during the 2018 season as  
44 described in FSA18-02 and the pathway table will not  
45 result in conservation concerns for several reasons,  
46 including the main target species are sockeye and coho  
47 salmon and the net will be placed in shallower near-  
48 shore waters. Early run chinook salmon will be  
49 protected with no use of the gillnet prior to July 1

50

1 and no retention of chinook salmon until July 16 unless  
2 the State determines that the optimal escapement goal  
3 for the early run has been met.

4  
5 Obviously these comments were made  
6 before the proponents agreed to this language that's on  
7 the screen, so please keep that in mind.

8  
9 Proposed conservative retention and  
10 encounter rates will help address potential  
11 conservation concerns for chinook salmon, rainbow trout  
12 and Dolly Varden. Permit conditions will be in place  
13 to ensure the fishery is well managed and operated and  
14 there are two seasons of experience that demonstrate  
15 the operator runs a responsible fishery.

16  
17 The Temporary Special Action FSA18-02,  
18 the agreement in principle and the pathway table  
19 address conflicting regulatory concerns that were  
20 previously identified.

21  
22 Finally, the State of Alaska,  
23 Department of Fish and Game recently changed the  
24 harvest limit for chinook salmon in the Kenai River to  
25 protect chinook salmon that are greater than 36 inches.  
26 It may be appropriate for the Ninilchik Traditional  
27 Council to consider a similar restriction in future  
28 regulations to aide in conservation efforts to protect  
29 larger, older females as part of a rebuilding plan for  
30 early run chinook salmon.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,  
35 Jennifer. Any questions for Staff.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
40 Board discussion with Council Chairs, State liaison.  
41 Open the floor.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and  
46 seeing none, the floor is open for Board action.

47  
48 Karen.

49  
50

1 MS. CLARK: I'd like to make a motion  
2 to adopt FSA18-02 with the modifications indicated on  
3 the slide and projected here at this meeting and  
4 supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and  
5 NTC. If I get a second I'll provide my justification.  
6

7 MR. OWEN: Second.  
8

9 MS. CLARK: This is an easy  
10 justification.  
11

12 First, I want to say we appreciate the  
13 work of both NTC and the Fish and Wildlife Service  
14 Staff who have expended a lot of time and energy  
15 collaborating to make this work and I think, in fact,  
16 it does work and we found a really good place. This  
17 language best reflects the intent of the original  
18 agreement and is acceptable to both proposal  
19 proponents.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
22

23 MS. CLARK: And the RAC.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Any  
26 discussion.  
27

28 (No comments)  
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the  
31 question.  
32

33 MR. FROST: Question.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. I  
36 think this is an easy one.  
37

38 All in favor say aye.  
39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same  
43 sign.  
44

45 (No opposing votes)  
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries  
48 unanimously.  
49

50

1 Geez, what was that.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Presentation.  
6 Partners Fisheries Monitoring presentation, Copper  
7 River.

8

9 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the  
12 floor.

13

14 MR. BARTLEY: Kevin Bartley, Ahtna  
15 InterTribal Resource Commission, social scientists.

16

17 I'm here to speak with you guys today  
18 about our work on the Partners Program.

19

20 Let me see if I can move this a little  
21 bit. I'm hoping that you guys can see this on the  
22 board, I'm having trouble seeing it right now. Can you  
23 see it -- okay.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 MR. BARTLEY: So we entered into --  
28 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission entered into a  
29 cooperative agreement in 2016 with the U.S. Fish and  
30 Wildlife Service for this grant. This Partners Grant  
31 hires -- I'm not sure why I'm getting a lot of feedback  
32 here. Any chance we can fix this.

33

34 REPORTER: Shut it off a minute.

35

36 MR. BARTLEY: Shut it off.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 MR. BARTLEY: Okay. Great. Okay,  
41 that's much better. All right, yeah, thanks, I think  
42 so. It could be because it's too close to this and I'm  
43 using it for notes and who knows.

44

45 REPORTER: Exactly, it could be  
46 anything.

47

48 MR. BARTLEY: Appreciate that. Thank  
49 you so much.

50

1                   So, again, this partners cooperative  
2 agreement was entered into in 2016. This is a capacity  
3 building agreement to help Ahtna InterTribal Resource  
4 Commission. We're just coming into being and this  
5 hires a social scientist in the region and I'm going to  
6 explain the purposes and the goals -- or the goals and  
7 objectives of the grant here shortly.

8

9                   So a little bit about AIRC.

10

11                   Our mission is to conserve, manage and  
12 develop fish, wildlife and plant resources of the Ahtna  
13 region according to culturally relevant values. The  
14 goals and objectives of this cooperative agreement are  
15 to:

16

17                   Improve Alaska Native and rural  
18 residents understanding of and meaningful participation  
19 in Federal and State fish and wildlife management and  
20 regulatory processes.

21

22                   I'm going to read this because I'm sure  
23 the people in the back can't hear this.

24

25                   The goals -- the second goal is to  
26 build strong partnerships between AIRC rural  
27 organizations and State and Federal agencies engaging  
28 in fish and wildlife management.

29

30                   The third goal is to inspire and mentor  
31 Alaska Native and rural students to become scientists  
32 and resource managers.

33

34                   The three objectives are to:

35

36                   1. Facilitate fish and wildlife  
37 regulatory and management planning meetings.

38

39                   2. Develop and implement fish and  
40 wildlife research and monitoring projects.

41

42                   3. Identify regional subsistence  
43 management issues and information needs.

44

45                   I really wish we had a bigger screen to  
46 be able to show this, but this is a map of the Ahtna  
47 traditional use territory that you're looking at.

48

49                   So what's inside of this red boundary,

50

1 if you can see that, is the Ahtna traditional use  
2 territory. The numbers that you see inside those --  
3 inside this map are referring to the general management  
4 units, primarily 13, 12 and 11. So these are the  
5 various units that are comprised of the Ahtna  
6 traditional use territory now. And you will see that  
7 there are two large land owners -- three large land  
8 owners, one being the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park,  
9 the State of Alaska and the Ahtna Incorporate, and so  
10 you'll see that in here and this is just to give you  
11 some perspective of our area and you'll see that that  
12 checkerboard status makes for management of fish and  
13 wildlife very difficult but we're not alone in this,  
14 you know, it's in many areas of Alaska.

15  
16                   Again, I really wish you could see this  
17 but this is a project -- this Native Village of Eyak  
18 fishwheel project is a project that's been going on  
19 since the early 2000s. According to Bruce Cain and  
20 Erica McCall, this is the first Partners Project, the  
21 Native Village of Eyak. So this fishwheel helps to  
22 access -- it's part of a mark/recapture project, and it  
23 helps to assess the king salmon on the Copper River.  
24 And it's pretty cool, because that guy standing in the  
25 foreground is Bruce Cain, and Bruce worked with a man,  
26 who's name was Johnny Goodlawtaw, he's no longer with  
27 us, but Johnny Goodlawtaw designed the model and as  
28 Bruce tells this story, they went down there and spoke  
29 with several biologists down in Cordova, they had just  
30 bought these big gigantic metal research wheels and  
31 Johnny looks at Bruce and says, that's not going to  
32 work, and he said what do you mean Bruce, and he said  
33 you need four dip wheel and they went back and they  
34 built this wheel. And it turned out that year, this  
35 wheel right here caught more fish than all those other  
36 extremely expensive research wheels combined, you know,  
37 and that's coming from the people who worked on that  
38 project and I think it's really cool that the Native  
39 Village of Eyak continues to work, you know, to work  
40 with us to build these wheels. And those poles that  
41 you see that are on -- you know, I helped these guys  
42 build this, this was a three week project, they did  
43 most of the work, I just sat there and hand them tools,  
44 drill this Kevin, you know, bend this pole, peel this  
45 spruce bark, you know, I was learning. But we -- that  
46 picture on the bottom right, that's an old -- that's a  
47 heat chamber. It's off of a railroad car and Bruce  
48 modified this into a heat chamber and we boiled this  
49 water and we bent those poles in the old way and bent  
50

1 those spruce poles after we peeled them to make those  
2 basket. It was a really fun project, you know, we got  
3 to learn, you know, all about the history of it. Erica  
4 McCall, our consultant social scientist who helped to  
5 write this grant, she's doing an awesome visual  
6 anthropology project right now to document this and I  
7 think that's really cool, you know, because this is the  
8 first Partners Project, and so they're documenting this  
9 story and they're interviewing people and taking  
10 pictures and so this has been a really fun project to  
11 work on in partnership with the Native Village of Eyak.

12  
13 Okay.

14  
15 Okay, another great opportunity that  
16 we're working with right now is with the University of  
17 Alaska-Fairbanks.

18  
19 We're working with them to provide  
20 these Federal and State subsistence management training  
21 courses. And, for myself, it's been a great  
22 opportunity to learn about the region, to learn about  
23 the people's concerns, to get to know them personally.  
24 These meetings have been extremely valuable. You know,  
25 it's not just an opportunity for us to learn about  
26 Federal and State subsistence management policies,  
27 which we certainly do, but it's for an opportunity for  
28 us to discuss some of the major issues that are before  
29 us at these Federal Subsistence Board, Board of Game,  
30 Board of Fish, you know, we talk about these things,  
31 how they will affect people, what we could potentially  
32 do, you know, what should be our response. It's an  
33 opportunity to engage people, and it has been a great  
34 -- I'm loving this. You know I hope this program --  
35 it's my understanding UAF is working with their tribal  
36 management program to bring this all over Alaska and  
37 I've talked to several people, people that are in this  
38 room today who have attended these and they find them  
39 very helpful. You know so Ahtna is working with UAF to  
40 bring this program -- why -- because it meets one of  
41 our commitments under this cooperative agreement, which  
42 is to increase rural residents understanding of and  
43 participation in Federal and State subsistence  
44 management program.s We want to improve that. We want  
45 people in these meetings, you know, it's important.

46  
47 And so I'm going to try to keep moving.  
48 Sometimes I either talk to much -- so I'm going to keep  
49 going. I'm passionate about this work. I love it.

50

1 You know I really think this stuff is important.

2

3 This gets to our program evaluation  
4 here for our Partners grant. We're going to split this  
5 up into three phases.

6

7 Our goal here is to assess people's  
8 understanding of and participation in the Federal and  
9 State subsistence management programs, going into this,  
10 and hopefully, you know, to be able to understand how  
11 that has changed and working with AIRC and the various  
12 programs that we help to deliver, how has that changed  
13 people's participation and understanding. So that's  
14 the survey portion of it, that's part of Phase I and  
15 III of this analysis.

16

17 The second phase, which is going to be  
18 two parts, it should say informal interviews but  
19 there's also going to be a search conference I'm going  
20 to talk about here in a minute.

21

22 But these informal interviews, pretty  
23 soon here, we just finished the Phase I, I'm going to  
24 talk about that a little bit here in a minute, but  
25 those surveys help to drive the development of our  
26 interview guide so that we can probe and better  
27 understand some of the issues that we're faced with.  
28 I'm going to go into a little bit more explanation of  
29 that here in a minute. But just to understand this is  
30 how this analysis is working.

31

32 Again, the study area is the Ahtna  
33 traditional use territory and the people's engaged in  
34 the subsistence management training and the AIRC search  
35 conference participants.

36

37 One second. I just want to be able to  
38 see this. It's hard for me to see.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MR. BARTLEY: Okay. So there were a  
43 series of questions that were asked and people were  
44 asked to rate on a scale of one to five for some of  
45 these questions, whether they disagree, somewhat agree  
46 or fully agree. I'm not going to show you all of that  
47 now, you know, I'm just showing you a few of these just  
48 to get some understanding. And here we were asking  
49 people whether or not they are more aware of Copper

50



1 River subsistence management issues and needs because  
2 of working with AIRC. And, in general, people said,  
3 yes, they fully agree or they fell in a range of four  
4 and five. So it's helpful in other words.

5

6 Okay. Next slide.

7

8 Yep.

9

10 So here it's saying my participation in  
11 Federal and State subsistence fish and wildlife  
12 management programs is improving with support from  
13 AIRC. This is focused on the participation point. And  
14 for the most part it's on the agreed side. I think we  
15 could do better with that.

16

17 Here we're saying, the understanding of  
18 Federal and State fish and wildlife regulations and  
19 regulatory process. We're asking people whether or not  
20 they have a full understanding, some understanding or  
21 no understanding. And here we also need to make  
22 improvement, I think, generally people are falling on  
23 the some understanding with some leaning towards full  
24 understanding, you know, but I think we can continue to  
25 work towards improving this.

26

27 We also asked some qualitative  
28 questions to get at, you know, surveys are great to  
29 kind of -- I think -- in the Army we used to have  
30 what's called a hit check for engines, you know, a  
31 health indicator test, it's like the sensors on your  
32 car, you know, something's not quite right but you  
33 don't really know why it's -- you know, why that's gone  
34 wrong until you tear it down and figure it out. And  
35 this is why I think the Phase II of the interviews --  
36 sorry, I was a mechanic in a previous life and, you  
37 know, I'm standing -- you know I was a soldier, a  
38 mechanic and now I'm a scientist.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. BARTLEY: I don't know what's  
43 happening next but I hope to God it'll slow down, you  
44 know.

45

46 But that's why I see these interviews  
47 as important. Because now, you know, it's important  
48 that we dig deeper into understanding what people are  
49 telling us, you know, why is that, you know, why are  
50

1 you having these challenges, what specifically could we  
2 do to improve this process. You know, I learned a lot  
3 doing work in the Kuskokwim and I think this is an  
4 opportunity to go beyond just identifying Regional  
5 subsistence management issues and information needs,  
6 which is certainly a major objective of our agreement,  
7 but we also want to know, you know, what's working and  
8 what's challenging.

9  
10 And so this was a question -- let me  
11 make sure I -- yeah, so participants were asked what  
12 they found helpful and challenging about their  
13 participation and out of the Federal Subsistence Board,  
14 Alaska Board of Fish and Alaska Board of Game, Regional  
15 -- or local advisory committees Alaska and Regional  
16 Advisory Council meetings. Looking -- we all wish --  
17 you know looking back on this question, you know,  
18 several of us -- Erica and myself looked at this and  
19 now I kind of wished we would have asked this question  
20 for each and every one of these different processes  
21 because it's very hard to say, you know, when you  
22 collected the answers, although they were very helpful  
23 it's hard to say without then going and interviewing  
24 people, you know, which -- maybe are some of these  
25 processes more helpful. We did ask that but we didn't  
26 get a lot of responses. People just tended to respond  
27 to this one question, what was helpful, what was  
28 challenging; well, what Board are they talking about.  
29 You know, so this is why in my mind this is a health  
30 indicator test, we need to now dig deeper.

31  
32 You know so I want to blow this up so I  
33 can -- I know that's very hard to -- I'm going to read  
34 this for the people who may be in the back.

35  
36 And I saw a lot of this play out just  
37 yesterday and today and, you know, these are just  
38 challenges, it's not about so and so, you know,  
39 personal issues, but this is what people feel and this  
40 is what they tell us.

41  
42 Some said Board members decisions favor  
43 wealthy interest groups. Again, this is just some  
44 people's responses. This is not everybody. These were  
45 the responses we collected.

46  
47 One person said, quote, they don't  
48 listen.

49  
50

1                   Perceptions that RACs listen but may  
2 not take action.

3  
4                   Meeting agenda changes cause some to  
5 miss opportunities to testify or hear important  
6 testimonies.

7  
8                   Another person said, quote, you testify  
9 but changes don't happen.

10  
11                   I'm not sure if any action is taken on  
12 items we bring up.

13  
14                   Some said, lack of time to review  
15 materials.

16  
17                   Others said I'm anxious. I feel very  
18 anxious when I come to the mic.

19  
20                   And then one person just wrote, quote,  
21 conflict, disrespect and lack of understanding.

22  
23                   And over on the facilitator's side I  
24 didn't learn as much as I would want to. I want to dig  
25 deeper in that. Because when I was engaged in doing  
26 interviews on the Kuskokwim, we were able to find out  
27 -- people told stories about when things were helpful  
28 or they worked well and that told us a lot about, you  
29 know, what can we do to potentially improve.

30  
31                   So the only thing that I corrected in  
32 this survey on the facilitator's side was  
33 overwhelmingly to learn information about issues and  
34 proposals. So it's -- I think people always see this  
35 as an opportunity to learn about each other and that's  
36 great and that needs to continue.

37  
38                   Hold on one second. I apologize.

39  
40                   (Pause)

41  
42                   MR. BARTLEY: Yeah, there was one other  
43 thing I want to say, I needed something just to jog my  
44 mind.

45  
46                   The other day we were in a sharing  
47 circle, right before I drove down here, and I don't  
48 forget stories like this, I carry them with me for the  
49 rest of my life. We were asked what motivates us to be  
50

1 in this room to do this work, right. And there were  
2 tears around the room, 35 people shared why they do  
3 this work. And elder walked in a little bit late and  
4 she -- and it got to her and she talked about some of  
5 the challenges they deal with, substance abuse, in the  
6 communities, and in her -- in her response to this, and  
7 her thought, she looked to the ceiling and she said, if  
8 our children would learn to love the land, and  
9 immediately I thought to this comment that I heard in  
10 2012 from a man in Eagle and he said on a  
11 teleconference for YR DFA, this was years ago, Jill  
12 Klein was in this room, you know, and this man says,  
13 our children think fish come from the sky. And I  
14 thought what is he talking about, you know, I had no  
15 idea what he was talking about at that time. And to be  
16 fair, I had probably been in Alaska four years, I was  
17 working with the OSM, I was observing, I was learning,  
18 I was still learning. Well, I later learned that they  
19 fly fish up to Eagle as a gif -- you know, as a  
20 gesture, it's a good thing, you know, they want -- they  
21 -- the kids don't get the opportunities to fish up  
22 there in Y5 the way they do in Y1 because we have that  
23 commitment, the International Treaty, so restrictions  
24 are pretty bad up at the headwaters. And this man was  
25 sitting there saying, he said we -- we -- the next part  
26 of that quote was we don't believe in welfare, we want  
27 our children to learn how to fish. And when this woman  
28 was telling us, if our children would learn to love the  
29 land, I thought to myself, our culture's have the power  
30 to heal us. When we practice we are whole, mind, body  
31 and spirit. And it doesn't matter if you're a farmer  
32 from Kentucky or if you are Native Alaskan from Kwig,  
33 we all have a culture, and when we practice it it makes  
34 us whole. And I thought -- that -- that's just -- I'll  
35 never forget that. And it tells me why we do this  
36 work. Because as people explained here today, and I  
37 think Moses Owen said when these regulations hit us  
38 hard it's like putting a padlock on our grocery store,  
39 you know, that's -- I mean this stuff, it hits home.

40  
41 Some recomm -- we also asked what AIRC  
42 could be doing better for the Ahtna tribes that we  
43 support, and this is what they told us.

44  
45 They asked that we disseminate  
46 quarterly newsletters, I thought that was great.

47  
48 They want us to support tribes  
49 sovereign rights. To educate tribal leaders on tribal  
50

1 sovereignty.

2

3 To continue offering classes to educate  
4 us on subsistence management and issues.

5

6 Understanding our history is an  
7 important step before planning to move forward.

8

9 And then they told us keep coming to  
10 our village and to document our traditional and  
11 cultural practices.

12

13 So these were the recommendations that  
14 we received for the AIRC.

15

16 And this is just a little bit about the  
17 Copper River search conference. Our goal here is to  
18 invite and engage stakeholders. All stakeholders with  
19 a vested interest in the Copper River fisheries. You  
20 know one of the things we want to accomplish in this is  
21 to develop a shared vision. I'm really looking forward  
22 to this, I think this has the opportunity to be a  
23 pretty awesome experience. But it will also be an  
24 opportunity for us to identify regional fisheries  
25 management issues and information needs. I'm really  
26 looking forward to this again because we're going to  
27 bring all these stakeholders together. You know  
28 there's probably going to be upwards of 40 people  
29 involved in this. This is going to be a real  
30 opportunity.

31

32 We also want to define and  
33 operationalize, next steps, what are some things that  
34 we can work on together. You know so I'm really  
35 interested to see, you know, what people -- what is  
36 that low hanging fruit, that mutual common ground.  
37 What can we be doing together. Because there's always  
38 work that we can do together.

39

40 And then we're going to provide a  
41 report on these proceedings to the Partners Program as  
42 part of our commitment.

43

44 And I also just wanted to take this  
45 opportunity to briefly, you know, to cover the -- the  
46 AIRC DOI MOA and just to say how thankful people  
47 expressed they are that this is moving forward, you  
48 know, it's been talked about in other meetings, this  
49 2015 agreement moves to formalize a wildlife management

50

1 partnership between AIRC and DOI seeking to establish  
2 an AIRC managed community harvest permit, that's a  
3 quote right out of the MOA. We appreciate the recent  
4 decision from the Federal Subsistence Board directing  
5 OSM and AIRC to, quote, you know, explore and to  
6 develop a community harvest permit, framework, and we  
7 really appreciate that and we see that as taking a step  
8 to move forward and people are very excited -- this is  
9 an exciting opportunity.

10

11 So we really want to reach out and tell  
12 you guys thanks. We know this is a fisheries  
13 presentation, but this is a -- this is a big issue in  
14 our communities and people are glad to see this moving  
15 forward.

16

17 And I think that's it, and I hope I  
18 didn't go on too long. I tried to keep it brief, but I  
19 wanted you guys to see what goes on in these  
20 communities. We're working hard and are going to  
21 continue to do so.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
24 questions for him.

25

26 Wayne.

27

28 MR. OWEN: Yes, Tony. You know, I was  
29 looking at the barrier slide.....

30

31 MR. BARTLEY: Yeah.

32

33 MR. OWEN: .....and, you know, and  
34 reading those things and every point there was  
35 something that I've seen when the public talks about  
36 engaging with the Forest Service, specifically, in our  
37 environmental.....

38

39 MR. BARTLEY: Hmmmm.

40

41 MR. OWEN: .....analysis process, you  
42 know, and whether you're from Chicago or Kwig or Glenns  
43 Ferry, Idaho, where I grew up, I think the distinction  
44 there is the difference between common language and the  
45 language of the bureaucrat, that we are a part of, and  
46 I'm not diminishing what we do because it's important  
47 and it has to be that way, it all has to do with how we  
48 communicate, and the words that we use.

49

50

1 So as you share back with people.....

2

3 MR. BARTLEY: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. OWEN: .....you know, please make  
6 them feel not like they are separate and different, but  
7 that's a nearly universal thing between people that  
8 have regular jobs or not jobs like this, and whether  
9 you're a university professor or a subsistence  
10 fisherman or a farmer, you know, you have the same  
11 challenge and.....

12

13 MR. BARTLEY: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. OWEN: .....it's about not  
16 understanding what is being said or why it's being said  
17 or how. So that was enlightening for me to see and I  
18 appreciate it because of my background.

19

20 MR. BARTLEY: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Mr. Owen. Mr. Chair, can I respond to that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: (Nods  
24 affirmatively)

25

26 MR. BARTLEY: I just want to say this.  
27 You know so I really appreciate that comment, Mr. Owen.  
28 And so when I was conducting research in the Kuskokwim  
29 in 2013 and 2014, and when it was all said and done and  
30 I was finished with the analysis and finishing the  
31 report, I came to understand that the greatest  
32 challenge, and I really believe this, the greatest --  
33 and it bears it out in the analysis as well for the  
34 Western Alaska, and I imagine elsewhere, the greatest  
35 challenge has to do with lack of understanding, it's  
36 not personal.

37

38 And I also came to understand this, two  
39 things, the most profound things I've learned  
40 throughout my work in the Army and as a social  
41 scientist, productive negotiations are linked to how  
42 well we know and understand each other. And the second  
43 thing, and I learned this in the Army first but I was  
44 too stupid to understand it until later, but I really  
45 believe this, uncomfortable experiences are  
46 opportunities to grow. When we are highly  
47 uncomfortable, like let's say we're at a fish camp and  
48 we're not from an area that does with fish camps and  
49 for me I was unexperienced hunting between Kwethluk

50

1 River and (indiscernible) and we were out there hunting  
2 and it was minus 30 and I was scared and in that moment  
3 I understood that I did not have the tools to get home,  
4 I had to rely on others and I had to shut up and  
5 listen, and it humbled me, and in that moment I was  
6 teachable. And I have taken that with me everywhere I  
7 go and I try to remember that because I talk too much  
8 sometimes too. You know, people know that. I do --  
9 I'm kind of a two spectrum person, I go all the way  
10 listen or all the way full steam ahead, I don't know  
11 the middle ground too well but I try.

12  
13 But I thank you guys so much and thank  
14 you, Mr. Owen, for that.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any  
17 other questions or comments.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for  
22 your work and your presentation today, I appreciate  
23 your support.

24  
25 MR. BARTLEY: Thank you, Mr.  
26 Christianson -- thank you, Mr. Chair -- sorry.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate it.  
29 All right, we're starting to wind down here, we got  
30 schedule of upcoming Federal Subsistence Board  
31 meetings, 2018 summer work session. It looks like we  
32 have it listed here August 7th and 8th, 2018. We also  
33 have the 2019 winter public meeting, fish and shellfish  
34 regulations, non-rural threshold determinations, which  
35 will be January 29th, 2019 through February 1st.

36  
37 Is there any other business.

38  
39 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair. Do we have a  
40 location for the August meeting yet, I guess it's a  
41 question for Staff maybe.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Location.

44  
45 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
46 Owen. The meeting will be held in this room.

47  
48 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

49  
50



1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.  
2 Ken.

3  
4 MR. LORD: Do we have any idea what  
5 might be on the agenda at this point.

6  
7 MS. HARDIN: So at this point, I'm sure  
8 there may be other items but we typically deal with  
9 annual report replies from the Regional Advisory  
10 Councils. During that meeting we'll also have an  
11 executive session to deal with Regional Advisory  
12 Council nominations. And the Board asked us to come  
13 back to you during the summer work session regarding  
14 the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission deferred  
15 Proposal WP18-19 and the request for a community  
16 harvest system.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

19  
20 MS. PITKA: Well, I will be in Montana  
21 during those dates for my sister's wedding. I was  
22 going to say, unfortunately, but I guess I should be  
23 happy about that.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Bert.

28  
29 MR. FROST: So on the August meeting  
30 there was talk about a request for reconsideration for  
31 the -- I don't even remember what it was.....

32  
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Unit 2 deer.

34  
35 MR. FROST: Right. Is that going to be  
36 part of the August agenda.

37  
38 MS. HARDIN: I'm going to need to defer  
39 that question to the Acting ARD, but I will remind you  
40 that the window for accepting requests for  
41 reconsideration is 60 days after the effective date or  
42 the publication in the Federal Register and if the  
43 effective date is July 1, Mr. Matuskowitz would have to  
44 correct me but I'm not sure that we'll have a Federal  
45 Register by July 1, but we'll do our best.

46  
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: And for the record,  
48 Bert, she's absolutely correct.

49  
50

1                           CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other  
2 business or questions.  
3  
4                           (No comments)  
5  
6                           CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds like it.  
7 I'll entertain a motion.  
8  
9                           MR. C. BROWER: So moved.  
10  
11                          MR. FROST: Second.  
12  
13                          CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Did you have  
14 something, Wayne, before.....  
15  
16                          MR. OWEN: No.  
17  
18                          CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. There's  
19 been a motion made and seconded, any opposition to the  
20 motion.  
21  
22                          (No comments)  
23  
24                          CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: None heard, 10  
25 minutes to noon. Have a good day.  
26  
27                          (Off record)  
28  
29                          (END OF PROCEEDINGS)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing, Pages \_\_\_ through \_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING, VOLUME VI, taken electronically by our firm on the 17th day of May 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska;

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

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Salena A. Hile  
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My Commission Expires: 09/16/18