

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Dillingham, Alaska

October 30, 2019

10:41 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Molly Chythlook, Chair

Dennis Andrew

Nanci Morris Lyon

William Trefon

Dan Dunaway

Richard Wilson

Robert Larson

Frank Woods

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Dillingham, Alaska - 10/30/2019)

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5

(On record)

6

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to
8 call the meeting to order, it's 10:41.

9

10

11

Let's start off with our invocation and
12 then I'll read you the agenda items after that. So I'm
13 going to ask if Joe would have our invocation for us.
You can come up to the table.

14

15

So let's all stand.

16

17

MR. CHYTHLOOK: (Invocation)

18

19

IN UNISON: Amen.

20

21

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
22 Okay. I'm going to quickly read through the agenda for
23 our information. So we just had.....

24

25

MS. MORRIS LYON: Do you want to do
26 roll call first.

27

28

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
29 our next agenda would be to have a roll call by Donald
30 so to make sure that we have a quorum.

31

32

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Roll call of the
34 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

35

36

Mr. Frank Woods.

37

38

MR. WOODS: Here.

39

40

MR. MIKE: Mr. Dennis Andrew.

41

42

MR. ANDREW: Here.

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44

MR. MIKE: Ms. Nanci Morris.

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46

MS. MORRIS LYON: Here.

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48

MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.

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1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Here.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. William Trefon.
4
5 MR. TREFON: Here.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Billy Maines.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I contacted
12 Mr. Maines and he couldn't attended due to a head cold
13 and he couldn't make it today.
14
15 Mr. Dan Dunaway.
16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Hill
24 contacted me and he had some medical appointments he
25 couldn't miss.
26
27 Mr. Robert Larson.
28
29 MR. LARSON: Here.
30
31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson's on
32 record -- on teleconference.
33
34 Mr. Richard Wilson.
35
36 MR. WILSON: Here.
37
38 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, you have eight
39 members present. You have a quorum. That includes Mr.
40 Larson on teleconference.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
43 you. We have a quorum to conduct this meeting. And so
44 at this time I will quickly read through our agenda for
45 those of you that are here and also the ones that are
46 on teleconference.
47
48 Number 1, invocation. Joe had our
49 invocation this morning.
50

1 And we just got through with -- no, we
2 called the meeting to order I guess at 10:00 -- what
3 was it, 10:41 according to my phone.
4

5 Number 3, Donald just had our roll call
6 and our quorum was established.
7

8 Number 4, welcome and introduction.
9

10 Number 5, review and adopt agenda.
11

12 Number 6, review and approve previous
13 meeting minutes.
14

15 Number 7 would be reports from our
16 Council members, Chair and Coordinator's report.
17

18 Number 8, public and tribal comment on
19 nonagenda items this morning. And remember to fill out
20 these blue cards for those of you that are in public
21 and want to make any comments. And Donald will make
22 this announcement later too.
23

24 Number 9 would be old business.
25

26 (A) is wildlife closure review.
27

28 (B) would be our 805(c) report.
29

30 Number 10, under new business we have
31 our wildlife proposals and we have what, five proposals
32 that we will be dealing with and one statewide
33 proposal.
34

35 Under 12 -- number 12, no. No, it --
36 I'm sorry, it would be (B) under 10. It would be (B),
37 2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
38

39 (C) under new business is identify
40 issues for fiscal year 2019 annual report.
41

42 (D) I guess we need to probably
43 eliminate this section, Alaska Board of Fisheries
44 proposals since we don't have any proposals at this
45 time. So, you know, when we go to approve the agenda
46 we could possibly eliminate number (D) from our agenda.
47

48 11, we'll have agency reports. And it
49 looks like that we're hoping that each report would be
50

1 about 15 minutes long. But these reports to me are
2 very important, answer and question periods are usually
3 information so I'm not going to really stick to that 15
4 minute time frame unless the reports go a little bit
5 too long.

6
7 So under 11, agency reports.

8
9 (A) would be tribal governments.

10
11 (B) Native organizations and we have
12 Bristol Bay Native Association under the Native
13 organizations.

14
15 (C) would be U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service. There are two items under U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife Service.

18
19 (1) Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

20
21 (2) would be Alaska Peninsula/Becharof.

22
23 And then we have the National Park
24 Service.

25
26 (1) is Lake Clark National Park.

27
28 (2) is Katmai National Park/Aniakchak
29 National Monument. And then they have a couple items
30 under that.

31
32 And then we have Alaska Department of
33 Fish and Game.

34
35 And then I think we had a request from
36 BLM that they would like to be on the agenda. So when
37 we get to adding to this agenda we can add BLM under
38 ADF&G.

39
40 And there is also OSM under that. No,
41 it -- OSM on its own.

42
43 Number 11 would be future meeting
44 dates.

45
46 MR. WOODS: We have two 11s.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, we have
49 two 11s. So future meeting minutes would be 12.

50

1 Closing comments would be 13.

2

3

Adjournment would be 14.

4

5

6 Okay. Go back to our agenda process.
7 And number 4 would be welcome and introduction. And I
8 guess this is where I welcome everybody that is here.

8

9

10 It looks very impressive looking to the
11 audience with majority of our chairs filled. So those
12 of you that are agency members, thank you for making
13 the attempt to be here at the meeting. I know that
14 people that have 8:00 to 5:00 jobs it's hard to get
15 away, but I sure thank you for making the attempt to be
16 here. And then also the public.

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And a special welcome to our students.
The reason why we've elected to have our meeting here
is to encourage our students to attend because those
are our future leaders and we want them to -- we want
to encourage them that eventually we want you sitting
here at the table, directing or conducting the RAC
meeting.

So welcome everybody and thanks again
for attending.

Okay. Our next one on our agenda would
be review and adopt agenda.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Donald has something.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, Donald.
I'm sorry.

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
just want to have the Council acknowledge those folks
online that are participating. So if those folks can
identify -- please state your name and who you
represent.

Thank you.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this is Vince
Mathews, acting InterAgency Staff Committee from
Fairbanks.

MR. LIND: (In Native) This is Orville
Lind, Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence

1 Management. Good morning. Morning, Madame Chair and
2 each of you Board members.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
5 else.

6
7 DR. REAM: Good morning, Madame Chair.
8 This is Joshua Ream. I am the Regional Subsistence
9 Program manager for the National Park Service.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're
12 breaking up pretty bad. And I don't know if it's your
13 phone. So could you repeat your name and who you're
14 representing?

15
16 DR. REAM: Absolutely. I hope this is
17 better. This is Joshua Ream. I'm with the National
18 Park Service. I am the new Subsistence Program manager
19 here at the Anchorage regional office and I just took
20 over from Clarence Summers who is retiring this month.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
25 else.

26
27 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
28 Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State
29 subsistence liaison.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
32 else.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Robert Larson from
35 Koliganek with this Council.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else.

38
39 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
40 from the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

41
42 MR. MERIZON: Rick Merizon with the
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is that
46 -- is that it?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
2 none, thanks for attending via teleconference. We miss
3 seeing you here in person, but thanks again for joining
4 us.

5
6 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, do you
9 have anything else.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Before the Council goes through the review and adoption
13 of agenda I just want to go over what you went over
14 earlier.

15
16 I spoke with our liaison, George
17 Pappas, about the Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal,
18 Bristol Bay area. There were no Bristol Bay Board of
19 Fish proposal affecting this region.

20
21 Is that correct, Mr. Pappas?

22
23 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, Mr.
24 Coordinator. That is correct.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Pappas. And
27 one other item I'd like to include as Madame Chair
28 stated is to include the, under agency reports, BLM,
29 Ms. Bonnie Million.

30
31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
34 at the review and approve -- approval of our agenda --
35 review and adopt our agenda.

36
37 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank and then
42 Dennis.

43
44 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I move that we adopt
45 the agenda as amended which includes what Donald and
46 you and we heard that under -- we eliminate the Board
47 of Fish under new business, D, and we add under 11
48 agency reports BLM, and then the correct numbers 12
49 through 14 at the end of the agenda.

50

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
4 Frank. That was dandy to have.

5

6 Any comments.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: It needs a second.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, sorry,
15 Dennis.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Good morning. I'd like to add on the agenda the Pebble
19 Mine.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Could
22 you hold that thought and I'm going to call up Tom
23 Doolittle, he's our acting director, before we get into
24 this.

25

26 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Council,
29 and through the Chair. My name is Tom Doolittle.
30 Yeah, I am the acting assistant regional director for
31 the Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning to
32 everybody.

33

34 Molly, could you please restate your
35 exact wish for the record for me so I can respond
36 clearly?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There was a
39 motion by Dennis Andrew to add Pebble Mine.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: If -- you know, on the
42 particular agenda, I know that there are groups here
43 that would probably bring that up as a matter of
44 comment. There are -- there's also the nonagenda items
45 which would be another area for, you know, folks to put
46 that on. But also one of our responsibilities to the
47 public is to in -- that we have is to listen to -- on
48 subsistence issues that are on people's minds.

49

50

1 What I -- before the Chair makes a
2 decision on whether to add or not add that or to have
3 it incorporated as part of a nonagenda item or other
4 testimony coming from, you know, other groups that are
5 here in attendance, is that really the main purpose of
6 the Federal program is essentially, you know, looking
7 at the making of fish and wildlife and shellfish
8 regulations. And being advisement to the Federal Board
9 whose -- has a limited scope on what they can do.
10 Their scope is to -- you know, to essentially vote
11 through the advisement of groups like this Regional
12 Advisory Council and other Councils statewide that are
13 really the heart of our program. And it's really when
14 you see first and foremost, you know, a conservation
15 concern issue where you feel that it's necessary to
16 restrict in order to conserve that resource on behalf
17 of the Federally-qualified user. And at that point we
18 have that legal responsibility to do so.

19
20 When you look at some of the issues you
21 need to take into account what the geographic scope,
22 how much -- you know, the scope of our jurisdiction of
23 our program is on Federal public lands. And so when we
24 look at any issue, regardless of whether it's Pebble
25 Mine or other issues in the State, is -- you know, what
26 is that effect in making sure that public comments go
27 to the effect of on those particular land units, making
28 sure that comments go to an affected, you know, Federal
29 agency that might be in charge of the NEPA process.
30 Sometimes it's BLM, sometimes it's the Army Corps,
31 sometimes it's Fish and Wildlife Service. And so
32 that's where that legal process of decision is actually
33 happening. So the Regional Advisory Council relative
34 to a decision on any of these issues or to the Federal
35 Board on a decision of these issues, is not within
36 their wheelhouse, it's not within their scope.

37
38 So I think that we have to if -- you
39 know, and it's just my general reminder to the public
40 and to everybody that is to kind of, you know, channel
41 that energy to is there some way that on those Federal
42 lands that there is a preclusion of use, is there a
43 known decrease of resources, is there -- is there some
44 aspect of where -- some aspect of ANILCA where an
45 agency, if it is affecting Federal lands, is it -- has
46 that subsistence aspect on those Federal lands been
47 addressed. And if there's a nexus it needs to be well
48 qualified. In other words what happens on -- outside
49 of the land, does it affect that piece of Federal land.

50

1 And on many of these issues they're the conservation
2 unit's issue. It's not the -- you know, the issue of
3 the -- of this particular program.
4

5 So my advice is to, you know, channel
6 the energy to listen to what the -- you know, to what
7 the public says and I'll leave that to the discretion
8 of the Chair to make it -- you know, to add that item
9 or not. And also at the discretion of the Chair to
10 put, you know, and the Council to put the sidebars on,
11 you know, the duration of comment and that sort of
12 thing as well. But again, we're about fish and
13 wildlife and shellfish regulations on Federal public
14 land. That's kind of our main job here looking at the
15 action items that you have in front of you which are,
16 you know, proposals.
17

18 And so that would be my general advice
19 and comment on that.
20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
24 you, Tom. So there's a motion on the floor to add the
25 Pebble Mine.
26

27 I guess my take on this would be even
28 if we put that, the Pebble Mine on the agenda, it would
29 just be comments because there's -- well, the Board
30 itself can't make any I guess decisions on -- you know,
31 regarding this item. We all know that this has been a
32 political issue. It's affecting -- I'm not saying that
33 it's not going to affect our subsistence areas and use,
34 but I think within this forum that, you know, we need
35 to think about, you know, what our -- I guess our call
36 is for -- within this Board is to deal with the
37 proposals and regulations for our resources and --
38 within our area.
39

40 So I guess I'll leave the motion and
41 the second to the -- you know, to the Board here.
42

43 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank, do you
46 have a comment.
47

48 MR. WOODS: I was going to second the
49 motion with some parameters that we -- we are not a
50

1 Regulatory Board for any of the land in question, but
2 we can take comments and since we're not looking at the
3 map, it's all State land. You know, the issue is
4 basically a conservation concern for subsistence use,
5 but it's on -- not on this Board's regulatory body to
6 do any action other than listen and take comments and
7 an update.

8
9 So I'd like to just maybe caution us
10 since we have huge issues on our table such as caribou
11 reduction and a bunch of other issues before us that we
12 take -- we put that on the agenda with comments or an
13 update of some sort, that we do our -- it is a concern,
14 but not this body's regulatory authority and/or
15 regulatory authority to do anything.

16
17 So with that I'll second the motion.

18
19 Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
22 been a motion on the table to -- motion and second to
23 put the Pebble Mine on the -- on our agenda.

24
25 Do we have anymore comments regarding
26 this.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Question.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Question's
31 been called.

32
33 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

36
37 MR. MIKE: If -- thank you, Madame
38 Chair. As far as placing the agenda item on our
39 agenda, is there a place you want to put it, under new
40 business or we can place it under -- after we're done
41 with the annual report issues, identifying annual
42 report issues for 2019.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You mean where
45 would we put it if.....

46
47 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, if I might
48 suggest just in the comment section of number 13.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
2 we're -- there's been a question, all favor say aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
7 opposition.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 Madame CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
12 none, we have the agenda under closing comments Pebble
13 -- under closing comments to add.
14
15 Okay. Any other corrections, additions
16 to the agenda.
17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Andy has a comment.
19
20 Madame CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Andy.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We have Andy
25 Aderman at the table and then I'll get -- I'll get your
26 comment.
27
28 When you -- those of you that are
29 online, I need your name, you know, when you're going
30 to make a comment so that I'll know is calling.
31
32 But now -- right now we have Andy
33 Aderman at the table and then we'll go to the
34 teleconference personnel.
35
36 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
37 Council members. I'd like the Council to consider
38 adding a discussion on wildlife special action 19-07.
39 This is an action that would reduce the harvest limit
40 for Mulchatna caribou from two down to one. The
41 Federal Board is going to be taking this up next week I
42 believe, November 5th. And I -- I guess I'm not sure
43 where you'd put it other than maybe new business after
44 the proposals.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, where
47 would you suggest.....
48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, I was just
50

1 going to move that or see if we could consider that a
2 friendly amendment to the agenda process and insert it
3 as recommended by Andy.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So it would go
6 under regional proposals?

7
8 MR. ADERMAN: If that's where you want
9 to put it, sure.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

12
13 MR. MIKE: That's fine, Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Could you read
16 your agenda item again, Andy?

17
18 MR. ADERMAN: It would be wildlife
19 special action 19-07. Essentially it's a harvest limit
20 reduction for Mulchatna caribou.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I've got it
23 after the proposal 20-31, would that be where it would
24 be proper to place?

25
26 MR. WILSON: That's fine.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
29 Any.....

30
31 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
36 Chair. Just to keep everything clear we had a motion
37 that was passed to include the Pebble Mine after
38 closing comments on number 13. And Mr. Dan Dunaway
39 made a friendly amendment to the current motion to
40 adopt with the changes to include that special action
41 19-07 regarding Mulchatna caribou. So we're still in
42 discussion on the main motion.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
47 you, Donald. The person on line could you state your
48 name and your comment.

49
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. This
2 is Vince Mathews with Fish and Wildlife Service.

3
4 And Andy Aderman brought up the topic
5 that I was going to bring up. So the wildlife special
6 action dealing with the Mulchatna caribou herd if I
7 understand correctly will be under regional proposals.
8 So that's all I was signaling.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
13 you, Vince. Okay. Anything else to add or correct on
14 our agenda.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. ANDREW: Question.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question's
21 been called. All in favor say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
26 opposition.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
31 none. Thank you.

32
33 Okay. Next on our agenda is to review
34 and approve the previous meeting minutes. And you can
35 find that on page 5.

36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair, I move
38 to approve.

39
40 MR. ANDREW: Second.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
43 motion by Nanci to review and approve by previous
44 meeting minutes, second by Dennis.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you,
Madame Chair. If
2 you look at the draft meeting minutes for 2019 and if
3 you recall we had a recess to deal with the positioning
4 of animals proposal. So if you look on page 11, the
5 meeting was called back to order on March 29th and we
6 had a report from the working group. And you'll find
7 that report in a memo form on page 13. So that's part
8 of the agenda so if you want to include that as part of
9 approving meeting minutes as part of this main package.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So we
14 have the meeting minutes for March 12 and also a couple
15 of meetings. Remember we -- at our March meeting we
16 recessed so that the working group could deal with the
17 positioning issue that we had. So the working group
18 met, I think it was about March 15, and then also our
19 Board reconvened about March 29th. So those are the
20 two I guess minutes that we need to approve.

21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

25

26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, as the maker of
27 the motion I assumed that those were part of it because
28 they were all part of that Board meeting. If I need to
29 make it separate then I will do so, but it was my
30 intent to include those.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think it
33 would be better to just approve both of them together
34 since those were considered one meeting.

35

36 Okay. So Nanci made a motion to
37 approve March 12 meeting minutes and the working group
38 notes and Board's I guess reconvention of March 29.

39

40 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank, did you
43 have any.....

44

45 MR. WOODS: Just to summarize. That
46 meeting was in recess so we're approving all the
47 minutes with that recess and the reconvening of that

48

49

1

48 meeting minutes just for clarification, right?

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

2
3 MR. WOODS: Okay.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We have
6 a motion. Was there a second?

7
8 MR. TREFON: I'll second.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
11 Billy. And the question's been called. All in favor
12 say aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
17 opposition.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
22 none, hearing none. thank you.

23
24 Okay. Moving on to reports. Council
25 members, this is time for Council members to give us a
26 very informative and the Council reports are usually
27 the most important and very useful reports for this
28 Council and also our agency folk. So this is the time
29 for the Council members to give us their region's
30 reports, regional reports, their representing area.

31
32 So I guess I can start with Billy.

33
34 MR. TREFON: Not really much to report
35 other than we still got the issues with the airplanes
36 and the Chulitna River up in my area and the management
37 of the State waters. I mean, we're just dealing with
38 those right now. And other than the extreme warm
39 weather's had created a melting so bad up in Lake Clark
40 that the lake was milky right up to the shore, you
41 can't even see three feet off the shore because of the
42 melting. So a lot of our animals, mammals, struggle to
43 survive, mostly the birds because they couldn't see the
44 fish to survive. I mean, that was an issue and concern
45 for us, but it was a natural cycle so there was no --
46 it was out of control. I mean, it's something we saw
47 happening in the summer.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
2 you. Thanks, Billy. Any comments or questions for
3 Billy.

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Hi, Billy. You
10 mentioned something about management of State waters.
11 I'm not sure if I understand the issue. If you could
12 elaborate?

13
14 Thanks.

15
16 MR. TREFON: It's got to do with the
17 Federal changing of all State waters are no longer --
18 all Federal waters are no longer considered Federal
19 waters, they are now all being managed by State after
20 the Federal hearing up in the Y -- Yukon Charlie. Now
21 with the Supreme Court and now anything that's
22 navigable State waters are no longer Federal waters.
23 All Federal waters are considered State now. And
24 that's going to create issues in the future for
25 everybody. Something to be aware of.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
28 other -- Dennis, do you have a comment?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dennis.

33
34 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 On caribou reports in and around Nushagak on up,
36 there's been some -- still the same from before,
37 straggler -- stragglers, there's stragglers here and
38 there, but getting less and less.

39
40 And also I went out touring the -- the
41 climate change, the warm weather. Before I think last
42 year when I was in a meeting I mentioned about the
43 smolt salmon, I was concerned about if there was --
44 during that time. I reported if they were even being
45 counted. And then what we witnessed last summer, it's --
46 with the salmon especially and, you know, seeing a lot
47 of floating dead fish out in the bay and stuff. Again
48 like for this coming year, you know, if the
49 Department's going to be looking at some rivers that
50

1 really dried out because I had some guys even going on
2 a Honda in some streams, driving this fall, that --
3 taking the Honda out there in the creeks. I mean, they
4 dried out and makes me wonder about them -- the salmon
5 smolts, if they died or what.

6
7 And then also on the caribou I asked a
8 question before on caribou hoof disease and I haven't
9 gotten respond back on why -- you know, we had 300 and
10 some thousand on the Nushagak and what I -- what we've
11 been hearing is on that hoof disease. So I'd like to
12 hear a report on that.

13
14 That's all I got there, Madame Chair.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
19 you, Dennis.

20
21 Any comments or questions for Dennis'
22 report.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
27 none, Nanci.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you,
30 Madame Chair. Like everybody else we definitely had
31 major concerns about the weather conditions this year
32 and the way that it affected the fish. And of course
33 we have grave concerns about what's going to happen
34 with the spawn from this year's fish, how they're going
35 to be affected in the long run. And only time will
36 give us those answers I'm afraid. But everybody I
37 think has great concern for it.

38
39 I was actually from a sport fishing
40 view and not a subsistence fishing view was really
41 surprised at the behavior of the fish. The silvers and
42 the kings did not have the energy or the desire to be
43 aggressive and bite on, you know, any kind of bait
44 whatsoever like you would normally see. Very odd. We
45 did -- we were encouraged because we did find numbers
46 on our spawning areas that equated to something that
47 should be there as far as escapement goals go, that
48 part was encouraging, but again we're very concerned to
49 see what actually happens when it comes right down to

50

1 how much of the spawn will actually survive and will
2 reproduce back into our systems again.

3
4 Also have big concerns for what has
5 happened and may happen in the future down in the
6 Chigs. I have spoke with Department of Fish and Game
7 here as recently as this morning and with your
8 permission I would like to make sure that we try to get
9 a report directly from the people that are managing
10 that fishery at some point tomorrow with management
11 reports. I'm not trying to go off the agenda or have
12 an addition, but I'd just like to give you a heads up
13 and maybe some consideration for allowing them to give
14 us that report when they're available just because
15 they're not part of our regular meeting business.

16
17 And with that, that's about all I have.

18
19 Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald,
22 with Nanci's request for a report, would we just I
23 guess deal with it when the issue or the reportee comes
24 up.....

25
26 MR. MIKE: Yes.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:or do we
29 add that to our agenda.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. You have
32 on your agenda agency reports and we have Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game listed. So they can
34 present their reports when it comes up unless the
35 Council needs the information. So and we can
36 accommodate their report to this Council.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks.

41
42 Any questions for Nanci's report.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
47 none.

48
49 Richard.

50

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
2 Yeah, it's -- it was a very challenging summer as we
3 all know. Sure strange to be in this fishery, you
4 know, on the commercial side of it and the subsistence
5 side of it and seeing the fish move like they did and
6 the waters being so warm, you just wonder what's -- you
7 know, we're all wondering what the -- you know, the
8 outcome of that's going to be, you know, with Egegik
9 taking a hit up in the lagoon when the fish are moving
10 through. And that was actually one of the reports that
11 I heard that some of the smolt migration was even
12 affected by the warm waters.

13
14 But it's -- I'd be interested to see
15 what the agency reports have as far as our fish and --
16 the fishery portion of it here coming up.

17
18 Our hunts, we gone on some -- you know,
19 there's a few caribou scattered out throughout the
20 mountains there in unit B. And there was a few taken
21 that I know. And the caribou seem to be in real good
22 shape.

23
24 Moose, you just wonder about them.
25 They were -- if one hadn't popped out the second to the
26 last day just because we're trying to get them out of
27 the bushes, we wouldn't have seen a thing. I mean,
28 they just weren't moving, you know, they were around.
29 So I have no idea what the -- you know, what the count
30 would even be because they just wouldn't show
31 themselves. So that was a pretty big challenger here
32 for us this fall and also for a lot of residents in our
33 area seemed like it was quite a challenge trying to get
34 a moose this fall.

35
36 We do see more ptarmigan up in the
37 hills, flocks are getting bigger. We're getting
38 reports of ptarmigan coming back in some areas that we
39 haven't seen ptarmigan in a while. So and that's
40 mainly up in the north side of things.

41
42 And the hares too, the Arctic hares.
43 There's -- I've heard of sightings of them just
44 recently. So we're happy to hear those kind of things
45 that they're possibly on the rebound.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
50

1 Richard. Is there any comments, questions for Richard?

2

3

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

4

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

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Richard. Is there any comments, questions for Richard?

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'd like to do follow-up on the ptarmigan. The ptarmigan, the same thing back, I mean, their numbers were low, numbers were low and this year it's just like an explosion of them, I mean, there's ptarmigan all over the place now. So I guess it's a cycle, I don't know how many -- what year cycles are, but I seen it happen before where their numbers reduced including the rabbits and they seem to come back. But we got a big population this year up on Groundhog, where the mine's going to be.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any other comments.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My comments are seem like the ptarmigan and the hare kind of work or disappear and reappear at the same time from my observation and from the surveys that I've done with different communities when I was working for State of Alaska. So I've always wondered why seemed like the ptarmigan and the hare seem like work together to appear and disappear at the same time. And I don't know if anybody has any information regarding that, but I guess it's just been a traditional and ecological knowledge for those of us that harvest them for subsistence foods.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, did you have a comment.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair. I just -- there was one other thought that I wanted to make sure I mentioned and that was the sea lice that was attached to our salmon this summer. It was just a horrendous amount. Seemed like our salmon had a lot of sea lice. And, you know, being a subsistence user and a commercial fisherman you just kind cringe when you

1 see all them sea lice attached to them. And there was
2 actually some of them that were being affected by it.
3 Others -- most of them they was still on that little
4 slime covered on the outside, you know, it didn't
5 affect the meat or the skin at all, but some had
6 actually, you know, been around with that sea lice that
7 it was showing up on the skin there. And that was --
8 to me it was the very first, you know, I seen that
9 much, I mean, because it was a lot. And it would be
10 interesting to see what the biologists might have to
11 say about that.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
16 other questions, comments.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: At this time I
21 want to recognize our students. We welcome you, our
22 future leaders. I get really excited and happy to have
23 students be involved. So look interested, look
24 interesting and look happy. And so maybe we'll take --
25 after our Board reports we'll give you a little bit of
26 time to just give us -- introduce yourself very quickly
27 because we do appreciate your attendance at our
28 meeting. And the reason why we hold our Board meeting
29 here is that so we can encourage you students to be
30 involved with the -- you know, what we're doing and
31 hoping that you will become interested in becoming
32 future RAC Board members after your education is over
33 and you start educating yourself with future harvesting
34 and hunting which some of you already probably do.

35
36 So welcome again and we'll give you a
37 chance to introduce yourself here in a little bit.

38
39 Continuing on with our Board reports.

40
41 Dan Dunaway.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Like everybody else the hot dry weather and low water
45 makes me wonder what impacts are coming for fish and
46 actually wildlife. And I do have concerns for the
47 species. I've seen some photos of fish dying
48 particularly in the Igushik River and I'm wondering
49 what and I'm looking forward to reports from our
50

1 biologists on what they're seeing.

2

3 I also want to say that I'm humble and
4 grateful for the tradition of sharing subsistence this
5 year because I wasn't able to put nets on and I
6 wouldn't have any salmon, but friends provided us. And
7 I always gets a little choked up because it's really
8 appreciated.

9

10 Let's see, the dry summer seemed to be
11 pretty good for grouse. I've been out a bit, I've seen
12 some really large flocks especially early in the
13 season. I think they're getting thinned out a little
14 bit. But I haven't been in ptarmigan country so I'm
15 glad to hear from the ptarmigan country folks. I know
16 that was a concern all over western and southwestern
17 Alaska.

18

19 Moose season, that hot, hot weather
20 affected a lot of people I know for even getting out.
21 I -- my partner and I, we didn't even bother going for
22 a while and we heard like the Nushagak was so low we
23 didn't even go. We went for four days in a different
24 place and mostly just got to watch the wind blow really
25 hard as we twirled around in an itty-bitty boat hoping
26 the top didn't blow off. It was a long 18 hours. I
27 got the impression toward the end and I'm looking at
28 Dennis and Frank who probably know a lot more folks,
29 but I got the impression that moose hunting improved a
30 little bit that last week. I have bumped in a few
31 folks that were pretty happy to catch one.

32

33 I'm also very concerned from what I'm
34 learning on these caribou herds and what's going on,
35 that's very worrisome. It's really disappointing to
36 hear there are fewer. I was hoping dry weather might
37 be good for them.

38

39 And then we got a lot of information in
40 this book, Board or the book for this meeting, but kind
41 of separate from that just a few days ago I started
42 hearing from other folks how these Bering Sea seabirds
43 are thinned out. Places in Australia are worried about
44 birds not showing up down there to breed and I never
45 knew this before, but those birds feed in the summer in
46 the Bering Sea and they go all the way down to
47 Australia do nest. And what does this mean for salmon
48 food, for other -- other -- the whole ecosystem. So
49 I'm concerned about that.

50

1 And then as dry weather was pretty good
2 for especially cranberries. The place where I went
3 moose hunting was just red with low bush cranberries.
4 I heard that huckleberries weren't so good, I didn't
5 even go looking. And I did see places where the -- you
6 had to look, but you could find decent blueberries.

7

8 So that's the extent of my report.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
13 Dan. Any comments or questions for Dan's report.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
18 none.

19

20 Frank.

21

22 MR. WOODS: Same as everybody, it's
23 unprecedented warm weather is a long season for sun
24 screen.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. WOODS: It was about three months
29 of hot, sun shiny weather and it created a lot of
30 concern for wildlife. But I think more importantly it
31 raised the bar for everybody paying attention that not
32 only our hunting and fishing seasons are affected, but
33 also how we -- when and how we harvest I think are
34 important because the last week like Dan said, the most
35 success rates we had I think were the last week of --
36 when moose started getting in the rut and moving around
37 is when they actually started seeing -- becoming more
38 successful.

39

40 The fire season for me is more
41 alarming, the smoke, the fires, the paranoia. The real
42 concern is the villages protecting themselves. The
43 fire seasons are getting longer, our climate is
44 changing to where it's more lightening and those things
45 are real important for the people in the region that we
46 -- we also have to pay attention to the effects of all
47 that.

48

49 I think the berry season has a real big

50

1 impact on the ptarmigan and the hares coming back. And
2 just in -- along the Lake Road up in Snake Lake and
3 along between here and Manokotak and Togiak the lynx
4 population has exploded where they're running and
5 seeing them in town, they're running around. So that
6 coincides with the rabbit and the ptarmigan, you know,
7 cycle.

8
9 I do have a huge concern on what the
10 next generation of fish populations are going to be.

11
12 I just realized that we had a King
13 Salmon workshop. The Board of Fish does have something
14 in front of them that we need -- we want to pay
15 attention to, it's the workshop for the King
16 Salmon/Nushagak Management Plan's up for review. And I
17 would caution that no changes or until -- I would
18 recommend we recommend or at least OSM recommends that
19 we make no changes until the next Board cycle because
20 we're circumventing a public process.

21
22 And as the Nushagak Advisory Chairman I
23 delegated that authority to a few members and the
24 Council. But that process we haven't been able to
25 review. If they're going to be doing any changes, we
26 haven't been able to review or this Board or any other
27 Board or any other public process won't be able to
28 review that process.

29
30 So with that, you know, I mean, we did
31 have -- my main concern is the lower count for caribou
32 is that not only out of Nushagak and Mulchatna, but
33 also, you know, statewide it's going to affect for --
34 as a subsistence user in the village those moose and
35 caribou populations are huge to feed their families and
36 their red meat during the winter and in the springtime
37 and wintertime that those -- those are going to be not
38 only reduced, but have a chance of like Dan said and
39 those aren't a threat -- those are huge threats for a
40 population.

41
42 As Robbin pointed out, the moose,
43 caribou (indiscernible) project 25 years ago that was
44 developed for the Alaska Peninsula showed a huge
45 decrease and I'll connect that with populations of
46 people. Because no matter how big or successful salmon
47 seasons run on that side of the Peninsula, the moose
48 and caribou population crashes couldn't feed themselves
49 and each one of them villages slowly died. That's how
50

1 important this resource is.

2

3 So, I -- you know, I am concerned that,
4 yeah, we have to -- I'm glad we have all this and we
5 have all the caribou and moose proposal before us.
6 I'll shut up after that. But, yeah, it's interesting
7 how all this process works. That we have a -- we have
8 a long agenda and I'd like to move on.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
13 questions for Frank.

14

15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

18

19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, not a question,
20 just a matter of disclosure. I sit on that Board, I
21 was appointed. That was a tabled proposal. Actually
22 there's two tabled proposals that are revolving around
23 that. So if you do want a contact person as well, I'm
24 certainly available.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, real quick, I had a
31 comment too. Frank, thanks for reminding us on the
32 fire thing, you know. One of my observations, we had a
33 fire over here just south of Dillingham near the
34 hospital. And I have gone out to hills that I used to
35 pick berries on and that -- it burned off that and it's
36 coming back as grass, not so much berries. So and then
37 I also hunted geese out there and they don't seem to
38 come back to those places because there's not food. So
39 this fire could really -- big fires in a lot of places
40 could make big changes.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
45 Dan. Any other comments or questions?

46

47 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 On the fire part, you know, up the Nushagak from the
3 lee rock side there and got almost to Stu. I think
4 that made a lot of moose move around. And either
5 somewhere else besides the river. And another big one
6 with the moose is like last spring the water level was
7 so -- really high and stuff. It was something we never
8 did see really, over the banks and stuff. And then as
9 the spring comes the water gets warmer and it drops way
10 down.

11
12 And another -- if I could add a comment
13 on one little thing there. You know, maybe the
14 Department knows something about muskrat, used to be a
15 lot of muskrats up the Nushagak before when I was
16 younger, you know, hunting with my father on the canoe.
17 So I'm really curious where they're at or in different
18 areas.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
23 other.

24
25 MR. TREFON: I've got one more.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Bill

28
29 MR. TREFON: I wasn't going to bring up
30 the thing about firefighting, but just to let everybody
31 know. At the BBNA Board meeting, it's last full board
32 meeting, they had submitted a proposal which I have on
33 me right now that Bristol Bay Native Corporation okayed
34 that a type two initial attack crew be formed and
35 trained in Nondalton. And that will begin as soon as
36 we -- next week. The fire -- that fire is going to
37 change everything dramatically.

38
39 And you're right, Dan, about fire do
40 change the ecosystem totally.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
45 other comments or questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, thanks,
50

1 Dennis, for bringing up -- bringing up that muskrat.
2 Growing up, you know, there used to be zillions of
3 muskrats and I don't know where they all went. They're
4 -- I guess because people don't harvest them anymore
5 well, they're not available to harvest. They just
6 seemed to disappear even with discussions about them.
7 And I know that the muskrats used to be one of the
8 important food items as well as, you know, their food
9 or their furs.

10

11 So thank you, Dennis, for reminding us
12 that there used to be muskrats.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: While we're on muskrats,
19 I've seen a few ponds that have a few and one of the
20 places I camp for moose hunting has a few. But even
21 back when Larry VanDale, the wildlife biologist, I
22 remember he was asking around a lot and it's like what
23 happened to them. And he was trying to consult with
24 elders about it and was kind of confused why we had so
25 few now. And I don't know if they're building back or
26 not. I -- it seems like they're stable at a very, very
27 low level. Craig Schwanke used to catch one or two a
28 year in his traps and things like that.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Robert,
33 we haven't forgotten you so it's your turn for.....

34

35 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I guess my concerns are like the other Board members
37 because we had a super hot summer and even had people
38 who were taking smolt and transferring them into the
39 river. There's a lot of dry creek and river beds up
40 here.

41

42 And another concern would be the drop
43 in caribou and why they haven't replenished as much as
44 they had been before.

45

46 And the other comment I would have is
47 that the -- initially we don't have clean water, we
48 don't have our subsistence and commercial activities at
49 all.

50

1 And that's all.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
6 questions or comments for Robert.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks for
11 your report, Robert. Seeing none, I guess that's the
12 end of our Board reports.

13

14 And our students are leaving before we
15 were able to get their little introduction so maybe
16 another time. But we have -- we have Courtenay.
17 Courtenay, you want to introduce your students there?

18

19 MS. CARTY: They're not my students,
20 Madame Chair. (Indiscernible - away from microphone)
21 they are our environmental (indiscernible - away from
22 microphone).....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You're
25 welcome to use the mics there.

26

27 MR. HUFFMAN: (Indiscernible) Clarks is
28 my uncle. He went to go hunt and we went -- we were
29 back by this little tiny hill and we're hunting for
30 porcupine. And then when I fired a shot a big flock of
31 them flew by and then we went and hunted them and we
32 only got 12.

33

34 My name is Chase Huffman.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I didn't get
37 your last name.

38

39 MR. HUFFMAN: Chase Huffman.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

42

43 MR. HUFFMAN: Seventh grade.

44

45 MS. BELTRAN: My name's Kristin
46 Beltran, I'm an eighth grader here. And I don't do
47 much subsistence hunting or anything like that, but
48 this summer I went to Igushik for fishing with my
49 friend, Tierrty, and like it was a really nice

50

1 experience. And the water was like super warm. And it
2 was like really different because like I haven't been
3 that to that part or like really out of Dillingham for
4 fishing and it was like surprising that the water was
5 so warm down there. And most of our class is seventh
6 and eighth graders and some of us do subsistence.

7

8 My name's Kristin Beltran.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
11 thank you. Do you have any questions for the two?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We sure
16 appreciate you for being brave and giving us reports.

17

18 So I guess if there's no questions for
19 the two reportees, thank you so much for coming in.

20

21 (Applause)

22

23 Okay. Next on our agenda is the
24 Chair's report. And I have a little written report
25 here.

26

27 We already discussed our, I guess our
28 March 12 meeting that we had in Naknek and we had to
29 recess that meeting to I guess further discuss the
30 proposals regarding the I guess the positioning. And I
31 wasn't here at our March -- I think it was March, 2018
32 meeting when this positioning of caribou started. And
33 this is when one of our Board members suggested to
34 develop a working group. And so that working group was
35 developed, but due to government closure that process
36 wasn't able to I guess go through as -- you know, as we
37 wished for it to go through. But at our March 12
38 meeting we recessed that meeting so that the working
39 group could, you know, further deal with this I guess
40 proposal. And like I mentioned earlier there was a
41 couple meetings to deal with this and then the
42 reconvening of our Board to see the working group's
43 process.

44

45 And you can see the detailed
46 information about these I guess meetings on page 13 as
47 mentioned before.

48

49 I attended the April 15 to 18 Board of

50

1 -- Federal Subsistence Board in Anchorage and this
2 Board considered the proposed changes to subsistence
3 fish and shellfish regulations.

4
5 Bristol Bay had one I guess proposal
6 and it was considered a non-consensus agenda item and
7 the Council took actions on it
8 with the RAC's
9 recommendation and adopted with modification from OSM.
10 The proposal, FP 19-11, was to revise the rod and reel
11 regulations to allow for salmon in Sixmile Lake
12 tributaries. And there wasn't too much opposition and
13 discussion regarding this proposal. And so the
14 proposal went and was adopted.

15 And also at that meeting there was I
16 guess -- and I didn't see it, signed apology letter was
17 handed out during our Federal Subsistence Board that I
18 think Gayla brought up at our last meeting. And I
19 think Donald if anybody would want to see this apology
20 letter he will have that available.

21
22 And then at our opening statement at
23 the Federal Subsistence Board I was able to bring up
24 all Council meeting again in Anchorage that this Board
25 discussed at our last Board meeting. And on page 138
26 of your book, I guess there was a note that potentially
27 winter of 2021 there may be a meeting, you know, if
28 funding is available for that. And then we also at
29 this Board requested a joint Regional Advisory Council
30 Chair's meeting and that again like the all Council
31 meeting was a welcoming idea, you know, for the Federal
32 Subsistence Board. And so eventually hopefully we'll
33 get these two meetings again started.

34
35 But there was on -- you know, on page I
36 think it's 138 of your book, there was a Federal
37 Subsistence Board recommendation that maybe the Bristol
38 Bay RAC prepare a letter encouraging other Councils to
39 send their Chair or rep to such a meeting along with
40 suggested agenda items for this meeting so that this
41 might be a -- maybe an action item if we do want to
42 prepare a letter encouraging other Councils to, you
43 know, have this all Chairs meeting. And I've attended
44 a couple of them and they are important, you know, for
45 the all Chairs to get together to I guess discuss
46 similar ideas on regulations and other resource issues
47 that we deal with.

48
49
50

1

49

Another thing that happened for me was

50

1 that about mid August during AFN I participated on the
2 teleconference regarding possibly closing caribou
3 season for Bristol Bay region. And I'm not going into
4 detail with it because it's now on our agenda to
5 discuss later. But at that meeting I stressed that the
6 Bristol Bay RAC hadn't met to discuss this issue and
7 that we would be meeting the latter part of October
8 which we are into now.

9
10 And then another information that I
11 mentioned was that since I noted that Bristol Bay
12 region this fall for moose season wasn't -- that the
13 fall harvest wasn't great. That I thought that the
14 State's one caribou harvest would be a welcoming
15 harvest, you know, for people that weren't able to
16 harvest moose this fall.

17
18 So that's about the end of my report
19 for this Board meeting. And then I'm going to turn the
20 meeting over or the report over to our Coordinator.

21
22 Oh, unless you have any questions or
23 comments on my report.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, kind
30 of a question for Donald is that some of us might have
31 missed that detail about possibly writing letters.
32 What is the way we could insert that in our meeting,
33 whoever can answer that.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Yes, thank you, Madame
40 Chair. During our -- we can review the annual report
41 responses and possibly during closing comments we can
42 bring that up again as far as correspondence to the
43 Federal Subsistence Board and other Council members.
44 So I think that's the best approach.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
49 other.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Move on
4 to Coordinator's report.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. Just briefly, I'll be brief.

8

9 On the agenda under Coordinator's
10 report I have agency reports. I received two agency
11 reports, one from BLM and I handed out a copy and it's
12 actually in front of you. And this agency report will
13 be presented by Bonnie Million.

14

15 And I also had some comments from the
16 Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission regarding
17 wildlife proposal 20-08 and wildlife proposal 20-27,
18 wildlife proposal 20-31. And also Lake Clark had
19 submitted a agency report to our office and it did not
20 make it in our meeting materials, but I sent a copy
21 through email and also we'll have a hard copy
22 available, passed out soon, Madame Chair.

23

24 And that is it, Madame Chair.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 Oh, for those public please sign in at
29 the sign in table. And if you wish to provide
30 testimony to the Council or provide comments or
31 testimony to a specific wildlife proposal we have on
32 our agenda please fill out a green card and hand it to
33 me and I'll make sure the Chair has it in front of her
34 to recognize your comments.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Again
39 for the public if you have any of these and want to
40 give us a report please give these blue cards to --
41 blue or green cards to Donald.

42

43 Right now let's take a little five
44 minute breather after listening to all the reports.

45

46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Do you want to break
47 for lunch?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess it's

50

1 lunchtime. It is lunchtime.

2

3 Donald, it is lunchtime. You want to
4 break for lunch and for how long?

5

6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 That's up to the wish of the Council. You can take a
8 one break or hour and a half. I suggest a hour and a
9 half since we have to drive somewhere.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Let's take a
12 hour and a half and be back at 1:30.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And before we
19 get started I want to recognize the students that are
20 here. And I want to take the time for them to quickly
21 introduce themselves, their name, their grade and then
22 just say hello.

23

24 So, Courtenay, who's in charge of that
25 group there?

26

27 MS. CARTY: This (indiscernible - away
28 from microphone) is their homeroom study teacher.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So you
31 can start from the front and introduce yourself, stand
32 up when you introduce yourself, your name and your
33 grade.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Nicky Johnson
36 and I'm 13, in seventh grade. I came down with my
37 social studies class and I like to hunt.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
40 Okay.

41

42 MS. CARTY: My name's Haley Carty. I'm
43 11 or I'm 12 years old and I'm in seventh grade and our
44 subsistence is most important to us.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. TILDEN: My name's Zoe Tilden, I'm
49 13 and I'm in eighth grade.

50

1 MS BOND: I am Katiana Bond and I am 12
2 years old.

3
4 MR. TWEET: My name is Jonas Tweet and
5 I'm 13 years old and in eighth grade.

6
7 MR. PETERS: My name's Brexton Peters
8 and I'm in seventh grade.

9
10 MS. THAMES: Hello. I'm Olivia Thames
11 and I'm in eighth grade.

12
13 MS. COX: I'm Jenice, I'm in 12th
14 grade.

15
16 MS. LARSON: I'm Kinikin, I'm in 12th
17 grade.

18
19 MS. WHITCOMB: I'm Abbey Whitcomb and
20 I'm a senior.

21
22 MS. JOHNSON: I am Shania Johnson and I
23 am one of AFN's youth reps. And I am a senior.

24
25 MS. SHEARS: My name's Molly and I'm a
26 senior.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I love
29 your name.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. TINNERMAN: My name's Evelyn and
34 I'm in 11th grade.

35
36 MR. CARLSON: My name's Austin and I'm
37 in 11th grade.

38
39 MR. ROBINSON: My name is Matthew
40 Robinson, I'm a senior.

41
42 MR. DECKER: My name is Caleb Decker
43 and I'm a senior.

44
45 MR. ROHL: I'm Joseph Rohl and I'm a
46 senior.

47
48 MR. WOLFF: I'm Lawrence Wolff and I'm
49 a senior.

50

1 MS. PEARCY: I'm Candelaria Percy and
2 I'm a senior.

3
4 MR. MONTTOOTH: I'm John Montooth, I'm
5 their government teacher and these are your future
6 leaders for Dillingham and Alaska.

7
8 (Applause)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
11 When I was a senior I thought I was -- I was old and
12 ready to face the world, but these look like babies.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
17 Thank you for introducing yourselves and being here to
18 observe. And you are our future leaders.

19
20 Okay. We'll continue with our agenda
21 and we're at the public and tribal comment on nonagenda
22 items.

23
24 Donald, do we have any blue cards.

25
26 MR. MIKE: No, Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, I guess
29 Joe has one.

30
31 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon. Joe
32 Chythlook and I appreciate the opportunity to address
33 you. And I'd like to address briefly the Mulchatna
34 caribou discussion that will come up I guess later.

35
36 The Mulchatna caribou has a long
37 history of being around with us I guess in Bristol Bay.
38 And I think those of you who been to either Board of
39 Fish -- Board of Game meetings or even the our
40 subsistence meetings realize that caribou has a long
41 history of going up and down in numbers. And as a user
42 I've been involved in kind of observing caribou numbers
43 since the 1970s when I first joined Fish and Game --
44 Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee back in the
45 mid '70s. And then later on, 10 years or so later I
46 joined the staff and Board of Fish, Board of Game
47 program.

48
49 And I know through the years that

50

1 there's been a lot of discussion on the Mulchatna
2 caribou and along with of course the other issues. But
3 from what I understand now because the numbers are down
4 again there's an action request from the Federal
5 Subsistence Board to close the winter hunt for the herd
6 that extends from unit 17 all the way to the other
7 units which are involved.

8
9 And I guess I don't know what happened,
10 last year the numbers were up 27,000, somewhere in
11 there and then this year they drop down to about 13,000
12 I guess. But throughout the history of this caribou
13 herd I've seen similar situations where the numbers
14 have dropped drastically in one year and then without
15 any real explanation they decide to come back the next
16 year and numbers are back up to where we can hunt them
17 again.

18
19 I realize that through the years the
20 Mulchatna caribou has migrated away from what -- the
21 area that bears its name, Mulchatna, over to the other
22 side of Kilbuck Mountains, probably towards Kuskokwim
23 basin there. And then also realize that they're -- as
24 a result the user group from this same herd has
25 increased tremendously because most of the villages up
26 in the Kuskokwim area, lower Kuskokwim along with
27 Bethel, have a lot more population than what we have in
28 this area.

29
30 So I can see the concern by I guess
31 some of the staff from that area on the herd.

32
33 However I guess my concern is that in
34 the -- in our area for the last several years we
35 haven't been able to harvest caribou in numbers in --
36 during the winter hunt. And then probably not a whole
37 lot during the fall hunt either because their -- like I
38 mentioned their migratory pattern has changed. And as
39 far as the winter hunt's concerned we all realize it's
40 just been warmer for the last three, four years. And
41 so traveling conditions have been real bad and those of
42 us who live in the area and normally hunt them by
43 snowmachine, it's been really hard to -- really hard to
44 get to where they are.

45
46 Besides that rivers which we normally
47 cross from here in Dillingham in particular, we usually
48 cross -- we generally go across to the northeast side
49 and make our way up to where we think the caribou are.

50

1 And so that has hampered that. But I also noted to
2 even just last year that folks from Aleknagik and then
3 probably a few from Dillingham and probably the
4 villages up in Nushagak area had some successful hunts
5 although the numbers were low.
6

7 I guess my concern is that without
8 having proper input maybe from Nushagak Advisory
9 Committee and other Committees within the user group
10 area have -- besides the ones up in the western Alaska
11 which also is a user group now, to cut the hunting down
12 drastically to where the opportunity's cutoff without
13 in my opinion proper I guess a hearing per se, like
14 proper opportunity for people to come and make
15 comments. We haven't had a chance to have a Nushagak
16 Advisory Committee meeting yet and that normally takes
17 place sometime I guess between now and December. And
18 also I think our offices and for our game year for
19 caribou.
20

21 So I guess I don't know if this body
22 has authority to tell the Federal Subsistence Board not
23 to change the regulation so drastically, but my concern
24 is that I -- and I was in the conference Molly
25 mentioned, she mentioned August, but the actual date
26 was last -- a week or so ago in October when we had a
27 chance to talk with the Office of Subsistence
28 Management and -- on the issue. And I hope that, you
29 know, that before they do something like this, and I
30 don't know what the biologists will say, they might
31 have information I don't know about, but not what the
32 recommendation may be from local -- locally here, but I
33 guess an observer and old user from (in Native) I just
34 hate to have a draft to cutoff the opportunity to at
35 least get one caribou. That's what the regulation
36 states right now in the winter hunt. We had originally
37 the plan was to have two caribou harvested within this
38 calendar year, but because of what the numbers showed
39 they thought that it couldn't even support another
40 caribou.
41

42 But anyway that's my concern. I
43 appreciate the opportunity to bring it to your
44 attention and I hope that as you consider this proposal
45 that will come before you that you'll consider some of
46 my thoughts on this.
47

48 Thank you very much, Madame Chair and
49 the RAC.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we
2 have any questions for Joe.

3
4 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank, did you
7 have.....

8
9 MR. WOODS: I don't know if you can
10 answer this, Joe, but maybe someone in the audience.
11 We got a lot of new faces.

12
13 Back -- you said you been monitoring
14 this for -- looking around the room you've been
15 harvesting and utilizing resources longer than anybody
16 probably here. Back in 1959 at statehood we got
17 140,000 -- you stated that the user groups are
18 expanded, but the Mulchatna moved west towards the
19 villages of Kuskokwim. So I guess you're right that we
20 haven't had due diligence as a region to review some of
21 the proposals before us today. You recommended that we
22 -- if we have authority to table this until it gets
23 fully vetted with the community and AC process. I was --
24 we had a meeting last week with Andy Aderman during
25 the Nushagak Peninsula Federal hunt, but we lost our
26 biologist last year, not -- we didn't lose him, he
27 retired and Neil was really good at deciphering all the
28 science behind what we're asking.

29
30 So your recommendation is that we -- if
31 we have the power and authority to table this until we
32 have enough information, be it the migration of the
33 herd. What I heard was maybe the data and telemetry of
34 a survey process have changed where they're out of
35 area. The rates of harvest, I don't think we've
36 actually -- we haven't seen all that stuff yet. So I
37 thank you for bringing this forward because it -- that
38 stuff is huge.

39
40 Thank you, Joe.

41
42 MR. CHYTHLOOK: I guess sort of a
43 response to the idea that I've been using this for
44 quite some time, as a part of Nushagak Advisory
45 Committee when the numbers were down back in the early
46 '70s we did for a year address the idea that if the
47 caribou didn't show back within the next year that we
48 would deal with the existing regulation at the time.
49 But I recall the following year the numbers jumped up

50

1 from whatever they were to another 25,000 caribou that
2 migrated from somewhere else.

3
4 And then as both a hunter and also as
5 an interested person in making sure that the other
6 areas had caribou, red meat in the wintertime to eat,
7 we were very conservative for many years. And the --
8 both the opportunity and the limits of caribou that we
9 harvested within this region and I think prior results
10 of the fast growth of caribou attributed that -- to
11 that that by the late 1990s and into early 2000s the
12 number grew so far up to be about 250K to where it
13 expanded its area. And then I guess biologists mention
14 that part of the reason why maybe they died off or had
15 a problem was because they ate themselves out of food.

16
17
18 But anyway that's kind of my -- I guess
19 my participation in the Nushagak Advisory Committee for
20 many years and the fact that I still do care for this
21 caribou herd that's named after this area.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

28
29 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 Just to follow-up of what I said earlier about hoof
31 disease, you know, this -- the Nushagak Mulchatna was
32 huge on this side and they shot over towards the west.
33 I'm wondering they're still having that issue over
34 there on the hoof disease on the caribou on the
35 Kuskokwim side.

36
37 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Well, the way I
38 understand the regulation -- current regulations
39 because expansion of the caribou, Mulchatna caribou
40 herd on the Board of -- Board of Game level, probably
41 even on the Subsistence Board side, they've had to
42 combine all the different units that's utilized the
43 caribou. And whenever there's a change to the
44 regulation pertaining to this herd usually they give an
45 opportunity for all the different user groups from the
46 different units that use it to hear the biology of it
47 and the biologists give a reason why either the limit
48 needs to come up or be dropped. And as a result I
49 think the caribou has remained, you know, even know
50

1 it's numbers dropped they have remained to be -- able
2 to be utilized wherever they move.

3
4 But anyway it's the same herd and when
5 it comes to regulatory actions based on the State Board
6 side they -- they've very -- I think they're very
7 hesitant, have been hesitant. I don't know what the
8 new biologists think today, but they've been hesitant
9 to just point to one area, especially like in our area
10 which is 17A, B, C, and to make a change for that
11 regulatory area without somehow affecting the whole
12 thing.

13
14 I think the idea I heard behind this
15 that they would close the whole winter hunt for
16 everybody and just drastically knock the opportunity
17 for the subsistence user group in particular which you
18 guys are responsible for as well.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Joe, the last time I talked to Teran, we may
28 not see a Nushagak AC meeting until January sometime.
29 But I -- that could have changed, it's been quite some
30 time since I talked to her.

31
32 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

33
34 Appreciate you bringing this up to us
35 especially some of that earlier history that I've been
36 unaware of. I think we'll be grabbing the biologists
37 when their turn comes and picking their brains pretty
38 hard.

39
40 Thank you very much for your testimony.

41
42 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
45 else.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
50

1 none. Thank you.

2

3 MS. ROGERS: Madame Chair, this is
4 Alissa Rogers.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Could you --
7 could you repeat your name again?

8

9 MS. ROGERS: Hi. Good afternoon. This
10 is Alissa Rogers. Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

13

14 MS. ROGERS: Hi. I'm just here, just
15 sitting in to listen in on your meeting. But I just
16 wanted to remind you that the Federal Subsistence Board
17 is meeting on November 5th and they will be making a
18 final decision on what to do with the Federal
19 regulation for the Mulchatna caribou herd.

20

21 That's all.

22

23 Thank you, Ma'am.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
26 thanks for that info. That'll give us a good date to I
27 guess look and work with.

28

29 Anybody else.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
34 none, we don't have any more blue cards.

35

36 Okay. We can move on to the next
37 agenda and that's the old business. And (A), wildlife
38 closure review, WCR 20-04/06, information update from
39 Suzanne Worker.

40

41 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Before we get to Ms. Worker's presentation, at our last
47 meeting -- last winter meeting we had the Council took
48 action on public and tribal comments. And through
49 action the Council passed a motion to include that

50

1 public and tribal comment, to state available each
2 morning and throughout the meeting. So just a minor
3 oversight on my part. So but the -- number 8 should
4 read tribal -- public and tribal comment on nonagenda
5 items throughout the meeting.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 It's just a reminder.

10
11 Thanks.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks.
14 Okay.

15
16 Suzanne.

17
18 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 My name is Suzanne Worker, I'm a wildlife biologist
20 with the Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm
21 going to go over the closure review with you. This is
22 just a briefing, it's not an action item. Mainly I
23 just wanted to remind you that at your last meeting you
24 took action on this and the Federal Subsistence Board
25 has not made a decision yet, that will be happening at
26 their April meeting. And so this is just a reminder
27 that it's out there and that you have made a
28 recommendation to the Board.

29
30 This is WCR 20-04/06 and it's for
31 caribou in units 9C and 9E. There's three caribou hunt
32 areas involved. The portion in unit 9C that drains
33 into the Naknek from the north which includes Graveyard
34 Creek and Coffee Creek, then unit 9C remainder and unit
35 9E. So this does affect both the Mulchatna and the
36 Northern Alaska Peninsula herds.

37
38 At your last meeting you made a
39 decision on this and at that time you recommended that
40 the closure in units 9C remainder and 9E be retained,
41 so the area south of the Naknek River which is the area
42 that deals mostly with the Northern Alaska Peninsula
43 herd, but that the closure in the portion of unit 9C
44 that drains into the Naknek River from the north be
45 rescinded.

46
47 So that is OSM's recommendation as well
48 and the Board will be taking that up in April.

49
50

1 I can take any questions if there are
2 any.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we
5 have any questions for Suzanne regarding this.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That's
10 it. Thank you.

11
12 MS. WORKER: Thank you.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

17
18 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair, thank
19 you. This closure review was presented to the Kodiak
20 Aleutians Regional Advisory Council and they took no
21 action on it.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
26 next on our agenda is the 805(c) report.

27
28 Donald.

29
30 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 The 805(c) report begins on page 30 on your meeting
32 materials. And during Madame Chair's reports you
33 highlighted the actions taken by this Council and the
34 Federal Subsistence Board adopted it on a -- as a
35 consensus item agenda. So you'll find the
36 recommendations of the Bristol Bay -- Bristol Bay's
37 action on page 32.

38
39 And that was the one proposal that was
40 made to the Federal Subsistence Board at its April 15
41 to 18, 2019 meeting in Anchorage. So the Board adopted
42 the recommendations of the Bristol Bay Council on FP
43 19-11 that requests the Federal -- the Board revise
44 section 27(e)(5)(vii)(C) of the CFR that authorizes the
45 take of salmon without a permit in Lake Clark and its
46 tributaries. So the Council adopted it as modified by
47 OSM and that's what the Federal Subsistence Board
48 adopted as recommended by this Council.

49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
4 no comments, questions, for Donald.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We can move
9 on. And we're down to new business. And it's wildlife
10 proposals. The first one is the WP 20-26. Page 34 on
11 your -- in your book.

12

13 Must be Robbin.

14

15 MS. LaVINE: Hello. Good afternoon,
16 Madame Chair and members of the Council. For the
17 record my name is Robbin LaVine and I'm an
18 anthropologist at OSM and I'll be presenting wildlife
19 proposal 20-26 and the analysis begins on page 34 of
20 your Council book.

21

22 The proposal, 20-26, was submitted by
23 you, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and it
24 requests that Federally-qualified subsistence users be
25 allowed to use a snowmachine to position wolves and
26 wolverines for harvest on Bureau of Land Management
27 lands in units 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C provided the animals
28 are not shot from a moving snowmachine.

29

30 The proponent states that the use of
31 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a
32 traditional practice in rural areas and the proposed
33 regulation will mirror Federal regulations in units --
34 in unit 23.

35

36 Some regulatory history to keep in
37 mind. In 2016 proposal WP 16-48 was submitted by the
38 Native Village of Kotzebue and it requests that
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed to use
40 snowmachines to position caribou, wolf or wolverines
41 for harvest in unit 23.

42

43 The Board adopted the proposal with
44 modification to allow this method of harvest only on
45 those lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
46 The Bureau of Land Management regulatory language does
47 not specifically prohibit the use of snowmachines to
48 position animals for hunting and this harvest method is
49 allowed on some State managed lands.

50

1 In 2017 a proponent from Manokotak
2 submitted wildlife proposal 18-24 and that requested
3 that Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed
4 to use a snowmachine to position caribou, wolves and
5 wolverines for harvest in unit 17 provided the animals
6 would not be shot from a moving vehicle.
7

8 This proponent submitted the same
9 proposal, 148, to the Board of Game. This proposal was
10 opposed by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
11 and rejected by the Board. However at that time it was
12 taken off the consensus agenda item and it was
13 deliberated on record if you recall.
14

15 As of its February, 2018, the Board of
16 -- the Alaska Board of Game adopted proposal 148 with
17 modification, limited to the taking of caribou shot
18 from a stationary snowmachine with further
19 clarification describing exactly how the snowmachine
20 may be used for assistance. And that is listed in
21 Appendix I of the analysis in your Board books.
22

23 During the April, 2018 Board meeting
24 some public testimony was received in support of 18-24.
25 The Board deliberated the proposal on record and
26 rejected it.
27

28 Other relevant proposals include 20-27,
29 also submitted by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
30 Council. That will be following this proposal and it
31 requests unit specific regulation for unit 17 allowing
32 use of snowmachines using the regulatory language
33 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in February, 2018.
34 And we'll get to that after that.
35

36 So if adopted wildlife proposal 20-26
37 would allow hunters to use a snowmachine to position
38 wolves and wolverines for selection and harvest as long
39 as they were not shot from a moving snowmachine.
40 Currently in the Bristol Bay region the majority of
41 wolves harvested in the most recent five year reporting
42 period were taken by firearm, while the majority of
43 wolverine harvest over the same five years was by
44 trapping.
45

46 The proposed regulation may not result
47 in an increase in harvest of wolves and wolverines by
48 trap or snare, however such regulatory changes could
49 likely increase the take of wolves and wolverines by
50

1 firearm and may result in more opportunistic harvest.
2 Currently the wolf population is believed to be stable,
3 less is known about the resident wolverine population
4 and this change in regulation could result in increased
5 biological vulnerability.

6
7 Regulations for the use of snowmachines
8 when harvesting wolves or wolverines would be different
9 on State managed lands however this already the case
10 and should the proposal be adopted it does not add
11 regulatory complexity that does not already exist.
12 Specifically in State regulations a snowmachine maybe
13 used to position a hunter to select an individual wolf
14 for harvest and wolves may be shot from a stationary
15 snowmachine. In Federal regulations a snowmachine
16 could be used to position a wolf or wolverine for
17 harvest and either could be shot from a stationary
18 snowmachine.

19
20 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
21 support wildlife proposal 20-26 and the justification
22 is as follows.

23
24 The use of snowmachines for subsistence
25 purposes is a traditional practice in the Bristol Bay
26 area and statewide. Ethnographic literature describes
27 hunters interacting with and harvesting wildlife on
28 sled or by foot until the '60s when snowmachines became
29 preferred. At that time ADF&G excluded snowmachines as
30 a legal method to take wildlife species in that
31 category of game. Only a hunter on foot or dog sled
32 could legally use traditional hunting strategies that
33 might affect game behavior. However hunters persist in
34 using traditional methods purposefully meant to alter
35 the behavior of wildlife in order to position them for
36 harvest because these methods are efficient.
37 Additionally the Board has adopted a similar regulation
38 in unit 23.

39
40 The proposed regulation change might
41 increase opportunity through an enhanced method for the
42 harvest wolverines and could result in more harvest.
43 Impacts to wolverine populations are unknown at this
44 time and are difficult to track.

45
46 Thank you. And I'm ready for your
47 comments.

48
49 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

2

3 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Thank you, Robbin. In 2018 the Board of Game passed a
5 positioning rule for caribou with restrictions. It was
6 highly debated and then at the next cycle you pointed
7 out that this Board turned down a similar proposal for
8 caribou.

9

10 The wolf and wolverine issue is on
11 record as already existing, you cannot harvest a wolf
12 or wolverine on a moving snowmobile, but you can
13 position the hunter from a snow -- you still can use a
14 snowmobile -- the existing rule as I understand, maybe
15 help me clarify. Under ADF&G rules for wolf and
16 wolverine that we can -- it's a positioning rule. And
17 there's a -- there's -- we spent I think almost three
18 days and the proposer is sitting in the room at the
19 Nushagak Advisory level. And at the Board of Game this
20 rule was -- I'm glad the Board of Game took it on. As
21 a -- and I would beg to differ that this is a
22 traditional use and a practice because as a hunter the
23 more efficient way is not to chase, that's what
24 everybody got confused on.

25

26 And I'll stop there because I don't
27 want to end up creating a conflict, but that was a
28 conflict. It's a conflict that became convoluted when
29 people were talking about the chase part of it. As a
30 hunter and an avid user you position yourself and then
31 stop and then you can harvest. And every trooper that
32 I talk to they have no issue with positioning yourself
33 for a wolf or wolverine as long as you're stopped.

34

35 And I think it's a good proposal, I
36 like your report because it outlines everything, it
37 lays out the existing rules, what happened and then,
38 you know, under your program after talking to you in
39 2018 we don't have very much recorded use of
40 snowmobiles for hunting. Those traditional practices
41 need to be not only documented, but also recorded that
42 make sense that we -- as we grow in population and the
43 effort and the resource become more exploited we're
44 going to have to fully provide equal access to the
45 resource.

46

47 Right now I don't see a decline in wolf
48 population, in fact it probably an increase. The
49 wolverine population I don't think is easily accessible

50

1 because they're up in the Titchiks about a -- most of
2 them -- the majority of them are up in the mountains
3 here and there's a limited amount of hunting pressure
4 and half of that ain't even on Federal land.

5
6 So I -- other than the Park in the
7 Becharof down there I would support this proposal.

8
9 Thank you for your good report, Robbin,
10 and appreciate the hard work.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
13 other comments.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 And thank you, Robbin.

21
22 I think this has been discussed at --
23 again at the Advisory Committee level and I've talked
24 to individual friends. And we also -- keep in mind
25 that recent -- the same weather factors that are
26 limiting us to go get caribou is going to somewhat
27 restrict folks from hunting these other animals. I
28 know one person who's been real frustrated with the
29 State system that the wolf and wolverine positioning
30 got kind of deleted from the caribou discussion and has
31 been left a little unclear.

32
33 I understand there's pretty strong
34 support in our area for this proposal and I'll be
35 supporting it.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
40 Dan. Any other comments from the Board.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
45 one -- seeing none, I guess we move on through this,
46 the presentation procedure for proposals. I guess the
47 next one would be a report on Board consultation.

48
49 And I don't know if Orville is online.

50

1 MR. LIND: Yes, Molly, this is Orville.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
4
5 MR. LIND: What is -- what was your
6 question?
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're going
9 through the presentation procedures for the proposals
10 and we're to the report on Board consultation with the
11 tribes or ANCSA corporations.
12
13 Were there any comments from them --
14 from the tribes or the ANCSA consultations regarding
15 this proposal?
16
17 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Orville,
18 Native liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. I
19 apologize, I was trying to do two things at once and
20 I'm not very good at that.
21
22 But during the consultation on wildlife
23 proposal.....
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, you're
26 breaking -- you're breaking up pretty bad, Orville. I
27 guess try again.
28
29 MR. LIND: Can you hear me now?
30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.
32
33 MR. LIND: Try this. Can you hear me
34 now?
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Very clear
37 now.
38
39 MR. LIND: Okay. Good. I'm on -- I'm
40 actually on headset. So during the consultations for
41 the wildlife proposal for Bristol Bay, Molly, on
42 September 30th we did not have anyone on Bristol Bay
43 that had any comments or questions on that proposal.
44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
48 thank you. Moving on to agencies, ADF&G and Federal or
49 tribal comments regarding this proposal. Anybody from
50

1 out there?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nobody's

6

moving.

7

8

Advisory group comments.

9

10

Donald.

11

12

MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame

13

Chair. The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
14 recently met and they supported the -- they voted in
15 support of this proposal.

16

17

Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Summary

20

of written public comments.

21

22

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. In

23

your meeting material books you'll find the one -- one
24 public comment we received on -- beginning on page 49.

25

And this is from the Alaskans for Wildlife and any
26 Cooperating Entities. And basically they oppose the
27 proposal.

28

29

In summary, result in chasing.

30

Positioning is another term for what in reality will
31 result in chasing and harassing of wildlife and will
32 amount to a continued enforcement challenge and
33 widespread abuse will surely continue.

34

35

And that's a summary of the written

36

public comments, Madame Chair.

37

38

Thank you.

39

40

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Public

41

testimony.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nobody's

46

jumping up. Regional Council recommendations.

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Motion to
2 adopt.
3
4 MR. WOODS: Motion to adopt.
5
6 MR. ANDREW: Second.
7
8 MR. WOODS: We're going to reread the
9 proposal, is that what I -- I just realized.
10
11 Move to adopt wildlife proposal 20-26.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
14 been a motion to adopt wildlife 20-26 by Frank Woods.
15 Second by Dan Dunaway.
16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I second.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
20
21 MR. WILSON: Question.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Q
Question's
24 been called. All in favor.....
25
26 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.
29
30 MR. MIKE: Yeah, just to clarify. The
31 Council moved to adopt WP 20-26 as recommended by OSM
32 or recommendations to support the proposal. Just to
33 clarify on record.
34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Are you coming
38 up?
39
40 MR. McKEE: Yes, Madame Chair. Sorry.
41 Madame Chair, for the record, Chris McKee, Wildlife
42 Division supervisor at OSM.
43
44 I just want to make sure that before
45 you actually take a vote or act on this that you put
46 some rationale and justification on the record for your
47 action.
48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

2
3 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

6
7 MR. WOODS: Yeah, good point that -- I
8 think my comments were that it was existing practice,
9 that it's already in use in different areas throughout
10 the State and it also mirrors kind of what the State
11 already has on record. And also OSM's report was
12 pretty thorough that it also -- I don't see any
13 conservation concern that we have for wolf and
14 wolverine. And if there is a decline in population
15 then we can address that when that time comes. So this
16 is a good proposal, it's well written. I think that
17 the justification for me is that it says provided the
18 animals are not to be shot from a moving snowmachine.
19 As a hunter and avid subsistence user that makes
20 perfectly common sense to me.

21
22 So my comments were it's existing
23 practice, it would -- there's no conservation concern
24 and, you know, it's an existing practice throughout the
25 State.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
30 you, Frank.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 I think I was a little ahead of the schedule when I
38 made my comments earlier that -- in support of this
39 proposal. But again it is pretty common practice, I
40 know it's strongly supported among a lot of the users
41 along the Nushagak River and in this general area.
42 It'll clarify what they are allowed to do and it
43 follows traditional practice.

44
45 Also like I said earlier that poor
46 weather conditions limit how much of this can go on.
47 But I think the recent active hunting, especially up
48 New Stu and Koliganek may be helping our moose and
49 caribou populations. They've been pretty vigorously
50

1 harvesting wolves the last few years and I think that's
2 a good thing right now.

3
4 So and the folks that I know who
5 participate in this strongly support it and I will be
6 supporting it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
15 Chair. I would also just like to reference the
16 numerous comments that this Council has made in support
17 of this proposal over the past several meetings that
18 we've had. And I for that reason and the reasons that
19 were just recently stated I will also be in support of
20 this proposal.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
23 other comments from the Board.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not,
28 Donald, you want to restate the final motion before we --
29 before the Board votes.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 Mr. Woods made a motion to adopt proposal WP 20-26 and
33 it was seconded by.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

38
39 MR. MIKE:Dan Dunaway. So
40 basically this permits -- it is an existing practice in
41 use by local residents and it mirrors State regulations
42 and OSM provided a thorough analysis. And the motion
43 was to adopt regulations as -- also as provided through
44 the OSM's recommendation to support.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
49 Donald. Okay. I guess we need to.....

50

1 MR. TREFON: Question.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
4 question's been called by Billy. All in favor say aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
9 opposition.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
14 none. Thank you.

15
16 Okay. Moving on to WP 20-27.

17
18 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
19 members of the Council. Again this is Robbin LaVine
20 from the Office of Subsistence Management. I will be
21 presenting wildlife proposal 20-27. The analysis
22 begins on page 51 of your Council books.

23
24 And this proposal was submitted by you,
25 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council. And it
26 requests a unit specific regulation for unit 17
27 allowing use of a snowmachine to assist in the taking
28 of a caribou and allowing caribou to be shot from a
29 stationary snowmachine using the regulatory language
30 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in February, 2018.

31
32 The proposal was submitted by the
33 Council at the recommendation of a working group
34 consisting of representatives of the public, the
35 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, the Bristol Bay
36 Native Association, the Togiak National Wildlife
37 Refuge, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the
38 Office of Subsistence Management and State and Federal
39 law enforcement officers.

40
41 The proponent states that keeping State
42 and Federal hunting regulations aligned and simple will
43 be more understandable for all users.

44
45 Again some recent regulatory history to
46 keep in mind. In 2017 a proponent from Manokotak
47 submitted proposal 18-24 requesting that Federally-
48 qualified subsistence users be allowed to use a
49 snowmachine to position caribou, wolves and wolverines

50

1 for the harvest in unit 17 provided the animals would
2 not be shot from a moving vehicle. He submitted the
3 same proposal 148 to the Board of Game. And out of
4 those two meetings as you recall the Board of Game
5 adopted proposal 148 with modification limited to the
6 taking of caribou shot from a stationary snowmachine
7 with further clarification, describing exactly how the
8 snowmachine may be used for assistance and that's in
9 Appendix I.

10

11 And then during its April, 2018 Board
12 meeting some public testimony was received in support
13 of 18-24. The Board deliberated that proposal and
14 rejected it. And again you've just heard the other
15 relevant proposal, 20-26 for wolves and wolverine.

16

17 If adopted proposal 20-27 will provide
18 regulatory language describing snowmachine use for the
19 purposes of hunting caribou in unit 17. It will also
20 align State and Federal regulations on snowmachine use
21 while hunting caribou in unit 17.

22

23 The proposed regulation is not expected
24 to result in significant population changes for caribou
25 as snowmachines are already extensively used in unit 17
26 to access hunting grounds. And harvest numbers will
27 continue to be managed by seasons and limits within
28 regulation.

29

30 Adopting proposal 20-27 will not alter
31 current prohibitions for snowmachine use on Federal
32 lands. Currently Federal regulations prohibit hunters
33 taking caribou from a snowmachine in motion and Federal
34 regulations prohibit using a snowmachine to pursue,
35 drive, herd or molest. However the proposed regulation
36 does not provide clarification on how the hunter may
37 use a snowmachine to assist in the taking of caribou
38 while remaining on compliance with existing
39 regulations. The specificity of the proposed
40 regulatory language may act to constrain use rather
41 than support a traditional practice.

42

43 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 support proposal 20-27. Justification is as follows.

45

46 The use of snowmachines for subsistence
47 purposes is a traditional practice in the Bristol Bay
48 area and statewide. Public testimony and discussion at
49 Council and Board meetings affirms the significance of
50

1 snowmachine use to the subsistence way of life while
2 seeking guidance on issues of compliance. The proposed
3 regulatory language will provide clarity to the hunter
4 on ensuring the compliance while using a snowmachine to
5 harvest caribou on Federal lands.

6
7 Because it mirrors a recent addition to
8 State regulation it will reduce complexity between
9 Federal and State regulations and decrease the
10 potential for inadvertent noncompliance by Federally-
11 qualified subsistence users. And this approach was
12 agreed on by a diverse group of stakeholders.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank

19
20 MR. WOODS: Yes, Madame Chair. Move to
21 adopt wildlife proposal 20-27.

22
23 MR. MIKE: Not.....

24
25 MR. WOODS: No?

26
27 MR. MIKE:not yet.

28
29 MR. WOODS: Not yet. Oh, that's right.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I guess if
32 we don't have any comments -- if we don't have any
33 comments from the Board we can move on to report on
34 Board consultations, tribes and ANCSA corporations.

35
36 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Native liaison
37 for the Office of Subsistence Management. Again on
38 September 30th consultation period there were no
39 questions or comments on this.

40
41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
44 you. The next one would be the advisory group
45 comments.

46
47 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, agency.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Or agency,
50

1 sorry.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Looks like we got a hand
4 up.

5

6 MS. WATINE: Good afternoon, everyone.
7 My name is Lauren Watine, I am the new area wildlife
8 biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 replacing Neil Barton. I want to thank you for
10 inviting me to this meeting today and allowing me the
11 opportunity to speak on behalf of Fish and Game.

12

13 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
14 is neutral on the adoption of this proposal. Although
15 this proposal does align the State and Federal
16 regulations and allows hunters to use a snowmachine to
17 assist in the take of caribou in many instances, the
18 Department is concerned that this method will likely
19 lead to high levels of disturbance resulting in
20 increased energetic demands at an important time of
21 year for the caribou especially if the same groups are
22 being -- groups of animals are being hunted on a daily
23 basis. This is an increasing concern because the
24 Mulchatna caribou herd is further below population
25 objective which wasn't known at the time that the Board
26 of Game adopted this regulation.

27

28 So I want to clarify that our last
29 population estimate was in 2016 at which point we
30 estimated the Mulchatna to be at around 27,000 animals.
31 We couldn't get an estimate in 2017 because weather
32 conditions didn't allow for us to get out and look at
33 these -- this herd. In 2018 we also couldn't get an
34 estimate so that gave us about a two year, almost three
35 year gap between estimates.

36

37 So between 2016 and this past summer,
38 June, 2019, the population has been cut in half just
39 about. So we are concerned about this decline in the
40 Mulchatna caribou herd and we would like to reduce any
41 potential factors that might harass these animals
42 further and decrease the population further.

43

44 If you have any questions I'm happy to
45 expand.

46

47 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

50

1 MR. WOODS: Well, welcome aboard. I
2 finally get to meet the face that helps fill Neil's
3 place.
4

5 My -- I guess my first question is did
6 any of the data they collected and the methods of means
7 on how you estimated populations in area change since
8 2016 and 2019?
9

10 MS. WATINE: So we still capture
11 animals every year and put radio collars on them. So
12 that part of our ability to survey the animals has not
13 changed. We are continuing to increase animals and --
14 increase the number of animals that we have that we're
15 surveying. So the more animals we can collar, the more
16 easily we can find the big aggregations of caribou in
17 the summers. And that allows us to better estimate the
18 population. This past summer when we went and did this
19 survey we were actually able to get out several times
20 before the actual survey began to really target where
21 those animals were. So I would say and in speaking
22 with all of my collaborators, this year was a very
23 tightly done survey, this was a very good survey year
24 for us. So we are fairly confident that our estimate
25 is a good estimate.
26

27 So this survey year relative to 2016
28 was a better survey year and relative even to 2018,
29 even though we didn't get an estimate in 2018, the sur--
30 the way we conducted the survey in 2019 was better
31 than that.
32

33 MR. WOODS: Okay.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead,
36 Frank.
37

38 MR. WOODS: The second question is the
39 harvest rates for the last three years since this new
40 law or regulation was put in place. My question is do
41 you have the harvest data that would I guess see a
42 decline in harvest because of those numbers declining
43 from half to -- I don't know, maybe I'm asking the
44 wrong question, but the harvest rates in the years in
45 question, was there any impact on this proposal that
46 was just passed is my question?
47

48 MS. WATINE: I'm going to try and
49 answer. And if I'm -- if I'm not explaining it well
50

1 please just let me know.

2

3 So the -- it's hard to say because the
4 last couple of years haven't been really good snow
5 years. And so the majority of our harvest of this herd
6 comes in March when we have some pretty solid snow. So
7 2016 from my recollection was a good year for
8 harvesting Mulchatna caribou, but the years after that
9 weren't so great. Now can we say that the

-- a
10 potential decline in harvest was matched by the decline
11 in the population, I mean, I'm -- that was certainly I
12 would think a contributing factor, but also the snow
13 conditions will affect harvestability.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

16

17 MR. WOODS: The follow-up to that
18 question -- the reason I'm asking it is correlation
19 between decline in population and the harvest numbers
20 should coincide, but we haven't had snow conditions to
21 harvest any of those caribou you're talking about in
22 that method and means that you're mentioning so I don't
23 -- it's hard to say that. We already have
24 conservation, like the report from OSM, the
25 conservation basically comes in your department where
26 we already have an emergency order to decline and we're
27 limited from two to one. So I don't see this proposal
28 changing any of that or what you're talking about as
29 far as -- it's already in regulation already. I think
30 that we had testimony from Mr. Chythlook, you heard
31 him, from years of -- since 19 -- that's 80 plus years
32 ago. So, I mean, it ain't that long, but my -- I guess
33 my word of caution is that we have a time shot and
34 you're a new biologist with a whole new learning curve
35 and as a steward of the resource I would like to see
36 another year go by before we make any drastic changes.

37

38 Basically what I'm saying is next year
39 we might see double that where they come back, but we
40 don't know that. On the other hand we have a proposal
41 that's already passed at the Board of Game that would --
42 we want to mirror.

43

44 I sit on both the Advisory Committee
45 and this Board. Our goal in the region has always been
46 to align and work together with all -- just about
47 everything in regulation so it's less confusing and
48 less hindering to the user. I could sit on the

50

1

49 Peninsula and tell you nightmare stories about sitting

50

1 on a piece of land where you have Federal land on one
2 foot, State land on the other, a private land owner on
3 the third and then we all wonder where we're at and how
4 we're supposed to -- how we're supposed to harvest the
5 resource at hand. The best thing we could do under
6 this regime of dual management is align proposals to
7 make it easier for people to feed themselves.

8
9 I appreciate your report and I'm
10 looking forward to seeing more of you in the different
11 meetings. But, yeah, thank you for your report, but I --
12 yeah, I appreciate the info.

13
14 Oh, I wanted to see if in 1959 do you
15 -- can we look back that far and see what the harvest
16 rates were for the upper Mulchatna?

17
18 MS. WATINE: That's a really good
19 question and I can follow-up on that for you.

20
21 MR. WOODS: Later.

22
23 MS. WATINE: Yeah. I do just want to
24 clarify though that Fish and Game is neutral on this
25 position. We were neutral on it at the Board of Game
26 cycle as well. But at that time when this passed in
27 2018 we were not aware of this decline in the
28 population which is why I just want to present a bit of
29 a caution here. We don't want to stress the caribou
30 any further.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

37
38 MR. TREFON: Yeah, my -- it's pretty
39 simple what I got for you. I missed out on it, did you
40 give the population numbers for 2018?

41
42 MS. WATINE: For 2019 the population is
43 estimated at 13, 448 animals.

44
45 MR. TREFON: Okay. My question was
46 boundaries, State, public, private, a little bit on
47 what you were saying. Do the State, Federal, do they
48 all share research information, like if a -- like for
49 example if a moose was on State land and he'd been
50

1 tagged and he flows over to Park, do you guys continue,
2 you guys research what goes in the Park land?
3

4 MS. WATINE: We do. We follow our
5 animals wherever they go and we have a pretty good
6 collaborative relationship with the Federal agencies
7 that our animals might cross over onto.
8

9 MR. TREFON: Okay. So your information
10 is shared so what you tell us.....
11

12 MS. WATINE: Correct.
13

14 MR. TREFON:the Federal will be
15 able to tell us the same thing and vice versa?
16

17 MS. WATINE: Yes.
18

19 MR. TREFON: Thank you.
20

21 MS. WATINE: You're welcome.
22

23 MR. TREFON: It's good to know.
24

25 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
28

29 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 Lauren, when -- when he was asking you about harvest
31 levels I was hoping that I would hear where these
32 harvests are taking place, in the upper Mulchatna,
33 lower, I mean, we're talking this proposal's on unit 17
34 here, but I'd be interested to know how much of this
35 herd is being taken like in the upper regions in the
36 Kuskokwim rather than in this region.
37

38 Can you answer that, please?
39

40 MS. WATINE: I certainly can. So in
41 winter most of our harvest occurs on the Y-K Delta, on
42 those Federal lands. I do have the harvest data so far
43 on the RC 503 State hunt for the Mulchatna which covers
44 unit 17 into 19, 18 and 9. So far since the hunt has
45 opened which opened August 1st, we've had 75 animals
46 harvested, 28 females and 47 males. The first kill was
47 on opening day and the most recent kill occurred on
48 October 20th. So far we've had animals taken in 17A, B
49 and C, 19B and 9B and C with a couple of other animals
50

1 unknown so far. The majority of the harvest has
2 occurred in unit 17B at this point so in the upper
3 Mulchatna area near the Mosquito as well, if that
4 answers your question.

5

6 MR. WILSON: It does. Thank you.

7

8 MS. WATINE: You're most welcome.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other.....

11

12 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

15

16 MR. WOODS: A simple tidbit. Do you
17 delineate or separate the harvest reports from sports,
18 subsistence, recreation or just are they guided.
19 Because there's a whole -- you just covered a whole
20 guide industry area especially on October 1st. Do you
21 separate that in your reports or how?

22

23 MS. WATINE: So in our reporting site
24 we do have sections for some of that information. We
25 go as far as to say if it was a resident or
26 nonresident, whether it was part of a large guiding
27 group effort that's not required to report, but we do
28 ask our hunters to report on as much as we -- as they
29 can. And we do a lot of follow-up with our hunters.
30 So they can report online, by calling in or just
31 mailing something to the office. And if something
32 wasn't really clear in that report we will follow-up on
33 it. That is something we can probably add to the
34 reporting process is figure out how many of our hunters
35 are part of a large guided group effort. Just having
36 looked at the data that I presented today, the majority
37 of it is local harvest, local users, subsistence users.

38

39 MR. WOODS: Okay.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

42

43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

46

47 MS. MORRIS LYON: Lauren, I'd like to
48 welcome you onboard as well. It's nice to finally meet
49 you.

50

1 MS. WATINE: Thank you.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would -- I would
4 jump on the opportunity that you just offered though of
5 adding that information. I think as a Subsistence
6 Board we would find that highly useful in future
7 reports to know where our resources have been going for
8 any of our big game.

9

10 MS. WATINE: I will present that.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
15 other comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You know, at
20 our March meeting Neil reported that there were -- they
21 were hoping go get 50 or 60 collars put in this spring,
22 did that happen?

23

24 MS. WATINE: So last spring we
25 unfortunately were not able to put out as many collars
26 as we wanted. There was a miscommunication or an issue
27 with our drug order that we needed. So we got three
28 animals collared last year. This year we are looking
29 at collaring anywhere from 40 to 60 animals. And we do
30 have everything in place to do that. So we'll be
31 collaring animals in what we call the eastern section
32 of the herd and the western section. And we're going
33 to try and collar as even an amount as possible on each
34 side. A lot of the time we are within one or two
35 animals of an equal split. It's sometimes just weather
36 dependent or how many animals we've captured in a given
37 day. Sometimes we have like anywhere from seven to 12
38 animals that we're working up. And that -- depending
39 on daylight and everything else, we might not be able
40 to get that one more animal on the eastern side so
41 we'll maybe just get an extra on the western side. But
42 we are hoping to collar anywhere from 40 to 60 animals
43 this year.

44

45 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

48

49 MR. WOODS: Which brings -- my question

50

1 is how many animals have you collared this year to get
2 that survey?
3

4 MS. WATINE: So as of that survey we
5 had 98 animals collared. That was a lot of animals.
6 And we were able to find 88 of those animals. So
7 pretty high success rate at locating animals. In
8 previous years we have not had that kind of success.
9 And that contributed to our ability to get a pretty
10 solid estimate.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Just with today's technology, you know, collaring moose
18 or even caribou and stuff, do you guys use satellites
19 up there to follow the caribou?
20

21 MS. WATINE: That's a great question.
22 So as of this past summer most of our animals were not
23 connected using GPS satellite. We had about five or
24 six animals that were connected in that way. But
25 moving forward, part of that 40 to 60 animals that will
26 be collared, come spring we're looking to put out
27 anywhere from 20 to 40 satellite collars. So that will
28 greatly increase our knowledge and understanding of the
29 Mulchatna and really target what -- what's going on
30 with this herd.

31
32 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

35
36 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because I -- my --
37 I've always been wondering what happened to the
38 Mulchatna herd too because I grew up with that herd
39 from the 1960s until I want to say 12 years ago when
40 Pebble, but we're not going to go there.

41
42 But the caribou, the predominant herd
43 used to go from Mulchatna, Twin Lakes down to this
44 country. That was their traditional migration route
45 for as long as I can remember. And my parents said
46 that always had been before the '50s, they said that
47 caribou always used that route. And then for some
48 reason they told us that they ate up all the reindeer
49 moss and the caribou moved to the Taylors. So I'm
50

1 interested in the history about why did they do that,
2 did -- if we went from 180 -- 380,000 down to 13,000.

3

4 MS. WATINE: So as the gentleman said
5 earlier, the Mulchatna and caribou generally have a
6 history of a boom and a bust.

7

8 MR. TREFON: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. WATINE: They'll -- they usually
11 sit comfortably at a certain population number and then
12 something drives that population to just grow. And
13 they grow and they reach this really big number and
14 then just like anything else, if you throw a ball up in
15 the air it starts coming down. And so the Mulchatna
16 herd follow that same trajectory. It went up and up
17 and up and then it started going down and down and
18 down. And what we've seen in the last seven years is
19 it's been trying to settle back to that natural, stable
20 number. The Mulchatna historically sits around 20,000
21 very happily. And it's been bouncing. And something
22 has triggered that bounce to instead of continue to
23 even out a little, it's dropped off again. Now next
24 year and the year after might show that it's going to
25 go on the increase and we've seen that with other
26 herds. But at this point we don't know what it's going
27 to do, we don't know why it's dropped by about 50
28 percent since our last estimate.

29

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So we as Fish and Game are trying to be
cautious, we don't want to shut things down right away,
but we also don't want to do anything that's going to
put added stress on an already vulnerable herd.

MR. TREFON: Well, that -- I guess
that's the best answer I'm going to get because I've
seen the -- I saw the numbers way up and now they're
like 13,000. I mean, it's -- there was so many caribou
in that country where I lived, there used to be a herd
right across the village every winter so harvesting was
never a problem. Now my area to get a caribou it's
rare, very rare to even -- I mean, every now and then
somebody will get a straggler and usually they're lone
bulls. And lone bulls are basically -- they're
actually nomads to begin with on their own anyway. But
the caribou just don't come around anymore in my area.
They're up -- they're migrating from Mulchatna over to
Taylors in the Bethel area almost like a straight line.
They're not coming down in this area as much as they

1 used to. That's what I'm seeing.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.

8 Just interested in the caribou from, you know, back to

9 the -- from the big herd to -- up to today and stuff.

10 Are they going back to their natural calving grounds in

11 the mountain and stuff or are they, I mean, we're

12 hearing things about the fires and stuff, we have four

13 fires, are they moving out or are they going over

14 towards the west, where are they really calving?

15

16 MS. WATINE: So from what we've seen

17 over the last several years, they are still holding to

18 their calving grounds, their traditional calving

19 grounds. And as far as we can tell the fires haven't

20 changed anything. We won't know until this coming

21 calving season especially after these most recent

22 fires, what's gone on. I can tell you I was out flying

23 surveys for our fall composition surveys to look at the

24 bull to cow ratio and calf to cow ratio. And in the

25 eastern section of the Mulchatna herd we found a pretty

26 decent group of animals using a recent tundra fire

27 area. We were all pretty surprised because it didn't

28 look to us like there was anything for them to eat, but

29 they were using that area and very happy with it.

30

31 So it's certainly something to

32 investigate.

33

34 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

37

38 MR. TREFON: Actually fires is good for

39 them because it creates new growth. It's mostly just

40 grass and fireweeds, what caribou like, soft, green.

41 And the calving grounds is Mulchatna pretty much. I

42 mean, that never changed. I mean, I've spent two weeks

43 working for the Park Service watching the calving

44 seasons up there. They're really impressive, you've

45 got to see it to really enjoy it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are we

48 through with our comments here.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are you
4 through with your presentation?

5

6 MS. WATINE: I am, Madame Chair. Thank
7 you for your time.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And
10 then is there a Federal -- either Federal or tribal?

11

12 MS. RUPP: Madame Chair, thank you.
13 For the record I'm Liza Rupp. I work for Lake Clark
14 National Park and I'm presenting on behalf of our SRC,
15 the Lake Clark SRC.

16

17 The Lake Clark SRC met on October 2nd
18 and looked at several of these proposals and in regards
19 to WP 20-27 they support the proposal as written.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

22

23 MS. RUPP: Yes. And it's on the left.
24 Although there is a type. Sorry, but.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
27 questions for Liza.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
32 you. How about the tribe, tribal.

33

34 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
35 members of the Council. Courtenay Carty, Curyung
36 Tribal Council. We're the Federally recognized tribe
37 in Dillingham.

38

39 Regularly our Council supports access
40 to subsistence resources and promoting our customary
41 and traditional practices here in Bristol Bay.

42

43 First I want to take a second to
44 recognize two of our chiefs in the room. We have
45 second chief, Gayla Hoseth and member chief, Frank
46 Woods.

47

48 Normally we come on the record and
49 we're not usually in support of a specific proposal,
50

1 but the concept. But this is a little bit different.
2 On October 8th our Council did take action to support
3 WP 20-27 which codifies the traditional practice of
4 positioning animals with snowmachines and provides
5 clarity to our hunters as they navigate the State and
6 Federal management systems.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The next would
11 be the advisory group comments, like other Regional
12 Council, Fish and Game -- okay, this is Andy Aderman.

13

14 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
15 Council members. My name's Andy Aderman. The Nushagak
16 Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee met last Friday
17 and the last thing on their agenda was this proposal,
18 WP 20-27. Of the eight committee members out of 11
19 that make up that committee, eight were present either
20 in person or online and there was five in support and
21 three abstained. So it was supported.

22

23 That's all I had.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

28

29 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 The Western Interior supported this proposal.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
35 Councils.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
40 none, we could move to the summary of written reports,
41 public comments.

42

43 Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you.
46 There were no written public -- written comments on
47 this proposal.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Public
2 testimony. Any public testimony.

3
4 Gayla.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 For the record Gayla Hoseth. I just wanted to bring to
8 the Council's attention, I'm sure you guys are familiar
9 with it, you know, we are in a dual management area and
10 having State regulations and Federal regulations. And
11 looking at the area of 17 for a land designated use
12 area of what is State and what is Federal up there in
13 17 where the Mulchatna is, is if this is allowable on
14 State it's going to be very confusing to the user if
15 they're able to assist in the taking of a caribou from
16 a stationary snowmachine if they're on Federal or State
17 land. And we're just trying to get these regulations
18 lined up so that the user who is out there isn't
19 conflicted on these different regulations that we do
20 have.

21
22 And when we brought -- when this was
23 brought to the -- this RAC, was it three years ago now
24 or two years ago with our cycle when it was the
25 positioning of caribou, wolf and wolverine, was that
26 proposal. And you heard testimony on the record of how
27 it is customary and traditional ways of practice of
28 positioning the animal. And the snowmachine has just
29 taken the place of the snowshoes and the dog teams and
30 now we're just -- as technology goes on that's where we
31 are at today.

32
33 And I just wanted to also remind
34 everybody of ANILCA, title 8, section 811, subsection
35 3121(b), with the use of snowmachines, motorboats and
36 other means of surface transportation. So I just
37 wanted to bring that. And when it was at the Federal
38 Subsistence Board, when it was there the reason why it
39 failed. And we've been also contemplating this issue,
40 but we'll save those comments for Bristol Bay Native
41 Association's report later. But when there was a
42 conflict in regulations and ANILCA did not prevail at
43 that Federal Subsistence Board meeting and that's why
44 we are here today with this proposal on the floor and
45 we would just like to have clarity for the subsistence
46 users out there.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
2 we can go to the -- our Regional Council
3 recommendations.

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, I'll move
10 to adopt WP 20-27 as worked in the book.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. WOODS: Second.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
17 motion to adopt WP-20-27.

18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Robbin has something.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin, did
22 you have.....

23
24 MR. MIKE: Oh, Madame Chair, I just
25 want to remind the Council and the public if you wish
26 to testify on a specific proposal please fill out a
27 green -- a blue card so that way our Council members
28 will know that we are -- have public members in the
29 audience that wish to testify. So if you can please
30 fill out a blue card and identify which proposals you
31 want to make public comment on.

32
33 But there's some public out there that
34 wish to provide public testimony before we take any
35 further action, Madame Chair.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
40 we can I guess it tight for a minute. And I guess we
41 can do -- I recognize our students here while we're
42 waiting.

43
44 If those are a different group of kids,
45 we welcome you and would like for you to introduce
46 yourselves, just your name and your grade. Because we
47 want to let you know that we really appreciate you
48 taking the time to come in and meet with our -- come in
49 to observe our process here.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, did
4 you have a.....
5
6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Quickly before we recognize the students, there's a
8 currently a motion on the table so if the second can --
9 or the maker of the motion withdraw and the second
10 agrees we can start all over after further public
11 testimony.
12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.
14
15 MR. WOODS: Conclude.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm agreeable.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So I
22 think it was just Dan -- Dan that made the motion and
23 we had -- and then was it -- was there a second by
24 Frank Woods?
25
26 MR. WOODS: That's true.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Those
29 have been rescinded.....
30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:for now.
34 We have about three blue cards.....
35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: The kids first.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
39 recognize the kids first or the students, you're not
40 kids, you're students.
41
42 MR. CHANEY: My name is Graelin Chaney
43 and I'm in seventh grade.
44
45 MR. COLBY: My name is Ty Colby and I'm
46 in seventh grade.
47
48 MS. NELSON: My name is Morgan Nelson
49 and I'm in seventh grade.
50

1 MS. WOODS: My name is Elaine Woods and
2 I'm in seventh grade.

3
4 MR. ALEX BUHLUM: My name's Alex Buhlum
5 and I'm in seventh grade.

6
7 MS. KITTA: My name's Evanda Kitta, I'm
8 in seventh grade.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, I'm
11 sorry for stating you are kids. I have a four year old
12 grandson that wants to be a big boy. So.....

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. NICHOLS: My name's James Nichols
17 and I'm in seventh grade.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
20 else?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
25 thank you, students.

26
27 Okay. I guess we can move on -- we
28 have three blue cards here. The first one is Kenneth
29 Nukwak from Manokotak.

30
31 MR. NUKWAK: Hi. Good afternoon. My
32 name is Kenneth Nukwak and I'm the one that presented
33 this WP -- now it's called WP 20-27. At first it was
34 WP 18-24 I think.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. NUKWAK: But I am still in support
39 of this. I'm supporting the RAC Committee. And I
40 still like the idea of stopping the snowmachine and
41 shooting at a caribou for the safety purposes.

42
43 (In Native)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: He's wondering
46 if we have any questions for him.

47
48 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

2
3 MR. WOODS: Kenneth, I know you put
4 this proposal before us before and then also the Board
5 of Game and how lengthy it was to get to this point. I
6 guess I'd like to thank you for bringing this issue
7 forward, that, you know, this is what the public
8 process is for. This is what Board's

like this
9 actually do is help regulations meet the existing needs
10 and also existing practice. And the lady sitting next
11 to you is documenting all our -- we need to document
12 traditional use such as positioning utilizing
13 snowmobiles and how -- practice, methods and means.

14
15 So my hat's off to you for bringing
16 this issue forward. And it made it a lot easier for
17 that generation that we -- the younger generation as we
18 get -- you know, as we grow older doing it, you know,
19 for a better reason.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. NUKWAK: And thanks for presenting
24 this again. I think they'll be about my age by the
25 time I feel this age.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. NUKWAK: (In Native)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anymore
32 comments for Kenneth.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I also
37 want to thank you, Kenneth, for bringing this proposal
38 forwards. It -- it's going to probably make a better
39 process for even law enforcement to engage with, you
40 know, the hunters and people like -- people that live
41 in Manokotak and other smaller villages.

42
43 Thank you for bringing this proposal
44 and having us work the process. It's been taking a
45 while, but I think we're down to the wire. And it
46 looks like that the process that we're going through
47 will satisfy what, you know, what you've been working

48
49
50

1

48 really hard for us to accomplish.

49

50

1 (In Native)

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 Just a little curious listening to all this and I
9 appreciate you putting it forward and everything. My
10 question is can you have someone sitting behind you and
11 you're a driver and you stop, but your gunner is
12 shooting?

13

14 MR. NUKWAK: I'd have to be wearing a
15 hair guard.....

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. NUKWAK:hair protector.
20 Which is possible, but that's still a hunter and
21 passenger would have to consider taking up safety
22 first.

23

24 And then I do realize this has been a
25 lengthy process, but I see that we all -- we all still
26 have patience even if it takes 10 years to reach this
27 point. You know, it's everybody should have. Takes a
28 lot of patient and a lot of pondering on these kind of
29 issues. Thinking about the future generations too and
30 never forgetting up the past.

31

32 (In Native)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks,
35 Kenneth. The next one will be Moses Talkenya,
36 Manokotak.

37

38 MR. TALKENYA: Thank you, Madame Chair,
39 and everybody else. My name is Talkenya, Sr., I'm from
40 Manokotak. I've been living there all my life. And I
41 know I've met quite a few of you here before and work
42 with some of you in some of the proposals in the past.

43

44 Well, hunting and fishing's been my way
45 of life and I like hunting for my family and friends,
46 grandparents. And this proposal, 20-27, I'm in support
47 of it 100 percent, maybe 110 percent.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. TALKENYA: And I'm really glad to
2 hear, you know, the support toward it.
3
4 Thank you so much.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments
7 for Moses.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Hi, Moses, good to
14 see you again. So.....
15
16 MR. TALKENYA: Uh-huh.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY:just to kind of --
19 you haven't testified on this as much as Kenneth has,
20 but this would reflect you guys have been doing all
21 along pretty much; is that correct?
22
23 MR. TALKENYA: Uh-huh. Yep.
24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: And it clarifies it so
26 when you're out there hunting you can actually pay
27 attention to hunting and not look over your shoulder
28 about red lights coming behind?
29
30 MR. TALKENYA: Yep.
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you.
33
34 MR. TALKENYA: Okay. Thank you.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, thanks
37 -- thanks, Moses.
38
39 The next one is Courtenay Carty.
40
41 MS. CARTY: I already.....
42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Okay.
44 Moving along. I guess we're to or back to our motion.
45 And, Donald, you want to read our -- no we haven't done
46 a motion yet. So we need a motion.
47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, thank you.
4 I move to adopt WP 20-27 as it shows in the book.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. WOODS: Second, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
11 been a motion to adopt WP 20-27 by Dan Dunaway, second
12 by Frank Woods.

13

14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Call for question.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
19 question call, but before we vote I'd like to have
20 Donald read the motion for clarification.

21

22 Donald.

23

24 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 The motion was made to adopt proposal WP 20-27 as
26 recommended by the OSM recommendation on page 61 to
27 support proposal WP 20-27.

28

29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, I'd
36 like to speak to my motion since it's been seconded and
37 all.

38

39 There's several points here. This has
40 been a pretty long process. I've been following it
41 closely through the Advisory Committee of the State and
42 the Regional Advisory Council for the Federal
43 Subsistence. I really have -- my hat's off to Kenneth
44 for carrying through on this. There's times where he'd
45 show up coated in snow, he'd drive his Sno-Go all the
46 way from Manokotak to make his concerns known.

47

48 This clarified it. There's a lot of
49 people out there hunting like I say who are kind of

50

1 looking over their shoulder, never quite sure what was
2 legal, what wasn't. And sometimes some people got
3 tickets and they thought they were legal and there's
4 other times -- I've personally seen folks out there
5 ripping around, wildly illegal. So this really I think
6 nails it down, clear cut. I also really like the idea
7 that it's consistent with State regulations again so
8 people know what they're doing, kind of like the folks
9 talking here, they got one foot in private land, one
10 foot in State land and they do a hop, skip and jump and
11 they're on Federal land. So consistency really is
12 answers for the true user out there on the ground.

13

14 I also do want to note the cautionary
15 tale that the State has brought up. However I think
16 this is -- kind of reflects the practice we've kind of
17 always done or similar. So I'm not sure that it would
18 bring anything new or different, possibly even less
19 stress to the animals than has occurred in the past. I
20 respect that caution and we should keep it in mind as
21 the future. But I'll be strongly supporting this
22 proposal.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

27

28 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

31

32 MR. WOODS: While this proposal is
33 basically for 17 and where I'm thinking is on Federal
34 land, you know, we have a Nushagak Peninsula caribou
35 harvest and that's where the proposers come from, it
36 would benefit them more than on State land. But anyway
37 I am fully aware of all the issues, I think we've on
38 the State side with the Board of Game kind of vetted
39 all the perks to this.

40

41 The main reason I'm in full support is
42 it aligns proposals both State and Federal. The
43 conservation concern that I think the State brought
44 forward is always going to be there. We've got
45 conservation concern on the peninsula, but we monitor
46 that by time and area, season bag limits and then like
47 the State cutting back harvest time and limits
48 basically. So this is just a methods and means, this
49 doesn't increase or decrease the existing harvest

50

1 practice, it just legalizes a specific way of methods
2 and means.

3
4 So I am in full support of it and it
5 also alleviates my mind that, you know, the next
6 generation won't have to sort this out, who's right and
7 wrong or the law will be able to define it specifically
8 in writing that we -- that's our job is to make it
9 easier and more clearer for at least for ourselves and
10 management.

11
12 So thanks, Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

15
16 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

19
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
21 Chair. I'm also going to be in support of this motion.
22 I feel like this allows for a clarification of a tool
23 that's been in the toolbox. I don't see any additional
24 pressure added to a population that is in decline, that
25 we are certainly concerned about. Since it's already a
26 method that has been in use and I feel that Fish and
27 Game and Fish and Wildlife both have enough tools in
28 their toolbox to curtail the take on this herd in a
29 rapid enough manner that it should be able to provide
30 protection for the population.

31
32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
35 other comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The comments
40 that we've just heard would probably -- I'm hoping that
41 Donald has written that all out to include in our
42 discussion and justification for this proposal.

43
44 And I guess before we vote, if you have
45 all that documented, Donald, you want to restate the
46 final motion.....

47
48 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:for the
2 record?

3
4 MR. MIKE: Yeah, the main motion -- the
5 motion was to adopt proposal 20-27 as presented by the
6 OSM recommendation on page 61. And further the Council
7 members stated that the proposal clarifies current
8 regulations for both Federal and State. And it will be
9 consistent with State regulations and it addresses the
10 methods and means and clarifies the current
11 regulations.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Call for question.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
18 been a question call. All in favor say aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
23 opposition.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
28 That's been carried. So we're -- we feel like I need
29 to clap.

30
31 (Applause)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Let's take a
34 five minute breather.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Call the
41 meeting back to order at 3:20.

42
43 The next on our agenda is WP 20-28 and
44 29. Extend bull season and establish antlerless season
45 for moose in unit 17A.

46
47 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 This is Suzanne Worker again and I'll be presenting the
49 next few wildlife analyses for you. The first one is

50

1 WP 20-28 which begins on page 66 of your meeting
2 materials.

3
4 This proposal was submitted by the
5 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and in WP 20-28 they
6 request that the bull moose season in unit 17A be
7 extended by five days from the current season which is
8 August 25th to September 20th to a new season of August
9 25th to September 25th.

10
11 WP 20-29 requests the addition of an
12 August 25th to September 25th antlerless moose season
13 in unit 17A.

14
15 And this request follows the Board of
16 Game's actions which implemented these same changes in
17 State regulation in 2018.

18
19 So the moose population in unit 17A has
20 been growing relatively steadily since the 1990s and at
21 last count it was estimated to be over 2,000 moose.
22 And this is well above the population objective
23 established by the unit 17A Moose Management Group
24 which is 800 to 1,200 moose. Estimates in this
25 population are high in terms of productivity and the
26 bull/cow ratios are good too at 77 bulls per 100 cows.
27 That estimate was made in October of 2017.

28
29 Both the State and the Federal moose
30 seasons are administered by State registration permit.
31 And in addition to the fall season there's a may be
32 announced winter season in both State and Federal
33 regulation and there are separate quotas for antlered
34 and the antlerless portions of those hunts.

35
36 Overall harvest has increased as the
37 moose population has increased, peaking in 2016 with 85
38 moose reported harvested that year. Since 2001 36
39 percent of that harvest has occurred in winter and
40 harvest is dominated by Federally-qualified subsistence
41 users. Since 2013 when the State's nonresident season
42 was established 83 percent of harvest has been
43 attributed to local users.

44
45 So if this proposal is adopted it will
46 lengthen the existing bull season by five days so the
47 season would run August 25th to September 25th. And it
48 would also establish an antlerless moose season for
49 those same dates.

50

1 Those changes might result in
2 additional harvest which could be useful in terms of
3 slowing the growth of the population which is currently
4 double the population objective set by the unit 17A
5 Moose Working Group. And it poses little risk of
6 overharvest since both the bull and the cow hunt would
7 continue to be managed by a quota.

8
9 This action will result in reduced
10 regulatory complexity between State and Federal
11 regulation and it would allow subsistence hunters to
12 hunt across jurisdictions with a single permit.

13
14 And so the OSM preliminary conclusion
15 is to support WP 28/29.

16
17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments
20 or questions for Suzanne.

21
22 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

25
26 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 So you just stated that in 17A -- this is just for 17A.
28 And looking at the map on page 280 the majority of the
29 land is Federal under Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
30 There's a portion in the lower 17A which is State,
31 looks like mostly corporation land on page 280. So
32 this would kind of align -- we already have an MOU and
33 I think it's a State managed hunt, right, correct?

34
35 MS. WORKER: That's correct. The hunt
36 is administered by State registration permit, both the
37 Federal hunt and the State hunt.

38
39 MR. WOODS: Yeah. Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
42 other comments from here.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
47 none, I guess we can go through the process here,
48 report on Board consultation.

49
50

1 Orville.

2

3 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Board members.
4 Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM.

5

6 During the consultation period there
7 were no questions or comments on this proposal, Madame
8 Chair.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
13 you. Agency comments, ADF&G, Federal or tribal.

14

15 Okay.

16

17 MS. WATINE: Hello again. This is
18 Lauren Watine with the Alaska Department of Fish and
19 Game. I want to say that the Alaska Department of Fish
20 and Game is in support of the adoption of this proposal
21 as it would align with current State regulation, reduce
22 hunter confusion on hunt start and end dates and the
23 potential for added harvest would bring the 17A moose
24 population down to a value that would reduce the
25 potential for overbrowsing of forage and so sustain the
26 habitat for future sustainable moose harvest.

27

28 There should just be some recognition
29 that the antlerless hunt is a management tool that
30 should be applied only in certain circumstances. And
31 they don't go on into perpetuity and would be expected
32 to be removed when the population returns to a
33 sustainable level.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
38 questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Moving
43 on to Federal.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Tribal.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I can tell
2 that this 17A proposal is not a concern, nothing to
3 fight about because we don't want to have anybody from
4 Togiak.

5
6 So let's move on to advisory group
7 comments.

8
9 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

12
13 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
14 can speak for the Nushagak Advisory. We reauthorize
15 this antlerless hunt every cycle. So I'm in support of
16 -- and also we brought this issue forward to extend the
17 season for people in 17A, that they are in full support
18 of not only lengthen -- it didn't add any length to the
19 season, it just moved it -- shifted the season to a
20 later date for them over there.

21
22 So and it's a -- the antlerless hunt is
23 like the lady said a regulation or a tool for
24 management to keep the population at a steady level.
25 So I'm in support of the proposal.

26
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 Or Nushagak Advisory would.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
32 other comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You
37 know, when I started working for Subsistence Division
38 and dealing with the moose over there, it wasn't -- it
39 wasn't a piece of cake. There was a lot of hot
40 discussions on the outset especially when Togiak was
41 trying to rebuild the moose population over there. And
42 they did a really good job of introducing their concern
43 to the western villages like Platinum and Goodnews.
44 They actually visit those people in person so that the
45 Tok, Platinum, Goodnews folks wouldn't harvest the
46 moose, you know, whenever they show up in their
47 villages. And it took -- it took years for the Togiak
48 Advisory Council to work on this. And they're probably
49 feeling a sign of relief now to know that, you know,
50

1 their hard work paid off, they've got moose in their
2 back yard. Now they're -- they've got extra moose over
3 there to where they're going to be able to harvest I
4 guess -- would it be antlerless moose.

5
6 So I really applaud that community for
7 their hard work.

8
9 And so if there's no further comments
10 from here we can move on to.....

11
12 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh. Sorry,
15 Dennis.

16
17 MR. ANDREW: Oh, it's all right. Thank
18 you, Madame Chair. No, I'm just interested in the
19 population over, you know, at Togiak and Twin Hills,
20 all the way over. Do they ever do a count on barren
21 cows that don't have no calves anymore, the Department?

22
23 MS. WORKER: Madame Chair, that would
24 be a question for Andy I'm afraid.

25
26 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Togiak
27 Refuge. In the -- in the falltime or actually in
28 November we look at our radio collared moose which are
29 all cows. We have about 30, about half of those are in
30 17A or the Togiak drainage, the other half are mostly
31 in the Goodnews drainage with a couple in the Quinhagak
32 drainage. That's over in the southern part of unit 18.
33 And we're checking them for whether they still have
34 calves with them to get an idea of calf recruitment and
35 survival for the first six months of life.

36
37 And we see -- we see moose that had
38 calves in the spring and don't have them come November.
39 There's some that do have them. The trend here the
40 last three years is to -- calf survival has been lower
41 which means fewer calves in the falltime and we check
42 again in the spring. Late April, early May, just
43 before they're going to start having their new calves.
44 Because if they make it to six months there's a real
45 good chance they're going to make it to one year and a
46 real good chance that they're going to become adults
47 themselves.

48
49 And we don't do I guess counts of
50

1 barren cows, it's just -- it's whatever we see with our
2 radio collars and we use that. And there's some really
3 productive cows out there, but, you know, they can --
4 they can take a break or they can lose their calves,
5 you know, which it's not until they get older that they
6 really become barren cows. In most populations that
7 starts around the age of 12, but I can tell you I had a
8 12 year old moose, this is one I caught when it was a
9 calf so I know how old it was, she had triplets on her
10 12th birthday. Had another one that, again caught as a
11 calf, she turned 17 this spring, she had a single calf.
12 That's pretty rare. I had three or four other 17 year
13 olds, I didn't see any of them with a calf, but once
14 they hit that older age just like people they -- it
15 kind of drops off as far as having kids or offspring.
16 And, I mean, we've probably heard of people that, you
17 know, are in their 50s or even early 60s that have
18 kids, it's pretty rare.

19
20 I don't know if that answers your
21 question.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Just one more last
24 question. What about -- you guys ever spot any in the
25 whole area from around here all the way to the western,
26 albino moose?

27
28 MR. ADERMAN: I've never seen one. I
29 believe Fish and Game seen one in 17B somewhere several
30 years ago, like in March. But that's the only one I've
31 heard of in this area.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about
34 Bigfoot.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There was a
39 report about -- there was a report a couple of years
40 ago from Twin Hills, I guess there was a couple hunting
41 moose and they thought that they were staging a moose,
42 you know, the tree is moving and they come to find out
43 it was a -- they actually saw Bigfoot. I guess the guy
44 actually aimed at it with his scope and they -- it
45 looked too much like a human to shoot it. So they
46 jumped on their four-wheeler and sped home.

47
48 So that's -- you know, there's Bigfoots
49 showing up in the west -- west side of our region here.

50

1 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank, did you
4 have a comment.

5

6 MR. WOODS: Pick on Andy. Apologize
7 for not making the meeting Friday. The question I have
8 is I really appreciate your coordination with the State
9 when you're working with Neil and the new biologist I
10 hope continues.

11

12 The question I have is in the areas of
13 low density and low calf recruitment my concern as not
14 only a hunter, but an observer, is that -- you know,
15 like the lady said, the antlerless hunts are in
16 specific regions that are -- have increasing
17 populations where -- I'm looking at the map in 17C and
18 lower Nushagak, we have decreasing populations. So in
19 the last 20 years I think that the last cow education
20 course that -- or movement that I seen was not Jim
21 Browning, but Jim Wilington, is he used to have these
22 cups and maybe OSM or you and -- or someone else can
23 reactivate that as a learning tool.

24

25 Because as a kid growing up I watched
26 them cups is that one cow populated the whole cup. And
27 as a young person growing up we just seen the youth
28 leave, I think it's real important that the people
29 along the villages that are in places of decline that
30 we keep educating in different areas. But I -- you
31 know, I'm -- I really appreciate if anybody has any
32 ideas on that including agencies, we know it as the
33 declining State budgets and all the stuff that's going
34 on we -- as stewards we need to keep that education
35 process going, is that them cow cups, I don't know if
36 you remember those, was real important at educating
37 people that that one cow -- if we have a declining
38 population and people can't feed their family they
39 start shooting cows, I would hate to go back to that
40 again. I know it's allowable in 17, but in density
41 places -- you know, what I'm talking about, Dennis, if
42 people can't feed themselves on the river they'll get
43 whatever they can to feed themselves, but at what
44 expense.

45

46 So I really -- I just want to make that
47 a comment. And I appreciate your work and keep the --
48 you know, maybe the cow education up front somewhere.
49 I don't know how we could do that, but.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Redesign that
2 cup and start passing it around.

3
4 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, did you
7 have a comment.

8
9 MS. MORRIS LYON: I do just as a
10 follow-up on Frank's just recent request.

11
12 So we had that request that went out
13 over on the spring side, yeah, just a year or two ago.
14 And it revitalized the poster that had the same purpose
15 behind it. And you can now seem them hung up, you
16 know, in our post offices and banks and other public
17 areas.

18
19 So anyway if you want to do it on this
20 side I'm sure that our Fish and Game office, Fish and
21 Wildlife office, I honestly don't know who was
22 responsible for getting those up after we requested
23 them, but it happened and I appreciate it and it could
24 happen over here.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
27 comments for Andy.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we
32 could move on to -- where are we, summary of written --
33 no, I guess we have one public testimony we can pick up
34 now.

35
36 Joe Chythlook.

37
38 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Since nobody's here
39 from Togiak, I was born in Togiak 76 and half years
40 ago, I thought I would speak on their behalf.

41
42 Joe Chythlook. I guess I applaud the
43 -- as Molly mentioned, the management of that herd. I
44 recall when everybody start agreeing that they needed
45 to work together in order to allow that herd to --
46 moose herd to develop in Togiak. And all the advisory
47 committees, Nushagak, Togiak and -- mainly worked
48 together to ensure that people worked together to make
49 sure that what Frank mentioned was something that was

50

1 -- people made known.

2
3 But then, you know, I guess my only
4 caution is that as we allow more liberal regulations in
5 17A that we don't forget that at one point we had a lot
6 of moose in 17B, we had a lot of moose in 17C. And
7 then when that happened we attracted a lot of people
8 from outside the region that came and helped to I guess
9 knock the number down. And then the reason why there
10 was quite a decline in 17B first was there was no way
11 that both the Department or I guess it was the
12 Department who was in control of that management, there
13 was no way that they could foresee that -- how that
14 moose bull was hunted would really have an affect on
15 the population.

16
17 And I think as a result a little bit
18 too late, behind the curve maybe, they responded to
19 that. However the results now is that we're having a
20 hard time catching moose probably in 17B and then the
21 adjoining units like in the 9A and B where a lot of the
22 population used to extend to and then even down over to
23 the Naknek drainage. So and I also remember at one
24 point there was lots of moose in 9C and 9E. And the
25 same thing happened, we thought, oh, man, we're going
26 to have moose forever. And so there was I think in my
27 opinion a lax on how that moose was managed as well.

28
29 I had an airplane, I started to fly in
30 1966 and I used to go down there and get moose as well
31 because we didn't have very many moose up in this area.
32 But at that time if you were to stop in King Salmon
33 when the moose season, fall season opened you would see
34 a pile of antlers being shipped out of King Salmon.
35 And then as time lapsed, when that area -- bulls and
36 moose kind of got killed off by too many -- I think too
37 many different user groups, it shifted over to 17B and
38 A. And a lot of -- the same thing happened probably --
39 I don't know if you saw it up in Iliamna when air
40 taxies would come and drop off people and they would
41 take lots of antlers back to wherever. And we started
42 seeing this here in -- even here in Dillingham, we see
43 some people getting dropped off. And it wasn't the
44 guides who were doing it, it was people who had
45 airplanes who'd drop off hunters, there was no
46 regulation to -- how to control that and keep it ahead
47 of the curve.

48
49 And as a result even up in our lake

50

1 system, 17B portion of Aleknagik where those of us who
2 live in Aleknagik traditionally hunted. We saw the
3 population drop off up in Fifth Lake and down into
4 Third Lake to where we couldn't hunt them just -- moose
5 like we did in the past.

6
7 So I guess my only caution is that as
8 we move forward in a successful hunt of 17A, hopefully
9 our managers will work with our advisory committees and
10 observe and carefully see and monitor the pressure
11 along with the success of the cow -- bull to cow ratio
12 and all that stuff that has happened in Togiak.

13
14 So that's just my only comment, I guess
15 I just want to -- always successful, I want us to
16 continue to be successful.

17
18 And then, you know, you probably also
19 noticed that the moose population has even moved from
20 upper Yukon, upper Kuskokwim over to the west. It
21 seemed like that there's a migratory pattern that these
22 moose have developed through the years. However I also
23 see some ads now that say there's a lot of moose up in
24 the Denali Park area. So there's -- there may be some
25 moose coming back to our area.

26
27 But anyway that's just my comment. I
28 thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion
29 because that's what this is all about, right.

30
31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
34 comments or questions for Joe?

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
39 we can move on. I guess, Robert, are you still with
40 us?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess -- I
45 guess not. We're to the summary of written public
46 comments.

47
48 Donald.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we did not
2 receive written public comments on this proposal.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we
7 have any public testimony -- we just had one.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then we
12 can move on to the Regional Council recommendations and
13 then a motion to adopt.

14
15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Madame Chair. I
20 make a motion to adopt wildlife proposal WP 20-28/29 as
21 presented.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
24 been a motion by Nanci Morris to adopt WP 20-29 as
25 a.....

26
27 MS. MORRIS LYON: 28 and 29.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sorry. 28/29
30 as adopted.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second my Dan
35 Dunaway.

36
37 MR. TREFON: Question.

38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Justification first.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
42 question, but, Donald, do you want to read the
43 justification for clarification?

44
45 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 There's a motion to adopt proposal WP 20-28/29 as
47 presented on page 74 of our staff analysis to support
48 the proposal.

49
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci.

4

5 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
6 Chair. I am in support of this proposal. I think -- I
7 feel like both Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game have
8 been begging the users of this resource to get this
9 moose population under control and in better check to
10 the numbers that they feel comfortable with for the
11 population. I think this is a great tool in the
12 toolbox to get that job done.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
23 Chair. I'll be supporting it because again as a member
24 of Nushagak Advisory Committee I believe we supported
25 it.

26

27 Also one thing, this is, you know,
28 taking into consideration that warnings that Joe just
29 mentioned and those bear consideration, but in this
30 mostly Refuge area they have the luxury of a agency
31 that can focus on a relatively small area compared to
32 the State areas. And they've also gone to some pretty
33 extensive habitat evaluation and it's kind of like a
34 handy laboratory compared to some of the more sprawling
35 areas. So I'm hopeful that they can manage and watch
36 for those concerns of overharvest or needing to shift
37 which animals get harvested. But I'll be in support of
38 this.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

43

44 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

47

48 MR. WOODS: Yeah, Madame Chair, thank
49 you. I'd like to voice my concerns about -- well,
50

1 basically I'm in support of this proposal because of
2 the 17A management group recommendations and the
3 population increase that we reauthorize basically.
4 First I understand this is a reauthorization of a
5 antlerless moose hunt plus an extension or shifting the
6 season later that, you know, I'm in full support. That
7 I think the -- between the collaboration of the groups
8 and the working group or the management group that was
9 formed, it would -- it matches everything that we want
10 to do to curb not only the increase, but also provide
11 subsistence opportunity for the users in the area.

12
13 Thanks.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Folks on the
16 line please mute your phone, we're having background
17 information. If you don't have a mute button hit star
18 six.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 Can I request that the folks online
23 please mute your phone we can hear you in the
24 background on this end.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we're
29 ready for the vote. We had the motion and the second
30 and we need the question and then vote.

31
32 I think Billy had the question already
33 called. So all in favor say aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
38 opposition.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
43 none, motion is passed.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 Moving on to WP 20-30. Revise the
48 definition, season and harvest limit for hare in unit
49 9. Unit 9. So we're to the rabbits.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 On to the bunnies. So WP 20-30 begins on page 77 of
3 your meeting materials.
4

5 This proposal was submitted by the
6 Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife
7 Refuges. And they're requesting that the Alaska hare
8 season be shortened from a year round season to
9 November 1st to January 31st. And that the harvest
10 limit be reduced from no limit to one per day and four
11 annually.
12

13 There are a couple things I want to
14 point out about nomenclature before we get too far into
15 this. So the Alaska hare is called the tundra hare in
16 Federal regulation, but the Alaska hare is probably the
17 best term. The second thing is that the Alaska hare or
18 the tundra hare is a different species than the
19 snowshoe hare despite being lumped together in Federal
20 regulation. So I doubt there's any confusion about
21 that in this room, but it can be a confusing topic just
22 because they're lumped together in the same regulation.
23 So just to be clear we're talking about the big ones,
24 not the little ones.
25

26 Alaska hares are among the most poorly
27 understood game species in Alaska with hunter
28 questionnaires being the only source of information
29 about these populations. Anecdotal abundance is well
30 below historical averages throughout the range of the
31 species.
32

33 So hares, both snowshoe hares and
34 Alaska hares are used by subsistence users, but again
35 we're not really able to quantify that. Hunter surveys
36 suggest that hunting pressure on small game in unit 9
37 is relatively low compared to areas on the road system
38 and that hares are targeted less frequently than other
39 small game species like ptarmigan and grouse. So use
40 is probably low.
41

42 If the proposal is adopted the Alaska
43 hare season will be reduced by 75 percent although
44 hunters would still have the opportunity to hunter --
45 to harvest hares during the winter when they're out and
46 about doing other subsistence activities or recreating.
47

48 The change in daily and overall harvest
49 limits may be effective in reducing harvest which could
50

1 translate to an improvement in the conservation of
2 these populations. Any positive affect the changes
3 would have on the Alaska hare population would benefit
4 subsistence users in the long term despite the
5 immediate reduction of subsistence opportunity.

6
7 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
8 support WP 20-30 with modification to replace the term
9 tundra hare with the term Alaska hare throughout
10 Federal subsistence regulation. So this would simply
11 reflect the contemporary naming conventions that are
12 used and it would also reduce regulatory complexity
13 between State and Federal regulation so that we're all
14 using the same words to refer to the same resource.

15
16 And that's all I have on this one.

17
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments,
21 questions for Suzanne regarding this proposal.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Better go to Billy first.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

30
31 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I was just looking
32 at this, it's unit 9, it's on a proposed regulation
33 that says hare, snowshoe and then it's got tundra
34 slashed out, no limit. Then here it goes down here 9B
35 hare, tundra, one per day, four total. Up there where
36 I'm at in 9B, I mean, I could get that whole season
37 limit in one day, but nobody will hunt them. It's a
38 really low hunted animal, nobody wants to hunt rabbits
39 anymore like they used to.

40
41 Back in the day it was hunted for
42 emergency food and making liners for your moccasins and
43 your boots and your gloves. I mean, I don't see them
44 in gloves anymore or people don't use them for socks
45 anymore, the furs. But that was a big thing for
46 rabbits in my country was just for making -- and also
47 underwear traditionally.

48
49 But I support this, I support this

50

1 wholly.

2

3

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

6

7

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.

8 Yeah, this is -- changing the dates or limiting the
9 time you could take these jackrabbits as we used to
10 call them, that we still call them, jackrabbits, not
11 the snowshoe. The only time we've ever harvested them
12 that I know of is late fall or through the winter
13 months and on through the spring. You know, so that
14 kind of -- the timing there seems, you know, sort of
15 appropriate. I don't know if January 31 is a good
16 cutoff date. It's usually spring, you know, spring
17 when the days are long and, you know, you tend to see
18 more activity out there for hunters doing -- hunting
19 the snowshoe -- I mean, the Arctic hare.

20

21

22 So but one a day, four total, I mean, I
23 don't think I ever remember a family that has gotten
24 four in a season lately, you know, because the numbers
25 are down. So I guess if I was to approve of this one
26 here, I'd -- the dates, the January 31, seem like it's
27 a little premature, like it should go a little later
28 for me.

28

29

Thanks.

30

31

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

32

33

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

34

35

MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

36 I want to ask the folks that know more about these guys
37 than I do. I think I've seen two, one was over almost
38 to Billy's country and I was hunting caribou and
39 sitting there almost dark and it's like that rabbit
40 seems huge over there. But I didn't want to make any
41 noise. But, you know, it's almost dark, it's tundra.
42 And then the other time we're sneaking on caribou over
43 near Portage Creek and the thing I noticed with the
44 guys was that rabbit sitting up like a squirrel.....

45

46

(Laughter)

47

48

MR. DUNAWAY:like this and the

49

guy goes, yeah, that's one of those I think -- forget,

50

1 tundra hares or whatever, but in that case it was so
2 snowy and there was a herd of caribou right over there,
3 I was like, no, I'm not going to shoot him and scare
4 the caribou.

5
6 But are we confident you can pretty
7 easily identify them. I know they're -- I've seen the
8 skins, they're a whole lot bigger, but like the second
9 one I saw I had no point of reference. And if I was
10 really out hunting rabbits I would have thought it
11 might have been a snowshoe. So I just -- I'm thinking
12 that public education and something else to make sure
13 people know what they're looking at.

14
15 And also by the way a friend of mine
16 said he saw one up around First Lake near his cabin
17 again unusually huge sometime this summer.

18
19 So but if some folks have more
20 knowledge I'd like to be enlightened.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

25
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard and
29 then Nanci.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I guess I
32 would ask the question why January 31, why cut it off
33 at January 31, what was the purpose for that because
34 before this it was -- there was no closed season.

35
36 MS. WORKER: Thank you for that
37 question, Mr. Wilson. I believe the reason that the
38 dates proposed were November 1st to January 31st is
39 because the Board of Game recently adopted those
40 regulations for unit 9. So this proposal is meant to
41 mirror the recent changes in State regulation.

42
43 MR. WILSON: I just -- I guess just a
44 comment for that. I -- you know, statewide compared to
45 customary and traditional use might be the difference
46 here. That -- you know, we're -- you know, for a later
47 date. I can see a later date like coming, you know, in
48 the -- possibly into March or something when the days
49 are getting longer. Because it's a resource that we
50

1 use where maybe in the State side of things maybe it
2 was more of a recreational thing.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

5

6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. Yeah, I don't have really a response for you,
8 Richard, but I know it's -- that's definitely a good
9 question to ask.

10

11 The question I also had to ask is I
12 noticed in our paperwork that Lake Clark also suggested
13 that there was clarification on the four annually per
14 person as opposed to the wording that you've chosen.
15 Would OSM have a problem if we chose to approve this
16 proposal to use -- to add that to your supported
17 language?

18

19 MS. WORKER: So to clarify you're
20 asking instead of saying four total it would say four
21 per person to distinguish it from say four per
22 household. Is that the issue?

23

24 MS. MORRIS LYON: That is correct, four
25 total per season per person which would make once again
26 just a clarification for user groups.

27

28 MS. WORKER: Yeah, I mean, the Council
29 can certainly put that suggestion forward. I would
30 just note that generally speaking hunting regulations
31 are per person unless otherwise noted. But certainly
32 if the Council feels that that's a concern they can
33 forward that to the Board.

34

35 MR. TREFON: Yeah, to give a little
36 insight on Dan, they are big rabbits, they're very big.
37 They're a little -- snowshoe hares are about that high,
38 you're looking at a rabbit about that high. So it's
39 really easy to distinguish the size.

40

41 Groundhog is probably an area where you
42 saw these rabbits at because that's where the -- that's
43 where the population is, up in the high country.

44

45 And the thing is I had about hunting,
46 my -- when we hunt rabbits and ptarmigans too, we only
47 hunt those in the wintertime. That's the only time we
48 hunt because of the fact that spring and summer is when
49 they're breeding and raising their young so we leave
50

1 the waterfowls -- all waterfowls alone during the
2 summertime. But during the springtime, falltime, we'll
3 hunt ducks, but in the wintertime is the only time we
4 go after the rabbits and the ptarmigan. But anytime
5 other than that we don't bother. And they're very
6 hardly used.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: So how do you feel
9 about the January 31st date?

10

11 MR. TREFON: It -- it's really, I mean,
12 not a problem. I mean, it's in the wintertime and
13 that's the only thing I see and if you go and extend it
14 I got no problem with that, but being the winter's the
15 only time you could -- is a good time to hunt them
16 because you're not -- you're not interfering with July,
17 June when they're raising their young. I mean, that's
18 one of the ways to manage this problem is make sure
19 that nobody's hunting them when they got their babies
20 with them.

21

22 But I support the -- I support the
23 date.

24

25 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

28

29 MR. WOODS: The only question I have
30 is, you know, it's a peninsula, looks like unit 9 in
31 the peninsula area, I haven't heard and I don't see any
32 representation referring to what the locals do is my
33 concern because I -- you know, I don't know what the
34 villages of Naknek, Egegik, Pilot Point, Nushagak and
35 Port Heiden actually have, you know, in comment to what
36 we're proposing is -- I don't know. The problem I have
37 with that is what if -- you know, what if we start
38 making criminals out of the villages that want to --
39 that are hunting them. I'm just speaking out loud, but
40 I haven't -- I'm trying to look for the -- look for
41 that, but I haven't seen any. And it is a.....

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Private consultant.

44

45 MR. WOODS: Anyway.....

46

47 MS. WORKER: Mr. Woods, I can try to
48 address your concerns. So if you look on page 82, we
49 don't have very much information about use of hares.

50

1 There is a little bit from subsistence surveys
2 conducted by ADF&G, those household surveys. And that
3 is summarized in the last two paragraphs of the
4 cultural knowledge and traditional practices section on
5 page 82. The most recent comprehensive subsistence
6 surveys conducted for the Alaska Peninsula show that
7 hare use ranged from no use in some households to 15
8 percent in others. And again I'll note that this is
9 hares, this is not Alaska hares, this all hares.

10

11 Sand Point harvested the most hares
12 during the study year 1992 with a per capita harvest of
13 approximately 1.3 pounds per person, but that was some
14 time ago.

15

16 Communities within unit 9 harvested or
17 hunted for small game land mammals which again isn't
18 specific to Alaska hare, throughout the region
19 including areas of Bear, Big, Coffee, Graveyard, King
20 Salmon, Koktuli, Newhalen, Paul's, Pecks, Smelt and
21 Yellow Creeks, the Chulitina River valley, Alagnak,
22 Kvichak, Naknek, Kaskanak Flats, Groundhog, Sugarleaf
23 Mountains, portions of Katmai National Preserve and
24 around the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon,
25 Chignik Lake, Igiugig, Kokhanok, King Salmon, Levelock,
26 Naknek, New Halen and Perryville.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. Do
33 we have anybody here that can speak on behalf of Alaska
34 Peninsula and Becharof, I mean, that actually wrote
35 this proposal to see what their thoughts were for
36 putting this proposal in, please.

37

38 MS. ALEXANDER: Hi, it's Susan
39 Alexander, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife
40 Refuge.

41

42 Richard, I'm sorry, I didn't catch the
43 exact question as I was walking up. Can you repeat it
44 for me?

45

46 MR. WILSON: Are you here, that's all I
47 asked you.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. ALEXANDER: I am here. If you have
2 any questions let me know.
3

4 MR. WILSON: I do. I -- what's the
5 reason for the proposal, why was it submitted by the
6 Becharof unit there?
7

8 MS. ALEXANDER: It was submitted
9 because we felt that if the State had sufficient
10 concerns that that was something that we should -- to
11 limit the season that was something we should
12 potentially pay attention to. And just because this is
13 a -- it's a low population and it's very scattered and
14 it's kind of sporadic in its distribution which makes
15 it more vulnerable to overharvest. And so we didn't
16 have information in addition to that. We put it
17 forward for discussion basically. It's -- you know,
18 it's not something that we are strongly advocating for,
19 but we felt that if there was sufficient concern for
20 the State to limit the harvest that we should
21 potentially look at that.
22

23 And so actually I -- two meetings ago I
24 think I actually came to the RAC and said are you
25 favorable enough towards this that we should put it in.
26 Because if I -- we had felt that the RAC didn't want
27 this potentially we wouldn't have put it in.
28

29 So that's -- that's more or less our
30 position is we wanted it put forward for discussion.
31

32 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah, get a
33 little more understanding of why it's here. So I'll
34 make my decision when the time gets here.
35

36 Thanks.
37

38 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.
41

42 MR. TREFON: What -- beside what you
43 just told us about what brought this proposal, were
44 there any other reasons beside the numbers were low, no
45 traditional use, no other information?
46

47 MS. ALEXANDER: Unfortunately there
48 just isn't a lot of information about this species. I
49 think what you have in your report, there's certainly
50

1 no information I'm aware of in addition to what Susan
2 has put in the report for you.

3
4 And, yes, as far as our motivation in
5 putting it forward, it was purely from the standpoint
6 of that it seemed to be worth talking about if the
7 State had sufficient concerns to limit the harvest and
8 we know there are low numbers and a sporadic
9 distribution. That was our motivation in putting it
10 forward.

11
12 MR. TREFON: Okay. Thank you.

13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
19 Madame Chair. Yeah, and not to push the subject into a
20 hole or anything, but so you don't know either whether
21 the State was using any hard information or it was an
22 observational, an aside observance that numbers were
23 not showing up like they normally do when they're out
24 tromping around trying to get moose counts, they're
25 just not seeing them all of a sudden. I mean, was
26 there anything that anybody based any of these
27 decisions on, including the State, I'm just trying to
28 also figure out where we're at.

29
30 MS. WORKER: Madame Chair, I can try to
31 respond to that. My understanding is that there is
32 very little information about Alaska hare abundance
33 anywhere in the State. Rick Merizon was online earlier
34 on the phone, he's the small game biologist. And I
35 gather he's very interested in trying to pin this down
36 and is working on it. I don't know if he's still
37 online, but he might have some insight into this.

38
39 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon
40 online here. Can everybody hear me okay?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, you're
43 loud and clear.

44
45 MR. MERIZON: Thank you for allowing me
46 to participate in this meeting. So I am the statewide
47 small game program coordinator for the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game. And I was involved with
49 the Board of Game when that proposal came before the
50

1 Dillingham meeting in February of 2018.

2

3 The basis for our concern about Alaska
4 hare specifically is just a very widespread anecdotal
5 information about declining numbers, overall
6 very low
7 population density particularly as it relates to
8 historical trends in abundance. I spent a great deal
9 of time traveling around the species range from
10 Kotzebue all the way down to the Alaska Peninsula and
11 many, many locations in between, talking to many long
12 time rural residents out there personally. And
13 everybody -- virtually everybody that I spoke to voiced
14 pretty strong concern about either declining trends or
15 very long term low abundance, much lower than what was
16 historically observed.

17 And as many folks today have pointed
18 out there's a overall lack of hard, scientific
19 information out there in terms of abundance estimation
20 and Fish and Game thought it would be advisable to take
21 a more conservative approach relative to the existing
22 season dates and bag limits as of 2017, 2018 where
23 there was no closed season, no bag limit. We felt that
24 that was inappropriate based on everything that we were
25 hearing from long time rural residents. I know looking
26 forward now there's similar proposals on the books for
27 the Board of Game this coming winter relative to unit
28 22 which is around the Seward Peninsula and unit 18,
29 the Y-K Delta.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Hey, Rick, I got one for
38 you. Richard Wilson here. Harvest data, any idea
39 there, I mean, you know, we're talking lower numbers
40 here, but do we have any harvest data for this species?

41

42 MR. MERIZON: We do have some harvest
43 information from household surveys. As Robbin pointed
44 out it can be challenging to tease apart what actually
45 is meant in terms of what's reported in Division
46 subsistence harvest reporting. In terms of Alaska
47 hare, snowshoe hare or just a collection notion of hare
48 in general, it can be challenging to tease that apart

50

1

49 from the data sets I've observed. We have our program

1 and have done now two statewide hunter surveys that
2 tried as best we could to encompass all users across
3 the State, both Federal and State users. And those
4 data also support and suggest low and/or declining
5 harvest of Alaska hares across western Alaska.

6
7 MR. TREFON: We're talking about which
8 rabbit now, the snowshoe hare, jackrabbit or the
9 Alaskan tundra because over here I see hare and then it
10 snowshoe and over here I see and it got tundra and you
11 just clarified that -- and Richard was saying that the
12 hare that we're -- tundra hare were jackrabbits. I
13 know what a jackrabbit is. So when you talk about the
14 tundra hare and the snowshoe hare we're talking about
15 the same species?

16
17 MS. WORKER: Mr. Trefon, it is very
18 confusing. So the Alaska hare and the tundra hare are
19 the same thing and those are the big ones. The
20 snowshoe hare, those are the small bunnies. And so
21 this is part of the reason that OSM offered the
22 modification it did, just so that all of the
23 regulations are at least written in the same language
24 and we are advocating for the use of Alaska hare to
25 refer to both tundra hare and Alaska hare.

26
27 MR. TREFON: Word for the jackrabbits?

28
29 MS. WORKER: Maybe we could put
30 jackrabbit in parenthesis.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. TREFON: That was (indiscernible -
35 away from microphone) jackrabbits.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: But when I was
38 working for Subsistence Division we had a confusion on
39 whitefish, you know, there's different species of
40 whitefish. And the reason -- and how we solve that was
41 putting Yup'ik names on -- onto those fish so that we
42 were able to define each species by its Yup'ik name.
43 So I don't know if you have Dena'ina names.....

44
45 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Yeah, we do.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:for those
48 that you could put in too so that you could define the
49 different names with Dena'ina names.

50

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, we -- yeah, we could
2 do that. But nobody really hunts them. I just wanted
3 to clarify the difference between a jackrabbit and a
4 hare. That was the only confusion I had because we
5 were -- to me I was talking about the snowshoe rabbit
6 because the snowshoe rabbit in my country, there's
7 quite a bit of snowshoe rabbits up there. And we got
8 the tundra -- I mean, the big one, the jackrabbits, we
9 got those up on Groundhog. So that was my only
10 confusion was just jackrabbit versus a hare. And now
11 that we're clarified that snowshoe hare is a little,
12 tiny bunny and tundra hare is the big -- the big brown
13 ones that run around like fox on all four legs.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I don't know if
20 Rick's still on, but if he is I was -- because I was
21 also looking at Lauren, I remember when Neil was still
22 here there was somebody coming out here and were they
23 trying to tag them or photograph them, some down by
24 Ekuk or something, there was some sort of study they
25 were trying to do. But as usual they're elusive and he
26 couldn't find very many. I was just wondering if
27 anything came of that.

28

29 Over.

30

31 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, this is Rick again.
32 And just for the record too I'll be staying with the
33 meeting certainly for most of it, but especially the
34 hare and ptarmigan proposals. So I plan to listen in
35 if there's any further questions that I can hopefully
36 be able to answer.

37

38 Relative to the Alaska hare research
39 study, yes, we are still in the midst of completing a
40 four to five year research study on Alaska hare. We
41 have mainly been trying to identify locations where we
42 can have a reasonable chance of capturing and hopefully
43 applying radio collars to several individuals. We have
44 been able to locate and put radio collars on several
45 individuals up south of Kotzebue and we continue to do
46 work out in -- on the Seward Peninsula off the Nome
47 road system and out of Bethel. We have not returned to
48 the Dillingham area for a year or two although we tried
49 some capture work in King Salmon, I think it was two

50

1 winters ago.

2

3 In addition to the capture and radio
4 collar work that we're doing in hopes of learning more
5 about movement and mortality. We're also collecting
6 pellets so that -- because that's a far more efficient
7 method, cost effective method and we've actually had
8 those pellets looked at genetically with the hopes that
9 we can identify individual hares. And the thought
10 would be that if this proves to be a useful technique
11 it would certainly be a very cost effective technique
12 that we could essentially run transects across the
13 range of this species and in all essence get abundance
14 estimates very cost effectively. So we're still trying
15 to develop that technique, but the hope is that we can
16 in the next two or three years develop an abundance
17 estimation technique that we can employ all across
18 western Alaska.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

25

26 MS. MORRIS LYON: What year are you in
27 in that study?

28

29 MR. MERIZON: We are just beginning
30 year three. And we've got a Ph.D. candidate through
31 the University of Alaska Fairbanks that's running that
32 study in coordination with two or three other Fish and
33 Game staff, myself included.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

36

37 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

40

41 MR. TREFON: I just got one, I mean,
42 this -- I don't know if this is a typo or I don't know
43 this word. On jurisdictions, the very first word
44 there, anecdotal.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anecdote.

47

48 MR. TREFON: Is that what it is,
49 anecdotal. Give me a -- what does that mean?

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anecdotal, my
2 definition is when we were talking about -- when we
3 used to try to define traditional and ecological
4 knowledge information or when we would discuss our
5 survey information, the State would sometimes call some
6 of our information anecdotal which means that, you
7 know, I guess not specifically I guess truthful, you
8 know, not factual, not scientific.

9
10 MR. TREFON: Non factual.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. TREFON: Okay. I mean, I -- first
15 time I seen the word.

16
17 MS. WORKER: I think one way to think
18 about it is it's a story based knowledge rather than an
19 evidence based knowledge. Like so it doesn't
20 necessarily have data behind it, it's based on what
21 people have observed and are reporting.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Okay. Now I'm caught up.
24 Thank you. Now I understand what's going on.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Does anybody
29 have anymore questions on this?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think we've
34 -- those of us that don't know about hares and
35 jackrabbits and whatnot, we've learned a lot.

36
37 I guess if not we can move on to --
38 where are we now. Are we at the advisory group
39 comments?

40
41 MS. MORRIS LYON: We're still on Board
42 consultation.

43
44 MR. MIKE: You're on number 2.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
49 Chair. We were on question and answers from the

50

1 analyst and then we're on to report on Board
2 consultation.

3
4 But just for your information according
5 to Mr. Lind there's no comments on this proposal.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Summary of
10 written public comments.

11
12 Donald.

13
14 MR. MIKE: There were no written public
15 comments on this, Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And
18 then you said there was no public testimony.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So
23 we're at the Regional Council recommendation, motion to
24 adopt.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

29
30 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I think we had -- I
31 think we're skipping agency comments from the State and
32 other Federal agencies and SRC. So -- sorry about
33 that.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have any
38 agency comments, ADF&G, Federal or tribal.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I don't see
43 anybody jumping up. Okay. There's one.

44
45 MS. RUPP: For the record Liza Rupp
46 from Lake Clark on behalf of the Lake Clark SRC.

47
48 And they in their meeting on October
49 2nd, they supported WP 20-30 as modified in the OSM

50

1 preliminary conclusion. They did as Nanci pointed out
2 have a suggestion. There was some confusion amongst
3 the group and they suggested that perhaps it say four
4 total per season as opposed to in possession I think it
5 what they were concerned, that people might think it
6 was, you know, one per day, four in possession or
7 something like that. I'm not sure.

8
9 But anyway, that was their -- they had
10 noted that there might be some confusion just for one
11 per day and four total. So that was the suggestion on
12 their part.

13
14 But otherwise they supported it.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
17 thank you. Now we're at the Regional Council
18 recommendation, motion to adopt.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not.....

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Molly, Nanci's got her
25 hand up.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
30 Chair. I'm going to move to approve wildlife proposal
31 WP 20-30 for the spirit of discussion. I'm not sure
32 that I'll be in favor of the proposal.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

35
36 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

39
40 MR. WOODS: I'll second that motion.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Yeah, I -- you know, I see the reasoning behind a need
50

1 for shortening up the season on the jackrabbit, you
2 know, I do. I just don't see how the State or the
3 proponent had figured out that the January 31 cutoff
4 date is a good cutoff date. I mean, November 1, I can
5 see that, you know, it's getting into the falltime for
6 us. We're sitting here at a Federal Council here and
7 we're talking traditional use and traditionally the
8 winter months are the only time that I remember taking
9 these hares. And in the spring when the days are
10 starting to get longer is when you're out there looking
11 for some fresh meat and it's -- you don't have the
12 moose, you know, we have very little caribou.

13
14 And so the -- it seems to me like I'd
15 be in favor of such a motion if it was at a later date,
16 perhaps the -- you know, even as early as March, you
17 know, into March there, you know, before they -- you
18 know, you wouldn't want to get in there so late, you
19 know, as they're -- you know, they're -- for their
20 mating season. But I think that a later date for me
21 would work. We'd have to add something to this one I
22 suppose if I did, but otherwise I would be not in favor
23 of this proposal.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm very supportive
30 of getting the terminology squared away because clearly
31 it causes confusion. And I've seen this back in my
32 fishery days where some people, you go to a village and
33 they say we caught trout. Well, some of us folks from
34 the -- you know, other places, well, what kind of
35 trout. Well, trout trout, you know, And there was
36 lake trout and stream trout, but, you know, it could
37 be rainbow trout, dolly varden and then we like to
38 carve that up into dolly varden and char. Anyway just
39 clarifying, I'm really supportive of that portion, but
40 looking at the unit 9 residents on here and some of the
41 hesitancy I see there, I'm not sure where I should land
42 on it.

43
44 I'm kind of thinking to try to answer
45 Richard a little bit. With this season date set like
46 it is, this would -- typically over here in Dillingham,
47 February, March, are the times where people are out on
48 Sno-Go's and if you close hunting then you'd probably
49 drastically reduce the harvest. So but that's where
50

1 again we don't have strong population information or
2 harvest or use or need so I'm kind of inclined to look
3 to the folks that live closer to that. I'm hesitant to
4 be imposing something that's not going to directly
5 affect me.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

12

13 MR. WOODS: On that similar. Reading
14 all the literature cited and all the villages kind of --
15 we had one SRC weigh in on it. I don't know if all
16 the villages on the lower peninsula, because we list
17 them all, you know, there's a long list of them on your
18 OSM report. I don't know if the SRC from the --
19 Aniakchak or Alaska Peninsula and wildlife Refuge have
20 gotten this on record, but there's a lot of villages
21 that I -- like Richard said, you know, we're going to
22 impose something on subsistence users right in the time
23 when they probably might need it the most. Without all
24 the information I'm kind of reluctant to support this
25 proposal with all -- you know, I get it that there are
26 conservation concerns, but if there's no harvest
27 numbers to worry about or if people aren't harvesting
28 them, then I think we -- if they need to, you know, at
29 least we wouldn't curb them in that need.

30

31 So, yeah, thanks.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
34 comments.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, sorry.
39 Nanci.

40

41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
42 Chair. My other concern with this proposal as written,
43 I think Richard makes a very valid point. I think in
44 order for me to support it I'd like to see it amended
45 to something more like March 31st. But more
46 importantly knowing we are in the third year of a five
47 year study and knowing that we are unsure of the take
48 or the need for the take at this point in time, I too
49 am very reluctant to support the proposal and would
50

1 rather it be reported on again after another year of
2 study is done next fall for us to consider if we've got
3 anything more solid to go on, both in terms of usage,
4 dates of usage and numbers and preferred numbers that
5 they would like to see, you know, if there's two for
6 every mile would you want to see 20 for every mile.
7

8 Or I just feel like we've always been
9 proponents on this Board since I've sat on it for good
10 scientific knowledge before we make decisions. And I
11 think that approving this would be going back on that
12 particular goal of ours.
13

14 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.
17

18 MR. TREFON: You're going back to talk
19 -- now we know -- now I know which rabbit I'm talking
20 about. Jackrabbit is -- in my country, I mean, they're
21 there, but they're rare, they're more like a nocturnal
22 animal. You'll see them mostly at dusk or just before
23 it get dark, but they're rare.
24

25 But as far as subsistence use or even
26 taking of the jackrabbits, it's an opportunity, I mean,
27 because you don't see them. And there never was --
28 nobody ever have any stories of any uses of jackrabbits
29 or any kind of subsistence use other than for emergency
30 food when they're needed. And as far and study and
31 research goes, sounds like there's not a whole lot
32 other than what you guys done for this last three
33 years. So maybe if you can come up with more better
34 numbers, I mean, I'd support it. But right now it
35 doesn't -- we don't really have nothing to go back on
36 other than the jackrabbit numbers are down low and they
37 always been low. I never seen a big population of
38 jackrabbits.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
45

46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I would like
47 to commend Fish and Wildlife Service though for
48 bringing it in front of us and making us aware of a
49 potential problem, you know, that could be happening.
50

1 And I'd put it high on my priority list of things to
2 keep an eye on.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And it also
5 looks like we need to learn the proper names. Sounds
6 like there's a mixture of animals here with different
7 names that we're not sure what they are. So my
8 recommendation would be to put the -- probably the
9 Dena'ina names or Yup'ik names to these to properly
10 identify these rabbits.

11
12 So that would be my recommendations I
13 guess.

14
15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Dennis.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anymore or --
18 Dennis.

19
20 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 I'm just really interested in what time do they have
22 their little ones. I mean, looking at the January, is
23 that why or is this later?

24
25 MS. WORKER: Rick, do you know the
26 answer to that question?

27
28 MR. MERIZON: Yeah. Sorry, I was
29 waiting for -- I wasn't quite sure who was going to
30 field that one. Again this is Rick Merizon with Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 The hares typically breed -- Alaska
34 hares typically breed in March and April and their
35 leverets are born in June. And so those -- the young
36 are being reared throughout the summer.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: So Dan Dunaway here.
43 Yeah, Rick, so then were you in the discussion when the
44 State adopted this date, is that why the March or the
45 January closure or would it be bad to have it --
46 hunting open to March?

47
48 Okay.

49
50

1 MR. MERIZON: So I was involved in that
2 discussion with the Board of Game and our local area
3 biologist, Dave Crowley. Initially the very initial
4 proposal that we put before the Board of Game was to
5 actually close the season completely. And it wasn't
6 until we had numerous discussions on, you know, many
7 things that have been pointed out at this meeting, sort
8 of the lack of information that's typically expected at
9 the Board of Game level. And just the lack of kind of
10 hard harvest and population abundance estimates. And
11 therefore that was the reason why we employed the
12 research study that we have. But the thought was as --
13 and we've seen it with ptarmigan across the State and
14 potentially may touch on it here in the future
15 regarding the ptarmigan proposal, but certainly harvest
16 increases pretty dramatically after middle of February
17 into March and certainly April as many folks have
18 pointed out today. The harvest potential of the
19 hunting public increases dramatically as day length
20 increases and temperatures begin to warm.

21
22 So given that and what we've seen with
23 other wildlife populations, that was our approach to a
24 more cautious management strategy.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Rick, that
29 really helps me. Well, then I also then kind of throw
30 out here amongst us is that then these are rare,
31 they're not hunted that much. It could be inconvenient
32 if somebody truly, truly needs them. but on the other
33 hand if they're not commonly shot would it be that
34 harmful if we were kind of restrictive to start with
35 and find out. But, you know, sometimes people will get
36 pretty frustrated when they find out like in that
37 manner. So I'm still kind of wishy-washy on it. And
38 I'd still kind of like to see some clarification of
39 terms somehow, maybe made through this.

40
41 So anyway that's my thoughts at the
42 moment.

43
44 Thanks.

45
46 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

49
50

1 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon
2 again. I apologize for butting in here. Just one more
3 note that was brought up with the discussion with the
4 Board of Game is that the life history, the biology of
5 this species is quite a bit different than the more
6 abundant and common snowshoe hare. Snowshoe hares,
7 it's not uncommon for them to have multiple litters
8 through the year and their population and productive
9 potential is fairly significant. With Alaska hares,
10 the larger jackrabbits, tundra hares, they only have
11 one litter per year and typically those litters are
12 smaller than one snowshoe hare litter. So their
13 reproductive potential is also much less than the
14 snowshoe hare.

15
16 So I didn't want -- I just wanted to
17 bring this up so that folks didn't assume that the
18 population productivity potential is identical across
19 all of our hare species because it is not. And that
20 was a point that was brought up at the Board of Game
21 level as well.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Rick, this is Billy
24 Trefon from Nondalton. My question is do you have a
25 population count of how many you have on record, what's
26 the population count now for the jackrabbits, do you
27 have a number?

28
29 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, that's a fantastic
30 question and the short answer is we do not. With most
31 of our small game populations they're very, very fluid
32 populations and we have a very limited ability to
33 assess those populations through our program and
34 through our larger Fish and Game agency in general. So
35 we do not have a good population estimate. Rather what
36 we do with many of our grouse and ptarmigan population
37 is do sort of localized abundance estimation and we try
38 to create as many abundance estimate locations across
39 the State as we can, particularly those that are
40 heavily hunted so that we have a very good idea of
41 trends at a minimum.

42
43 With Alaska hare we're trying to get
44 ourselves to the point where we can begin to develop
45 those data sets. But we currently do not.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Billy,
48 do you have another comment?

49
50

1 MR. TREFON: No. Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Maybe
4 we can vote and solve this problem. Are we ready for
5 the I guess question?

6

7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think Donald
10 already read us the -- okay.

11

12 Donald, you want to read the motion for
13 clarification?

14

15 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 The motion was made by Ms. Nanci Morris and seconded by
17 Mr. Woods, to adopt proposal WP 20-30 as presented by
18 OSM to support with modifications. But during the
19 discussion there's been some uncertainty as to whether
20 to support or oppose this proposal. So it's up to the
21 Council.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
26 ready to vote. There's -- there was a question, was it
27 by Billy, you call for question?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. All in
32 favor say aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposition.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
41 motion failed. I guess we could.....

42

43 MS. MORRIS LYON: We heard from Robert
44 again too online. So.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robert, are
47 you online?

48

49 MR. LARSON: Yes, I'm still here.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Sorry.
2 I called you earlier, and maybe you were out a bit, but
3 did we hear your vote? The majority voted the proposal
4 down.

5
6 MR. LARSON: I voted it down also.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
9 you.

10
11 MR. LARSON: Yeah.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we can
14 move on to, I think it's the last proposal, and then we
15 have one statewide proposal left.

16
17 WP 20-31. Decrease season limit
18 harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in
19 unit 9.

20
21 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 This proposal begins on page 87, it's WP 20-31. And
23 this proposal was also submitted by the Alaska
24 Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

25
26 The request is that the harvest limit
27 for ptarmigan be decreased from 20 per day, 40 in
28 possession, to 10 per day, 20 in possession and that
29 the harvest season be shortened from August 10th to
30 April 30th to August 10th to the last day of February.

31
32 The Refuge notes that they have
33 documented a significant decline in ptarmigan density
34 on many transects surveyed between 2013 and 2015 and
35 that local hunters in unit 9 also report that ptarmigan
36 densities are lower than they have been in the past.

37
38 The requested changes were made in
39 State regulation in 2018 in response to ongoing public
40 concern about regional decline in ptarmigan
41 populations. There are no current population surveys
42 being conducted for ptarmigan in unit 9, but ADF&G
43 observations near King Salmon and Dillingham suggest
44 that ptarmigan numbers have been lower than in the
45 past. We also have limited information with which to
46 assess harvest.

47
48 ADF&G's wing collection program informs
49 our understanding of harvest composition and annual
50

1 productivity and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
2 Management Council also collects some ptarmigan harvest
3 information. However these sources have limited
4 utility when it comes to assessing the impact of
5 management decisions.

6
7 For what it's worth I can report that
8 harvest within the Bristol Bay region was estimated to
9 be 767 ptarmigan in 2016 and 1,988 ptarmigan in 2017.
10 And those numbers are based on household surveys. And
11 you'll notice that there's quite a lot of variability
12 in that and there are a few explanations for that.
13 Part of it is survey methodology.

14
15 Adoption of this proposal will result
16 in a reduction in subsistence opportunity for
17 Federally-qualified subsistence users who harvest
18 ptarmigan in unit 9. However if it results in
19 decreased harvest it may benefit ptarmigan populations
20 during this time of observed population declines.

21
22 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
23 support WP-31.

24
25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26
27 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
32 Chair. Yeah, I've kind of been waiting on this one.
33 And I wanted to know what you guys -- how you came --
34 how you established your dates. And the reasoning
35 behind my question is because living with multiple hats
36 on in the area I'm fully aware of a huge increase in
37 pressure on ptarmigan from the commercial sport fishing
38 lodges in the area. We've got operators that are
39 running dogs and actual kennels to go and take
40 ptarmigan as -- for fins and feather days when they are
41 down on the peninsula. My -- the -- so there's where
42 my question's stemming from. Would there be heartburn
43 if we instead said the -- change the date to October
44 15th or October 31st and lengthened it in the
45 springtime, that would -- for the closed season because
46 that would eliminate the take by those sport hunters in
47 the area.

48
49 And I'm just not sure if you guys are
50

1 aware that that's been going on or not, but that's my
2 question because to me it would -- it probably wouldn't
3 affect our local subsistence users as much, but it
4 would certainly I would suspect retain a lot more birds
5 in our population.

6
7 MS. ALEXANDER: Well, first, thank you.
8 I was not aware that people were running dogs for birds
9 at the lodges. And if they're doing that on the Refuge
10 I may need to look into that.

11
12 And as far as -- I mean, as the
13 proponent I would certainly not oppose it, but I would
14 defer to Rick in terms of the biology and the extent to
15 which that modification would strengthen or weaken the
16 affect of the change.

17
18 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, I can speak to
19 that. I'll try to keep it brief again. This is Rick
20 Merizon with Fish and Game on the line here.

21
22 And we have done a fair -- fairly
23 extensive research on both rock and willow ptarmigan,
24 not specifically to unit 9, but we have conducted a
25 number of studies throughout -- just north of Fairbanks
26 all the way down the Kenai Peninsula. And the general
27 trends in their biology and life history are the same
28 among all the populations. So the harvest that occurs
29 in fall, depending on where you are in the State, can
30 make up either the majority or the minority of the
31 harvest.

32
33 What we found in -- colleagues of mine
34 in Scandinavia also have found with their ptarmigan
35 populations is that that mortality is largely
36 compensatory. In other words those birds that are
37 being harvested by hunters are likely going to die
38 anyway. They're largely composed of juvenile birds
39 that -- so in terms of natural sort of biology of the
40 species they have very, very high mortality from chick
41 all the way through to about the end of the fall. What
42 we found in four separate studies of ptarmigan now
43 across the State is that generally if you -- near the
44 end of the year, November, December and certainly into
45 the early part of the next year, January, natural
46 mortality drops to very, very low levels if a
47 population is not being hunted. But it is very high
48 July, August, September, October, natural mortality is
49 very, very high. So again the birds that are going to
50

1 be harvested in the fall are likely -- many of them are
2 likely going to die anyway.

3
4 When you begin to have a big impact on
5 a ptarmigan population is when you start to harvest
6 birds after that natural mortality begins to wane.

So
7 harvest that occurs February, March, April is
8 considered additive mortality. And we now have
9 abundant data to support that across the State. So
10 added to mortality is mortality that would otherwise
11 not occur. So the birds that are surviving through the
12 fall, into the winter will very likely if not
13 harvested, will very likely go directly into the
14 breeding population.

15
16 And like I said we've had -- we've
17 studied two separate populations of rock ptarmigan and
18 several populations of willow ptarmigan and those sort
19 of biological traits are ubiquitous through all of
20 those studies.

21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. That's a
23 really good answer. Appreciate it.

24
25 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

28
29 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 About 10 years ago I seen a ptarmigan study where they
31 recorded -- the males and females, they put recorders
32 out in the field and was it Autobahn Society funded a
33 ptarmigan study on the south peninsula for -- when the
34 caribou and moose declined, that was the Refuge's
35 answer to red meat in the fall and winter.

36
37 So I'm reluctant to put the burden onto
38 the subsistence user and I think that Nanci has a
39 legitimate concern is that if we're not regulating the
40 concessions on feather day when there's a lot of guide
41 pressure on the peninsula and there's a lot of probably
42 not -- if this isn't the regulated action item for the
43 Refuge to keep an eye on I think we ought to start. As
44 one of the concessions and not to -- but, you know, to
45 separate the users. Like the comments before, if we're
46 not separating the different user groups then who are
47 we actually supporting, the guide industry for
48 harvesting more sport fowl, you know, feathers for
49
50

1

49 ptarmigan or are we supporting the subsistence -- this

50

1 is a subsistence board where I have to weigh that
2 factor in as a huge impact on our resource.
3

4 So, you know, I'm not fully sold on the
5 answer is to limit the harvest, but maybe time and
6 season.
7

8 Thanks.
9

10 MS. ALEXANDER: I just want to assure
11 you that the Refuge has a very strong interest in
12 limiting the concessions on the Refuge and keeping an
13 eye on that. It's something that takes up a great deal
14 of my time. And of course with the State regulation
15 change those hunters are subject to that change. Now
16 whether or not subsistence users also should be is this
17 group's purview to decide that, but they're already
18 subject to that change.
19

20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
23

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Somewhat on the same lines, you know, is -- I can see
26 where a date change in the beginning of the fall, like
27 starting it later, because this is -- once again I
28 think typically ptarmigan are probably sought after
29 more in the winter months by -- you know, by us as
30 users rather than in the fall because we still believe
31 they're still growing a little bit, they're not quite
32 the size you want them. And, you know, it just -- glad
33 to see them out there. But we just generally don't
34 target them until the winter months when you're -- you
35 know, or late fall when they start changing color and
36 you can get out there.
37

38 But, yeah, this -- once again I just --
39 I guess I have a hard time believing that the last day
40 of February is going to be a good cutoff date for --
41 you know, for users. And I understand it's a
42 conservation mode again, but I just -- that puzzles me
43 there the same way it did with the jackrabbit.
44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 Nanci, just curious, you know, what -- some stuff
2 Richard's saying here. Do you know about what time the
3 -- some of these lodge operations initiate that. In
4 some ways I'm thinking it probably really adds a
5 dimension to their -- to what they can offer, but, you
6 know, I'll be darned if they really need 20. So in
7 some ways I'd kind of like to see them limited, but,
8 yeah, just when do they do this and maybe for how long.

9

10 Thanks.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Oh, yeah.
13 Absolutely. You know, they target them from the
14 beginning of the season, August 10th or as soon as they
15 notice numbers large enough where, you know, the --
16 their sports can have some fun going out and spending
17 some time walking the tundra and shooting birds and
18 sometimes, you know, chasing coho on the water. So it
19 starts early in August. And most of the operations
20 that I'm aware of that, you know, are offering those
21 types of trips, we have the same thing going on with
22 waterfowl now too. I mean, the industry has expanded
23 to make use of the resources around them. You have
24 people coming up from the Lower 48 starting operations
25 realizing how rich our resource is and figuring out
26 best ways to share it with others in order to make
27 money. So that's when things start to become a
28 concern.

29

30 But most of these operations are also
31 closing down around the first part of October and
32 that's why I wondered about an October 15th or October
33 31st date.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. I'll follow that
40 up and again, you know, sometimes I think I'm
41 officially a sport/commercial use seat, kind of hate to
42 totally eliminate that opportunity, but if it's
43 affecting opportunity for subsistence. You know, I
44 don't know how we do it, I think sometimes in the past
45 for fishing we set some regulations, I think up here on
46 the Oogulik/Pack River we had fly fishing only for the
47 main sport season and then shifted to a less
48 restrictive gear type and even allowed harvest when it
49 was more a local, not so much subsistence, but a food

50

1 type thing. I don't want to over complicate it, but,
2 you know, if you could allow those guys to take five in
3 a day from the 1st of August or five or 10 until
4 October 1 or middle of October and then loosen it up by
5 accommodate the commercial user, but reduce the
6 competition for the subsistence user later.

7
8 I just throw that idea out because I
9 hope the sport folks aren't out there whacking 20 a
10 day.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
19 Madame Chair. I honestly don't know what their numbers
20 are. I'm not sure even, you know, what they're doing
21 with the meat for sure. But I guess one could assume
22 everything from the best of cases where they take
23 minimal to the worst of cases where they take as many
24 as they possibly can.

25
26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Thank you. In this last
31 year, you know, we as a Council we had asked that the
32 public be aware of what's going on out there with the
33 ptarmigan. And I must say, you know, that the word is
34 out, I mean, people really do know that there's, you
35 know, a lack of ptarmigan and it was if you don't need
36 it don't shoot it kind of attitude. And there's been
37 some brochures and things sent out to the public, you
38 know, throughout the region I think in this way. And
39 it's really -- it's really helped people evaluate, you
40 know, why do I need that ptarmigan, if you don't need
41 it don't shoot it. And that's actually worked, I
42 really believe that because I've been involved in a few
43 instances where, you know, they would have went out and
44 shot the three or four that we saw if you didn't say
45 something, you know. And, oh, okay, well, maybe we'll
46 just leave him alone.

47
48 So that was working and I think that is
49 one tool I was glad was out there this year. And it
50

1 was good to see.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

4

5

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

8

9

MR. TREFON: Hi. I got a question for
10 Rick. Do you have a -- just a concern about the
11 ptarmigan, also the rabbits. Last couple years I've
12 been on here with the rise and the drops, the high rise
13 and the decline. Is there a historical pattern of
14 these species, why they do that. Because I know
15 traditionally we'd gauge fur trapping for lynx and
16 wolverines by the population of ptarmigan and rabbits.
17 And it's a cycle that we see pretty regularly, if
18 there's a lot of rabbits there's going to be a lot of
19 furbearing animals. So is there a pattern of this rise
20 and decline or do you have that information?

21

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MR. MERIZON: Yeah. Again this is Rick
with Fish and Game. So it's actually pretty
interesting. Relative to your question on hares,
specifically Alaska hares, the big ones, we do not have
information on trends or patterns. And that I would
frankly defer more to long time residents.

So, yeah, relative to your question on
the hares, especially the Alaska hares, we do not have
information on trends or sort of cycles. What we have
been able to identify though is with ptarmigan the -- I
would not call them a species that traditionally
cycles, I would rather refer to them as frankly an
eruptive species. I think that's probably the best
term to put it.

Ptarmigan, we've identified two
critical time periods for ptarmigan in -- over the
course of the year. The most critical time period for
ptarmigan statewide is the period immediately after
they hatch. So the two to three week period when
they're real small, downy chicks out on the tundra
they're extremely susceptible to cold, driving rain,
even late spring snow. That will have a huge impact on
the productivity of a particular population.

Another time period that seems to be
susceptible or cause susceptibility for a ptarmigan

1 population is in the fall when we have late snow and
2 the birds have transitioned into their winter plumage
3 and they're largely white birds on a brown background.
4 Predation rates have been demonstrated through our
5 research to be pretty high during those periods for
6 obvious reasons.

7
8 The weather patterns that have existed
9 out in particularly the Y-K Delta, but even to some
10 degree the Bristol Bay region over the last three or
11 four and some may argue even more years than that,
12 unfortunately support those two sort of negative trends
13 for ptarmigan abundance. And that from my professional
14 opinion is likely what's driving the ptarmigan
15 population out there.

16
17 MR. TREFON: Well, thank you. That
18 actually pretty much answers my question.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
23 comments regarding ptarmigan?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not we
28 could move on -- where are we?

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Board consultations.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
33 Orville, tribal consultation.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Orville, do we
38 still have you on here?

39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

43
44 MR. MIKE: Excuse me, Madame Chair.
45 Mr. Lind is no longer on the teleconference. He had to
46 leave early from the office, but he sent me a message
47 stating that there were no comments on this proposal.

48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Agency
2 comments, ADF&G, Federal, tribal.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
7 none, moving on to advisory group comments.
8
9 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.
12
13 MR. WOODS: Basically the Nushagak
14 Advisory didn't -- out of area so we didn't take it up.
15
16 Thanks.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Summary
19 of written public comments.
20
21 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there are no
22 written public comments on this proposal.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
27
28 MS. RUPP: For the record Liza Rupp
29 from Lake Clark National Park on behalf of the Lake
30 Clark SRC. And the Lake Clark SRC supported or
31 supports WP 20-31 as written.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Public
36 testimony.
37
38 MR. MIKE: None received, Madame Chair.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Regional
41 Council recommendation. This is a motion to adopt.
42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
46
47 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll moved to
48 adopt WP 20-31.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
2 been a motion to adopt 20-31, Nanci Morris.

3
4 MR. WOODS: Second.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And second by
7 Frank.

8
9 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Rick.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Members, I'd like to put
14 in a -- what do you call it when you want to change
15 this thing up a little bit?

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Amend.

18
19 MR. WILSON: I want to amend this
20 proposal a bit. Since we've been enlightened about the
21 sport side of this here that August 10th might be a
22 little early. That if we were to -- say five ptarmigan
23 a day, 20 in possession is probably not really out of
24 the question instead of 10 per day and then go later
25 into -- like March 15th or March 31st. Because once
26 again that time of year is when most families are
27 looking for some red meat.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

30
31 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan and then
34 Frank.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. So, Richard, just
37 to clarify. Are you making a motion to amend and you
38 say starting August 10th, five per day, 20 in
39 possession until when in March?

40
41 MR. WILSON: 31st.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. So that's a
44 motion. I'll second it.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There
47 was a motion by Richard to amend the dates August 10 to
48 March 31st.

49
50

1 MR. WILSON: And the possession.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And possession
4 of five -- 10, no, no. Harvest of five and 10 in
5 possession. And second.....

6

7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Twenty in possession,
8 yes.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan second.

11 And.....

12

13 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah, just the reason for
18 that, you know, if the State gets ahold of this and
19 wants to, you know, get onboard with this type of
20 proposal that -- realizing that the sport side of
21 things, you know, the fishing or the hunting, that they
22 do have dogs out there working these systems and it
23 does add to, you know, some of their income that
24 perhaps you didn't cut them off totally, but yet the
25 bag limit is less. And that the later dates would work
26 better for the actual users of the resource.

27

28 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank, did you
31 have a comment.

32

33 MR. WOODS: A comment on the amendment.
34 I like the amendment, I just think Richard just
35 answered my question that, you know, since we're not
36 delineating or separating the user groups right now, I
37 still have a heartburn when subsistence users have to
38 suffer as a result of commercial use. And we don't --
39 I mean, I -- maybe clarify the amendment again because
40 I -- what I heard was later in the season and then
41 longer in the spring, right, is that what I heard?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No.

44

45 MR. WOODS: No?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No.

48

49 MR. WOODS: Or in lieu of.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think.....
2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: So I like the
8 amendment if I understood that it'll -- from August
9 10th until October 15th we'll have a reduction in limit
10 to five per day and then from October 15th until the
11 end of the season we will have the number go up. Was
12 that what I heard?
13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And end of the
15 season would be March 31?
16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Correct. Was that
18 your intention with the amendment?
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: That's the --
21 I didn't hear that October 15 with the.....
22
23 Maybe, Donald, you can clarify the
24 motion.
25
26 MR. MIKE: Yes. There's a main motion
27 to adopt proposal WP 20-31 and there was an amendment
28 made by Mr. Richard Wilson. And his amendment was to
29 change the harvest limit from 10 ptarmigan per day to
30 five ptarmigan per day, 20 in possession and the season
31 dates, August 10th to March 31st.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.
34 That's what I heard.
35
36 MR. MIKE: That is the amendment. And
37 it was seconded by Mr. Woods.
38
39 MR. WOODS: No.
40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: I seconded it.
42
43 MR. MIKE: Oh, Mr. Dunaway. Sorry.
44 That's the amendment that we are currently working with
45 on the -- that's on the table.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are we
48 clear on that, Dan?
49
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I mean, I was just -- you
2 know, Nanci brought up something that might be more
3 accommodating to the subsistence user and is still a
4 little more conservative than what's currently on the
5 books. And because, you know, I just -- I start
6 thinking, Richard, if somebody goes out there on say
7 February 20th, are they going to be happy with five
8 birds if they're gone to the effort to go out or would
9 10 be better for them. I'm willing to consider Nanci's
10 wording. I just -- I think some reduction is called
11 for. And like you said, sensitizing people and telling
12 them they should be more careful I think is a good
13 thing for all users. But also want to respect the
14 subsistence needs. So I'm open to more discussion on
15 it.

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You know, the
20 majority of the Federal lands are over in the
21 Togiak/Manokotak area and I know from the past surveys
22 that I've done for that area, Manokotak/Togiak,
23 especially Manokotak, depend on these ptarmigan to
24 harvest just before herring season and before salmon
25 season because they harvest them to dry to, you know,
26 use during the summer. And then again they harvest
27 these to -- for fresh meat. And so I hate to really
28 decrease the harvesting limit, but it sounds like we
29 probably would need to limit the other user groups that
30 are -- sound like might be overharvesting.

31

32 MS. ALEXANDER: Madame Chair, Susan
33 Alexander, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuges. I just
34 wanted to point out that in this situation it's not the
35 Togiak Refuge that would be the Federal lands in
36 question, the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof and
37 Aniakchak Preserve, looking at my NPS colleagues. This
38 same may be true of that area, I don't know.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

41

42 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

45

46 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair. Just reading
47 the regulation on the State side, that's what we're
48 trying to mirror is 10 in possession or 10 per day.
49 And then on the Federal side on unit 9 that we're

50

1 talking about, you know, like you I just -- I have
2 heartburn having to limit subsistence use. There might
3 be -- I like the idea of limiting during the beginning
4 of the season, maybe from August 1st to October 31st
5 have five in possession or five per day like Nanci said
6 and then open it up to mirror State regulation, 10 per
7 day until March 31st is my preference, Richard. If you
8 want to modify that, would take a friendly amendment to
9 that, I would be full support. Then you're not
10 limiting subsistence use, you're curbing some -- on the
11 front end of it, at least addressing that issue, but
12 not eliminating it fully.

13
14 So not to complicate anymore Richard,
15 I'm -- I was -- it's a friendly amendment if that's
16 possible.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy and then
23 Richard.

24
25 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I support the idea,
26 what Nanci got to say about that November -- I mean,
27 early August when the sport hunters are out there
28 hunting them, limit them to five. But somehow you got
29 to label, this is sport, this is subsistence. But I
30 like the idea of the date changes and the quota, one
31 per day, five limit for the sport hunter and then once
32 subsistence rolls around increase the numbers, I mean,
33 I like that idea.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

36
37 MR. WILSON: So give me some language
38 on that friendly amendment.

39
40 MR. TREFON: Well, this.....

41
42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. We
47 currently have an amendment to the main motion. So
48 what the Council can do is vote on the amendment, they
49 can vote it down or make an amendment to the amendment
50

1 and go from there and we'll get to the main motion. Or
2 -- it's up to the Council what they want to do.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I see Troy's come
9 up the table. And he might have added information that
10 would help us.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Troy.

13

14 MR. HAMON: Madame Chairman, members of
15 the Council. My name is Troy Hamon, I'm with the
16 National Park Service in King Salmon and we manage the
17 Katmai Park and Preserve unit as well as Aniakchak
18 Monument and Preserve. We didn't come up with an SRC
19 report for this because we didn't have a full quorum.
20 So we did have an SRC work session, but we didn't have
21 an official result to pass along.

22

23 I will tell you that the general
24 discussion at the SRC was of concern for ptarmigan
25 numbers. So I can -- I think it's reasonable for me to
26 relay that and I can take questions on that.

27

28 And then I have a couple questions
29 maybe as a manager asking about the intent of what
30 you're trying to do.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Troy, the SRC, who was
35 involved in that, do you have the names?

36

37 MR. HAMON: Linda Chisholm in our SRC
38 coordinator who spends more time with them and will
39 have a better record of that.

40

41 MS. CHISHOLM: Madame Chair and Council
42 members. My name is Linda Chisholm and I'm the
43 subsistence coordinator for Aniakchak SRC.

44

45 The community members who were in Port
46 Heiden at our last meeting were quite vociferous about
47 their concern for the ptarmigan. Anecdotally speaking,
48 they describe a complete absence of ptarmigan whereas
49 normally going out they might see 10 birds and now

50

1 they're not seeing any. So other members of the SRC
2 come from the Chignik Lake area, Chignik Lagoon.

3
4 And I think that pretty much covers it.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

9
10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci and then
13 Richard.

14
15 MS. MORRIS LYON: I don't know, we may
16 have the same question. Were there any representatives
17 from the Igushik or Egegik areas at the -- or is there
18 any representation on the SRC from there or is that too
19 far north?

20
21 MS. CHISHOLM: That's correct. We
22 don't have any members from that area.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

25
26 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard and
29 then Frank.

30
31 MR. WILSON: I guess the question --
32 why I ask that question was, you know, we were -- there
33 is Federal lands and State lands and we're talking
34 about the Federal lands here and if there's -- if those
35 people down in those lower areas are being impacted by
36 this usage, perhaps by sports usage, you know, on
37 Federal lands then I might take a different route here.
38 I mean, it's just, you know, where's this -- where are
39 they being harvested. If the village people aren't
40 getting, you know, the ptarmigan and the sport people
41 out there are using dogs to get them, you know, then
42 there is a concern. Then maybe we should be going in a
43 different direction here and that's why I asked the
44 question.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

47
48 MR. WOODS: I agree with Richard that,
49 you know, if they're impacting the subsistence user I

50

1 think we ought to just switch the dates from say
2 October 15th until March 15th is the date, that's when
3 you get 10 in possession, 20 total. That would be a
4 better answer if that's what I heard, this concern from
5 the Subsistence Resource Council, then if they're not
6 seeing any then who's harvesting them. So my concern
7 is exactly that, just what Richard said and I think we
8 ought to change -- switch gears and actually back up
9 and take another look at it.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: I think I agree with you,
16 Frank, too. A few other points though. I suspect that
17 sport hunting isn't the major cause for the depletion,
18 but you sure want to minimize their impacts. Also too
19 using dogs typically they recover more of the birds
20 they hit and not -- I experienced that when I lived in
21 Sand Point where I would not recover near as many birds
22 if I went out by myself and then a friend moved to town
23 with a dog and dang, I didn't know I hit that many
24 birds. But then I go gee, how many did I lose that the
25 weasels got. So in some ways there's a lot of your
26 bird hunters nationwide you'll see that they say --
27 advocate use a dog, save birds. So that's -- you know,
28 it's not like maybe with dogs after bears, you get more
29 bears than you could ever find on your own, this is
30 something of a conservation measure I think. But at
31 the same time if we're hurting for ptarmigan and my
32 week in Port Heiden years ago they were running all
33 over town, I mean, you had to avoid running over them
34 on the road just getting back and forth. So if they're
35 worried that's worth paying attention to.

36

37 So I'm kind of inclined to maybe back
38 off the motion I seconded and maybe take another run at
39 it.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we need
44 to reconsider the motion and second and vote on it.

45

46 Donald, how do we need to do that?

47

48 MR. MIKE: There's two options you have
49 here. There's an amendment on the main motion now.

50

1 You can vote that to go up or down or the second option
2 is to the maker of the motion, Mr. Richard Wilson,
3 recall his main motion and with the concurrence of the
4 second. So that's the other option.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I'll rescind
9 my motion.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Both Richard
12 and Dan have rescinded their motion and second and I
13 guess we can start all over again.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Yes, we're back on the main
16 motion so you don't have.....

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
19 back to our main motion.

20
21 MR. MIKE:any amendments now.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Looks like Troy's
26 trying to.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Troy.

29
30 MR. HAMON: Perhaps this would be a
31 good time, Madame Chair, for me to ask the question I
32 was going to ask and that is as I was trying to keep
33 track of the amendments and the motions as the manager
34 who would have been explaining when people are asking
35 what they can do, I was trying to make sure that I was
36 understanding what you were trying to do and maybe
37 that's different now.

38
39 There's a State regulation that's
40 already been changed that authorizes the harvest of 10
41 per day and 20 in possession is my understanding; is
42 that correct?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MR. HAMON: So this Federal regulation
47 would -- that's initially proposed would align the
48 subsistence use with that regulation. And if you make
49 a change to the proposed subsistence regulation you

50

1 don't change what the nonsubsistence qualified users
2 will be authorized to do. And I'm suspecting that you
3 are aware of that, but I wasn't entirely clear if you
4 were keeping that in mind as I was listening to the
5 comments. And so I was just trying to make sure as I
6 was sitting back here that I knew what we were trying
7 to accomplish. And that's it.

8
9 MR. WOODS: But I kind of could answer
10 that is we want to put the dates in that would be
11 subsistence friendly that would be October 15th to
12 March 15th and extend the season. So that would be my
13 amendment, Madame Chair, is to amend the original
14 motion to start October 15th and end March 15th. With
15 the same bag limits and mirroring the State 10 per day.
16 Not to confuse anything, just change the dates on
17 February land. Whether the State wanted to do that
18 then that's up to them.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's a
21 motion by Frank on the floor to amend the dates.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: I want to -- before I go
28 too far, so this would clarify, this would just be --
29 affects subsistence users on Federal lands. So what it
30 would do to nonsubsistence, it would be -- would it
31 affect the non-Federally-qualified, they wouldn't be
32 able to hunt any longer or -- I am seeing fingers
33 wagging and stuff.

34
35 So I'm open -- I'll way for.....

36
37 MS. WORKER: I can take that question,
38 Mr. Dunaway. So what you're deciding on now will only
39 affect Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting on
40 Federal public lands. It doesn't affect any hunters
41 hunting under State regulation even those hunting on
42 Federal public lands. So what you're deliberating
43 right now will only affect subsistence users. It will
44 in no way restrict sport hunting.

45
46 MR. WOODS: That would have been nice
47 to know in the beginning, Madame Chair.

48
49 Well, I guess, Madame Chair, my
50

1 question again to the Refuge and Aniakchak and the
2 managers is the concessions we're talking about, how
3 many concessions and how many lodges do we have in your
4 area, in your -- under Federal jurisdiction?
5

6 MS. ALEXANDER: On Alaska Peninsula and
7 Becharof, I can't give you the exact number without
8 checking, but we have in the neighborhood of 20 sport
9 fish guiding permits. Some of those operators have
10 lodges in the area, some don't. Some operate out of
11 King Salmon lodges, some have lodges on State land.
12 There are a very small number, two or three, that have
13 lodges either on in-holdings or through a permit that
14 goes back pre-ANILCA on the Refuge itself.
15

16 And certainly hearing Nanci's comment,
17 I mean, I have been aware obviously that fishing and
18 hunting packages were being promoted. I am going to go
19 back and look at the levels of use we're seeing there.
20 It's -- honestly when I got to the Refuge six years ago
21 all of our numbers from the guides weren't even
22 compiled in a spreadsheet. They were all still in the
23 files that -- like filing cabinets full of this
24 information. We've now managed to at least get that
25 into spreadsheets, but we're still looking at analyzing
26 it and finding better ways to monitor this use honestly
27 than just taking the operator's word for it.
28

29 That said, I'm not aware of -- you
30 know, that doesn't mean that there aren't operators
31 using dogs on the Refuge, I'm not aware of it. I need
32 to go back and double check. I don't believe that use
33 is allowed, but this is -- you saw me making notes,
34 this is something I'm going to look into. My
35 understanding is that most operators doing small game
36 hunting in addition to fishing tend to stay closer to
37 their lodges and so I suspect that a lot of that
38 activity occurs on State land. That's just my
39 suspicion at this point based on some knowledge of the
40 patterns of use from these folks. But, you know, Nanci
41 may know better than I do and Troy can speak to the
42 Park Service.
43

44 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chairman,
45 members of the Council, Troy Hamon, Aniakchak.
46

47 We have three hunt concessionaires at
48 Aniakchak, two of them do have structures associated
49 with those businesses on -- within our boundaries.
50

1 They are not -- I don't know the
2 extent towich
3 they're doing hunting other than the brown bear which
4 is their primary business and moose which is a
5 secondary business for some of them. But again I would
6 actually be interested if Nanci's aware of activity
7 beyond that. It is not legal to have an unleashed dog
8 on National Park Service land. I think there are some
9 exceptions for authorized hunt activities, I'm not sure
10 about that. So it's possible that they could legally
11 make use of dogs, but I'd have to check in with our
12 chief range on that. But I haven't heard of that
13 activity.

14 I will say separate from the answer to
15 that question as a pilot and as a person who's been
16 riding in the back seat of airplanes for a long time on
17 the peninsula, the -- it used to be in the winter you
18 would see hundreds to thousands of ptarmigan take the
19 air as you flew over and you never see that, it just
20 doesn't happen anymore. And hasn't happened for a
21 number of years. I just haven't I haven't seen more
22 than just a couple to probably the most I've seen at a
23 time is 20 within the last five years. So it is a
24 noteworthy change on the landscape.

25
26 MR. WOODS: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Frank.

29
30 MR. WOODS: The reason I ask that
31 question is number 1, I'm not -- it ain't clear how
32 much -- who's regulating the sports end of this because
33 on the State side all the villages in question and
34 Federally-qualified subsistence users are in-holders,
35 they're basically State surrounded from Ivanof Bay,
36 Perryville, Chigniks, Port Heiden, Igushik, Pilot Point
37 and Egegik, including Naknek and King Salmon, if you
38 read the map, I'm not worried about what the State
39 does, I'm just worried about what we set precedents for
40 for the subsistence user in time and area. That if
41 we're taking a hit on subsistence practice we better
42 make sure and I don't know, you said there were 20
43 concessions you have in your area. You know, it's not
44 clear to me who regulates them, the -- either the
45 waterfowl, the ptarmigan hunting or if it's even
46 monitored. So that kind of is a big concern for me
47 too.

48
49
50

1

49

MS. ALEXANDER: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh. Thank you. I just
4 wanted to respond to Mr. Woods' question. We are
5 keeping an eye on them. I would like to know more
6 about their operations than I do. We currently have no
7 staff that -- historically the Refuge has not had

any
8 staff totally dedicated to gathering that data. That's
9 something I would like to change. So far what we have
10 relied upon is that they are required under their
11 permits to report their entire list of clients and how
12 many fish are taken, how many days are they on the
13 Refuge, they pay a per day fee. And so I'm sure Nanci
14 can tell you there is a great deal of information that
15 the operators do have to report to us. Right now we
16 have no means for double checking that, but we are
17 working on putting some things in place, some human
18 monitoring, some camera monitoring, not to identify
19 individuals, but head counts and heavily used areas.

20

21 As far as -- so that is our role in
22 monitoring the guiding operation. As far as what their
23 clients can take when they're in the field, they are
24 subject to State sport regulation. And so in the case
25 of these ptarmigan hunters their season and bag limits
26 have just been reduced by the Board of Game. And the
27 question and, Susan, please correct me if I'm
28 misspeaking, the question before the RAC is do you
29 support a similar or the same reduction for subsistence
30 users because of the resource concern. So if you do
31 not act the sport hunt will be more limited than the
32 subsistence hunt.

33

34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

37

38 MS. MORRIS LYON: And, yeah, and just,
39 you know, to address a couple of questions that were
40 kind of aimed in my direction and rightfully so. I'm
41 not aware, Troy, of anybody going down as far as
42 Aniakchak, but, you know, it -- and the fact of the
43 matter is who knows, maybe they have private in-holding
44 leases going on and that's where they're taking the
45 dogs and going down there hunting. But I know it's
46 happening in the Igushik and Egegik areas. And I can
47 see it enlarging for the waterfowl as well. I'm sure
48 that they're up on Big Creek, you know, they've run up

50

1

49 there a long ways to do duck hunting. And I even know

1 that they've been going down to Naknek and the lakes
2 right there off of Ralph's Road to -- which aren't
3 Federal lands, but, you know, hunting ducks and
4 ptarmigan and spruce hens down there.

5
6 And so my point isn't to belabor this,
7 but it's something that's growing and I think it's
8 something that we would be wise to acknowledge now and
9 to try and get a little bit ahead of.

10
11 I wasn't thinking in that same vein
12 either, Frank, so this is, you know, something for me
13 to take a deeper breath in consideration of.

14
15 So thanks for pointing that out.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: This is not quite on the
22 -- but anyway it's added information. I believe I've
23 heard of two or three lodges from the Dillingham area
24 that fly over towards over Egegik or on the Kvichak,
25 some to fish, but also I'm pretty sure at least one of
26 them's doing some duck hunting somewhere over near
27 Egegik. I'm not clear where, but anyway that's just a
28 side note to keep your eyes open.

29
30 I'm kind of personally inclined to just
31 back up and go with the proposal as written in the book
32 at this point.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. I'm
37 just hoping that we're not change -- we're not trying
38 to change this proposal if it's not affecting our -- if
39 it's -- if the sports hunting is being done on State
40 lands and not on Federal to, you know, limit
41 subsistence users of -- you know, for I guess
42 harvesters that are harvesting on State land.

43
44 Let's.....

45
46 MR. WOODS: With that, Madame Chair,
47 I'd like to withdraw my amendment because I -- you
48 know, I'd like to figure out -- well, I still have a
49 heartburn when commercial outweighs for me the
50

1 conservation concerns. So I look at the map and with
2 what we're doing on State land it doesn't really matter
3 what we do right now.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah.

6

7 MR. WOODS:honestly. But my
8 concern, I guess I'll keep pushing this, is that who's
9 monitoring the sports and the commercial take of our
10 resource.

11

12 I'll back off on my amendment because
13 it ain't going to make -- I realized after a minute ago
14 that it ain't going to make any difference so I'll
15 withdraw my amendment.

16

17 Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Susan.

20

21 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. Susan Alexander, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
23 Refuges. I guess I'd just to add one other thing to
24 perhaps reassure you a little bit, Mr. Woods. And that
25 is that one of the primary purposes, I see as the
26 biggest reason that we have law enforcement on the
27 Refuge, is watching our commercial operators.
28 Unfortunately we have -- we were without an officer for
29 a while, we had one for a year, he moved to Kenai. But
30 I was going to mention in my agency report that we have
31 another one on the way, getting here May or June. So
32 that's where they spend most of their time.

33

34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
37 at this point we need to revisit our motion.

38

39 Donald.

40

41 MR. MIKE: Yes. Since the amendment
42 was withdrawn we're back on the main motion.

43

44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Call the question.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Say that
49 again, Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 We're back to the main motion and the main motion was
3 made by Ms. Nanci Morris to adopt the proposal 20-31
4 and seconded by Mr. Woods. And it was move to adopt
5 20-31 as recommended by the OSM conclusion.
6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.
8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
10 motion and second to adopt the -- I guess the main
11 motion.
12

13 Donald.
14

15 MR. MIKE: We're -- the Council is
16 voting on the main motion now.
17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes. So I
21 guess we need a question.
22

23 MR. WILSON: He did, he asked for
24 question.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, question.
27 All in favor say aye.
28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
32 opposition?
33

34 (No opposing votes)
35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,
37 seeing none. Thank you. Let's take a eight -- let's
38 take a five minute breather. We'll take a five minute
39 breather before we take the next agenda.
40

41 (Off record)
42

43 (On record)
44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And what we're
46 going to do tonight or now is work on the -- work on
47 the statewide proposal, WP 20-08. And then we'll break
48 for the evening and start off with 19 -- 19-07, harvest
49 reduction for Mulchatna caribou tomorrow morning.
50

1 So let's work on the WP 20-08 now and
2 then we'll break for the evening.

3

4 Susan.

5

6 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 This is Suzanne Worker again. WP 20-08 begins on page
8 100 of your meeting book. And this proposal was
9 submitted by the East Prince of Wales Fish and Game
10 Advisory Committee.

11

12 And they request implementing a
13 statewide requirement that traps and snares be marked
14 with either the trapper's name or a State
15 identification number. They believe that the current
16 regulations do not provide any accountability if a
17 trapper leaves their traps set after the season closes
18 or if they use illegal bait. And they believe that
19 requiring trap identification would make enforcement
20 easier and also help reduce illegal trapping practices.

21

22 I want to start by giving you a little
23 bit of recent history related to this issue. The
24 Alaska Board of Game adopted a trap marking
25 requirements for units 1 through 5 in 2006. And the
26 Federal Subsistence Board made the same change in 2012.
27 So that regulation applied only to southeast Alaska.
28 And at that time there was agreement among wildlife
29 troopers, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
30 the public that there would be benefits to requiring
31 traps to be identified.

32

33 In 2016 the Board of Game removed that
34 requirement for southeast Alaska because it -- the
35 requirement wasn't actually preventing the practices
36 that it was intended to prevent and in 2018 the same
37 change was made in Federal regulation.

38

39 So going back a little bit in 2014 the
40 Federal Subsistence Board considered a proposal to
41 require trap identification statewide and that proposal
42 was opposed by all 10 Regional Advisory Councils and it
43 was ultimately rejected by the Board.

44

45 So currently there is no statewide trap
46 marking requirement in State or Federal regulation.
47 There are a few unit specific or agency specific
48 requirements here and there, but nothing that applies
49 across the board.

50

1

49 illegal and mismarking them. And he's one of our most

1 extensive trappers and he's deeply opposed to it. And
2 I just don't see much good coming out of it so I'm
3 opposed.

4
5 Thanks.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
8 comments on this.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
13 go through the process. Report on Board consultation.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Mr. Lind stated there was no comments on this proposal.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Agency
21 comments, ADF&G, Federal, tribal.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none
26 coming.....

27
28 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch with the
29 Department of Fish and Game.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

32
33 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I would recognize
34 what Suzanne said that the Federally-qualified users
35 could trap under State regulations and so there really
36 wouldn't be any affect biologically of this proposal
37 and so the Department of Fish and Game is neutral.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
42 Federal, tribal.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
47 none, advisory group comments, other Regional Councils.

48
49 Suzanne.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Several of the Regional Advisory Councils have taken
3 this up. The Kodiak-Aleutians did not take any action
4 on it. But the proposal was opposed by the
5 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, the Western
6 Interior Regional Advisory Council, the Eastern
7 Interior Regional Advisory Council, the Seward
8 Peninsula Regional Advisory Council, the North Slope
9 Regional Advisory Council. And the Northwest Arctic
10 Regional Advisory Council took this up earlier in the
11 week and I haven't heard how they came down on it.
12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
16 other comments under this.
17

18 MS. RUPP: For the record, Liza Rupp
19 from Lake Clark National Park on behalf of the Lake
20 Clark SRC.
21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.
23

24 The Lake Clark SRC does not support
25 proposal WP 20-08. And it had an added note in the
26 letter to the Council that it supports -- it encourages
27 the East Prince of Wales Committee to seek a solution
28 at the local level, it doesn't approve a statewide
29 blanket regulation change. And so but it suggested --
30 it wanted to suggest that they work on the local level
31 and see if they could work something out that way.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
34 you.
35

36 Summary of written public comments.
37

38 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 You'll find your written comments on page 107 in your
40 meeting material and page 112 in your meeting
41 materials.
42

43 The Ketchikan Advisory Committee
44 opposes this proposal as stated on page 107. And the
45 Alaskans for Wildlife and any Cooperating Entities are
46 in support of this proposal. You'll find the comments
47 on page 112.
48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Public
2 testimony.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No public
7 testimony. Okay. Regional Council recommendations.
8 Motion to adopt.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adopt.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's a
17 motion by Dan Dunaway to adopt.
18
19 MR. WILSON: Second.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seconded by
22 Richard.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll speak to my motion.
29 Like I said a little earlier all the people I know are
30 totally opposed to this and I haven't heard much good
31 about it. So I'm going to be voting in opposition to
32 this.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I will also be
41 voting in opposition to this. It's like reinventing
42 the wheel. They need to reinvent a different wheel
43 because I'm not willing to go down the same wrong road
44 again and have not seen any justification as to why
45 this is going to work better this time.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
50

1 other comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess.....
6
7 MR. TREFON: Question.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Bill.
10
11 MR. TREFON: Question.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, you
14 want to read the motion for clarification.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Mr. Dunaway moved to adopt proposal WP 20-08 and
18 seconded by Mr. Richard Wilson. And Mr. Dunaway
19 further stated that he's talked to local trappers and
20 they're all opposed. And the maker of the motion to
21 adopt proposal 20-08 as presented on the OSM
22 preliminary conclusion on page 105.
23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
27 you. There was a -- I think Bill called for question.
28 So all in favor say aye.
29
30 (No affirmative votes)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposition.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
37 Proposal fails.
38
39 Okay. We're going to break for this
40 evening and, Donald, give us the time for tomorrow
41 morning.
42
43 MR. MIKE: We can start at 8:30 as
44 indicated on our meeting agenda. Is that okay?
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
47 start on our -- we'll start at 8:30 tomorrow morning.
48 And we'll pick up the caribou proposal with fresh minds
49 tomorrow morning.
50

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(Off record)
(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

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

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of November 2019.

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