

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Cold Bay Community Center
Cold Bay, Alaska
September 26, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Melissa Berns
Coral Chernoff
Patrick Holmes - (Telephonic)
Richard Koso - (Telephonic)
Samuel Rohrer
Thomas Schwantes
Antone Shelikoff
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/26/2017)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning. As our Chair, Mitch Simeonoff, isn't available, I am the co-Chair, so I will do this meeting today. I'd like to welcome everybody to Cold Bay. I need more coffee, I forget how quiet it is over here and I slept so hard I still don't feel like my eyes are open. But, yes, it's nice and the weather's been beautiful. It's nice to be back in Cold Bay, it's been quite a number of years, I think, at least, five, that we've been here.

So with that, those of you that are on the teleconference, welcome. Public comments are for each agenda item, or regional concerns that are not included on the agenda, the Council appreciates hearing concerns and your knowledge, so please, like I say if you'd like to testify fill out a blue card.

With that, I'd like to maybe call the meeting to order and is anybody willing to do the invocation.

Tom.

If you'd stand, please, we're not the NFL.

Okay, go ahead.

MR. SCHWANTES: (Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom. And we'll go into roll call. Melissa.

MS. BERNS: Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELKOFF: Yeah.

MS. BERNS: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. BERNS: Richard Koso.

1 MR. KOSO: Here.
2
3 MS. BERNS: Samuel Rohrer.
4
5 MR. ROHRER: Here.
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7 MS. BERNS: Tom Schwantes.
8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: Here.
10
11 MS. BERNS: Coral Chernoff.
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13 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
14
15 MS. BERNS: Rebecca Skinner.
16
17 MS. SKINNER: Here.
18
19 MS. BERNS: Della Trumble.
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21 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
22
23 MS. BERNS: Mitch Simeonoff.
24
25 (No comment)
26
27 MS. BERNS: And Melissa Berns, I'm
28 here.
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30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Melissa. I'd, again, like to welcome everybody. We'll
32 go ahead and do the introductions and if we may, we'll
33 start with the end, Coral and Rebecca -- Rebecca.
34
35 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner from
36 Kodiak.
37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak.
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40 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone Shelikoff,
41 Akutan.
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43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Della Trumble,
44 King Cove.
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46 MS. BERNS: Melissa Berns, Old Harbor.
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48 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.
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1 MR. ROHRER: Sam Rohrer, Kodiak.
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3 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes, Kodiak.
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5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage,
6 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Deputy
9 Assistant Regional Director for OSM, Anchorage.
10
11 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso from Adak.
12
13 REPORTER: Okay, so the people on line,
14 could you please identify yourselves.
15
16 Thanks.
17
18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso from Adak.
19
20 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.
21
22 REPORTER: I got you and Pat, Rick,
23 thanks. Are there others, please identify yourself.
24
25 MS. WITTA: Amy Witta, Division of
26 Subsistence, Fish and Game, Anchorage.
27
28 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, Division of
29 Wildlife Conservation in Palmer.
30
31 MR. WITTEVEEN: Mark Witteveen and Lisa
32 Fox, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak.
33
34 MS. PETERSON: Chris Peterson, Alaska
35 Fish and Game in King Salmon.
36
37 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle and Mike Brady,
38 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
39
40 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, Office of
41 Subsistence Management. Cami, good morning.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
44 we'll go ahead and do the public.....
45
46 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg. Sorry,
47 Carol Damberg, regional subsistence coordinator,
48 Anchorage.
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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have
2 anyone else on line.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
7 we'll move on to the public in the building here.

8
9 MR. LIPKA: This is Colton Lipka,
10 Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak/Cold Bay.

11
12 MR. EVANS: Good morning everybody.
13 I'm Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist with OSM.

14
15 DR. CHEN: Aloha Council members. My
16 name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, come on up
21 here.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. SIMPSON: Angela Simpson, City of
26 Cold Bay.

27
28 MR. ARKLEY: John Arkley, Cold Bay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you
31 everyone and, again, welcome. We will move on to
32 review and adopt the agenda.

33
34 Before I start I'm going to have Karen
35 explain some of the agenda items that she has made
36 changes to and then we will add any agenda items the
37 Council would like to add.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
40 Chair.

41
42 At the last meeting there were several
43 items that the Council requested to be on the agenda.
44 One was a report on sea otters, largely in the Kodiak
45 region. And I did call Rebecca Skinner about that.
46 And I think it was determined that it would be best to
47 have that discussion and those representatives in
48 Kodiak because we would have more individuals from the
49 public as well that could contribute to that

50

1 conversation versus having that here in Cold Bay.

2

3

4 The second item is, if you'll recall,
5 the Council put forth a wildlife special action request
6 for the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd to change from
7 one bull to one caribou. That wildlife special action
8 request was not forwarded on to the Board, and the
9 reason why is because it didn't meet, quote/unquote,
10 the emergency measures because people could still hunt
11 any caribou under the State registration permit. With
12 that said, the proposal under the regulatory cycle to
13 change from one bull to one caribou for that herd is
14 part of this meeting discussion and the Council will
15 deliberate on that proposal.

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Tom Schwantes, Member Schwantes also recommended that we do intermittent reviews of the State regulations and the Federal regulations to look for consistency or more liberalized hunting opportunities under State that were not under Federal subsistence. Our biologist, Tom Evans, reviewed those, as well as myself, and we did not find, other than the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd issue any, at this time, that are more liberal than the subsistence regulations.

And that's it for me.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Karen. Any other additions to the agenda.

MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, under new business, I would like to add some discussion on the Kodiak -- or the Unimak Caribou Herd.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Under new business, wildlife proposals, I think we could add that after the regional proposals and after the Unit 9D caribou. We would like just to have a discussion at this point.

MR. SCHWANTES: Uh-huh.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. As far

1 as the Unit 9D.....

2

3

4 10.

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7 Unimak Herd?

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Unit 10. Unit

MS. DEATHERAGE: Unit 10, for the

MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Ma'am, you can

certainly add that to the agenda.

There are several people on the line for Fish and Game. I tried to get a hold of the biologist who could speak to that but I wasn't able to hear back from them but perhaps somebody at Fish and Game could also give us an update on the status of the Unimak Herd.

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chris Peterson is on line and I think she would be able to do that.

MS. PETERSON: Yes, this is Chris, Madame Chair. The question is simply to go over the status of the Unimak Caribou Herd at the moment; is that correct?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Not particularly at this time but at some point in the meeting we're going to add it for discussion after we look at what the survey numbers are, the last survey that was done, and that's basically where we're at because we didn't see the information in the packet, at least up to this point.

MS. PETERSON: Okay, yes, that would be fine. I'd be glad to get that information for you. Just let me know when to present it. I did not ever know that it was required for this meeting, so.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. There is a report in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that does have some updates on the herd and you can also, if you choose to have that discussion, when Izembek, as well as ADF&G report, under agency reports later in the meeting.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. We
4 did have two more additions to, if you would like to
5 come forward and introduce yourself. The microphone's
6 here.

7

8 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Council
9 members. My name is Greg Risdahl. I'm the manager at
10 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Glad to be here.
11 Sorry we're a few minutes late. We have about 16
12 people at the Refuge, extra, starting today and
13 yesterday. So, thank you.

14

15 MS. MELENDEZ: Good morning, Council.
16 My name is Leticia Melendez, and I'm the Deputy Refuge
17 Manager for Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
20 So if I understand this correctly under Item No. 5 on
21 your agenda we will be moving the sea otter to the
22 winter meeting and add the Board of Game proposals, if
23 requested, by Council; is that correct.

24

25 Item No. 8, Tom Doolittle will -- it
26 says bio's provided, so I guess, on service awards.

27

28 Under No. 11, wildlife proposal, Tom
29 Evans will be doing that report.

30

31 Under 11B, under 2018 Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring will be Robbin LaVine.

33

34 Under Item C, that will be done by
35 Karen Deatherage.

36

37 Under the USGS, this is an addition; is
38 that correct, under ANSEP?

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Ma'am, it is.
41 And that will be presented by telephone.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
44 then I believe that adding the caribou under Unit 10 is
45 probably going to come up a couple of times in this
46 meeting, to be honest with you. We'd like to see the
47 report, not only from Izembek, but from the State on
48 Unit 10 caribou, and then most likely later in the
49 agenda we would like to try to create a proposal, if

50

1 the numbers look like they can sustain a possible
2 subsistence harvest. That's where we're.....
3
4 MS. SKINNER: Madame.....
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6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:headed with
7 this.....
8
9 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.....
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11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:just so you
12 know.
13
14 MS. SKINNER:I have a question.
15
16 Madame Chair, a question.
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18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.
19
20 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Can you
21 clarify where two of the items you've talked about have
22 been added to the agenda, one, the Fish and Game Board
23 of Game proposals, what item number -- where will that
24 appear on the agenda?
25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's under --
27 Karen added it under No. 5.
28
29 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Well, it seems
30 like it would go under new business. I'll propose to
31 add that under new business, which is Item 11, as Item
32 11D.
33
34 And then I propose to add the Unit 10
35 caribou discussion as 11E, mainly so that the people
36 who are presenting information on that know when they
37 need to be on line and ready to go.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
40 you.
41
42 Do we have a motion to approve the
43 agenda as amended.
44
45 MS. BERNES: Move to approve the agenda.
46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
48
49 MR. KOSO: Second.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hold on.
2
3 MS. BERNIS: So moved to approve the
4 agenda.
5
6 MS. SKINNER: It's supposed to be moved
7 to approve it as amended.
8
9 MS. BERNIS: I'll make the motion to
10 approve the agenda with amendments and additions.
11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion's been
15 made and seconded. All in favor, signify by saying
16 aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
21 sign.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carries.
26
27 We'll move on to the minutes of the
28 last meeting.
29
30 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to approve.
31
32 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.
33
34 MR. KOSO: Second.
35
36 MS. BERNIS: Question.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: A motion was
39 made by Tom, second, I believe by Antone, question's
40 been called by Melissa.
41
42 Discussion.
43
44 MS. BERNIS: Under. I just wanted to
45 make one.....
46
47 MR. SHELIKOFF: Name.
48
49 MS. BERNIS: Melissa Berns. Under
50

1 Council member reports, Port Lions, there's a typo
2 correction there, for Lions, is the only thing that I
3 had seen.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

8
9 MS. SKINNER: I have a correction as
10 well.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
13 Rebecca.

14
15 MS. SKINNER: Under the US Fish and
16 Wildlife Service agency report, Lisa Huff should be
17 Lisa Hupp, H-U-P-P.

18
19 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: I also have a -- there's
24 a typo on Ouzinkie.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: There is.

27
28 MS. CHERNOFF: After Port Lions there,
29 under Melissa Berns' comments. It should be O-U-Z-I-N-
30 K-I-E.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
33 corrections, amendments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
38 all in favor, signify by saying -- approve the minutes
39 as corrected, signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

49
50

1 Okay. We'll probably move on to the
2 Council member reports. Rick, you're leaving, I think
3 you said at 10:00, do you want to go ahead and start
4 with the report for Adak?

5
6 MR. KOSO: Okay, thank you, Madame
7 Chair.

8
9 Yeah, Adak, this past year has been
10 doing well on subsistence I guess it's probably due to
11 the fact that we have a small population, there's
12 plenty of fish in the ocean for everybody there,
13 nobody's having any problems getting their subsistence.

14
15 The caribou herd as far as I understand
16 is doing well. We've been still getting quite a few
17 hunters coming in on the planes but not as much as last
18 year. Caribou are getting a little harder to get on
19 the north side, but we still have a fair amount of
20 caribou on the south side. I'd still like to see a
21 survey done here so we could see what's been going on
22 here, we've been having a lot of hunters come out there
23 this past couple years.

24
25 And I don't know if this is the right
26 time to bring it up but this Proposal 128 on the
27 caribou, Adak, to open it up to shoot all different
28 caribou. I think the population in Adak is -- 99
29 percent of them are in favor of that. We don't have
30 too many guides in Adak, none that I'm aware of, most
31 of the guides are from outside. So as far as the local
32 people go, they're more meat hunters than head hunters
33 and they would like to have it either way.

34
35 So that's my report for Adak.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

40
41 Pat, would you like to give a report.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Ma'am. How do you
44 copy?

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds -- we can
47 hear you good, Pat, go ahead.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I was playing

50

1 around with my hearing aide and my cell phone is not
2 happy at times so I just wanted to check. I was going
3 to make a comment, Rick, that the local tribal folks
4 there in the city might want to have a chat with the
5 air station in Kodiak and see if -- of course
6 everybody's budget's tight but maybe if the Coast Guard
7 has a cutter out there with a machine, you might ask
8 them to have a -- borrow it for a few hours and have
9 them do a count on the caribou there and if you could
10 get a State or Federal person that'd be good but I
11 think Rick can count as good as any critter person.
12 That might be one way to get some idea of what's
13 happening on the south end.

14
15 As far as myself and Kodiak, folks did
16 really good on subsistence. They opened up the Buskin,
17 the run came in early, a lot of fish, had it opened to
18 the mouth until the end of June. And, of course, being
19 a hard-headed Scandinavian, I spent most of that time
20 trying to get my skiff running so ended up having to go
21 to Pasagshak but did get my minimum for our canning and
22 enough to give away to lots of other folks. And so
23 that went pretty well.

24
25 I think the deer population is up from
26 the cold winters but down from the previous year
27 because it was pretty frosty last year. So I think all
28 in all, from what I've heard, things are doing pretty
29 fair for folks on the north end of the island.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

34
35 We'll move on.

36
37 Tom.

38
39 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you, Madame
40 Chair.

41
42 Yeah, along with what Pat said we did
43 have an extremely hard winter last year, not because of
44 snow but because of the lack of snow and the extremely
45 cold temperatures, that had a pretty negative effect on
46 the deer population.

47
48 Had, as Pat mentioned, good returns of
49 salmon to the Buskin and also to Pasagshak. From

50

1 everything I'm hearing the subsistence users did really
2 well. We've had a real good return of pinks, chums and
3 silvers on the road system this year.

4
5 So we did have -- because of the cold
6 winter, lack of berries this year for subsistence
7 users, very few of the berries did very well.

8
9 And our early king runs were really
10 poor. We didn't have much of a king run until late
11 June, July.

12
13 And just there seems to be an increase
14 of sea otter population, especially on the north end of
15 Kodiak, and we're seeing a lot more sea otters in
16 Womens Bay itself.

17
18 And I did count -- did see an early
19 return, what I feel is an early return to Emperor geese
20 to Kodiak. On the 14th of September I counted a flock
21 of 84 in Womens Bay.

22
23 So, thank you.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Wow.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

28
29 I'm just drawing a blank.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. BERNES: Sam.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I just feel like
38 I'm not awake, I'm sorry, Sam, go ahead, please.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 This is Sam Rohrer.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. ROHRER: Pat and Tom mentioned most
48 of what I had to say.

49
50

1 I'll just reiterate on the deer. It
2 was a rough winter. The north and west side got hit
3 pretty hard. From what I've heard, though, I think the
4 south side certainly is in a lot better shape, and the
5 east side's in somewhat better shape. We'll know in
6 the next month or so as folks really start to get deer
7 hunting though. This is still a little bit early in
8 the season for people to have a real good feel but it
9 certainly seems as that there was quite a bit of winter
10 kill.

11
12 The other thing to mention, with
13 Emperors. I haven't heard of anyone who participated
14 in the Emperor hunt for the spring season. Certainly
15 some might have, but I haven't heard anyone talking
16 about that and I think I probably -- well, at least if
17 there was any around town I think I probably would have
18 heard about that.

19
20 I know folks are excited about the fall
21 season. Although, last I checked with Fish and Game
22 not that many permits had been picked up. So it's
23 going to be real interesting. There's been some
24 complaints from folks about the limit, the couple
25 hundred feet limit off the road system. I know people
26 aren't happy about that, but it'll just be interesting
27 to see what that participation is.

28
29 So that's all I have.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.

32
33 Melissa.

34
35 MS. BERNES: So from Old Harbor, we've
36 had a great salmon return.....

37
38 (Teleconference interruption -
39 participant phones not muted)

40
41 MS. BERNES:wonderful sockeye
42 harvest this spring and late king run in June and July
43 that a lot of people participated in.

44
45 We had a late pink run and a lot of
46 people were a little bit concerned but the fish did end
47 up showing up and we saw that people were fishing much
48 later into August and into September.

49
50

1 We have a really good silver run right
2 now and a lot of people are busy harvesting and smoking
3 and filling their freezers. Bright new silvers are
4 still being caught in the saltwater and in the fresh
5 water.

6
7 We're also seeing a lot of the bears
8 harvesting and, you know, plumping up for the winter
9 and this is really good because they're staying out of
10 the village and away from the village, unlike last year
11 when we had seen a lot more bear activity throughout
12 the community with the lack of fish in the creeks.

13
14 Let's see, we did have a slow berry
15 year but some people were able to find them, you just
16 really had to work hard to get them. So we're hopeful
17 that our winter will be a little bit more mild and we
18 can partake in the berry harvesting next year.

19
20 A lot of sea otters have been seen
21 coming further on the southeast side of the island and
22 people have been harvesting them basically on the spot
23 or come into the community and, you know, let people
24 that harvest know exactly where they're seen so that we
25 can take care of them so that we don't have a lack of
26 shellfish like they're seeing in other areas of the
27 island.

28
29 The seal and sea lion populations are
30 in abundance and people continue to harvest them. And
31 it's really nice to see that a lot more people are
32 harvesting and using the hides for handicraft. And
33 then the people that harvest only for the meat source
34 have been contacting our non-profit agency so that we
35 can get the hides and process them for cultural
36 activities within the community so it's been a nice
37 relationship between the hunters and our coordinators,
38 our cultural coordinators.

39
40 Lots of migratory birds have been
41 coming into the Old Harbor area and filling up our
42 estuary. Lots of geese. And we're also seeing more
43 swans than usual.

44
45 We had a great culture camp this summer
46 on Sitkalidak Island and we focused on responsible
47 harvesting practices with the youth and also plants as
48 food and medicine. It was very well received. That
49 was held in late July. And then through the salmon
50

1 project, when I return from this meeting, I'll be going
2 back to Old Harbor and holding a salmon camp for a week
3 and at the salmon camp we'll be catching fish and then
4 processing them, salting, smoking, pickling and drying
5 and canning fish and at the end we'll hold a community
6 potluck and we're going to be gifting the fish that we
7 processed to the elders within the community that can't
8 harvests for themselves.

9
10 So a lot of positive things going on
11 and we're really looking forward to a good fall and I
12 hope -- we do have a good healthy deer population
13 around the community. I know people are looking
14 forward to the deer harvest as well as harvesting
15 goats, that people have been partaking in more so in
16 recent years.

17
18 That's it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
21 Melissa.

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Madame
24 Chair. I'd just like to ask the people on the phone to
25 make sure that you're muting your phone unless you're
26 speaking to the Council because we're getting a lot of
27 feedback here.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
32 Karen.

33
34 Rebecca.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. On the -- I
37 want to give a quick update on something more relevant
38 to the commercial fishing side. But Senator Dan
39 Sullivan hosted a field hearing for the Magnuson-
40 Stevens Act Reauthorization this August in Soldotna and
41 I think that this is something that is useful for this
42 Council to kind of keep in mind or keep an eye on that
43 that Act is going through the reauthorization process
44 and it probably will have some significant changes as
45 Congress works on that.

46
47 I'll echo the comments about the bad
48 salmonberry year in Kodiak. I think I may have seen 10
49 berries total, so we had a pretty bad salmonberry year.

50

1 With the Emperor geese, I want to note
2 that we're excited about the season being open for
3 subsistence spring hunt. And over the last six months
4 or so I've been involved in discussions and have
5 submitted comment about the road closures on the Kodiak
6 road system, so that's not specific to Emperor geese
7 but it does relate to Emperor geese. And I think we
8 might -- maybe we'll have more discussion on that later
9 in the meeting today.

10

11 And the last thing I wanted to note is
12 that I did call into the tribal and Native Corporation
13 consultation that occurred the first week in September
14 and I will note that participation was pretty sparse.
15 They did combine different regions on to one call so
16 there wasn't a call that was just Kodiak/Aleutians, we
17 were combined with several of the other regions, but
18 there were very few tribes and very few ANCSA
19 Corporations that called in to participate. And then a
20 lot of the discussion on the phone ended up being more
21 about the process of the consultation and how people
22 could get involved. So it seemed like there was a
23 general lack of knowledge about how the tribes and the
24 corporations could be involved and give comment, so
25 that may be something we want to look at improving.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Rebecca.

31

32 Coral.

33

34 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. Coral
35 Chernoff.

36

37 So I guess fish has already been
38 covered, it was plentiful.

39

40 My experience with deer and hearing
41 about people talking about deer is our usual fall trip
42 that we see, we didn't see a lot of deer. I've seen a
43 lot of does with double fawns around town but other
44 than that, out on the other side of the island I
45 haven't seen a whole lot. And I've heard of people
46 walking in areas and seeing 20 to 40 deer carcasses.
47 So it sounds like the number of deer that have died
48 this winter is quite large.

49

50

1 That was from the cold winter, which
2 also produced a big berry -- salmonberry die-off so in
3 the spring you could just see large swaths up the
4 mountains of dead berry bushes but all the -- all the
5 new growth seems to be large, tall and healthy looking
6 so hopefully next year and the following years we'll
7 have more good salmonberries.

8
9 Clams, there's not too much clam
10 digging going on in Kodiak. There's been a lot of
11 public outreach about PSP. And Sun'aq is working with
12 an organization and they're doing clam testing for PSP
13 so I went on one of the digs this winter and we talked
14 a lot about how that process was happening with people
15 who didn't really dig clams and they weren't really
16 digging in areas where people dug clams. Also they
17 test the whole clam, which I felt like -- so there was
18 this discussion on why they're not going where people
19 really get clams and testing just the parts that people
20 eat and it kind of isn't their, that's not a part of
21 their study. But we did -- she -- I did go back to the
22 lab, I showed her how I would clean my clam, which
23 parts I would eat, which parts I would throw away and
24 she kept those parts separate and was testing them
25 separately so -- and I haven't seen the results on that
26 but hopefully more of that could happen in the future.
27 They did publicly post their results for several of the
28 months and they've all been -- they've all tested hot
29 for PSP, too high of levels for people, what they
30 suggest people should be eating.

31
32 Spring subsistence harvest opened for
33 Emperors. I did not go Emperor hunting and I haven't
34 heard of anyone that did. We have an issue of during
35 our spring hunt, we can't hunt on the road system, we
36 have to be 500 feet off shore so that kind of limits --
37 well, it does limit anyone who wants to hunt to have to
38 have a boat to hunt. So that's a barrier that with
39 AMBCC, we're working to get that -- the 500 foot off
40 shore regulation removed. We do have a fall hunt and
41 we can hunt migratory ducks and snipes and a few other
42 birds, we can hunt on the road system. So there's
43 already hunting on the road system, but we're not
44 allowed for the spring subsistence harvest.

45
46 This year -- I go to the other side of
47 the island from where I'm from, I go to the west side
48 for a little bit in the fall and then part of the
49 winter to do hunting and some fishing activities. And
50

1 the last couple -- we always set crab pots, and the
2 last couple of years we have not caught a single king
3 crab. This year we tried a little bit harder. We had
4 actually three spots and then we kind of moved our pots
5 around so I don't know if the king crab have just sort
6 of moved out of that bay area, I don't know all over
7 the island, I -- I don't know if the king crab
8 population is just moving or if it's -- the
9 population's going down again and I don't know that
10 there's any studies that are addressing that anymore.
11

12 We did find plenty of dungeness and a
13 few tanners. Lots and lots and lots of dungees, so we
14 ate dungees.
15

16 There's lots of reports of bird die-off
17 up north. And we had the murre die-off, the large
18 murre die-off last year, but we don't seem to have any
19 of that die-off this year, so it seems to be just in
20 the northern areas.
21

22 And then Sun'aq, lastly, there's been
23 crayfish for several years. Quite a few years people
24 have been asking about the crayfish in Buskin and so
25 Sun'aq finally got -- they went out and got a few last
26 year and then they applied for a grant and so they, I
27 think, have a three or four year study that they're
28 gathering crayfish and they -- when we had heard
29 reports, too, Fish and Game would get, I think the last
30 year -- year before last it was up to like seven
31 reports of crayfish that people had -- were reporting
32 and then Sun'aq, the first time they went out, I think
33 they got like 120 crayfish and then I had my step-son
34 and his friend, the friends went out, there was four of
35 them, they went out, and within a half hour they had 45
36 of them. So I got to eat some of those crayfish. But
37 hopefully they'll study them and we'll find out --
38 that's such a big subsistence river for us, the Buskin,
39 they seem to be up in the lakes mostly, so I think with
40 this grant they were going to see how many they find
41 down stream. And they did find crayfish with big.....
42

43 TELEPHONE: (Indiscernible) crayfish
44 out there.
45

46 (Laughter)
47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: They did find female
49 crayfish with big egg.....
50

1 TELEPHONE: And then they do a fish
2 composition of crayfish.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, this is Karen
7 Deatherage with Office of Subsistence Management. Can
8 you hold your comments until we invite public comment
9 on this issue. We appreciate it, thank you.

10
11 MS. PETERSON: I think some phones are
12 not on mute.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: So that is the end of my
17 report. Thank you, Ms. Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Coral.

21
22 Antone.

23
24 MR. SHELIKOFF: Emperor goose has been
25 -- this year because people just found out and they're
26 kind of skeptical, they think it's only one bird but
27 they're probably have their other birds, they can have
28 two. But there's no Emperor goose taken.

29
30 Humpies, finding them, because there
31 was a lack of fresh water, humpies were finally getting
32 up this creek and up to the creek spawning, just this
33 last week. I know this because there's a run of
34 humpies right in the village, right by the school and
35 it's kind of like a science project started by a
36 teacher a few years ago. He started a humpy run by
37 the school so it's kind of like a science project.

38
39 But there's no clam harvest or mussel
40 harvest because of Trident Seafoods. I believe they're
41 -- they put their wastewater in the bay and it just
42 becomes -- or all the way -- they flow with the water
43 and they -- well, they might be -- they may be poisoned
44 but no one's tried them for the past 20 years, I
45 believe.

46
47 There was a person doing a research
48 project and she did a subsistence survey but there's
49 some information that should have been -- but we can
50

1 send that data in to the website that would -- they
2 would use the data and put in their system.

3

4 Berry harvest.

5

6 Blueberries did good this year but no
7 -- no salmonberries at all. I mean you were lucky to
8 get a couple but there's no salmonberries.

9

10 And I kind of did a written report but
11 I somehow forgot it so I'll print it up and send it to
12 Tom or Karen but that's all I had.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Antone. I'll do a brief report for King Cove.

18

19 Lisa Scaroborough and Kate
20 (indiscernible) did do some of their work that they
21 intended to do on subsistence uses in Sand Point. I
22 believe that was in February. And then Lisa and her
23 team were in King Cove in April, however, Kate was not
24 able to make it at the time. Her schedule is to come
25 in the spring, I think, to continue with that study.

26

27 The caribou, Greg was in King Cove, the
28 Refuge manager, and met with members of the community
29 and spent over a day there and what Greg and I brought
30 was the subsistence permits for caribou that had been
31 done by Fish and Wildlife in the past and so I've been
32 doing them out of the King Cove corporation office and
33 I do believe I had -- I think it was nine -- eight or
34 nine permits and two designated hunter permits that I
35 didn't grab before I came over but I was asking people
36 to go ahead and call and report that, and bring those
37 in and I'd bring them over -- send them all over to you
38 when the season was done. So just so you know, Greg.

39

40 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Also in talking
43 caribou, I've been working with Rod Schuh this past
44 year on caribou and his hunters that have harvested a
45 caribou, they had processed the meat and brought it in
46 and Rod actually flew two caribou over to King Cove the
47 day before yesterday and -- Sunday morning to be exact,
48 and I picked that up and was able to -- it was
49 processed very well, packed and I was able to give 13

50

1 elders caribou and they were really pleased and so I
2 thank Rod very much for that and people were really
3 happy because some of these elders have not had caribou
4 for many years. So very good -- good deal.

5
6 (Applause)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Cold
9 Bay.

10
11 Thank you, Rod.

12
13 Then -- and some of the hunters, of
14 course, have been also with the birds, sending them
15 over so that's also -- so it's a good relationship
16 working with the communities. There's quite a large
17 number of people in King Cove that do live off of
18 these, or subsist off of these species.

19
20 As everybody else has said there has
21 been no snow this winter. In King Cove it was -- we'll
22 usually get a week of cold weather, two weeks max, we
23 had three months of straight cold weather. In all my
24 life living out here I've never seen it like that in my
25 life. So it was an interesting winter. And, of
26 course, you know, the elders always say that basically
27 if you don't have a snow-pak you're not getting any
28 berries and that's -- that snow insulates the roots in
29 those berry bushes. So that was definitely a result,
30 we did not have many -- hardly any salmonberries. Very
31 little moss berries. Blueberries were good, I think
32 like Akutan and Unalaska and King Cove, blueberries
33 were good, and I'm hearing also here.

34
35 We did have a moose and a calf spend a
36 good part of the summer up at the end of the road in
37 King Cove and then another moose, which is very -- they
38 were there, watch the bears -- some residents said
39 chase the -- chase them but they had gotten -- they had
40 survived the last time I heard so I'm not sure where
41 they're at now.

42
43 Salmon for the community was very good
44 and it was really encouraging to see how well the
45 fishermen did. It's been quite a number of years that
46 they were able to get a season like they did. So we're
47 thankful, very thankful for that.

48
49 So other than that, I think I covered

50

1 what I wanted to.

2

3

4 Oh, culture camp, we did have two Staff
5 members from Izembek over at the culture camp and I'm
6 sorry I can't remember their names, but they
7 participated in that this summer in August and so that
8 was really good also.

8

9

10 With that, I guess, if anybody has any
11 questions directly for any of the Council members and
12 their reports, I think it would be a good time to do
13 that now, if you just want to let me know here.

13

14

Melissa.

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And so we're looking forward to that.

The herd, when we did move them in May,
they swam across the straits to greener pastures. We
were surprised that they're very good swimmers, we've
learned. And we have 20 of them located on the Akaluta
Bay (ph) side on Native allotments. We're working with
the land owners there and they're -- you know they've
pretty much been staying in the same area. We have 20
over in -- on Bush Point, which is right next to the
community and across the straits from Sitkalidak
Island. Many people see them and part of our community
outreach is that we ask people, when they do observe
them, is to report back to myself and my office, how
many are seen in the herd, and the location of them and
if there's any -- you know, if people are out hiking
and maybe if they run across a carcass or that type of
thing, to report those mortalities to us as well so we

1 can keep a good track on them.

2

3

4 We are going to be making efforts this
5 next coming week and a half to hike the herd that's
6 over in Akluda Bay back over the pass to Bush Point and
7 we had purchased a lot of corral material from the
8 Ninilchik Fairground so we'll be able to build our
9 corral system, feed them and then hoping to have the
10 landing craft come in and relocate them to the
11 southeast side of Sitkalidak Island where we have
12 identified greater pasture areas. And we're working
13 closely with NRCS at this time and their range land
14 planners and so they're actually coming out to Old
15 Harbor the week of October 11th to hold a community
16 meeting and to help us finalize our management plan and
17 so we're really happy for that. We're also members of
18 the InterTribal Bison Cooperative and so tapping into
19 their resources, they've been able to provide a lot of
20 technical support and guidance as we've worked through
21 this process. I always joke that that was my first
22 rodeo, I've never herd any cattle or anything of the
23 sort, I'm more of a chicken person so it's been quite
24 the experience, and we're really looking forward to
25 having that herd grow on Sitkalidak Island and to be
26 able to provide for our community.

26

27

So that's what I have.

28

29

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Melissa. That was interesting.

31

32

It's interesting to watch Melissa. I
33 have her on FaceBook. She's fattening up these turkeys
34 and she harvests them. Then she's fattening up these
35 hens and these chickens and she's harvesting them. And
36 then next she's like ranging bison and I'm like, this
37 girl is really busy.

38

39

But other than that, I did hear, I
40 think, some comments when Coral was making her report
41 and was there any questions on line from people for any
42 of the Council members.

43

44

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

45

46

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

47

48

MR. HOLMES: I forgot a couple of
49 things.

50

1 As far as compliments go. I think
2 Sun'aq Tribe has worked really well with the other
3 folks in Kodiak and particularly on the AMBCC things.
4

5 And I think Coral Chernoff also
6 deserves a salute for her role in getting acceptability
7 of using migratory bird parts for art. I think that's
8 going to be a really good thing.
9

10 And I think Sun'aq's research on
11 crayfish, that's got some real potential there because
12 crayfish in other areas have been documented on
13 reducing salmon populations and, of course, the Buskin
14 being our region's (indiscernible) sockeye subsistence
15 source is really good.
16

17 And I also wanted to give Melissa an
18 atta'girl for that seal meat she gave me when we got
19 back from visiting the grandkids in February. I kind
20 of had my normal Swedish blues there and I made up a
21 pot of soup while Patty was out and that really made me
22 feel good.
23

24 And lastly I wanted to thank Antone and
25 Rick for sharing that fine Aleutian summer with the
26 folks in Kodiak. I think it was the wettest, greyest
27 August and September I've ever seen and my potato -- I
28 usually have really good (indiscernible) but it got so
29 wet that I probably got a third of the spuds so thanks
30 Rick and Antone for letting us have some Aleutian
31 summer.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
34

35 And I think there's one other thing I
36 can add because I'm wondering if anybody else or any of
37 the other places -- this summer there has been so many
38 pink salmon and humpies that it's -- I saw Tom
39 yesterday at the airport and he showed me pictures of
40 False Pass, I mean you could walk on fish and that was
41 the same thing in King Cove. And so the concern, I
42 think, like up by Barney's Creek was that the fish that
43 were getting up later, that were able to, that they're
44 loosening up the eggs from the fish that already have
45 come up and it's coming back down. So I don't know
46 what kind of affect that will have but there's just way
47 too many fish. It's interesting to see how much fish,
48 it was like raindrops in the bay this summer.
49

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Della, I think you're spot
2 on. I worked with the Department. In '82 and '92 were
3 fantastic runs like that and the following returning
4 years dropped way off. That's a very good observation.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
7 Did you have a comment, please state your name.
8

9 MR. EVANS: Hi, this is Tom Evans, I'm
10 a wildlife biologist.
11

12 Last year you guys mentioned, or I
13 think it was mentioned that ptarmigan may be declining
14 and I haven't heard any real reports about what the
15 status of the ptarmigan are so I'd kind of like to hear
16 if that's continuing or what's going on with them.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you guys want
19 to comment.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I guess
24 we're not seeing them there's no comment.
25

26 (Laughter)
27

28 MR. HOLMES: The last chat -- this is
29 Pat, the last chat I had with Ronnie Lind over at
30 Karluk, he said that it didn't look like things had
31 improved much.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.
34

35 Thank you, Pat.
36

37 MS. BERNES: Yeah, I know that this was
38 talked about at our migratory bird meeting and there
39 was concern about the ptarmigan. I know that the folks
40 from Akhiok, in particular, said that they used to be
41 able to harvest pretty close to the community. They
42 said that they -- when the wind would blow a certain
43 direction they would come over from Sitkalidak and they
44 said that they haven't seen ptarmigan very much in the
45 south side of the island as much as they had in years
46 past and they're also -- one of their concerns was the
47 increase in the eagle population and they're wondering
48 if the eagles are playing a part in that decline in the
49 population.
50

1 It's been awhile since I've been up
2 hiking in the high country and that's where we
3 generally see the ptarmigan around Old Harbor so I
4 don't have any experience from my area, in particular,
5 but I know that there was a concern for the south side
6 of the island.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
9 Melissa. Any other comments.

10
11 Antone.

12
13 MR. SHELIKOFF: Thanks, Della. Yeah, I
14 can't speak for Cold Bay hunters, but there was some
15 local person, I won't mention his name, but he was
16 saying that the sportfishermen, sport hunters were
17 shooting off the ptarmigan and trying to give the
18 ptarmigan to the local people and the locals will not
19 take ptarmigan because it was -- the meat was like
20 cheese and I don't blame the local person for not
21 taking them but -- and I think they should have some
22 kind of restriction of closing that hunt to the sport
23 fishermen until the ptarmigan can rebound, or rebuild.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Antone.

29
30 All right, we'll move on to the Chair's
31 report. I don't -- do we have -- Karen -- Mitch isn't
32 here so.....

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, there's
35 no Chair report from Mitch.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
40 move on to service awards.

41
42 We had this on our agenda and Tom
43 Doolittle will be providing this.

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: I get to wear my
46 glasses and a tie for this for sure.

47
48 I think this is the fun part about
49 being the Deputy Assistant Regional Director for OSM,
50

1 and that is to recognize people in service.

2
3 And every time I look at wildlife
4 regulations or the Federal subsistence regulations, or
5 I look at the proposed regulations, I think of all the
6 RACs and all the people and really how unique a system
7 we really have. It's a bottom up system and it's one
8 that really comes from the people to the Regional
9 Advisory Councils for decisionmakers and the Federal
10 Board. And there's no other wildlife and fishery
11 management system like it in the world. And I think
12 it's the leadership from here, and my sincerest thanks
13 to yourselves and getting to know you last night was
14 one of my great honors of -- and, really, in my career.
15 Because I get the opportunity to, you know, work with
16 people to solve problems and you guys are it, you're
17 the point on that.

18
19 We always bring up in ANILCA and about
20 subsistence, we bring about a couple of things, we talk
21 about conservation concern is number 1, and, of course,
22 that makes all the sense in the world. Conservation,
23 because certainly we have to have a resource or
24 subsistence doesn't exist. But in ANILCA there's --
25 it's not an and, it's for the continued use of --
26 continued subsistence uses. And it really reflects on
27 our lives and lifestyles. It's about getting together
28 with family, friends, the preparation of food, our
29 communities as we talk about our elders and the
30 importance of caribou, is that really hunting, fishing
31 and subsistence is our being, it's a way that people
32 generally live. And keeping that in perspective, I
33 think, is very, very important and one of the great
34 decisions that RACs also make, is to maintain our
35 lifestyles. And many times when we look at
36 regulations, you're not just looking at the resource
37 but how this affects people and the way they live and
38 how this would affect their culture.

39
40 So I kind of want everybody to think
41 about the two sides of ANILCA and it's purposes as a
42 land swath, is that, it is a conservation-minded piece
43 of legislation but also it's legislation for people and
44 the maintenance of our communities and way of life.

45
46 And with that in mind, one of the --
47 Melissa you've served for five years on this committee,
48 and the Federal Program would like to recognize you and
49 the communities. And there's this little two

50

1 paragraphs that were put together, in part, by your
2 peers, and so I'll read this.

3

4

It says:

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Ms. Berns, grew up in the village of Old Harbor on Kodiak Island, except for the time she attended college in Anchorage. She was raised in the traditional Alutiiq lifestyle and grew up harvesting subsistence foods in the area. She uses marine mammals, seals, sea otters, sea lions, birds, cormorants, mallards, pintails, Canada geese, seagull eggs, fish and all five species of Pacific salmon, halibut, rockfish, herring, shellfish, tanner and dungeness, and king crab, razor clams and octopus and berries, salmonberries, blueberries, high bush cranberries and mossberries.

She learned from going out with her parents and community members, mostly extended family. She learned marine mammals etiquette from her maternal uncle. Ms. Berns learned from her parents and extended family in Old Harbor how to prepare the various foods in the tradition methods.

She is asked to do presentations on cooking traditionally for local organizations and schools, including information on diet and nutrition, all parts of the animal, fish or plant are utilized and what wasn't eaten was made into art, tools, or crafts. She has learned to butcher in a traditional manner and is called upon to instruct others, particular young people.

Ms. Berns is involved in her community and is comfortable speaking to groups and teaching young people. She has been the vice-president of the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor for the past 10 years.

1 She has been actively involved in the
2 tribal youth program and has been the
3 program lead for the last three years.
4 She has been a board member for Cape
5 Barnabas Incorporated and community
6 quota entity for Old Harbor halibut
7 fisheries for six years. She is an
8 alternate representative for Old Harbor
9 area for the State Fish and Game
10 Advisory Committee for the Kodiak area.
11 Ms. Berns is on the Mountain Goat
12 Advisory Committee. She has been
13 involved for 13 years with users as she
14 does harvest activities.

15
16 She interacts with other tribes and
17 non-profits on a regular basis. She
18 has also been involved in the Rural
19 Roundtable Group, which consists of
20 local tribes, Alaska Native Claims
21 Settlement Act Corporations and local
22 government representatives, which meets
23 three times a year.

24
25 She maintains a networking pool through
26 email, shares pertinent information
27 with people who prefer that type of
28 communication.

29
30 Holy smokes, that's unbelievable.

31
32 Melissa, this is for you from the
33 Federal Subsistence Board, a certificate of
34 appreciation for your five years with us.

35
36 MS. BERNs: Thank you very much.

37
38 (Applause)

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: You must have started
41 at birth.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, I hate to always
44 speak that there are elders on the Regional Advisory
45 Committee and when you really think about long-term
46 service is that we have a subsistence Regional Advisory
47 Council member, Della Trumble, who has been on this
48 Council for 20 years. That's just amazing to me.

49
50

1 (Applause)

2

3

4

MR. DOOLITTLE: This is like a real
holy smokes.

5

6

7

(Laughter)

8

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I took a break.

9

10

11

12

MR. DOOLITTLE: So, Ms. Trumble, is a
long-time incumbent to the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
Advisory Council.

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21

She was born and raised in King Cove.
Her family has harvested resources from
the land and commercial fisheries for
generations. She was taught the way to
do things by her family and continues
to pass down that knowledge to family
and anyone who wants to learn.

22

23

24

25

Ms. Trumble is very actively involved
in fish and wildlife issues and well
aware of subsistence issues in the
whole area.

26

27

28

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31

32

She is a point of contact and works
directly with user groups and with
ADF&G and Staff from Izembek National
Wildlife Refuge toward resolving fish
and wildlife issues.

33

34

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37

Ms. Trumble understands what the
concerns of the people are in her area
and is familiar with Kodiak as she went
to high school there.

38

39

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44

She has also been on the
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council since its inception
with only brief intermissions during
her appointments and at times serving
as Chair person to the Council.

45

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Ms. Trumble would like to see
communication continue to improve with
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge as
well as with Alaska Peninsula and
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife

1 Refuges with the users and interested
2 stakeholders. Educating the user
3 groups is a concern for her because
4 people do not understand what they can
5 and cannot do. She would like to see
6 the designated hunter program align
7 with the State and caribou remains a
8 high priority in her view.
9

10 Ms. Trumble's references described her
11 as very active and knowledgeable, since
12 about the 1970s in boards and councils
13 and everything to do with fish and
14 wildlife issues, noting she is
15 concerned about protecting the resource
16 as well as keeping people informed.
17 She is described as an excellent
18 communicator and leader and they all
19 highly recommend her to serve on the
20 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
21 Council. One noted she is recognized
22 by her senators and representatives
23 from the walks of government.
24

25 So, Della, I would like to present this
26 to you, which I think, we really thought, as a Staff,
27 what would be most meaningful to you and youth.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I love this,
30 this is perfect.
31

32 (Applause)
33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, Dale should
35 have been here.
36

37 (Applause)
38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: That artwork was done
40 by -- what's her first name?
41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The artwork's by
43 Nichole Gould, and Dale was going to come this morning
44 and I wish he had to see this.
45

46 But I'd like to say thank you very
47 much. It's been my pleasure to serve the people in the
48 region and working with Kodiak. And I'll have to say I
49 remember being the Chair the first time and going to a
50

1 statewide meeting and having to fight for subsistence
2 king crab in Womens Bay, I didn't have a clue, on what
3 in the world did I get myself into, but we got on the
4 phone and talked to people and, you know, I got my
5 direction and we got it, you know, and that is -- I'm
6 very appreciative. It's been my pleasure. It's so
7 important to our communities.

8
9 Melissa, I have to say this, I went to
10 high school with her mom and dad in Kodiak, they're
11 close friends of mine, and it's just a pleasure sitting
12 here and listening to her getting recognized for all
13 that she's doing because, you know, I'm looking at Jada
14 here, she's with me, and I'm hoping she steps in my
15 shoes one of these days. But we work closely with our
16 kids to be able to see how important it is to
17 communicate, speak up and fight for what you believe in
18 and working together, you can usually come to a good
19 resolution somewhere down the line.

20
21 And I think with that I'm really proud
22 of the ladies on this Council, so, guys, you have to
23 step up to the plate.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But thank you
28 very much, I appreciate that. And I think if we can,
29 I'd like to take a break.

30
31 Thank you. We'll take 10 minutes.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody,
38 we'll call the meeting back to order.

39
40 The next item on our agenda is public
41 and tribal comment on non-agenda items. We do have a
42 gentleman that has filled out a blue form, so if John
43 Arkley, if you'd like to come to the mic and introduce
44 yourself and make your comments.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. ARKLEY: Okay, we ready.

49
50

1 REPORTER: Yes.

2
3 MR. ARKLEY: Okay. I'm not very good
4 at speaking in public but it's -- I've always got
5 questions about this sort of thing, about the
6 subsistence. And a couple of them are, why is Unit 9D
7 the only unit that swans -- that tundra swans aren't
8 allowed to be subsistence hunted?

9
10 And let's see here, is there any
11 possibility of the Unimak Caribou Herd to be
12 subsistence hunting? Is there any idea when it might
13 be opened again? And what are the populations?
14 Because I don't believe a count was done of the caribou
15 herds, and if so why not?

16
17 And, then, of course, always, laws,
18 subsistence, I think is a good thing. I think it would
19 be much better if laws were enforced that are in place
20 because I've never seen an enforcement officer down
21 here actually check or do anything like that, and that
22 would be good. And just overall, checking, even on the
23 Refuge.

24
25 So, anyway, just a few things.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, John.

30
31 For those of you that will be making
32 reports, maybe you can answer John's questions. John,
33 are you available to be here all day today or are
34 you.....

35
36 MR. ARKLEY: Yes.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Then, if
39 we can, we'll have the various agencies maybe respond
40 to your questions and comments in their reports.

41
42 Do we have any other public comments.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any tribes or
47 organizations on line at this time.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I guess
2 we will move on but if anybody would like to make any
3 public comments, during the course of the meeting we do
4 leave that open, just fill out a blue form in the back
5 of the room.

6
7 Moving on to old business.

8
9 Karen, I think we have any at this
10 time.

11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. There
13 are no items, policy items from OSM. It seems like all
14 of the old business has been completed, with the
15 exception of the MOU between the Alaska Department of
16 Fish and Game and the Office of Subsistence Management,
17 that draft document is still being worked on and will
18 be presented to the Council the next go around.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Karen.

24
25 Moving on to new business, we have Item
26 A, wildlife proposals. OSM wildlife anthropology.

27
28 Tom Evans.

29
30 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Madame Chair.
31 Members of the Council -- Acting Chair, I guess.

32
33 I will do a presentation here on
34 Proposal WP18-20. It was submitted by the
35 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

36
37 It was requested that the harvest limit
38 be changed from one bull to one caribou and that the
39 fall harvest season be extended from August 10th to
40 September 20th to August 1st to September 30th in Unit
41 9D. The proponent stated that the Federal caribou
42 regulations in Unit 9D are more restrictive than the
43 State regulations and that currently most Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users in the area are hunting
45 under State regulations.

46
47 The Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd is
48 genetically distinct from the Unimak Caribou Herd and
49 managed separately now. In 2015 the minimum population
50

1 count was 1,568 animals. The State's management
2 objectives for this population is 3,000 to 4,000
3 animals. The cow/calf ratios have averaged 31 calves
4 per 100 cows since 2011. And under normal conditions
5 25 calves per 100 cows is needed to to kind of offset
6 adult mortality. Bull/cow ratios have averaged 45
7 bulls per 100 cows since 2011 which, again, is above
8 the State management goals of 35 bulls per 100 cows.

9
10 The State also has, I guess it's part
11 of their management scheme, is that there's no harvest
12 if the bull/cow ratio falls below 20 bulls per 100
13 cows, or if the population is below the 1,000 animals
14 and in decline.

15
16 Oh, if you're looking for the proposal,
17 it's in your supplemental material. Yeah, so it's not
18 in the book.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 MR. EVANS: Go ahead, Karen.

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. It's in
25 the book in the back behind the supplemental materials
26 tab.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 And for the public there are copies
31 back on the back table.

32
33 MR. EVANS: So removal of the
34 restrictions for Federally-qualified subsistence users
35 allows the same opportunity as provided under State
36 regulations. And, once, again, currently most of the
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users are harvesting
38 caribou under the State regulations because they are
39 more liberal, the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
40 Herd is able to sustain the current harvest and there's
41 no indication that removal of the restrictions for the
42 Federally-qualified subsistence user is going to
43 substantially increase the harvest. Increasing
44 population trend and a bull/cow ratio since 2013
45 suggests that the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
46 Herd could sustain a potential increase in the harvest
47 as a result of the changes to the Federal regulations.

48
49 In the past -- there is some concern in
50

1 the past that this herd has experienced wide population
2 fluctuations and currently the population is only about
3 50 percent of the recommended lower threshold
4 recommended by the State, so there's still some concern
5 and need for some conservative management schemes.

6
7 The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
8 manager has delegated authority to determine and
9 announce harvest quotas and any needed closures. Thus,
10 they have the regulatory flexibility to adjust the
11 harvest if needed based on fluctuations of the
12 population. So it seems like there's kind of
13 guidelines already in place that would allow the herd
14 to be -- the season to be closed, if necessary.

15
16 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
17 support Proposal WP18-20 with the modification to
18 remove the unit specific regulation referencing quotas
19 and closures and delegate the authority to the Izembek
20 National Wildlife Refuge to announce the quotas and any
21 needed closures via delegation of authority letter.

22
23 That concludes my presentation on that
24 one.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

27
28 Karen, can you refresh my memory on
29 this, at this particular time all the Councils listed,
30 in their meetings, to make comments on this proposal;
31 is that correct?

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I'm not
34 sure I understand your question. All the Council
35 members?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have the
38 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
39 recommendation, Southcentral, Kodiak/Aleutians, that's
40 listed all on here, is that what the process is, or
41 what exactly -- or what is the process we're following
42 right now?

43
44 MR. EVANS: So when we do these, this
45 is just an artifact for statewide proposals, we would
46 -- all the Councils could participate -- or in areas
47 where they overlap with customary and traditional use.
48 These are listed here, but they don't need to be listed
49 here in the executive summary that we have here, so

50

1 basically it'll just be -- this is just primarily for
2 Kodiak/Aleutians. You'll notice there's no comments
3 there, so it's not a statewide proposal either, so it's
4 not -- it doesn't fall under that category.

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, I have a
7 question whenever it's appropriate.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: And I'm not sure who this
13 question is directed to. So from this meeting, is an
14 appropriate action to accept the proposed amendment or
15 proposed changes?

16
17 MR. EVANS: That's up to the RAC here,
18 they can make a recommendation to support it, to oppose
19 it, or to support it with a modification.

20
21 MS. SKINNER: Okay. But I guess my
22 question is, you need some sort of feedback from us on
23 the suggested changes?

24
25 MR. EVANS: Correct.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I may, I
28 think -- now that I've got this, this is what we're
29 following at this time, so if we look at this, we just
30 had the introduction by Tom and the presentation of
31 analysis, so the next item would be report on Board
32 consultation by tribes and ANCSA corporations. Have
33 there been any of that available?

34
35 MR. EVANS: So we did have tribal
36 consultation on this proposal and we got no comments on
37 this proposal.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
40 And then agency comments, we'll start with ADF&G.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have
45 someone from ADF&G on line.

46
47 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris Peterson
48 in King Salmon and I was called out of the office for a
49 minute so I would kind of need to be updated on what it
50

1 is that we are currently addressing?

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: At this time it's WP18 on the changing the regulations -- to align the regulations of Federal and State for caribou in Unit 9D.

(No comments)

(Pause)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame Chair. Generally this portion is where there have been formal comments submitted by the agencies, which had a comment deadline and to my knowledge we did not receive any written comments from ADF&G on this proposal, nor have we received any comments from Federal or tribal entities.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Advisory group comments and other Regional Councils, were there any comments received in that, that's on the list.

MR. EVANS: No, there were not.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Okay, we figured it out.

Summary of written comments.

MR. BURCH: Well, this is Mark Burch from the Department of Fish and Game. I apologize that we haven't gotten written comments into the Regional Advisory Council, but I would ask that Chris be allowed to give some perspective on the proposal.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, that would be great, thank you. Chris, you want to go ahead.

MS. PETERSON: Well, thank you, Madame Chair. And if I'm understanding correctly, we're addressing the WP18-20, 2-0?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.

1 MS. PETERSON: Is that correct?

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

4

5

6

MS. PETERSON: Okay, thank you. I'm sorry, I did get called out of the office there momentarily and at apparently the wrong point in time.

7

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17

So this proposal is the one that would change the bag limit of the Federal caribou registration hunt in 9D from one bull caribou to one caribou and would change the fall harvest season dates from August 10th to September 20th, to -- which is currently, that would be changed to August 1st to September 30th. If that's correct then, yes, we support the proposal, in that, we have no comments that would be negative against this.

18

19

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24

The bag limit currently for the State is one caribou and I believe originally it was set at one bull for the Refuge but that was back when we were very limited in the numbers in the population and so we have no problem with increasing that to be just one caribou.

25

26

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29

The season, the harvest has been very low compared to what we would like -- what's available, and so we have no problem with implementing this proposal.

30

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35

The herd is to be maintained between somewhere 1,000 to 3,000. Once it starts getting up above 3,000 we need to have greater numbers harvested and it cannot be limited to just bulls. So just -- so we have no problems with implementing this proposal.

36

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40

41

Thank you.

42

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Does anybody have any comments for Chris.

Greg.

MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of the Council. I kind of suggested this happen at the last meeting. And the other thing that I had mentioned, and I have been in conversation with the folks at ADF&G about the herd, it is growing and continues to grow and we have actually discussed the

1 possibility of providing a two caribou limit. And I
2 would like to make that offer to the Council.

3
4 We only harvested seven bulls through
5 the Federal subsistence harvest season last year and a
6 total of 89 caribou by sporthunting on the State
7 license. As the population grows we're just simply not
8 going to be able to catch it. Our biggest problem
9 here, of course, is whether or not caribou are
10 available. There's a lot of caribou in Unit 9D but
11 most of them are up around Black Hill and Trader
12 Mountain. We don't have a lot down here. I passed up
13 three small bulls on the Isthmus here in the last few
14 weeks but until we get a big snow or something to push
15 them here, it makes it difficult for people to get
16 those caribou. But nonetheless the opportunity should
17 be there in case the caribou come.

18
19 That would be my recommendation to the
20 Council.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Greg,
23 for bringing that up. Because I also noted in the
24 report, Tom, when you gave it, you used the 1,560,
25 which was the numbers from 2016 and the 2017 reflect
26 2,200 caribou. And, so, I know, Greg, we talked about
27 changing that to two. And so my question at this time
28 would be, to the State, what their comments would be if
29 we amended this proposal to change that to two.

30
31 Chris.

32
33 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
34 Chris.

35
36 His comments are right on mark. The
37 herd is growing rapidly, and in addition to that they
38 all look very healthy. The pregnancy rate is high.
39 The bull/cow ratio has been high for several years,
40 certainly above the minimums that are necessary in the
41 management plan. And we have no problem with
42 increasing the bag limit as long as the population
43 stays where it is now, which is somewhere above 2,000.

44
45 We have, currently, a proposal in to
46 the State Board of Game to base increasing the bag
47 limit -- to base on the harvestable surplus that is
48 available each year. So once the harvestable surplus
49 would be, say, greater than 150 then the bag limit

50

1 would be increased to two animals. The harvestable
2 surplus would be greater than 250 then the bag limit
3 could be increased to three animals. If the
4 harvestable surplus was greater than 450 then the bag
5 limit would be increased to four animals. And if the
6 harvestable surplus was greater than 550 then the bag
7 limit could be increased to five.

8
9 And that is something that is very
10 dependent on getting more surveys done and being able
11 to access that country and, you know, be able to count
12 the animals and see what we have. The last few years
13 it's gone pretty well. There was only one year in the
14 last five years where we were not able to access that
15 area due to the weather. In those years it's very
16 helpful if the Izembek Refuge is able to get out and do
17 their winter count. So we very much appreciate those
18 numbers when they're able to do that. But we will keep
19 -- this proposal to increase the bag limit will be
20 based on what is available each year and we hope that
21 that's something that will pass the Board of Game and
22 we'll be able to use that in our management.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think at this
25 time we have Regional Council comments or questions and
26 it has motion to adopt but I think the Council needs to
27 have the -- Greg, I might ask that you go ahead and
28 stay up here so that the Council members have a time to
29 discuss this with you and Chris.

30
31 Sam.

32
33 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair, thank
34 you.

35
36 In 2016 there was -- well, in 2015
37 there was three permits issued, in 2016 there were 75
38 permits issued, why the big jump in permit issue, in
39 the amount of permits issued. Do you.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: They went from,
42 I think, seven per community to 15 per community. They
43 were available to issue, remember, for subsistence.

44
45 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat,
2 and then I'll go to Tom, and then Rebecca.

3
4 So, Pat.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Having
7 worked out there -- my first trip westward was 1963 and
8 then a lot of time off and on in the '70s, '80s and
9 '90s until I left the Department, I did work out there
10 on salmon, but I think it would be good for Council and
11 the long-term discussion of this to have Fish and Game
12 send Karen a copy of Lem Butler's report from 2009 so
13 they can understand a little more on the dynamics of
14 the population.

15
16 Myself, I'm comfortable with leaving
17 the judgment to discussion on harvest numbers up to the
18 professional biologists. I would ask people to think
19 in terms of caution, though, is snowfall is a variable
20 that determines the distribution of caribou on the
21 Peninsula in my mind and from talking to folks, and I
22 would suggest Ms. Peterson get a hold of Steve Harvey
23 in Anchorage, he was a pilot out there for like 45
24 years and worked his last 25 with the Department, but
25 he was also in the commercial -- anyway just to get a
26 broader perspective, because I can recall when the herd
27 was small and then when it peaked at 10,000, as the
28 population is bigger than the critters, in my mind,
29 distributed themselves over broader areas, in my mind
30 if we wanted to have a greater harvest availability for
31 folks west of Nelson Lagoon and back down to King Cove
32 and folks from Sand Point going across, then you need
33 to probably see the population increase towards the
34 higher end and so I would, myself, be cautious in
35 increasing the harvest level based on a model that's a
36 best guess, but I still would allow -- and that's your
37 folks business.

38
39 I think the key point that was left out
40 in this discussion was Lem Butler's small experiment
41 there for three years on removing wolves that came on
42 the calving grounds and I believe over three years it
43 was 36 wolves in total. I forget the actual number.
44 And 25 the first year, and my numbers might be off,
45 six cubs that they couldn't find, but just that small
46 selective removal, and I know there's a lot of passion
47 and differences of philosophy between agencies and
48 between different public folks on predator control, but
49 I think his small experiment on selective removals on
50

1 only 40 percent of the calving grounds, in my mind,
2 that has been a direct result of the increase in the
3 population and I would also remind folks that the 60
4 percent of Federal lands that was not allowed on.

5
6 So we need to look at this cautiously
7 and take it a step at a time, but I would trust the
8 agencies to talk amongst themselves on a gradual
9 increase but I would suggest caution.

10
11 And I think that beings our Council has
12 discussed this issue, I think that it would be really
13 good to have this alignment between the State and the
14 Federal agencies on the harvest.

15
16 So, thank you very much and anyway
17 that's it for me for now.

18
19 Thank you, Ma'am.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

22
23 MS. PETERSON: Madame.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry,
30 is.....

31
32 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, Chris
33 here.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:that you
36 Chris?

37
38 MS. PETERSON: Yes. If I could just
39 say a little bit.

40
41 Just to clarify because it sounded from
42 Pat's comment, it sounded like perhaps I didn't make
43 something clear there and I want to make sure that it
44 is very clear.

45
46 The numbers that are in the proposal
47 from the State to increase the bag limits will be based
48 on the population and what is available as surplus in
49 that population. And the reason that it will be based

50

1 on that is so that we can be very cautious, but we have
2 to be cautious in two different ways.

3
4 We need to make sure that we do not
5 overharvest on this herd, but because it is such a
6 small herd we also -- and it is prone to reaching its
7 upper limits very rapidly, which can lead to problems
8 with forage, over utilizing the range and various other
9 problems with the herd, so we also need to be cautious
10 to make sure that we don't let it, the herd, reach
11 excessive population numbers. We need to be able to
12 manage it within that window between, say 2,000 and
13 4,000, with 4,000 being a very high number. So once we
14 reach the 3,000 mark we do need to get in there and get
15 the harvest accomplished that we need.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

18
19 MS. PETERSON: So based on that, why
20 this proposal has been put forth to increase the bag
21 limit based on the available surplus. Mr. Homes is 100
22 percent correct in that we need to have caution in this
23 but we need to also be able to increase the harvest
24 quickly and in some cases, if the population suddenly
25 starts increasing very quickly we need to not have to
26 take a year or two to be able to raise our bag limit
27 and get the harvest as needed. So there is no intent
28 in this proposal to overharvest the herd, it is to be
29 able to keep the herd down in the limits that the range
30 is able to support and that the herd in its limited
31 geography there is able to support.

32
33 We also did have kind of an idea that
34 it would be perhaps beneficial for the Federal folks to
35 issue -- rather than issue a separate Federal permit,
36 just simply require your subsistence hunters to hunt on
37 the State permit. That would kind of simplify the
38 reporting process and the acquisition of the data from
39 the hunt would all be going to one source, which would
40 simplify the management issues. It's just a
41 recommendation from us, it would be something that
42 might be beneficial.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with you 100
2 percent. I was just reflecting on a lot of time hunting
3 and hiking out there in terms of your goals. And I
4 understand and accept those but you also need to still
5 be able to look at population density in terms of
6 distribution over the entire area and if you go out now
7 in the southwestern portion and the blueberries are now
8 up to your chin, the brush and the forage and odds and
9 ends -- lost -- (telephone breaking up).....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm sorry, I got
14 lost there. These silly flip-phones, I need a 12 year
15 old to help me with it.

16

17 I was just saying that I agree with the
18 Fish and Game biologist on all the points they made and
19 I was merely, you know, referencing the reasons why
20 things have changed. I agree with the need to be
21 conservative but you need to also keep in mind the
22 distribution of that population over the area and so I
23 would just -- that would be my caution. And in terms
24 of looking at the habitat, I haven't been all over the
25 area in quite some time, but with our meetings at Cold
26 Bay I've noticed a -- I can't remember when -- when the
27 herd was -- it was probably over 10,000 where they'd
28 take a truck out to get the caribou off the runway and
29 all their forage items would be four to six inches high
30 and now they're five to six feet high and all the
31 caribou are far to the north.

32

33 And I certainly trust you folks but I
34 would just suggest that you keep an eye on the
35 distribution in relation to the population numbers that
36 you folks have set because caribou, I acknowledge, are
37 a tricky critter to manage.

38

39 Anyway, my hat's off to you for your
40 efforts. Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

43

44 Tom.

45

46 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm ready to make a
47 motion but I'll hold off if anybody else has some other
48 discussion.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

2
3 MS. SKINNER: All right, I have three
4 questions.

5
6 The first, I just want to clarify the
7 information we have in front of us. So in the, I'm
8 going to call it the OSM Staff report, on Page 12,
9 there's a chart that shows the number of harvest
10 permits and it says that 75 permits were issued in
11 2016. I'm comparing that to Page 2 of the Izembek
12 Staff report where there's a chart that indicates 31
13 permits were issued, I think in 2016, but I just want
14 to know, are these two different sets of information
15 that don't cover the same thing or is there a conflict
16 in data?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Greg, can
19 you.....

20
21 MS. SKINNER: And then can both of you
22 -- like both of you see what I'm comparing?

23
24 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, we see it, that's a
25 good catch. To be honest I'm not really sure -- I only
26 put the current harvest for this past year in so
27 without having the previous years I'm wondering if
28 we're just one year -- that could have -- that doesn't
29 make sense at all actually.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Well, it strikes me that
32 maybe the 75 was permits allocated, not permits
33 actually issued.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's what it
36 was, remember, we talked about the 15 permits per
37 community and getting all the proper paperwork in to
38 issue those permits, that's the difference.

39
40 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Madame Chair.
41 Members of the Council.

42
43 I was looking at State harvest tickets
44 on Page 12 that you're referring to, yes, so for some
45 reason on 2016 the data isn't in this table but it was
46 -- there were 75 total permits, but I do not believe
47 that that's the total number that were issued for that
48 year. We had 31 permits issued, it was just 75 permits
49 available.

50

1 MS. SKINNER: Okay.

2

3 MR. EVANS: Yeah, that's correct.

4 Based -- we wrote these reports earlier on before we
5 had this updated information so.....

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Okay. All right.

8

9 MR. EVANS:that's.....

10

11 MS. SKINNER: All right.

12

13 MR. EVANS:so that is correct.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you for
16 clarifying.

17

18 So in 2016 there were 31 permits issued
19 and the community-specific details for that can be
20 found on Page 2 of the Izembek Staff report, great.

21

22 Second question. With the winter
23 counts, the Izembek Staff report notes that there
24 wasn't a winter count, 2016 winter, because we're not
25 to 2017 winter yet, because there wasn't enough Staff.
26 Do you expect going forward that there would be enough
27 Staff, or is this a long-term, just budget cut, there
28 won't be enough Staff in the future?

29

30 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of
31 the Council. I wish I knew the answer to that.

32

33 I did speak with my boss yesterday and
34 he assured me out of the Refuge managers, and the
35 refuges he supervises, I am one of eight, he said the
36 biologist at Izembek is the number 1 priority because
37 -- I wrote the report this year because I didn't have a
38 biologist to do it so we really do need a biologist.
39 If we have a biologist, if funding's available, if the
40 Federal hiring freeze within Fish and Wildlife Service
41 is lifted, I have already done the paperwork for that
42 position, I am waiting for the go ahead to be able to
43 send in the waiver to hire to fill that position so our
44 goal is to have a biologist here, it's just a matter
45 of, things happen, you know, we -- Stacy left during
46 the shuffle before the new administration came into
47 office, which was going on all over the country, and
48 then Chris decided to leave and we gave him an
49 opportunity, to help him out, it was sort of a hardship

50

1 case, so he's down in Washington and that's working
2 out. But as a result we've been relying on our
3 partners to help us on a lot of our biological surveys,
4 and I'm the report writer.

5
6 But we hope to get somebody in that
7 position and be able to continue doing those surveys.

8
9 But with the State as our number 1
10 partner out here, they did do their surveys. They
11 classified from this year 1,400 animals and gave us
12 some good numbers on the bull/cow ratio and cow/calf
13 ratio, which I have included in this report on Page 3
14 for the 9D herd. It was 49 bulls per 100 cows, 38
15 calves per 100 cows. And, likewise, they also did a
16 survey on Unimak Island. So we're still getting good
17 information because Fish and Game is helping us out on
18 that.

19
20 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you. So
21 making some assumptions and drawing some conclusions
22 from that, I would assume it's possible you probably
23 wouldn't have a biologist for the 2017 winter count and
24 that's me saying that, not you, but that if things work
25 out you do plan to have another biologist and in which
26 case you would plan to do the winter surveys.

27
28 Okay.

29
30 And then my third question, and you
31 don't have to answer this, but do you have thoughts on
32 the State's suggestion to require State permits rather
33 than having a separate Federal permit?

34
35
36 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of
37 the Council.

38
39 Actually, you know, I don't really mind
40 the idea too much. There is one exception to that, and
41 that is our designated hunter permits under the Federal
42 system make it a lot easier for a hunter to harvest
43 game for other people. The State does have a program
44 also but it is more stringent. So that really is the
45 main thing for us. IT makes sense to have one agency
46 keeping track of the harvest, but the one thing that we
47 have is the designated hunter permit that really does
48 -- can benefit some individuals in a community.
49 Because one guy can go out who's a really excellent

50

1 hunter and harvest caribou for any number of people.

2

3 So that would be my only thought on
4 that.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: All right, and thank you
7 for those comments. The designated hunter option or
8 program is very important so it's helpful that you
9 clarified that.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

14

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Coral.

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MR. RISDAHL: Well, I'll give you my
thoughts on that.

You know some guys are really great at
hunting, you know we call them super hunters basically
and that's what they live to do, and those are the guys
that are going to provide food for the tribe. The only
issue, I think, and I don't know how that all came
about, when those regulations were -- when those
sideboards were put into place, but like when I go
moose hunting, I like to have at least one other guy,
if not two guys with me, because one moose by myself is

1 a lot to handle. In the case of caribou, if I shoot
2 caribou, that's probably more than I'm going to want to
3 handle in a day anyway, and it varies with where you
4 go. So in Cold Bay, it's not a big deal to shoot a
5 couple caribou, nobody camps out here. You go out and
6 you hunt caribou, you shoot a couple caribou, you'd be
7 home by that night, and that's probably all you'd want
8 to handle. Now if you were -- if you happened upon a
9 big herd and you could shoot more, you'd probably want
10 to call somebody and say, hey I need some help
11 butchering these caribou or something. So, you know,
12 whether or not we need to change that, you know, I
13 guess that's kind of a judgment call. I personally
14 don't have any strong feelings.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I can maybe
17 respond to some of that. If you look at the designated
18 hunter permit, it has quite a number of lines on there
19 so you could actually hunt for more than one person.
20 You may not have to -- maybe in one day have two in
21 possession, but you could go the next day and probably
22 hunt two for two more people. Because if you look at
23 that form, it does have a number of lines on it. And
24 you can correct me if I'm wrong but that's what I
25 recall.

26
27 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair, that is
28 correct. It doesn't mean that you're limited to taking
29 two caribou or something for other individuals, it's
30 just that you're allowed two a day. You know, so in
31 other words, your possession limit, then you bring it
32 home, then you go back out the next day and you can
33 harvest a couple of more. And you can continue to do
34 that throughout the season. And if there was actually
35 any reason behind that, you know, because two caribou
36 is more than enough for one person to handle, I don't
37 know. But that is -- you can certainly harvest more
38 than two per, whatever, possession limit, it's just
39 daily, it's a daily possession limit.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, my experience is
44 that -- I believe if we would increase it we will find
45 more waste and so my opinion is we leave it as it is.
46 If I want to go out as a designated hunter, I could
47 take my caribou and a caribou for Sam and that's all
48 I'm going to be able to handle. And if I shoot more
49 it's going to get wasted, you know, either the bears
50

1 are going to get it or something's going to happen to
2 it before I can get it out of the field.

3
4 So I, for one, would say leave it as it
5 is.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Any
10 other comments, discussion.

11
12 Rick, I believe, is not on line right
13 now so -- Tom.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: I agree with Tom. Thank
20 you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, do you have
23 a comment.

24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: A motion.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Regarding Proposal
30 WP18-20.

31
32 I would make a motion that we approve
33 this proposal with a couple of changes.

34
35 Under proposed regulation, Unit 9D
36 caribou, allow two caribou by Federal registration
37 permit and then with the modification under the support
38 there, with that modification, so to allow the Refuge
39 to close the season if necessary.

40
41 So that would be my proposal.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.

44
45 MS. BERNS: I was going to second it.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Members
48 of the Council. I apologize for the confusion. We
49 have also an invite for any public testimony, not just
50

1 agency testimony that should be done prior to a motion
2 by the Council. So an invitation for that.

3

4 Secondly, I apologize for earlier
5 saying that the agencies couldn't orally comment, I was
6 referring to written comments and there are none, and
7 we have the agencies comments, which I think is great.
8 But the next step on the card is to invite public
9 testimony and if there is not, then the Council can
10 proceed to make a motion.

11

12

Thank you.

13

14

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen, I thought
we had done that but I'll ask again. Is there anybody
in the public that would like to make a comment in
regard to this proposal.

18

19

Leticia.

20

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MS. MELENDEZ: Madame Chair and
Regional Council. I just wanted to add, as we talked
about the Subsistence Federal caribou hunt at Izembek
National Wildlife Refuge, there has been a process that
was introduced when we send out the permits when we
started the program and it has a unique code for each
of the permits. And I don't know if you all've noticed
it, Della, if you've noticed it, but it's a unique code
at the very bottom of the permits in addition to a
website. Now, the hunter, once they've harvested their
caribou can actually access that website and enter that
unique code and it identifies who they are and then
brings up questions about how they obtained their
harvest. They can enter that information into the
database, into the subsistence database and it actually
counts the harvest and that's how they keep up with the
harvest reports.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

1 Go ahead, Sam.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Just a
4 question. What's the participation in that, what are
5 you seeing, for people actually following through with
6 that after the hunt?

7

8 MS. MELENDEZ: I haven't been able to
9 actually see what the successful rate of that entry is
10 but it seems to be pretty helpful for the communities
11 to be able to get on the internet and actually plug
12 that in rather than save that harvest report that's
13 attached to the permit and make sure that they hold and
14 have it and then mail it to us. So it just depends
15 upon the user, if they are willing to get on the
16 internet and it's easy for them to input that
17 information then it still gets recorded, if they'd
18 rather not, they can still out that harvest report and
19 just throw it in the mail and we can get it. But I do
20 not have a success rate of either one, I just know that
21 we do get our permits out and our harvest report in,
22 but it's another way to record your harvest reports.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then, Sam,
25 one of the things I've been doing because I've been
26 doing these in King Cove. When I worked at the tribe I
27 used to do them out of that office but I started doing
28 them out of the King Cove Corporation office, but I've
29 been just kind of asking everybody if you're more
30 comfortable, drop these back off to me, I'll get all
31 the information to Fish and Wildlife when this is all
32 done and that way I'm finding sometimes it's easier for
33 people to just say, here, Della, you take this and I'm
34 happy to do it, perfect, and that way at least we get
35 something.

36

37 MS. MELENDEZ: That sounds like a great
38 idea.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, that would be my
43 only concern, that it's an either or, so either I can
44 mail the permit in or I can go on line, but I don't
45 have to go on line.

46

47 MS. MELENDEZ: That's correct. And I
48 think if it's communicated, when we have the POC, i.e.,
49 Della Trumble for King Cove, she can talk to her folks

50

1 and say this is an option, but either way you can give
2 it to me and I can mail it off to Izembek or you can
3 get on to the computer yourself and enter the
4 information, it's really up to them as long as it's
5 communicated and we get the record of it, that's what's
6 the goal.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And to be honest
9 with you, I plan to call all the people that I have all
10 the copies of just to follow through in case they
11 haven't taken the time to do that, because that's
12 sometimes the other issue, people just don't take the
13 time to do it.

14
15 MS. MELENDEZ: Yeah, people are busy, I
16 understand.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

19
20 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, that's all I
21 had.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Angela.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One moment, Pat,
28 please, we have someone in the audience.

29
30 Angela.

31
32 MS. SIMPSON: Madame Chair and Members,
33 thank you for listening to me. I just really want to
34 show some caution about that these are estimated
35 models. Right here it says that this is an estimated
36 population simulation, and without the Staffing of a
37 possible biologist position here to really get those
38 counts for this next winter, I really want to make sure
39 this is -- you know, models are portrayed a lot, but I
40 really want to make sure that we're taking this in the
41 best interest and making sure that we're not increasing
42 these limits, that are going to harm the herd for
43 future years. You know, you can open up special hunts
44 later, but until we really have those hard numbers, I
45 think that's really a cautionary item that really needs
46 to be considered.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Angela.

3
4 And, Greg, can you respond to that.
5 Did you not make the comment that you had numbers from
6 the State.

7
8 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Madame Chair. What
9 Angela's referring to is I have an asterisk on the
10 2016/2017 composition survey information on Page 3.
11 The only part of that table there that was actually
12 modeled was the estimated population. The actual
13 classification was of a sample size of 1,442 caribou
14 and the Fish and Game Department, in doing that survey,
15 came up with a population count of 49 bulls per 100
16 cows and 39 calves per 100 cows, and those are from
17 actual numbers that were observed in the field. So
18 those are actual numbers and a survey -- a sample
19 survey of 1,400 animals for that herd is actually an
20 excellent survey because, you know, that's
21 approximately three-quarters of the total herd, so it's
22 a pretty darn good sample size.

23
24 But the total count is just an estimate
25 and that's what was modeled, that number 2,200 is the
26 only modeled number, the rest of them are actual
27 numbers. And, yes, as Tom was saying that is totally
28 standard Fish and Game survey information, that's the
29 way it's been done -- it's done all over the United
30 States, all over the world for that matter.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And, Tom,
33 did you have one more comment.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: No.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing
38 none, we do have a motion.....

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:on the
43 floor -- oh, I'm sorry, Pat, go ahead.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: I think Angela's point was
46 what I was trying to get at and I didn't hear anything
47 definitive of the reason to increase to two. I think
48 the harvest we should be dealing with the proposal that
49 we have at hand of one and that we -- you know, that it

50

1 would be recognized that if the biologist, the game
2 biologist with the State and the Feds, felt that
3 something occurred with the herd, they got this State
4 model and then if they felt an increase was
5 appropriate, because when you increase the number then
6 you also have the sporthunt, you got, you know, the
7 State subsistence -- we're talking about the Federal
8 subsistence and trying to get the Federal subsistence
9 aligned with the State and so that's a sticky issue.
10 And so I would like, in terms of clarification, of why
11 the two, and also in terms of the discussion on Page 1,
12 OSM preliminary conclusion, they drop that the quota --
13 needed closures will be announced by the Izembek Refuge
14 manager after consultation with ADF&G, and I think our
15 discussions we've had over the years has shown that you
16 need to have both agencies working together and that
17 they need to consult and so I would have some
18 reservations about deleting that sentence in the OSM
19 recommendation and I would like to hear some
20 discussions definitively that two is necessary at this
21 point. You could say up to two, or you could have some
22 verbiage saying after consultation and meeting the
23 necessary model, whichever one you're going to use, I
24 can't give you quite the verbiage but I don't know that
25 we're -- I'm not comfortable with saying going for two
26 and deleting that last sentence.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

31

32 I want maybe a clarification.

33

34 Number 1, you mentioned a special
35 action to increase it. Well, it's every two years on
36 wildlife and we tried to do a special action just to
37 change this and we were told we can't because there's
38 not a harvest issue, our problem, so we -- as far as
39 caribou are on -- on 9D we're on a two year cycle, so
40 kind of keep that in mind. I think we need to be
41 reminded of that.

42

43 And, yeah, just kind of keep that in
44 mind. So what we're doing now is setting something
45 starting in 2018 that's going to be going on to 2020.
46 If I think there's an issue of having to do an
47 emergency closure, both the Fish and Wildlife and the
48 State have that ability to make that decision jointly;
49 am I correct? Go ahead, Tom.

50

1 MR. EVANS: This is Tom Evans.

2
3 So in the delegation of authority
4 letter it does state that Federal managers are expected
5 to work with managers of the State, the Council Chair
6 and the appropriate Council members to minimize
7 disruption to the subsistence resource. So it's
8 expected that when someone has delegation of authority
9 they consult the parties, and it specifically mentions
10 the State in this case.

11
12 So that, I think, covers what your
13 issue is with taking the language out of the
14 regulations and putting it into the delegation of
15 authority, Pat.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

20
21 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I
22 wanted to comment on that and then I was waiting to
23 comment on the increase to two until we had that
24 modified language on the table actually because I do
25 have some comments on that.

26
27 But, yeah, just to agree with what Tom
28 said about the delegated authority, my understanding is
29 the Refuge manager has that for all of the subsistence
30 regulations so, again, there's no reason to put that
31 language specifically into this one, when they already
32 do that for all of the hunting regulations, is my
33 understanding, so it's just redundant.

34
35 MR. EVANS: Yeah, all the Refuges don't
36 have delegated authority for all species and stuff, so
37 we have delegation of authority kind of goes by species
38 and by location and units, so but by taking it out of
39 the regulations it makes sense to not have it in
40 regulation and have the Refuge manager -- it allows
41 more.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participant phones not muted)

45
46 MR. EVANS:flexibility for them
47 to change the regulations on a more timely basis,
48 because without the delegation of -- if it stays in
49 regulations, then as Della mentioned, then if you

50

1 wanted to change the regulations out of the sequence,
2 you know, in the in between year then you would have to
3 do a special action, which takes more time and it's not
4 as -- it's a more cumbersome process basically.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: I'm not sure if this is a
11 comment or a question.

12

13 So I think I understood Pat's
14 question/concern about why are we going up to two
15 caribou. I thought that Chris from Fish and Game said
16 that they put forward a proposal to the Board of Game
17 to change the bag limit for this caribou and I think
18 that is Proposal 126, so we're going to be discussing
19 that proposal shortly and we'll have an opportunity to
20 submit comment to the Board of Game. I guess my
21 question, or throwing this out as an idea, do we want
22 to table the action we're currently working on until
23 we've discussed Proposal 126 under, I think it ended up
24 under Item D of new business, if people are concerned
25 about increasing the bag limit.

26

27 My understanding was, from past Council
28 discussion, there was a desire to not have subsistence
29 hunting be more restricted than the State hunting and
30 so to me it's logical that if the State is going to
31 increase the bag limit to two, that if we don't
32 increase it now, we're just going to be coming back in
33 two years and increasing it. But I understand the
34 cautionary note as well.

35

36 So I guess a question I do have, if we
37 change the language to say up to two, is that something
38 then the Refuge manager could make it one or make it
39 two, or how does that work in practice?

40

41 I'm seeing nods of heads.

42

43 MR. EVANS: No, I just had to think
44 about this. This is Tom from OSM, Fish and Wildlife.

45

46 If the manager has delegated authority
47 to set the quotas, yes, they could change it from one
48 to two, they could do that. So I have to look at the
49 delegation of authority to see if it says that they can

50

1 change the quotas, so just bear with me for a little
2 bit here.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MR. EVANS: Yes, so it does say to set
7 quotas and any needed closures for caribou on Federal
8 public lands in Unit 9D so absolutely.

9

10 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So if I'm
11 interpreting that or understanding that correctly, if
12 we changed our motion to say, instead of having the bag
13 limit of one, as is in the original proposal or just
14 saying, two, as was just proposed, if we changed that
15 to say up to two then that would potentially align us
16 with the State but give the Refuge manager the kind of
17 authority to ebb and flow as necessary.

18

19 MR. EVANS: Yes.

20

21 MS. SKINNER: Yes, okay, thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're having a
24 side bar over here it seems. It is really just a
25 thought, you have up to two, it could be zero.

26

27 So if our manager doesn't like us it
28 could be zero.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, of course,
33 we don't think you'll do this, otherwise I'll be living
34 in Cold Bay.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. RISDAHL: But you never know who's
39 coming next.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.
44 Anyway.....

45

46 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:there is a
49 lot to think about here.....

50

1 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you,
4 Chris, go ahead.

5

6 MS. PETERSON: It is, I'm sorry. I
7 just wanted to verify that, yes it is Proposal 126 that
8 addresses this for the State and that's why I mentioned
9 this earlier was to clarify that the State is basing
10 their bag limit -- if this proposal is accepted this
11 year through the Board of Game, we will be basing our
12 bag limit on the population each year. So that kind of
13 simplifies the management in terms of, well, if the
14 herd is really rapidly growing and it takes a year or
15 two to change a bag limit in the regs, if we base it
16 and say that if the population exceeds -- or if the
17 harvestable surplus exceeds a certain number then we
18 automatically are ready to legally able to change our
19 bag limits to match that and that is why I recommended
20 that, rather than saying that you have a bag limit of
21 one or two, say that your bag limit is based on
22 harvestable surplus, then you don't need to worry about
23 the time lapse from seeing what the population is doing
24 to making the change in the limit.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

29

30 MR. EVANS: So, Chris, this is Tom.....

31

32 MS. PETERSON: Does that make sense.

33

34 MR. EVANS:again. So that would
35 -- going along with the lines of what you just said,
36 that would change the bag limit from like -- like to a
37 range of like one to five, or something like that?

38

39 MS. PETERSON: Yes, you just -- all we
40 have implemented -- it actually says in the regulation
41 that if the surplus exceeds 250, then we -- we are able
42 to up our limit -- bag limit to three caribou and so
43 each year we are able to look at the data that we have
44 and make the changes accordingly and we don't need to
45 run this past the Board of Game or get a new regulation
46 in place.

47

48 Currently we're at a bag limit of one,
49 but if our harvestable surplus gets to exceed -- I want

50

1 to say the right numbers here -- if the harvestable
2 surplus exceeds 150, then we can automatically put the
3 bag limit up to two caribou and we don't need to go
4 through the legal process to do that because it's
5 already been done, and so we're not limited to just
6 one.

7

8

MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

9

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11

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
Chris.

12

13

Rebecca.

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MS. SKINNER: So I know we have a
motion on the floor but I'd really like to table this
until we've had a chance to look at Proposal 126 or 56
or whatever it is I just said, because I don't have
that in front of me right now. I would like to see
what the proposed -- the State's proposed language says
because that will make it much more clearer to me. And
I think, depending on what that language says, it may
be appropriate to use similar language in our proposal.

25

26

27

28

But in any case I think these two are
so closely tied, I don't feel comfortable voting on
this one until we actually talk about and review the
Board of Game proposal.

29

30

Thank you.

31

32

33

34

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
Rebecca.

35

36

Tom.

37

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39

40

MR. EVANS: Thank you. So the Board of
Game, their comment deadline is February 2nd, the
meeting will be February 16th to the 23rd, to give you
sort of a timeline of when that will happen.

41

42

43

44

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And our window
basically closes because we're doing wildlife now; is
that correct?

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. EVANS: We're doing wildlife now
but we have -- the Board will not meet until April of
next year so there is time for us to modify in the
meantime. The one thing, if we do the changes now,

1 this will be -- other people won't have seen that, you
2 know, if we make a change at this point, but we can do
3 that, you know, that all the people that have gone
4 through reviews now have not seen the changes that we
5 might make but.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Tom,
8 you had the motion on the floor and then Rebecca had as
9 a suggestion to table this to Item E, under 11, which
10 would also include Unimak, which you have also added to
11 the agenda, what is the process here, to withdraw to
12 your resolution or just.....

13
14 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to withdraw
15 that motion until after we've looked at the proposal.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: Does the second concur.

18
19 MS. BERNES: Yes, second concurs.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think
22 we're good. We'll just go ahead and move that.

23
24 A lot to think about. I guess maybe a
25 comment, you know, it's encouraging, I think, from
26 those of us living in 9D, to be able to look at
27 possibly increasing the harvest limit but, you know, I
28 hear from people that depend on the subsistence also to
29 be careful so, you know, it would be nice to have more
30 -- the numbers sooner than later but, yeah, I just --
31 I'm also concerned about us getting the caribou not
32 being the -- the environment not being able to sustain
33 the herd also so we've got a lot to think about as we
34 move forward.

35
36 Tom.

37
38 MR. EVANS: So just to clarify. So the
39 recommendation of the Council would be to defer the
40 proposal until after the recommendation has been made
41 under the Board of Game?

42
43 MS. SKINNER: No.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No. I thought
46 it was after the State's report today.

47
48 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that correct?

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So my intent was
4 to not take action on this proposal until we've had
5 discussion on the proposal that's going in front of the
6 Board of Game, which is coming up in like two agenda
7 items. So I expect that discussion would occur today
8 and then we would come back and take action on our
9 proposal.

10

11 MR. EVANS: Okay.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 everyone. Good discussion.

15

16 We will move on to statewide proposals
17 WP18-51, modifying the definition of bait. And do we
18 have a page number, is it in our booklet?

19

20 MR. EVANS: This is also a
21 supplemental.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's in the back after
24 the caribou portion.

25

26 MR. EVANS: Okay. So this proposal is
27 brought up because it is sort of a -- could affect
28 statewide areas, so this could affect your area. So
29 this proposal is being addressed just because your --
30 this RAC might have comments on this proposal. It will
31 go to many different -- this proposal was -- Proposal
32 18-51 was submitted by the Eastern Interior Alaska
33 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And it requests
34 that the Federal statewide bear baiting restrictions be
35 aligned with State regulations specifically for the use
36 of biodegradable materials.

37

38 The proponent states that the Federal
39 -- that the current Federal bear baiting restrictions
40 are much more restrictive than the States and do not
41 provide a Federal subsistence priority.

42

43 The proponent proposes to align Federal
44 and State bear baiting restrictions in order to reduce
45 regulatory complexity, reduce user confusion and allow
46 baiting with items, for example dog food, popcorn,
47 baked goods, grease, syrup, et cetera, that have been
48 traditionally used as bear bait by Federally-qualified
49 subsistence users and are currently allowed under State

50

1 regulations.

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Currently black bears may be taken at bait stations under Federal regulations in all units except Units 1C, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 22, 23 and 26. Brown bear may be taken at bait stations in Units 11, 12 and 25D.

In 2012 the National Park Service published the Final Rule 36 CFR 13.42, subsection G, paragraph 10 prohibiting the take of brown and black bears over bait in National Park Preserve -- National Preserves under State regulations.

In 2017 the National Park Service published Final Rule 36 CFR 13.480 limiting types of bait that may be used for taking bears under Federal subsistence regulations to native fish or wildlife remains from natural mortality or parts not required to be salvaged from a legal harvest. An exception to the Final Rule allows the superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias State National Park and Preserve to issue a permit to all the use -- to all, the use of human produced foods as long as they're incompatible -- wait, let me go back to that. An exception to the Final Rule allows the superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to issue a permit to all -- to use the human produced foods as long as it's incompatible -- as long as it's compatible with Park purposes and values and the applicant does not have access to natural materials for bait. And this is based on some documented history of bear baiting in Wrangell-St. Elias areas.

Some of the cultural knowledge. The use of bait stations is controversial. Those that support bear baiting state that it allows hunters to be selective, it allows them to select sex and allow for the identification of sows with cubs and a humane way of taking of bears, especially those bears with limited mobility to participate in a hunt, so if you're shooting with an arrow and stuff, it's considered a humane way of getting the bear that you need. Those that oppose often cite safety concerns and food conditioning.

Other alternatives considered for this proposal were that if this is adopted, this proposal would permit the use of scent lures on Federal public

1 lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service,
2 BLM and the US Forest Service, which are currently not
3 defined under Federal regulations. If scent lures are
4 not defined, any material of chemical -- any material,
5 including chemicals, including toxic and bionon-
6 degradable materials could be used.

7
8 So if this proposal is adopted it would
9 provide more opportunity for Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users on most Federal public lands and
11 would align State and Federal baiting restrictions.

12
13 The requested changes are already
14 permitted under State regulations, it's not expected
15 that there would be any differences in the bear harvest
16 population subsistence uses or habituation of bears to
17 human foods with this proposal.

18
19 OSM's preliminary conclusion for this
20 is to support Proposal WP18-51 with the modification to
21 establish the definition for scent lure and clarify the
22 regulatory language. And the regulatory language would
23 read as follows:

24
25 Under 25(a) under the definitions, the
26 following definitions apply to all regulations
27 contained in this part.

28
29 A scent lure (this is the new part) in
30 reference to bear baiting means any
31 biodegradable material to which
32 biodegradable scent is applied or
33 infused.

34
35 The next section, for Section 26.

36
37 You may use only biodegradable
38 materials for bait if fish and wildlife
39 is used for bait, that would be new,
40 only the head, bones and viscera or
41 skin of legally harvested fish and
42 wildlife, the skin carcasses of
43 furbearers and unclassified wildlife
44 may be used, except that in Unit 7 and
45 15, fish or fish parts may not be used
46 as bait. Scent lures may be used at
47 registered bait stations.

48
49 So, that concludes -- any questions.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think as the
2 process, we do the introduction and presentation
3 analysis and then we ask for the report on Board
4 consultation from tribes, ANCSA Corporations.

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Can we ask questions of
7 what he just said to clarify?

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: So as I read the -- the
13 current regulation, or the new regulation, I don't
14 understand how the proposed regulation is less
15 restrictive, can you cover that again, what is less
16 restrictive about it?

17
18 MR. EVANS: So the existing.....

19
20 REPORTER: Tom, mic please.

21
22 MR. EVANS: Yes. So the existing
23 Federal regulations right now, for that Section 26,
24 which was the second section I read about, states,
25 prohibitive methods and means, except for special
26 provisions found in paragraph 1 (ph) through 26 of this
27 section, the following methods and means of taking
28 wildlife for subsistence users are prohibited.

29
30 Using bait for taking ungulates, bear,
31 wolf or wolverine, except you may use bait to take
32 wolves and wolverine with a trapping license and you
33 may use bait to take black bears and brown bears with a
34 hunting license as authorized in unit specific
35 regulations, which it lists the sections. Baiting of
36 black bears and brown bears is subject to the following
37 restrictions. You may use only biodegradable materials
38 for bait. You may only use the head, bones, viscera or
39 skin of legally harvested fish and wildlife for bait.

40
41 So this new regulation would allow you
42 to use -- would allow you to use fish and -- fish and
43 game so.....

44
45 MS. SKINNER: So as I read it, it
46 appears actually to be more restrictive because it
47 gives more specificity to what you're allowed to use
48 whereas the current regulation just says you can use
49 fish and wildlife, head, bones, viscera and skin of

50

1 legally harvested fish. So I'm trying to understand,
2 is there something I'm missing in the language because
3 I really don't see the proposed language as less
4 restrictive so I'm assuming there's something else that
5 I'm not picking up on, why this is needed to be less
6 restrictive.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is actually
9 expanding it.

10

11 MR. EVANS: Well, I thought it was
12 expanding it too but.....

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 MR. EVANS: Yes, okay, so that is
17 correct. So we are using -- so you can use other
18 biodegradable materials including, and then it gives
19 you a definition if you do use fish and game for bait
20 then it gives you those restrictions. So it's allowing
21 them to increase, and it also defines the use of a
22 scent lure so.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So it uses --
25 you're allowed to use biodegradable materials that are
26 not fish and wildlife derived?

27

28 MR. EVANS: Yes.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

31

32 MR. EVANS: Yes.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, can you
35 answer why it says except that in Units 7 and 15, fish
36 and fish parts may not be used?

37

38 MR. EVANS: Yes, I can answer that.
39 That's because that's usually on the Kenai, in that
40 area there, and they have lots of -- there's lots of
41 fishing and they don't want to -- they want to attract
42 bears into areas -- to the bear baiting stations, so
43 that's why they restrict the use of fish in those
44 areas.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Report
47 from -- any reports, consultation from tribes and ANCSA
48 Corporations at this time.

49

50

1 Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. Is Orville Lind still on the telephone.

5

6 (No comment)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I have
9 not heard of any responses from the tribes or ANCSA
10 Corporations under consultation for this proposal.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Karen. Advisory -- agency comments, ADF&G.

16

17 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
18 Chris Peterson in King Salmon, Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

22

23 MS. PETERSON: As we look at this
24 proposal, the Department comments are simply that this
25 seems to expand the definition of what may be used as
26 bait for bears and would align the State and Federal
27 regulations. And we do not believe that, if it was
28 adopted, there would be no significant impacts on other
29 users. So it would expand it to the use of lures,
30 scent lures, and it would simply simplify the
31 enforcement.

32

33 So the Department does support this
34 proposal because it does reduce regulatory complexity
35 and user confusion by allowing Federally-qualified
36 users to bait bears with additional attractants that
37 are not necessarily related to wildlife and fish. So
38 the Department does support this proposal.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Chris.

44

45 Federal comments.

46

47 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Members of
48 the Council.

49

50

1 Specifically for us in this region,
2 it's not a big concern because we don't bait bears and
3 bear baiting is not allowed so it's not really
4 affecting us here. So I won't give any comments about
5 my old Unit 12 and Unit 20 where they do bait bears,
6 both brown and black bears, but here we don't have that
7 issue, it doesn't affect us.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Greg.

10

11 Tribal comments.

12

13 Karen.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Orville.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Orville, are you
18 on line.

19

20 (No comment)

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Generally tribal
23 comments are for any groups like Sun'aq Tribe and
24 others who might wish to make comments and apparently
25 they're not on the phone or present.

26

27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Advisory group
30 comments, other Regional Councils.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
35 Advisory Committees.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
40 Resource Commissions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Summer of
45 written public comments, I do see some written comments
46 in the back of this proposal.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I see
2 three letters of opposition.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, you are
7 correct in there are three letters of opposition to
8 this proposal. Those letters largely cite the food
9 conditioning of bears, human food conditioning to be
10 specific, and the potential dangers of habituation
11 bears and causing conflict with residents

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: I have a question on the
18 scent lure. Is it defined or is it understood that the
19 scent lure is supposed to smell like food or can the
20 scent lure smell like, whatever, like during mating
21 season, when, whatever, you understand my question?

22
23 MR. EVANS: I do understand your
24 question. And it could be anything that they want.

25
26 In the Federal regulations we had no
27 definition of scent lures so there was no definition at
28 all before so that's why we're trying to clarify that
29 with this proposal.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: So I'll just make a
32 comment to that.

33
34 I guess the idea of using -- I have
35 some concerns about the idea of using scent lure. I
36 understand that there are technological advances, I
37 don't have a problem with people using more
38 technologically advanced sorts of things to do what
39 they've traditionally done, however, I guess, to me,
40 using the scent lure could cover such a broad range of
41 things, I'm -- that's -- I feel like that's getting
42 beyond what, I guess, what I'm comfortable with. But,
43 I guess I'm still thinking about this one but I do have
44 concerns with it.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
49 Rebecca.

50

1 Public testimony.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional
Council. Anybody have comments.

7

8

Sam.

9

10

11

MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Sam
Rohrer, here. Yeah, a couple of comments.

12

13

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Just for clarification, while this is a
statewide proposal for bear baiting restrictions, it's
still only actually applies to unit specific areas
where bear baiting is allowed so in no area in Unit 8
or Unit 9D or Unit 10 is bear baiting allowed and we've
always taken a pretty strong stance against it just
because traditionally it's never been done in these
areas.

21

22

23

24

25

Often times on these kind of proposals
that don't affect us at all, but they do affect other
areas that participate, we just don't comment, and
that's probably appropriate to do in this instance.

26

27

I don't have a.....

28

29

MS. SKINNER: I second that.

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

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37

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41

MR. ROHRER: Yeah. I don't have any
strong concerns with the proposal. Generally, I
support trying to bring into line the Federal and State
regulations just to make things easier for the folks in
the field, that makes good sense to me generally. But
in this instance it doesn't affect us. The folks on
the other Councils -- the other Council who submitted
it, they have the expertise in this area, we don't.
I'd just as soon we don't comment on it.

42

43

Thank you.

44

45

MS. SKINNER: Second.

46

47

48

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that a
motion, Sam, it's been seconded.

49

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. ROHRER: I'll make that a motion.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
6
7 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made and
12 seconded.
13
14 Discussion.
15
16 MS. BERNES: Question.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All in favor
19 signify by saying aye.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
24 sign.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
29 think we will break for lunch. We'll be back at 1:00
30 o'clock. Okay, 1:00 o'clock good for everybody, you
31 need a little more time, we're eating here so 1:00
32 o'clock is good.
33
34 Okay, we'll break at this time.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (On record)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we'll call
41 our meeting back to order. And the next item we have
42 is D, which is the Board of Game proposals, and I
43 believe Karen did a handout during lunch.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Give me one second to
46 try to get this to work.
47
48 (Pause)
49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: So, hey, Karen or Della,
2 is there any chance of getting this on the email.
3
4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can't send anything
6 like that from here, he can look it up on line.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, Karen said
9 she can't send emails but you can look them up on line.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, the proposal
12 book is on line.
13
14 MR. HOLMES: On any coaching on what I'm
15 looking for.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pat, the proposal book
18 is on line at ADF&G's website under the Board of Game.
19 And when you pull that up we will give you the proposal
20 numbers that we're referring to.
21
22 MR. HOLMES: Okay.
23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Will that work for
25 you?
26
27 MR. HOLMES: Okay.
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. I wonder if
30 Rick's on the line, Koso.
31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participant phones not muted)
34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Once, again, on the
36 phone, could you mute yourselves if you're not speaking
37 to the Council. And also, is Rick Koso on line.
38
39 (No comment)
40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, thank you.
42
43 All right, this is what we could
44 do.....
45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: What are you looking
47 for?
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm looking for an
50

1 upload. I mean black computers with black usb ports,
2 in the dark. Can you do this.

3

4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead,
9 Karen.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good afternoon members
12 of the Council, Madame Chair. What we have here is
13 I've done a quick PowerPoint on the Board of Game
14 proposals that affect statewide regulations as well as
15 Units 8, 9 and 10.

16

17 As you will see on the PowerPoint right
18 now the comments on statewide proposals are due October
19 27th and the regional comments are due February 2nd.
20 Both of these timeframes are before your winter cycle
21 meeting in Kodiak.

22

23 The first proposal that the Council may
24 want to address is they are changing the definition of
25 edible meat for cranes, geese and swan to include
26 breast; and these are the new things; back, wings,
27 gizzard and heart. And those are the new items that
28 are being added to the definition. And the meat of the
29 femur and legs and thighs for fall migratory and winter
30 migratory bird hunting. And the reason why this
31 proposal was put forth by the Native.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participant phones not muted)

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE:caucus of the
37 AMBCC was to make it more consistent with the
38 spring/summer subsistence migratory bird harvest
39 regulations and to prevent waste.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can you mention
42 the proposal number.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry, the
45 proposal is No. 4, it is a statewide proposal.

46

47 Madame Chair, we also do not have to
48 follow the process for the Federal regulatory changes.
49 The Board may or may not wish to comment on this and I

50

1 can submit those comments on behalf of this Council but
2 we don't have to take public testimony or any of the
3 other protocols listed on the back unless you wish to.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I guess my
8 question is, at this time, specifically on Proposal 4,
9 do the Council members have any comments or questions.

10
11 Melissa.

12
13 MS. BERNS: I just would like to say
14 that I was a part of this process and I'm in favor of
15 this proposal for the purpose of decreasing waste.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have a
18 question, maybe, because it's something that kind of
19 came up during lunch.

20
21 For 9D or 10, there is not a swan, I
22 think for swans on a hunt, and if that's the case, can
23 someone explain why that is?

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: I stared at Tom.

26
27 MR. EVANS: Just because.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
32 Chris at Fish and Game.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

35
36 MS. PETERSON: Since no one else is
37 saying anything. From my years down there in Cold Bay,
38 I recall being told that the reason swans were not
39 included in hunting down there was because the
40 population in that area is considered to be a separate
41 population and does not migrate and so they were being
42 much more careful in permitting hunting.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if that's the
45 case then does Fish and Wildlife have the ability to
46 set a limit for purposes of hunting if it's not
47 considered part of the migratory birds?

48
49 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair.

50

1 MS. PETERSON: I don't know.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: For the Federal
4 Subsistence Program with the Board, they -- the
5 management of migratory birds are not under the
6 jurisdiction of the Board, but they are under the
7 jurisdiction of Fish and Wildlife Service. This
8 proposal is for Fish and Game.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's true it's
11 for Fish and Game, but the question that came up is
12 where I was getting at. Because the birds in our area
13 are not considered migratory, why is there not a hunt,
14 or even a subsistence hunt, and then if that's -- if
15 they're not migratory, then who is the powers to be
16 that says you can have a subsistence hunt; is that Fish
17 and Wildlife, that's the question.

18

19 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair and Council
20 members, this is Greg Risdahl from Izembek.

21

22 The management of swans is still under
23 Federal jurisdiction and the Migratory Bird Division
24 makes those recommendations and regulations. So like
25 Chris Peterson was saying, I was on my way up here but
26 I was tripping over the cord back here, and she is
27 correct, from what I understand that because this
28 population is considered sort of isolated and unique
29 they decided not to have a season on it. That doesn't
30 mean that somebody couldn't make that suggestion, but
31 that would go through the Federal Migratory Bird
32 process.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
35 Then maybe we could look at that at some point in time.

36

37 Tom.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to invite John
40 from the audience to come up and comment on this.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: John.

43

44 MR. ARKLEY: John Arkley from Cold Bay.
45 Hey, my question is, in this proposal, would it be
46 statewide obviously, and it would be for all resident
47 hunters and out of state hunters and everybody? Does
48 anybody know?

49

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. My
2 assumption would be, and maybe Fish and Game could
3 clarify this, is it would be dependent on the
4 eligibility of hunters in particular regions, whether
5 non-resident or resident hunters were allowed to hunt
6 these particular birds in their game unit.

7
8 And so let's say that you couldn't hunt
9 cranes in Unit 16, then obviously this proposal would
10 not be applicable for cranes in that unit.

11
12 MR. ARKLEY: Yes, I understand that.
13 It says the back, wings, gizzard and heart, and so in
14 other words, keep basically the whole bird in tact; is
15 that what you're saying?

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's what the
18 proposal is saying, to add those as part of the
19 definition of what's required to use when you take the
20 bird, which is currently what's required under Federal
21 regulation for migratory birds.

22
23 MS. CHERNOFF: For subsistence.

24
25 MR. ARKLEY: For subsistence, not for
26 State?

27
28 MS. CHERNOFF: No, I missed that
29 question.

30
31 MR. ARKLEY: Okay.

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: I mean I missed that
34 part, that comment. This is for the State fall hunt.

35
36 MR. ARKLEY: Subsistence.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

39
40 MR. ARKLEY: Overall.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Spring is -- so
43 currently in the State hunt they -- I think it's
44 defined the edible meat, I believe, is just defined as
45 the breast.....

46
47 MR. ARKLEY: Right.

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF:of the bird.

50

1 MR. ARKLEY: Right.
2
3 MS. CHERNOFF: Now they want to expand
4 that to include.....
5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participant phones not muted)
8
9 MS. CHERNOFF:for the larger
10 birds, the edible meat to now be that you have to take
11 the breast, back, wings, gizzard and heart.
12
13 MR. ARKLEY: Yeah, my question was,
14 does this involve people on the Federal level from --
15 if I go out hunting today, do I have to -- if this is
16 passed, bring back all that with me?
17
18 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But we don't
21 have a hunt in our region because the swans in 9D and
22 10 are not classified as migratory.....
23
24 MR. ARKLEY: Right. But the geese.....
25
26 MS. CHERNOFF: No, but for geese.
27
28 MR. ARKLEY:certainly are.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.
31
32 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.
33
34 MR. ARKLEY: Yes. But that's.....
35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: This addressed.....
37
38 MR. ARKLEY:that doesn't make a
39 lot of sense because.....
40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: This -- this.....
42
43 MR. ARKLEY:a lot of us don't use
44 a lot of the gizzards.
45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: This addresses the
47 fall.....
48
49 MR. ARKLEY: Regular hunt.
50

1 MS. CHERNOFF:the fall regular
2 hunt.
3
4 MR. ARKLEY: Like the hunting
5 season.....
6
7 MS. CHERNOFF: For resident and non-
8 resident.
9
10 MR. ARKLEY:like we're involved
11 in right now.
12
13 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.
14
15 MR. ARKLEY: Federal.
16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah.
18
19 MR. ARKLEY: Okay. Okay. It seems a
20 bit odd, doesn't it, to involve all that, it's --
21 that's a lot to carry out if you're five or six miles
22 back, the gizzard and the heart, sometimes they're a
23 little tough to carry out.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Send that whole
26 bird to me, I'll take it. Gizzards make the best
27 stuffing in the world.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. ARKLEY: Well, I realize that but
32 we kill a lot of birds.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I know, but
35 still.....
36
37 MR. ARKLEY:and that's an awful
38 lot of.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, I.....
41
42 MR. ARKLEY:awful lot of.....
43
44 MS. CHERNOFF: So.....
45
46 REPORTER: Okay, so let's just talk one
47 at a time, please.
48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: So this is a proposal
50

1 put forth by the Native caucus from AMBCC who deal with
2 a lot of birds up north which are -- there's a lot more
3 people hunting a lot more large birds and they're
4 getting a lot of waste, and so it was to address that
5 waste for the fall hunting season and to align it more
6 with the spring.....

7
8 MR. ARKLEY: Could we add the word.....

9
10 REPORTER: So could you.....

11
12 MR. ARKLEY:subsistence to that.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: Your microphone.

15
16 REPORTER: Turn the microphone on.

17
18 MR. ARKLEY: Could we add subsistence,
19 just subsistence to that to kind of let us old guys not
20 have to carry the whole carcass sometimes.

21
22 MS. CHERNOFF: It's their proposal so
23 we can just comment on it.

24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: John, sit back down
26 there.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think that what you
31 could do and what any public member could do and this
32 Council could do, is in your comments to the Board of
33 Game regarding this proposal, you could certainly ask
34 for anything you would like amended and give your
35 justification for why you would like that to happen.

36
37 As far as actually changing the
38 proposal, that is not under the purview of anybody at
39 this point, but you can comment and ask the Board to
40 change it.

41
42 Does that make sense?

43
44 MR. ARKLEY: I guess. I'm not very
45 good at this sort of process.

46
47 It's -- I understand it and I agree
48 with it to a point but it's -- to require every person
49 to do that, there's -- we're going to make everybody

50

1 criminals because not all of us are going to use the
2 heart and gizzard and certainly not the wings.

3

4 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Maybe
7 when you're done talking if you could just turn that
8 mic off so it doesn't interfere with the other ones,
9 thank you.

10

11 Tom.

12

13 MR. SCHWANTES: So, John, I apologize
14 for putting you on the spot but I wanted to hear your
15 comment and from what I understand you are opposed to
16 this proposal, this change in the regulation.

17

18 MR. ARKLEY: I would be, yes.

19

20 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay, thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Wait, wait,
23 John, I got one question.

24

25 And for me to understand the reason
26 you're opposed to it is because the amount of the bird
27 that you'd be having to pack out; is that correct?

28

29 MR. ARKLEY: Yes. Sometimes we hunt
30 five or six miles away and to carry the gizzard and the
31 heart as part of a regulation, the legs and thighs are
32 already part of the regulation, so we must carry those
33 out, just in the state of Alaska, not anywhere else in
34 the United States, in the migratory waterfowl, so it's
35 just adding more -- it would be tougher, a lot harder.
36 We can certainly try and do it but it would just --
37 you'd have to carry a couple extra bags and everything
38 else with you if you want to basically reduce the
39 weight you're going to carry.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, I have a
42 question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, go
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. SKINNER: Can you -- I guess I'm
48 not familiar with how big the gizzards and the hearts
49 are of these larger birds and I think I heard someone

50

1 snicker earlier when you said, oh, that'll be too much
2 to carry, can you describe or tell us or show us how
3 big are the hearts and the gizzards from each bird so
4 we can have a sense of what we're talking about.

5
6 MR. ARKLEY: It's -- we're not talking
7 about very much weight here, but it's I'm an old guy
8 and I don't -- sometimes five or six miles is hard to
9 get to. The gizzard, what would you say, Della, is
10 about the half size of my fist, very dense, very, very
11 dense. And the course, of course, is a standard heart
12 size, not very big. It's just the carrying and the --
13 to keep them clean and separate would be difficult. It
14 would just add one more element and more garbage, more
15 plastic bags and so forth. It could be done. The
16 wings of a waterfowl are not very big, they're not like
17 a chicken, so to even pluck the wings are going to be
18 almost impossible, and I don't know how else you'd do
19 it, maybe you could skin them but I don't know how.

20
21 So.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, go ahead.

24
25 John, maybe if you could just stay just
26 for a few more minutes and make sure everybody's.....

27
28 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess another
29 question. You just mentioned skinning the wings, but
30 isn't there another regulation that requires you to
31 leave at least one of the wings feathered for
32 identification?

33
34 MR. ARKLEY: You can also leave the
35 head. The head or a wing for identification.

36
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Oh, okay. Okay.

38
39 MR. ARKLEY: But that is correct, yes.

40
41 MR. SCHWANTES: And so one more
42 question, how many birds are you talking about packing
43 out from wherever.

44
45 MR. ARKLEY: It's -- if you really
46 pound them good you get six geese, or eight ducks and
47 three brant so that turns out to be a pretty good load.
48 That's if you're really lucky and shoot a lot better
49 than me.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
have any more questions for John.

5

6

7

(No comments)

8

9

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

10

11

12

MR. KOSO: Hey, Della, this is Rick
here. I'd like to catch up a little bit of where
you're at.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rick, what
we're doing and you probably don't have it available,
is we're going over the State Board of Game proposals,
and this one is Proposal No. 4. I don't know if you
have access to the internet and can go on line to the
State proposals, but that's basically where we're at
right now.

21

22

23

MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got the proposals,
is that Proposal 4 you're on?

24

25

26

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.

27

28

MR. KOSO: Okay, yeah, I got those.

29

30

MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

31

32

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

33

34

35

36

37

38

MS. SKINNER: Karen, can you -- I think
earlier you said the dates that public comment for
these would be due so if there's members of the
audience that do have opinions about these proposals
they can submit comments to the Board of Game by a
certain date; can you repeat what that date was.

39

40

41

42

43

44

MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Skinner,
through the Chair, yes, that date is October 27th for
the statewide proposals and you can submit those
comments in writing, by mail, or by email, or on line,
so there's several ways to do that.

45

46

Thank you.

47

48

49

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Greg.

50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair. Council
2 members. I do have one comment regarding this
3 proposal.
4

5 I don't have a problem carrying the
6 meat out but I will agree with John that there would
7 probably be a lot more violations. Just down on the
8 beach below my house, I was walking there yesterday
9 afternoon and people are tossing their carcasses off
10 the end of the pier and they immediately float over to
11 the beach right there and there's not a single goose or
12 duck carcass that has had their thighs removed. All
13 they do is breast them out. So people are not taking
14 all the meat. And, you know, I don't know what to do
15 about it. I did talk to our -- we do have a law
16 enforcement officer here right now and she is working
17 on that as well as other things. You know, it's
18 actually a nationwide regulation and, yet, people
19 aren't even following that rule. It's just one of
20 those things. You got to catch people and it's a
21 change of culture, is what it is, it's to get people to
22 recognize the value of those parts and to take them out
23 but most people don't want to do it.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Greg.
26

27 On the chance of being controversial,
28 which, hey, I've been there many, many times, but as
29 representing people in King Cove, for example, you
30 know, I have to be honest, people are concerned of what
31 birds are left, you know, and set aside and in all due
32 respect, you know, we don't have anything against
33 sporthunting or anything, but from people that will eat
34 pretty much the whole bird, you know, a good 90 percent
35 of it, it's hard for us to see what we look at as
36 waste. So I'm just going to add that in there. But I
37 mean this is one of those tough subjects, I think,
38 that, you know, being honest and responsible together
39 that hopefully we can try to come up with some sort of
40 -- I'm not sure what the answer is.
41

42 Tom.
43

44 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Madame Chair,
45 when I look at this I -- if I were to compare it to the
46 big game regulations, there's no requirement in the big
47 game regulations to bring out the heart and the liver.
48 So -- but now we're going to say, we expect you to
49 bring it out if you're killing a goose when the volume
50

1 of waste, per se, per animal is -- it would be
2 significantly more in a big game animal than what you'd
3 have in a waterfowl.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Well, I'm wondering about
12 the aspect of the wings. You know, there's people
13 that, for generations, have traveled all over the US
14 collecting ducks to display, to show people, to have in
15 museums, to have in schools, the airports, all that,
16 how exactly are you salvaging the meat for birds that
17 are going to be mounted from the wings? And I don't
18 know because we don't have any big birds in Kodiak that
19 I've gotten to hunt until this fall, maybe I'll know
20 this fall.

21

22 MS. CHERNOFF: Can I.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: I'll say this first. So
27 as far as subsistence and subsistence goes, I believe
28 in absolutely saving and using all these parts and
29 eating all these edible parts but I also realize that
30 the sporthunting the fall is -- it's a completely
31 different thing. Different people hunt for different
32 reasons. There's all kinds of taxidermy game, people
33 do it for hunt, they do it for -- you know, they want
34 to mount every single bird they can get their hands on,
35 it's a different kind of a hunt. So I guess I would
36 feel okay, you know, if we wanted to act as a Board, I
37 would prefer to not act on this because it is a
38 suggested proposal for a State hunt, fall hunt, and we
39 are a subsistence board addressing spring migratory --
40 I do believe in saving everything and using everything,
41 but, I mean I would prefer not to act on this at all
42 because it is a fall State hunt for residents and non-
43 residents and not just subsistence users.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

48

49 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I would agree

50

1 with Coral. I would not be interested in supporting
2 this. Just from my standpoint it's just because of the
3 disparity between what this regulation would require
4 and what the big game regulations require, or don't
5 require.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: So I'll move that we.....

12
13 MS. KOSO: Yeah, hey, Della.....

14
15 MS. SKINNER:take no action on
16 this.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, do you
19 have a comment.

20
21 MR. KOSO: Yeah, you know, I agree that
22 there's been a lot of breast cutting out and throwing
23 the rest of the bird away, but my train of thought is
24 at least they save the legs and the thighs. But, you
25 know, as far as being on a Subsistence Board and Game
26 Board, they're totally two different entities, so I
27 would go along with the rest of the group, saying we
28 have no action on that.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And can.....

33
34 MS. SKINNER: We have a motion, I
35 guess, can we see if there's a second or if it dies for
36 a lack of a second that's fine but.....

37
38 MR. ROHRER: Second.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a motion
41 made and seconded, call for question or discussion. I
42 think, Rick, did you.....

43
44 MR. HOLMES: I have a comment.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:have a
47 comment before -- I know you're on line and I thought I
48 heard that you -- or Pat.

49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yes, I.....

2
3 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I said I
4 wouldn't get involved with the game birds, on their
5 changing of stuff, of the edible meat there, it would
6 be an awful hard one to, you know, for the enforcement
7 to act on. I think we should maybe just stick to our
8 subsistence so I will be voting to just have no action
9 on that.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
12 And, I think, Pat, you had a comment.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair. I
15 guess I can go along with not taking any action but my
16 experience with waterfowl is, whether it's a duck,
17 goose or a swan, back when I used to do that sort of
18 thing.....

19
20 (Telephone cutting in and out)

21
22 MR. HOLMES:man I could take
23 anything, a ptarmigan, or a swan or whatever, of
24 course, swan's a little more tougher (phone cutting in
25 and out) and in less than five minutes I can have all
26 that meat they require in a bag and all you do is stand
27 on the wings and you give it a jerk under the breast,
28 the breast and the wings come -- or stand on the feet,
29 that comes off, you reach down and grab the thighs and
30 snip them off and you can do it in just a whiz. I
31 understand -- to me -- I think -- oh, thank you (phone
32 cutting in and out) having listened in on the co-
33 management thing, I think it has a lot of merit but I
34 can just let it go. But most of the folks that I know,
35 traditional ones, the whole bloody thing goes in a pot
36 and if it's a goose it goes in a big pressure cooker
37 and you cook the whole puppy up and make soup out of it
38 and the guides that I know on the west side of Kodiak
39 that do trophies, they take all the meat and bring it
40 in and give it to the folks in Larsen Bay or wherever
41 they happen to be and so -- but I can see that our
42 Council is just not -- has mixed feelings on it so I'd
43 say just let it go.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

46
47 The proposal -- the proponent on this
48 proposal is the Native caucus of the Migratory Bird
49 Council. So we do have a motion made and second, call

50

1 for question.
2
3 MR. KOSO: Call for the question.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All in favor
6 signify by saying aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
11 sign.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
16 Next proposal.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage from the Office of
20 Subsistence Management. The proposal is another
21 statewide proposal to the Board of Game, it is Proposal
22 No. 41.
23
24 The proposed regulation is exempt rural
25 subsistence hunters from requirement to purchase
26 waterfowl conservation tag or duck stamp.
27
28 The justification from the proponent is
29 that Federal law has current exemptions and State
30 regulations should be consistent. Also there's a
31 belief that this requirement to purchase a waterfowl
32 conservation tag or duck stamp goes against a
33 subsistence way of life and it presents an
34 administrative and financial harvest for rural users.
35 And this proposal was put forth by the Native caucus of
36 AMBCC.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any discussion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Comments.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 (Pause)
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Why do I think
2 this had already passed at some point in time and it
3 was in a book.

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It was from
6 Bethel.

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You're thinking of
9 Federal.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
14 Rebecca.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: Do we have any
17 information on data collection so I could see how data
18 can somewhat be tracked by looking at the number of
19 State permits that are issued. And I guess I'll throw
20 this out as a question, does anybody know if during
21 discussions on this proposal, data tracking, data
22 acquisition, anything like that has been discussed and
23 do we feel like there's a robust data collection system
24 in place?

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
29 have an answer for Rebecca.

30
31 MS. CHERNOFF: I just have a question
32 on what kind of data you're looking for, like how many
33 stamps are issued, survey -- household use surveys?

34
35 MS. SKINNER: I am asking if the issue
36 of data was discussed and, if so, what was the nature
37 of the discussion?

38
39 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess -- I was at the
40 AMBCC meeting this past week and I guess there wasn't
41 any discussion of data of any sort. They did talk
42 about these proposals and that it was a hardship and
43 even though there's a separate subsistence season and
44 State season in the rural areas, well, for one, there's
45 not a lot of jobs, not a lot of money, the money might
46 be a hardship. Last year in the subsistence season we
47 did away with the Federal stamp -- the requirement to
48 have a Federal stamp went away so they were trying to
49 just kind of be consistent with the State stamp and

50

1 just let them have their sort of customary and
2 traditional hunt where they didn't have to check in
3 with anybody, they didn't have to report what they did,
4 they didn't need stamps, they didn't need money to buy,
5 just what it cost to go hunting, it's quite costly to
6 go hunting. But there was not any kind of data that I
7 recall them talking about.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
10 Coral.

11
12 Tom.

13
14 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I might be wrong
15 here but I think the State of Alaska just changed their
16 license requirements for anybody under 18 is no longer
17 required to have a hunting license or a fishing
18 license, so I suspect this is already covered.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

21
22 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, through the Chair.
23 So the new requirements are if you're under 18 you
24 don't need to purchase a State duck stamp. If you're
25 over 60 you don't have to purchase a duck stamp. And
26 if you are low income you don't have to purchase a duck
27 stamp. So as it sits right now, people with jobs who
28 can afford to buy a duck stamp have to buy a duck
29 stamp, the rest don't.

30
31 Frankly, I wasn't very happy when the
32 State reduced from -- or increased it from 16 to 18,
33 the exemption. When I turned 16 it was like a moment
34 of honor to get to go to Max Sportshop and buy my first
35 hunting license. It's something good to train your
36 kids to teach them the importance of management, of
37 accurate recordkeeping, of responsibility. I think
38 going in the direction of not reporting things, of not
39 having to get stamps, I don't think it helps -- I don't
40 think it's a good thing. It takes away a great
41 training opportunity for us with our kids, plus it's
42 money that goes back into managing those resources. So
43 it should be money that's used for matching -- to get
44 matching grants as well. I would assume that money
45 would be used for Pittman-Robertson funds which gets
46 triple basically coming back to money for the State to
47 be used for management, so specifically management for
48 waterfowl. So I certainly wouldn't support the
49 proposal.

50

1 And, again, this might be another
2 example where we just don't comment on it. But,
3 anyways, though, but I certainly, personally don't
4 support it.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.

7
8 Tom.

9
10 MR. SCHWANTES: I could make a motion
11 that we take no action on this proposal.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The motion's
14 been made, do I hear a second.

15
16 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral.
19 Discussion or question.

20
21 MR. KOSO: Question.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
24 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
29 sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Karen,
34 moving on.

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. This is Karen Deatherage, OSM. We are on the
38 final statewide proposal, which is Proposal No. 43.

39
40 The proposal asks to allow the taking
41 of emperor geese by proxy hunting. The justification
42 for the proposal is current State regulations do not
43 provide for individuals that are incapable of hunting
44 geese because of age or physical disability.

45
46 There is a side note that says current
47 regulations do allow gifting of geese but that gifter
48 must forfeit their goose if they do gift it to somebody
49
50

1 else.

2

3 The proponent, again, is the Native
4 caucus of the AMBCC.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, I keep
9 hating putting you on the spot but since you're on the
10 Migratory Birds, do you have any more information in
11 regards to this?

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: I need to separate you
14 two.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: You need to separate
19 her.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I don't know that
24 there was too much discussion on this except for that
25 it wasn't already in the regulation for the fall.
26 There was also just talk about in the fall -- yeah,
27 because I don't know how this came forth, Melissa might
28 know more, but this fall hunt doesn't even affect -- so
29 I can't remember who brought it forward with the Native
30 caucus because the fall hunt doesn't even affect a lot
31 of the areas up north because they spend their springs
32 up there and then they come down along the chain all
33 fall. So I guess I don't have any information but I
34 also suggest that we -- because this is a Subsistence
35 Board and we're dealing with State -- and it also is an
36 AMBCC issue, migratory bird issue, and also because
37 we're in a three year period of a newly opened hunt
38 that we just go with a wait and see rather than acting
39 on any sort of regulations at this time, or any
40 changes.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

45

46 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think one of
47 the reasons that we've pushed so hard over the years to
48 get the emperor season open is so that the elders could
49 have access to the birds. And, I, for one, would

50

1 certainly support this proposal. I would like to see a
2 stipulation in there that any birds taken by a proxy
3 hunter have to be delivered to the individual that
4 they're taking it for the same day they're taken.

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair, I have a
7 question.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: Does anybody know if
13 proxy hunts are allowed for other large birds or
14 comparable birds to the emperor geese -- so I guess I'm
15 seeing shaking of the heads, so this might be something
16 new that hasn't been proposed before -- I'm -- that's
17 what I'm trying to get a handle on -- I see nodding of
18 heads there, okay, thanks.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: My brain is foggy but it
27 seems to me sometime in the last 20 years there might
28 have been this discussion before on larger waterfowl
29 but I think it got bumped back to the AMBCC or
30 whatever, but I honestly don't remember. To me, I
31 think that that proposal has -- I agree with Tom, it
32 has good merit and I think we should endorse it because
33 if it ends up that we can get a season (telephone
34 cutting in and out) so folks in the Aleutians and
35 Kodiak can get back to emperor geese like their
36 grandparents did I think it would have merit because
37 that's going to be the only way to get the emperor
38 goose to some of these folks before they die.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

45
46 MR. KOSO: Yeah, on this proxy -- I'm
47 certainly not against having this proxy, I guess my
48 question would be are we too late for this season to
49 implement this or is this something that's going to be

50

1 done right away?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm thinking the
4 next cycle, is that correct, I'm almost positive.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: If this proposal were
7 to pass the regulation would go into effect, I believe,
8 July of 2018.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. A motion
15 to approve the proposal with the stipulation that the
16 bird taken by the proxy hunter has to be delivered to
17 the individual they're hunting for the same day it's
18 taken.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
21 second on the motion.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, is
26 that you Rick.

27

28 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I have to disagree a
29 little bit with Tom on that timeframe because a lot of
30 the elders in King Cove, most of these hunters, they're
31 hunted over night and back, or out in some other area
32 and there's no way that they can get it back to the
33 individual that same day in a lot of instances.

34

35 I am all for the proxy but I'm against
36 the time that Tom's requiring.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

39

40 Tom.

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, how much time do
43 we need Rick.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Well, you know, I think
46 they're going to take it back and like I say I don't
47 think we need to put a time on there, I think it needs
48 to be -- you know, enforcement could be really tough on
49 something like that. I think we need to try it and see

50

1 how it works. I don't think people are going to abuse
2 it. If they get a proxy from somebody, somebody's
3 going to give them their proxy and they're going to
4 hunt their bird, if they don't get their bird through
5 the proxy and they know the guy got it then they'll
6 probably call the Feds themselves.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll amend the
11 proposal, that we support this with -- that we just
12 support the proposal.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
17 second.

18

19 MR. KOSO: I'll second that as Tom
20 stated it.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Karen, you
23 had.....

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
26 Chair. I'm not sure if this is appropriate or not and
27 I'll get a memo if it's not, but would this proxy help
28 in any way -- if you recall some of the concerns that
29 were brought up in Kodiak about the road restriction.
30 In other words, if somebody like John Reft, who is an
31 elder does not have the capacity to go 500 feet off the
32 road in a boat, would he be able to use this proxy
33 hunting regulation during the fall hunt to get a bird?

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think the
40 answer to that would be yes because he could use the --
41 you know, he could get Sam to go kill a bird for him.
42 But my thought behind this is the reason we've been
43 pushing this thing so hard for so long was to be able
44 to get the birds to the elders. And a lot of those
45 elders can't go get them for themselves so to me the
46 proxy thing is just the common sense way to get a bird
47 to the elders.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,

50

1 everybody's good. Call for question.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry, Madame Chair,
4 can somebody restate the motion?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: His motion
7 basically says to approve Proposal 43, or support it.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All in
12 favor signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
17 sign.

18

19 MS. CHERNOFF: Aye.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I was
24 just handed some information that answers a question
25 the Council had. At this time proxies are only
26 available for big game not for birds.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: Can we make sure that
33 when we put this forward saying we're supporting this,
34 that we make sure that the Board understands that the
35 reason we're supporting this is because we definitely
36 want those birds to get into the hands of the elders.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Schwantes,
39 through the Chair, we can absolutely capture that in
40 the comments to the Board.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Members
49 of the Council. This is Proposal 126. This is a

50

1 regional based proposal, so comments on this proposal
2 are due February 2nd. This is the proposal that was
3 earlier discussed by Fish and Game regarding the
4 Southern Alask -- Peninsula -- Alaska Peninsula Caribou
5 Herd.

6
7 The proposal requests that there is an
8 increase in bag limits for the SAP Caribou Herd in Unit
9 9D. I'm going to go ahead and read once again the
10 harvestable surplus issues that the Alaska Department
11 of Fish and Game is proposing.

12
13 For residents and non-residents, two
14 caribou if the harvestable surplus is greater than 150
15 animals.

16
17 Resident and non-resident, three
18 caribou, if harvestable surplus is greater than 250
19 animals.

20
21 Resident and non-resident, four
22 caribou, if harvestable surplus is greater than 450
23 animals.

24
25 And No. 4; resident and non-resident,
26 five caribou, if harvestable surplus is greater than
27 550 animals.

28
29 The justification for this listed is
30 that the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd has likely
31 exceeded 2,200 caribou, has high bull to cow ratio and
32 low reported harvest. And, again, this proposal was
33 put forth by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
38 Karen. Discussion, Greg, comments.

39
40 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, I do have one
41 comment on this.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Yes, Della, I have comment.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on, Rick,
46 I'll get to you here, hold on.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Okay.

49
50

1 MR. RISDAHL: And, generally, I agree
2 with the concept, however, from the standpoint of
3 subsistence if we're allowing both resident and non-
4 resident hunters the same bag limit, that honestly
5 takes away from the local people's opportunities. And
6 I know that for a fact, in Cold Bay, for instance, we
7 do get non-resident hunters who come here that do hunt
8 from the road system. We have about 50 miles of roads
9 here and if you rent a truck, you can drive around and
10 hunt caribou. Well, if non-resident hunters are able
11 to come -- or non-local hunters even to come and take
12 caribou to this extent, I mean for example if we did
13 have a harvestable surplus of say even three caribou
14 per person, it is still going to limit what the
15 subsistence users can get because they will be
16 effectively in competition with the non-local, non-
17 resident, whatever, kind of hunter.

18
19 So from just looking at the small
20 communities that we have around here, I think it would
21 make a lot better sense if the subsistence users had
22 the opportunity to take more, at least within their
23 local area and somehow limit those hunters that are
24 flying in. You know, if they want to fly out to Trader
25 Mountain and hunt five caribou, I think that's fine,
26 but if you have people coming in and taking five
27 caribou apiece or even two caribou apiece right around
28 Cold Bay that will affect the subsistence users.
29 Likewise in King Cove, you have people coming from out
30 of the area, that is actually taking away from the
31 subsistence user's opportunities because it is
32 difficult to get around out here, there's not a lot of
33 infrastructure and people don't have the financial
34 means and the equipment oftentimes to go out and hunt
35 so they need to hunt locally, they need to hunt close
36 by.

37
38 Do you understand what I'm saying?
39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.
41 And just more clarification is the residents in this
42 particular case is the residents of the five or six
43 communities within the Aleutians east, or residents of
44 9D, can you define residents, or, are residents of the
45 state of Alaska.

46
47 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, in this case it
48 does mean -- resident does mean residents of the state
49 of Alaska, whereas non-residents means people that live
50

1 in other states or elsewhere, so that does make it
2 difficult, and I don't know that you can -- yeah, you
3 can't divide out people from Anchorage versus Cold Bay
4 or whatever.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then from
7 the Federal standpoint your residents are defined as
8 residents of these five or six communities.

9
10 I just wanted to make sure everybody --
11 -- we all kind of understood that in our mind when
12 we're looking at this.

13
14 There's been a lot of discussion and --
15 is this the last proposal Karen?

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: No.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. No,
22 there's one more proposal, actually two more proposals
23 after this but this is the more complex of the
24 proposals.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And the
27 reason I asked that is if we could turn the lights on.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
34 Rebecca.

35
36 MS. SKINNER: I also just wanted to
37 point to the copy of the actual proposal because it
38 does, in the proposal itself, show the additional dates
39 for resident hunters and I don't think those dates are
40 reflected on the PowerPoint slide. So resident hunters
41 have additional opportunity between November 15th and
42 March 31st of each year that non-resident hunters don't
43 have.

44
45 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

48
49 MR. KOSO: Yes, when we get into a

50

1 position where we're able to harvest caribou on a
2 regular basis, does that actually limit our subsistence
3 hunting then or do the subsistence hunt that we always
4 is going to still maintain the stature that we're doing
5 now, I guess I'm confused on when -- when they get
6 enough caribou and they open up the regular hunt, is
7 that more or less exclude the subsistence?

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, because the
10 subsistence regs are to be able to hunt on Federal
11 lands only. So they have a separate.....

12
13 MR. KOSO: A separate time.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:time
16 to.....

17
18 MR. KOSO: A separate quota and a
19 separate time, right?

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, no, well,
22 the -- one of the proposals in the booklet, Rick, is to
23 align the Federal one with the State, so the dates
24 match and then the -- and change it, instead from one
25 bull to just -- or to caribou, that's basically what
26 the State's regulation is now. However, both the
27 Federal -- the Federal is to change it right now to
28 match the State's, to align that, but to also consider
29 -- if we look at changing it to two caribou, however,
30 the State's proposal now, is what I'm to understand, is
31 changing that to possibly resident hunter up to the 150
32 caribou and including non-resident to two caribou,
33 that's -- and then it goes on to 250, you know, three
34 caribou for residents, Alaska residents, and three
35 caribou for non-residents, which is out of state.

36
37 So the -- there's quite a bit of -- you
38 know, there's quite a bit of information here and I
39 think having to make some really good suggestions or
40 recommendations because, you know, what I'm hearing
41 also, since this morning from a number of people, is
42 the concern, the impacts some of this might have
43 basically on this herd. So I will leave that
44 discussion open to anybody at this point.

45
46 Tom.

47
48 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think the one
49 thing that we need to point out, too, is that there is

50

1 an extended season for residents, that non-residents
2 are not allowed to participate in. So residents are
3 allowed to participate in that hunt from November 15th
4 through March 31st.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I'll bite
7 the bullet.

8
9 MR. RINALDI: This is Tom Rinaldi with
10 the Department of Fish and Game. I'm the regional
11 management coordinator for Region 4, which encompasses
12 Units 9 and 10. I guess I'd just like to clarify, I
13 thought Chris did a good job of explaining it this
14 morning, but through the Chair, if I could take a
15 moment to elaborate on some of it.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
18 please.

19
20 MR. RINALDI: So the intent of this
21 proposal is really to -- not only to provide additional
22 harvest opportunity for rural residents and residents
23 of Alaska, but it's mostly focused on attempt to
24 control the trajectory of the herd.

25
26 We have a lot of evidence that suggests
27 that when the herd gets to a certain level if we don't
28 get the level of harvest necessary, the herd will get
29 away from us and then we'll have issues like we had in
30 the past and we're really sensitive to habitat issues.
31 And so this structure that was developed by Region 4
32 and the area biologist, Chris and Dave in the King
33 Salmon office, is an adaptive approach to attempt to
34 gain the necessary harvest as the population continues
35 to grow. Like I mentioned before, in the past we
36 haven't been able to get the quote/unquote, local
37 harvest to be significant enough to control that
38 expansion, and so that's really the intent of this
39 adaptive structure.

40
41 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris, Madame
42 Chair. Chris from King Salmon.

43
44 I'd like to add to what Todd just said
45 and he indicated this is aimed at a herd that is
46 increasing so that we can contain that growth so that
47 it does not over do what habitat is available, but also
48 to encourage, if we have that growth, to encourage
49 hunters to get out there and harvest some animals.

50

1 Currently the harvest is not even coming close to
2 meeting what is available, and it's been open for
3 several years now. And we need, at certain times, that
4 it becomes very important that we have increased
5 harvest. Some people may just not be interested in
6 going out and hunting or if they do they may only be
7 interested in one animal. But other people, if they
8 knew that the bag limit was greater, that it had
9 increased, they might go out and harvest whatever that
10 bag limit was at that time, three to four or even five
11 if it reached those levels and once it gets to those
12 levels it becomes even more important that we get those
13 numbers down on the herd so that it does not increase
14 past the limits so that it can be sustained.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

17

18 MS. PETERSON: And then vice versa, if
19 the population then does turn around and it starts
20 decreasing, then the bag limit falls off. The bag
21 limit does not remain up at those high levels, that's
22 only if the herd is increasing and has exceeded those
23 particular population numbers. And at the same time,
24 and we may be forgetting this, we still have to be
25 maintaining for three years or more, have had the
26 really good bull to cow ratios and the calf to cow
27 ratios. So we're not excluding any of those things.
28 They're still part of the management.

29

30 So.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
33 Chris.

34

35 Rebecca. Tom. And I may put John
36 Arkley back on the hot seat again for a couple of
37 comments.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But if I can get
42 Rebecca first and then Tom, first, John.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Okay. I think this
45 question is for Chris. Chris, can you define, or
46 explain the definition of harvestable surplus and then
47 depending on what your answer is, explain how you come
48 up with the number for harvestable surplus.

49

50

1 MS. PETERSON: Yes, certainly.
2 Harvestable surplus, as the population grows and
3 increases there are a certain number of animals each
4 year that are going to die through natural causes, or
5 be removed through other natural means. Those are not
6 -- by -- come spring they are going to be gone and they
7 are not necessary for the growth of the herd or for
8 that population. So once we -- and we do look at the
9 overall numbers that we get on our surveys and the
10 proportion of cows to -- or calves to cows and of bulls
11 to cows and there are certain limits that we know are
12 necessary for growth in a herd, for good health and
13 growth. So once we have exceeded those particular
14 levels and then we have a certain number of -- or
15 percentage of the herd that's going to die each year,
16 that's considered, you know, a certain percent of that
17 is considered excess and those are -- there's benefit
18 to harvesting those and then it's not a loss, a waste,
19 if you will, some people would call, and they're
20 available to be harvested via human means, through
21 firearms or (indiscernible), archery, so that's what
22 we're talking about here. So as the herd grows as
23 those different proportions, the calf/cow ratios and
24 the bull/cow ratios, those can change each year and you
25 can have a herd that is actually growing but for some
26 particular reason, perhaps the calf/cow ratio is.....

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participant phones not muted)

30
31 MS. PETERSON:becoming more
32 negative and we look at that in addition to the
33 population.....

34
35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participant phones not muted)

37
38 MS. PETERSON:to see whether or
39 not that herd is going to be growing in a few years and
40 so we can make projections from looking at those
41 different numbers.

42
43 I do not believe that we would
44 implement, even if we had a herd that was growing, if
45 it had begun to slow down in that growth and the
46 calf/cow ratio was declining rapidly, even if the
47 numbers were high, we would be very conservative in
48 having an increase in bag limits until we saw those
49 numbers turn around.

50

1 But if it's -- also at the same time if
2 it's reached a really high population growth, level,
3 then it's going to be exceeding its habitat and we need
4 to get those numbers down quickly.

5
6 And so all of those different numbers
7 have a part in whether or not that bag limit would go
8 up or down.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. And.....

11
12 MS. PETERSON: Hopefully that answers
13 it.

14
15 MS. SKINNER: And have you come up with
16 a harvestable surplus for the herd currently?

17
18 MS. PETERSON: Yes. Currently it's --
19 it's not a.....

20
21 MS. SKINNER: I'm just trying to get a
22 sense for what it is if I were trying to apply the
23 proposed numbers in Proposal 126.

24
25 MS. PETERSON: Okay, currently we are
26 somewhere around the 150 to 200 animals that we would
27 consider surplus.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

30
31 MS. PETERSON: And, certainly we don't
32 want to remove all of those and so the bag limit stays
33 well under what the harvestable surplus might be.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

36
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I was
38 ahead of myself, so I'll just sit and listen for a bit.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, I'm going
43 to ask John to come up. I talked a little bit with him
44 during lunch. But, you know, I guess what I want to
45 ask him is what he's seen and where and this is
46 probably going to follow on to kind of Greg, too, and
47 the gentleman that works for the State, who's sitting
48 here, is right now -- you know, the issue in the last
49 couple of years has been the harvest limits have been

50

1 low, you know, and when you're doing your surveys, you
2 know, where are these caribou, number 1, and, you know,
3 John you can tell me when you're out in the field what
4 -- what do you see as far as caribou in area 9D.

5
6 MR. ARKLEY: John Arkley from Cold Bay.
7 I spent about 10 days really hunting caribou hard this
8 year and I never saw a caribou. Chris, I saw one
9 caribou way at Frosty, oh, about -- I saw one caribou
10 calf, she was collared with a little tiny baby calf and
11 that's the only caribou that I've seen for months and
12 months. I don't know where they are but they're
13 certainly not where we can find them, I guess, so my
14 question.....

15
16 MS. PETERSON: Well, that's a really
17 good point and.....

18
19 MR. ARKLEY:is.....

20
21 MS. PETERSON:that's partially
22 why we have a winter hunt is to give more opportunity.
23 This year you are not the only hunter on the Peninsula
24 who is wondering where the caribou are. They're out
25 there because we've seen them and we've counted them
26 and we'll be out in about, I guess right about a month
27 from now we'll do our fall count. And the last couple
28 of years we've had difficulty finding them as well, but
29 once we do the numbers are there. The caribou just
30 have not read the textbook as to where they're supposed
31 to be at a given time and they're not cooperating but
32 our counts are still really good. So if you find them,
33 I'm sure there are a lot of other people who would like
34 to know.

35
36 MR. ARKLEY: No doubt about it, can you
37 tell us where you are finding them?

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MS. PETERSON: I wish I could.

42
43 MR. ARKLEY: Another question that I
44 would have is if the carrying capacity is around 4,000
45 and we're only at 2,200 animals, but, yet we want to
46 kill off twice as many caribou; is that right?

47
48 MS. PETERSON: Oh, not yet. We do want
49 to increase -- we want to increase the harvest because

50

1 it's not currently meeting what we need. But that
2 doesn't mean we want to double it. By increasing the
3 bag limit at some point would not automatically suggest
4 that we would actually have that many animals
5 harvested, there's only -- there's usually somewhere,
6 30 to 50 percent of hunters will actually be successful
7 so there can actually be an increased bag limit that
8 will not result in a highly increased harvest.

9
10 So -- and at the same time, I do need
11 to throw in here that we need to remember that what
12 we're discussing here is a proposal we've put forth and
13 it's based on the data that we've been getting through
14 the last -- well, for a lot of years, for 20 or 30
15 years, that doesn't mean that the proposal will be
16 accepted. But it is based on the data we have and we
17 look at the history of the herd, the different trends
18 and what has happened and one of those things is that
19 when the herd exceeds, let's say 2,500 animals and
20 that's not a firm number, but in that area, once the
21 herd exceeds and continues on that trend to increase,
22 and it exceeds that 2,500 animals, the growth of the
23 herd can be very, very rapid. And so within a couple
24 of years it can exceed the total number that is
25 supported by the range down there. So once it reaches
26 those upper levels, it's like the growth is much faster
27 and we need to have a control, a way to keep it from
28 exploding across that -- because then once it exceeds
29 the range then we have all kinds of other problems and
30 then it's too late. So we'd like to be able to
31 forestall those problems.

32
33 Yes.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, this is
36 Della, I've got a couple questions maybe.

37
38 The first being, initially, with the
39 harvestable portion greater than 150 and the resident
40 hunter is for two caribou and then if the Federal
41 aligns there with the State that's going to be two
42 caribou. I mean I -- personally, for non-resident
43 hunters on the increase, if we had over 450 caribou as
44 an allowable harvestable portion, maybe then allow the
45 non-resident hunters, but I think just even increasing
46 it to two and seeing what happens, you know, my biggest
47 fear, too, is if we get a lot of snow this winter and
48 those caribou come down they are going to be harvested.
49 So, you know, there's some things to look at here,

50

1 yeah, and I think there's a lot to kind of really take
2 into consideration.

3
4 Does anybody else have any thoughts in
5 regard to this.

6
7 MR. KOSO: I got a question.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

10
11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question, and
12 it looks like you guys are putting in some, you know,
13 safeguards and you also got another fall survey you're
14 going to do, this proposal is probably not going to get
15 acted on until next year, would your fall -- say that
16 they don't come out like the 2,200 like you have now,
17 and they're less than that, then would you reconsider
18 this proposal?

19
20 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
21 Chris. I think I can answer that.

22
23 This proposal is based on the survey
24 results that we get. So even if this proposal was to
25 be passed immediately, say that happens, and we go out
26 in a month and our numbers show that the herd has
27 suffered from a decrease and it's way low, we no longer
28 have the numbers that can have an increased bag limit,
29 well, then we no longer have the numbers that would
30 justify that bag limit and this proposal supports not
31 implementing increased bag limits. This proposal gives
32 us the flexibility to look at the numbers on a more
33 current basis and adjust bag limits accordingly. So we
34 would not be tied into increasing the bag limit, no.
35 We can do what needs to be done by what we see with the
36 herd.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One of the
39 comments that was made, I think, that came up was if
40 you said up to, if it said up to two caribou for
41 resident hunters, and then looking at the Federal, when
42 we had our discussion, that was part of our discussion
43 this morning, and the State and the Feds decide that
44 they make their allocations the same, and the ability
45 to have that discussion to make whatever determination,
46 if it's going to be one or two caribou, the concern
47 that was also voiced was -- and I like to tell -- we
48 throw stuff on the table so we're not hiding anything
49 -- and the concern was basically that the Feds and the
50

1 State can get together and make a reasonable decision
2 that -- they'll say, okay, we're going to align our
3 regulations this year, we're going to allow for two
4 caribou under the Federal and we're going to allow for
5 two caribou under the State; do you see that as a
6 problem?

7
8 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, no, I -- I
9 -- I don't see any problem there and as long as
10 somebody is -- one agency or the other is not tied into
11 an increase, that as long as it's based on the data, of
12 what we've seen, then I think it would be done
13 correctly, so I have no problem with that.

14
15 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair. Madame
16 Chair, can I get.....

17
18 MS. PETERSON: We always seem to be
19 able to find Izembek.....

20
21 MS. SKINNER:a question in
22 after.....

23
24 MS. PETERSON:when we go down
25 there so I think it would work well.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tom.
28
29 Okay, Tom, and then Rebecca.

30
31 MR. EVANS: Chris, how do you know the
32 population's going to increase when it reaches 2,500 at
33 that same rate, because the population increased last
34 time probably due to the predation control on wolves
35 and also partly to a moratorium on some of the hunting
36 at the same time, so unless those same things happen,
37 will the population -- how do you know the population's
38 going to increase at that high rate when it reaches
39 like 2,500 like you said?

40
41 MS. PETERSON: Oh, well, we don't
42 necessarily know that nor do we expect that, other than
43 the different surveys that we do through the year. And
44 so perhaps this is a good point to -- at which to
45 explain a little bit about how we monitor the herd.

46
47 In the fall, like I said, in about a
48 month, we'll be going out and doing our composition
49 survey. And for this we fly in, we have to have a
50

1 certain percentage of the herd that we are able to
2 observe for this survey in order for it to be -- for us
3 to have much confidence in it, but we go out, we rank
4 what we see as far as the size of the bulls and how
5 many cows and we get ideas from this survey, we can
6 kind of tell the health of the herd as well by the
7 condition they're in, this is visually. It gives us
8 the percentage of bulls to cows. And we get a general
9 sense of the numbers as well as to -- for where they
10 are.

11
12 Then in the spring we also have a
13 different survey and it's called a partrician* survey,
14 we fly in once more and we rank all of the animals
15 again, but in -- more specifically we are looking at
16 cows and whether or not they are pregnant or if they
17 have a calf. And that gives us the pregnancy rate for
18 the herd, which tells us whether or not the herd is
19 growing. I mean if all those cows that we saw that
20 were pregnant have calves then that gives us an idea of
21 how rapidly the growth is going to be taking place that
22 year. Then, again, when we come back to that fall
23 survey we can examine how many of those calves that
24 were born have actually survived. And so we get not
25 only a growth rate but we can look at the survival of
26 the calves, which tells us what the trend in that
27 growth rate is actually going to be for that year.

28
29 The additional thing that is a part of
30 both of those surveys is that we have our -- currently
31 we have about 50 -- I believe it's 50 radio collared
32 animals scattered throughout the entire herd and so in
33 both surveys, it's like you have two different surveys
34 in each of those surveys. We do count all of the
35 animals that we see, whether or not they have a collar,
36 but we also use the collars in a subset survey and we
37 use those collared animals to help us find all of the
38 animals that we possibly can for the overall survey.

39
40 So we have quite a few things that
41 we're picking up and looking at each year. As we
42 conduct both of those surveys we have -- we do put some
43 -- we have quite a bit of interest in informal counts
44 of how many predators we do see across the landscape as
45 we conduct those surveys and we kind of keep track of
46 those. They aren't -- they aren't formal surveys,
47 they're not like that, but it does give us a sense of
48 how many bears are perhaps hanging around where the
49 caribou are calving or how many wolves we're seeing,
50

1 you know, in the vicinity of caribou in the fall and it
2 does help us have a picture of the herd.

3
4 So there's quite a few things that
5 we're looking at when we look at that number of 2,500
6 animals to say whether or not it's growing or
7 decreasing. And there may be one year where it
8 suddenly looks like, oh, well, it's 2,500 but it -- we
9 think it's going to decrease and there would be some
10 other -- you know, there'd be something else that we
11 would see during those surveys that might suggest that.

12
13 Does that answer your question.

14
15 (No comment)

16
17 MS. PETERSON: Hello. Is anyone there?

18
19 MR. EVANS: Yes, I'm here, I just had
20 to get back to the mic.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. PETERSON: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.

25
26 MR. EVANS: Yeah, it's -- yeah, that's
27 pretty standard, what you just said, how you conduct
28 your surveys, the composition surveys and the
29 population surveys, you still can't predict though
30 what's going to happen. We could have a bad winter
31 this winter and knock off a ton of caribou. So it's --
32 I think it's fine to have a system but I think we
33 should be conservative, given that this population has
34 undergone big fluctuations before. We should be, you
35 know, somewhat conservative, and I think Della was
36 trying to express some of that, too, that if we're
37 going to go, we shouldn't go in big steps, we should go
38 maybe in smaller steps.

39
40 But, anyhow, it's just a thought, you
41 know, I mean you're recommendation of changing the
42 harvest depending on the harvestable surplus, obviously
43 if you have counts that increase, but I guess I get a
44 little bit concerned when we're not quite at the 3,000
45 mark, you know, like at what point we need to do this
46 more drastic measures in increasing the harvest to
47 control the population. I think we just need to look
48 at it on a year by year basis and then figure out what
49 the population's doing and then we can kind of do -- so
50

1 if we make any steps, I would suggest that we go, you
2 know, in small steps at this point. But that's just my
3 personal opinion.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

8
9 Rebecca.

10
11 MS. PETERSON: Well, thank you, and I
12 -- you have a very valid opinion and I do, however,
13 think that your opinion is built into this proposal.
14 So one thing that I really like about this proposal is
15 that the steps are already in -- they're already in
16 place and so we don't have to go through this process.
17 If we have to -- if we ended up with a sudden decrease,
18 I mean we go out on our surveys and we've had -- we
19 also keep track of harvest and so say the summer, the
20 August harvest is extremely low, or maybe it could be
21 high, but let's say it's low and we go out on our
22 surveys and we should be able to detect decreases, if
23 there's been sudden decreases. If we look at that and
24 we come up with -- you know, we determine that we don't
25 want to have the bag limits -- we don't want the
26 harvest to reflect the current high bag limit that we
27 have then we have the option through emergency order to
28 take steps to reverse that.

29
30 So we do have the ability to do that.

31
32 But by having the bag limits already in
33 place we don't have to wait a long time to get the bag
34 limit increased, because by then, if the herd suddenly
35 does have a huge increase we've at least had some
36 chance to affect it before it exceeds its ability.

37
38 We're not saying that -- and we would
39 never do this in management, it -- it is based on
40 numbers but we're very conservative, as we said a few
41 minutes ago, if the bag limit is high -- say, for some
42 strange reason it actually got up to the four animals
43 per hunter, how many -- generally there's only a third
44 to maybe half of the hunters who will even be
45 successful in getting one caribou. They are not all
46 going to go out there and get four caribou but -- I
47 don't believe that has ever happened, it could
48 conceivably. But when we implement these bag limits we
49 do look at, well, what is the possible maximum that

50

1 could be taken and we are very cautious and careful
2 about setting those bag limits up. We don't want to
3 over do that. That's fundamental to our management, is
4 we're not going to get the maximum harvest possible.
5 So it's always going to be less because of the luck
6 that hunters have.

7

8 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

9

10 MS. PETERSON: So I do think this is
11 conservative and support what you just explained in
12 your opinion, I -- I think it's in there. So.

13

14 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Thank you,
15 Chris.

16

17 MS. PETERSON: Certainly.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca and then
20 Sam. And then I'm going to recommend after -- and then
21 Greg, we'll take a little bit of a break. We'll give
22 people a few minutes to kind of catch their breath,
23 everybody wants to talk a little bit so let's do that
24 and then take a break.

25

26 So Rebecca. Sam. Greg.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, it's always good to
29 hear some healthy debate between our Federal and State
30 management. But I had a question about the harvest
31 levels and perhaps I should have asked this when Tom
32 was at the table. But on Page 11 of the OSM report, it
33 says that a majority of the harvest from the SAPCH,
34 which occurs primarily during the months of September,
35 November and December are currently being taken by
36 residents from Cold Bay and King Cove under the more
37 liberal State regulations. Do we have that actual data
38 by month to show the number of animals harvested in
39 each month and then whether it was resident and non-
40 resident?

41

42 MR. EVANS: Yes.

43

44 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.....

45

46 MS. SKINNER: Is it in the -- do you
47 know if we have it in here or can we be provided the
48 data at some point?

49

50

1 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I think it's in the
2 report.....
3
4 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
5 Chris again.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, excuse me.
8
9 MS. PETERSON: I know that.....
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me.
12
13 MS. PETERSON:that data is.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris. Chris,
16 could you.....
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Chris, hold on just a
19 minute, we have a question on the floor and it's
20 probably best, because it's on the phone and our Chair
21 person is selecting the next person to speak, so Tom
22 said, yes his answer was yes to that question, that we
23 do have those data and he believes it's in the report,
24 is that true, Tom?
25
26 MR. EVANS: It's not -- it's not
27 in.....
28
29 REPORTER: Tom.
30
31 MR. EVANS:the report exactly
32 that way but that information is available, yes.
33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom has said it's not
35 in the report exactly that way but the information is
36 available.
37
38 MS. SKINNER: Okay. If we could just
39 be provided, and if it could be in a table format that
40 would be great.
41
42 Thank you.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, or was it
45 Sam, well, both of you had your hands up.
46
47 Sam.
48
49 MR. ROHRER: Thank you. Through the
50

1 Chair. A couple comments.

2
3 First on the State proposal. I have a
4 couple thoughts on it. The non-resident numbers seem a
5 little bit high. It's not necessary to have the non-
6 resident numbers equal the resident numbers, certainly
7 if resident hunters can take five animals then the non-
8 resident number should be higher than one animal, for
9 example, five seems a little excessive. But the other
10 factor to throw in there, is remember a non-resident
11 has to pay \$650 for a tag. You -- I would just be
12 shocked if you would have very many non-residents show
13 up and participate with more than two caribou. It's
14 just too expensive. They're not going to buy the tags.
15 They're just not going to be interested in doing that.
16 So you're not going to see a lot of harvest there
17 probably.

18
19 It seems to me that there are
20 safeguards built into this. The State is obviously
21 concerned at what the upper level of the herd is and so
22 they want to make sure they're covered to try to keep
23 it from getting too high. Those safeguards are built
24 in here as best as you can, you just keep liberalizing
25 the season, liberalizing the season. If, in turn, the
26 population goes down, the safeguards are built in
27 there, you just reduce the season. So I don't -- I
28 mean it seems like we're debating this a whole bunch
29 and everyone's saying the same thing, well, we need
30 safeguards, well we have safeguards.

31
32 So, personally, I would have no problem
33 with supporting Proposal 126. We could add an amendment
34 to it to reduce the non-resident portion of it some.
35 I'd be fine with that as well.

36
37 The other thing to remember is the
38 Board of Game's going to kick this thing around a bunch
39 and they're ultimately the ones who are going to make a
40 decision on it. We could just not comment on it, is
41 our other option. I would prefer to comment on it and
42 say we support it or we support it with some
43 modification if we think the upper end needs to be
44 brought down a little bit.

45
46 I'm ready for us to make a decision on
47 it here pretty quick because I think we've said most
48 all that needs to be said.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going
2 to go with Tom and then Greg, and then we have Angela.
3 I guess we're just going to have to let everybody say
4 their peace, I mean this is a decision that affects us
5 all and it's been a tough decision that we have to make
6 for many years and are happy to be able to harvest
7 caribou so whatever decision we make I hope it's the
8 right one that we're going to live with -- we have to
9 live with it.

10

11 Tom.

12

13 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll defer to Greg
14 because I'm ready to make a motion.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Greg.

17

18 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chairman and
19 Council. A couple things.

20

21 You know, we Federal, government,
22 agency folk totally agree with what the State has laid
23 out here, they're using sound wildlife management
24 principles, they're using adaptive management, it
25 allows us the flexibility to change our regulations.
26 If there's a change in the population, whether it goes
27 up or down, we can change it.

28

29 Sam does make a couple of good points.
30 One of them is, non-residents are probably not going to
31 want to shoot more than two caribou. I think a lot of
32 them will shoot two, but probably not three or four.
33 But this is done in other places. Unit 25, I was just
34 looking in the residents. Residents are allowed to
35 shoot 10 caribou, non-residents two. So, you know,
36 there is a precedent for that.

37

38 So my only question, and that really is
39 -- and this is to the State, Chris, Dave or whomever,
40 is there a tool that the State uses to in any way
41 provide a little more opportunity for subsistence by
42 the community. So like I see there's these community
43 subsistence harvest permits and from what I've noticed
44 is usually they just make the season a little bit
45 longer than for the rest of the residents. Is there
46 anything that the State can do to provide a little more
47 opportunity for the local people living in these remote
48 communities, other than, you know, for instance,
49 already we have the -- the non-resident hunt is August,

50

1 September, there's no non-resident hunting from
2 November through March but the residents can and for
3 instance -- the reason why I bring this up is I've only
4 been here a short period of time but I can tell you --
5 I mean I would bet my life that the bulk of the harvest
6 in Cold Bay was by folks coming in with the Coast
7 Guard. Those young guys were out there every day and
8 they were bringing back caribou day in and day out and
9 I don't have a problem with that, but it makes it a lot
10 more difficult for the local folk to get those caribou.
11 And I have been out a couple times and I have seen some
12 caribou, I just decided they were too far to carry back
13 to my ATV.

14

15 So my question is, does the State have
16 a tool that somehow we could make it a little bit
17 easier for the local people to access those animals
18 versus even other residents of the State?

19

20 MS. PETERSON: Excuse me, I just had
21 another question presented to me.

22

23 I believe that that is an issue that's
24 called allocation and I can do some checking into that
25 and get back with you about it but at the moment I
26 believe it's an allocation issue and we don't have
27 anything that we can do about that.

28

29 But, yeah, if you -- if you give me
30 just a few minutes here, if you had that, I could check
31 into that and find out fairly quickly, but it is
32 something that I have never heard that they have
33 anything to do with so -- so I don't know if you have a
34 minute that you could spare here but I could go.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, I think
37 what we'll do at this time, there is a lot of
38 information, and some new information and things to
39 think about it, if we could just take a 15 minute
40 break, that'll give you time, I think, to look for what
41 you're looking at and give some time for these guys to
42 throw things around and what they'd like to recommend,
43 hopefully, from when we get back from a break. Is that
44 acceptable to everyone?

45

46 (Council nods affirmatively)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Angela, did you
49 want to make a comment before we do that.

50

1 MS. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madame Chair
2 and the Board. And as I listen to all of you talk, is
3 there a way to get a clear definition of what a
4 resident is, and non-resident. I mean the State has so
5 many different definitions of what residency is. I
6 think that first needs to fully be defined before
7 anybody can make any decision on this, in honesty.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Angela. Okay, with that we're going to take a break
13 guys. 3:00 we'll be back and hopefully we can resolve
14 this.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just kind of a
21 point of order, it has been brought to my attention,
22 you know this issue is very important to the people in
23 this region and statewide for that matter, so
24 everybody, you know, wanted to say something, so as a
25 Council we need to be sure to raise your hand so I can
26 allow you to talk and that we all have some
27 constructive discussion and allow the people that are
28 speaking, especially the ones on line, for people to
29 hear. So our hands have duly been slapped.

30
31 I'd like to go ahead and move on.

32
33 Part of the reason I wanted to have the
34 break there, there was a lot of information starting to
35 clash together and I think everybody constructively was
36 on the right track and I believe that maybe have been
37 the result and so I'm going to ask Tom, and/or Sam to
38 maybe speak at this time.

39
40 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I'd like
41 to make a motion.....

42
43 REPORTER: Tom.

44
45 MR. SCHWANTES: Oh, yes. Madame Chair.
46 I'd like to make a motion that we support Proposal No.
47 126 with the following modifications.

48
49 If the harvestable proportion is

50

1 greater than 150 caribou, residents two caribou, non-
2 residents one caribou.

3

4 If the harvestable proportion is
5 greater than 250 caribou, residents three caribou, non-
6 residents one caribou.

7

8 If the harvestable proportion is
9 greater than 450 caribou, residents four caribou, non-
10 residents two caribou.

11

12 And if we get to where we have a
13 harvestable portion greater than that, we need to be at
14 the table talking.

15

16 MR. ROHRER: And I'll second that.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: A motion's been
19 made and seconded. Pat and Rick, were you able to hear
20 that.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Yes, Della. It's 150, two
23 and one, then did it go to 260, then three animals.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct,
26 Rick. And then if it goes to 450, it would be four
27 resident and two non-resident. And if it goes beyond
28 the 550 or 550 and beyond, then everybody needs to be
29 at the table to discuss the future of this herd.

30

31 MR. KOSO: Okay.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat, copy.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with that.
42 And that's where my thinking was going along that line
43 and my apologies to Chris, because the Department does
44 do allocative things with Tier II and all sorts of
45 different creative things. I think that the proposal
46 that Tom is making is an excellent one because it gets
47 it up on the table for discussion. I would like to see
48 the anthropology people, both State and Federal go back
49 and look at the old subsistence surveys for the

50

1 Peninsula and see how much caribou meat people usually
2 took and then take a look at that and compare it to
3 non-residents harvest and I think it'll probably come
4 up -- from just my recollection over 40/50 years is
5 that it's going to come pretty close to what you're
6 proposing there. So I think there's probably some
7 pretty solid data behind it so go for it.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Council.

10

11

Rebecca.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

MS. SKINNER: I think that the
structure of this proposal goes in the right direction
and that it provides more flexibility to the managers
that, where they can make changes on a more immediate
basis without going through an extended, you know, 12
or 24 month regulatory change process. So I will be
supporting the motion.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

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33

34

I do want to say after the discussion
today, I am concerned with the -- the harvestable
surplus, so if the harvestable surplus today is 150 to
200, that means if you applied these numbers you would
immediately have a two caribou bag limit. It doesn't
necessarily make sense to me that you would double the
bag limit, when the size of the herd isn't even at the
minimum herd size that you want. However, I think --
yeah, I do defer to some extent to the Fish and Game
biologist who are actually managing this herd, and I
think they do want a healthy herd, but I can say that
from my perspective, listening to everything, not all
of the dots were connecting. But I am comfortable with
the motion and I do plan to support it.

35

36

Thank you.

37

38

39

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

40

41

MS. CHERNOFF: No.

42

43

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam, any
comments.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. ROHRER: Just that I support the
proposal. I think it's a bit of a compromise -- well,
maybe not compromise but I think it goes to address
some of the concerns that we heard from some of the
local folks about, you know, concern about too many

1 non-residents and what not, you know, potential to have
2 too many non-residents. So, yeah, I think it addresses
3 it and hopefully it addresses the State's concern with
4 making sure they can bump up the harvest adequately in
5 the event, hopefully that the population continues to
6 increase so I'll be supporting it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
11 Melissa.

12
13 MS. BERNS: I have no comments.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing
16 none, we have a motion made by Tom, did we have a
17 second to the motion, Tina.

18
19 REPORTER: Yes, Sam.

20
21 MR. ROHRER: Yes, I seconded it.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And second by
24 Sam. Call for question.

25
26 MS. BERNS: Question.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
29 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
34 sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good job
40 everybody.

41
42 Okay, Karen, if we can go ahead and
43 move on to the next proposal.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: If you can't see this
46 let me know and I'll turn the lights down.

47
48 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
49 the Council.
50

1 The next proposal is Proposal 128.
2 This is a proposal that is requesting to allow the
3 harvest of any caribou in Unit 10 on Adak Island.

4
5 Essentially it's requesting no limit,
6 no harvest ticket, no closed season.

7
8 The reason why the proponent has put
9 forth the proposal is because it removes a bull
10 restriction which unnecessarily restricts meat hunters
11 who may harvest younger animals that are harder to
12 determine sex. The proponent is John Bush.

13
14 Thank you, very much.

15
16 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'm
21 definitely going to oppose this proposal. I think we
22 don't have enough information on that Unimak herd to
23 make a valid decision as far as -- but certainly, I
24 mentioned earlier that I wanted to speak to the Unimak
25 herd and I'm certainly interested in hearing more about
26 that herd and where we're at with numbers and I'm
27 certainly interested in looking at providing a
28 subsistence hunt for the locals, but I'm definitely not
29 in favor of opening this up to anybody for any animal
30 basically.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We've got Rick
37 on there, this says Unit 10, Adak Island.

38
39 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm sorry.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, so Rick,
42 go ahead.

43
44 MR. KOSO: This is up in Adak, it's in
45 Unit 10 also, but it's from Adak. (Phone cutting in
46 and out)

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rick, could you speak
49 a little maybe closer to the phone, we're having a
50

1 difficult time hearing you.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5

MR. KOSO: Yes, can you hear me now.

6

7

8

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You're kind of cutting in and out Rick.

9

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16

MR. KOSO: (Phone cutting in and out) this is not Unimak, as far as I understand, this proposal is for Adak. I would (indiscernible) locals (indiscernible) a few years ago, probably about seven or eight years ago now where we had some (indiscernible) and Adak is pretty easy to (indiscernible - phone cutting in and out)

17

18

19

20

21

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, I'm going to interrupt you for a second, is there a possibility you can hang up and call back and maybe we can get a better line for you, we can't hear you.

22

23

24

25

MR. KOSO: All right, I'll do that.

26

27

28

29

(Pause)
MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Would you like me to let people know about what the current regulation is.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

MS. DEATHERAGE: The current regulation allows for no more than two bulls and no bulls taken between January 1st and August 9th and there's no limit.

37

38

39

40

41

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Karen.

42

43

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48

MS. SKINNER: I heard the words, I see the writing on the paper but I don't understand what you just said. So is it no limit from January to August but then the limit of no more than two bulls -- does that apply August through the end of the year?

49

50

MS. DEATHERAGE: My understanding is

1 that there's no limit at all on this herd but you can't
2 take more than two bulls. And you can't take any bulls
3 between January 1st and August 9th.

4
5 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So you can't take
6 more than two bulls but then you can take the rest as
7 cows.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, is that
14 you?

15
16 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me now?

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we.....

19
20 MR. KOSO: Can you hear me now?

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we can hear
23 you, go ahead.

24
25 MR. KOSO: Okay. Yeah, just a
26 clarification, I guess, for Tom, maybe there, that Unit
27 10 also includes Adak Island, and I think we're
28 speaking on behalf of Adak Island on this proposal.

29
30 So as far as Adak community is
31 concerned, they would like to support this motion. I
32 know they put in the Board of Game, put in a proposal
33 to cut it to two males -- yeah, males in order for the
34 heads to grow bigger for the head hunters. 99 percent
35 of the locals are not head hunters, they're for meat.
36 So I support the locals on this one. I don't think
37 it's going to affect the larger bulls.

38
39 And I guess I'm a little bit nervous on
40 this whole deal because we've never had a survey in
41 awhile and I'd certainly like to see a survey of Adak,
42 you know, but I don't think it's going to hurt the
43 population to keep it as is and the way it is now.

44
45 So I'm going to support 128.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
48 Is there any more discussion.

49
50

1 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.
4
5 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.
6
7 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I was
8 just going to ask if the State had comments, I would
9 like to hear what the State says.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.
12
13 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. One idea
14 that has not been yet presented here is that part of
15 the purpose for restricting the take of bulls is to
16 increase the taking of cows. The problem down on Adak
17 is that the herd continually exceeds its capacity and
18 we need to have more cows taken to keep the herd from
19 growing as much as it does. So it is not entirely
20 aimed at people who want to take bulls and get trophy
21 bulls, it's aimed at keeping the herd within the bounds
22 that can sustain it.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
27 other questions or discussion.
28
29 Antone.
30
31 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone. Thanks, Della.
32 I support this proposal because a few years ago the
33 Federal funding for the -- they wanted to cull the
34 caribou or get the number down so I support this.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Antone. Anybody want to make a motion.
40
41 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'd make a motion
42 Della that we support Proposal 128.
43
44 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We've got a
47 motion on the floor made by Richard Koso seconded by
48 Antone Shelikoff.
49
50

1 Discussion.

2

3

Sam.

4

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Harvest tickets are
7 currently required so there's reporting and we should
8 have some idea of the harvest but under this proposal
9 there would be no harvest tickets, which I would take
10 that to mean no reporting so we wouldn't know what --
11 there wouldn't be any recordkeeping, wouldn't know how
12 many animals are killed. That doesn't seem like a good
13 idea, to not have any kind of reporting, to me.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, can you
15 answer that.

16

17

MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

20

21

22

MR. KOSO: Madame Chair. As I read
23 this proposal, I don't see where it's going to change
24 having harvest tickets, this is just harvesting caribou
25 but I don't see the change in the regulation.

25

26

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Tom.

27

28

29

MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, the way I'm
30 reading this it says no limit, no harvest tickets, no
31 closed season, so that tells me we're not going to have
32 any recordkeeping at all and I'm not comfortable with
33 that. I would support this if we had a no limit on
34 caribou but harvest tickets required. Well, I'm not
35 sure how that'd work either. That wouldn't work
36 really.

36

37

38

MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick
39 here. I guess I'm reading something a little different
40 here, I must not have the full proposal in front of me
41 here so I may be doing something I might not be --
42 probably shouldn't be doing if I don't see the full
43 proposal. So with that, I guess I'll withdraw my
44 proposal since I didn't get a second anyway until I can
45 see what the whole proposal is.

45

46

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, if you can
47 hold on a second. There was a second. Chris, are you
48 on line, can you address what was just discussed.

49

50

1 MS. PETERSON: I'm looking at -- as I
2 read this proposal it says no limit, harvest ticket,
3 and then comma, no closed season, so I was reading it
4 as meaning that there would still be a harvest ticket.

5
6 So there would be no limit.

7
8 You would still get a harvest ticket.

9
10 And then there would be no closed
11 season.

12
13 But I'm checking into more details on
14 this proposal right this second.

15
16 So I'll look very quickly and if I find
17 something I'll get back with you right away.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
20 Chris.

21
22 Tom.

23
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Yep, I overlooked the
25 comma in there so with that in mind, with no limit,
26 but harvest tickets required, no closed season, I would
27 support that proposal.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
30 the clarification. Motion made and seconded.

31
32 Is there a question -- call for
33 question.

34
35 MR. KOSO: Question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
38 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
43 sign.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

48 Moving on.

49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. Members of the Council.

3
4 This is Proposal No. 53, and I'm glad
5 we do have the Department of Fish and Game on the phone
6 because it was a little difficult to understand. The
7 proposal requests a reevaluation of the C&T use finding
8 for migratory game birds statewide, so it is another
9 statewide proposal. The Alaska Board of Game requested
10 that ADF&G look at determining C&T findings for the
11 amount necessary for subsistence for ducks, geese,
12 swan, snipe and cranes. Positive C&T findings
13 currently exist for Canada and Emperor geese. ADF&G
14 does not recommend that the Board of Game pursue an
15 amount necessary for subsistence for migratory birds
16 due to the broad scale of C&T findings.

17
18 The proponent is the Alaska Department
19 of Fish and Game. So I know it sounds confusing but my
20 sense is that the Department is responding to a request
21 from the Board of Game that C&T findings be
22 reevaluated. They're responding by putting forth a
23 proposal but they're not recommending that there be any
24 changes.

25
26 Correct me if I'm wrong, any
27 representative from ADF&G.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, would you
32 like to address that.

33
34 (No comment)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, are you
37 still there?

38
39 (No comment)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there anybody
42 else on line that can address this Proposal 53?

43
44 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that you Pat?

47
48 MR. KOSO: No, this is Rick here, Della.
49 I would say until we get more information I'd like to

50

1 just table that one.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No action or
table.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. You
probably -- unless you are expecting to get information
tomorrow, I wouldn't recommend tabling this because
you're not going to be able to bring this up in time
for comment period October 27th.

Thank you.

MS. WITA: Madame Chair, this is Amy
Wita.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Amy.

MS. WITA: If you could give me a
second I can see if I can find somebody that may have a
little bit of information for us, okay.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we can do
that.

MS. WITA: All right, I'll leave and
I'll come right back.

MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
Chris Peterson in King Salmon. We're also looking for
some information and we'll get with you in just a
minute.

(Pause)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

MS. CHERNOFF: So can someone just let
me know what is ANS, C&T findings for ANS for duck,
geese, swan.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Member
Chernoff, through the Chair. It's the amount necessary
for subsistence. And when the Alaska Department of
Fish and Game has a positive finding for C&T then they
establish the amount necessary for subsistence.

Thank you.

1 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

2

3

4

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
Rebecca.

5

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14

MS. SKINNER: So do I understand this
correctly, that the only C&T right now are for Canada
and Emperor geese or are there other C&T findings for
other ducks, geese, swans, snipes and cranes? So I
guess I'm asking is it that there are many C&T in
addition to Canada and Emperor geese that will need to
be reevaluated or is it, there's Canada and Emperor
geese C&T and what the Board of Game is asking for is
that more be developed for more species of birds.

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

18

19

20

21

22

23

MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Skinner,
through the Chair. My understanding is there are only
two positive findings for C&T and that would be for
Canada and Emperor geese, and the Emperor goose C&T
finding was recent, more recent and so this is asking
to reevaluate other species of birds.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

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29

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have a
question or maybe somebody could help me with this.

30

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When I worked with the Aleutian Marine
Mammal Commission, part of that process is somebody
came in and I worked with them doing household surveys
on birds and it had this big poster full of pictures of
all these birds and so it seems to me -- and I did it
like three times over a five year period, or two times
over a five year period, so somebody has information
from these communities on it because the six
communities in the Aleutians East, we did these
surveys. I'd actually gone to Sand Point and did it.
So I'm not -- but I can't recall though is who we were
doing the survey for because we did some State surveys
on fish and households too.

43

44

45

46

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. And
Fish and Game can.....

47

48

49

50

MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.

MS. DEATHERAGE:hopefully verify

1 this. Doing the surveys would be just part of that
2 process but it would only collect the data that are
3 necessary to make a determination so you may have
4 actually done surveys but it appears that no C&T
5 determination has been made based on some of that other
6 data other than those two species of birds.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, did I
11 hear you on line.

12

13 MS. PETERSON: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
14 you. As far as -- as I read this and discussed it with
15 my co-workers here, this is more or less just a
16 procedural proposal. The C&T has only been made for
17 two species and there are other additional species that
18 the Board of Game would like to have a C&T
19 determination made for those other species. It's not a
20 proposal to change management in any way or allocation
21 or anything like that. It's simply to get those
22 numbers determined for those other species. And I
23 cannot answer why there were only two original species
24 done. But this is to maybe alleviate some of those
25 gaps there that needed to be filled.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
30 have any other questions or comments.

31

32 MS. WITA: Madame Chair, this is Amy.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Amy.

35

36 MS. WITA: I have Brian Davis here as
37 well.

38

39 MR. DAVIS: Hello.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hi Brian, go
42 ahead.

43

44 MR. DAVIS: Della.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, go ahead.

47

48 MR. DAVIS: Just looking at the Fish
49 and Game Staff comments are describing this Proposal

50

1 No. 53 and these are published on the meeting website
2 now, the Board of Game meeting. This proposal is kind
3 of a -- it's not housekeeping, but it's a follow up to
4 the C&T findings that the Board of Game made last year
5 for migratory birds in certain units. They found
6 customary and traditional use for migratory birds in
7 Units 18, 22, 23, 26A and then they found C&T for
8 Emperor geese throughout the Alaska Range and this
9 proposal would extend C&T findings for migratory birds
10 in other regions of Alaska.

11

12 So what the Subsistence Division will
13 have to do is to write up a description of the
14 customary and traditional use pattern for migratory
15 birds in Units 18, 22, 23 the Arctic Western Region and
16 in additional units, you know, other than what was
17 covered last time, it's going to extend the C&T to all
18 the units where these birds range.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, and then
23 Rebecca.

24

25 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I'm
26 going to make a motion that we take no action on this
27 proposal.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Got a motion on
30 the floor. Rebecca.

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Are you going to look for
33 a second or should I go ahead with my question or.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll go
36 ahead with your question first and then.....

37

38 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

39

40 To our Fish and Game representatives on
41 the phone, can anyone explain why the sentence I'm
42 looking at which you don't have because it's on a
43 PowerPoint, but it says ADF&G does not recommend that
44 the Board of Game pursue an ANS for subsistence for
45 migratory birds due to the broad scale of C&T findings.

46

47 So does this mean that Fish and Game
48 supports developing C&T but not ANS, or do these two
49 things go hand in hand, and what exactly does Fish and

50

1 Game not support in regards to this proposal and why
2 don't they support it?
3

4 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
5 Chris in King Salmon. I cannot answer part of that
6 statement, but the document I'm looking at, in front of
7 me, it has the Department comments, it simply says that
8 the Department submitted and supports this proposal.
9 So why there would be a difference between ANS, I don't
10 -- I can't answer that.
11

12 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.
13

14 MR. DAVIS: This is Brian from Fish and
15 Game. I think I might be able to shed some light on
16 that.
17

18 MS. SKINNER: Okay.
19

20 MR. DAVIS: The C&T finding is a real
21 general finding that says -- that says these bird -- in
22 this case, bird stocks, are used by Alaska in a
23 customary and traditional way. It doesn't go so far as
24 to say the numbers of birds that are necessary for
25 subsistence, the ANS does that. And so the Board would
26 first consider a C&T finding for a fish or a game
27 population, or a bird population, and then they would
28 go on to say, okay, we know that there is a C&T finding
29 for this population, now how many -- how many animals
30 or pounds or whatever are necessary for subsistence,
31 and that's the amount necessary for subsistence, and
32 that's usually a numerical range. So it might say, you
33 know, harvest of -- harvest of swans are -- is a
34 customary and traditional use and the harvest of swans
35 in this or that, you know, 400 to 2,000, you know, just
36 hypothetically; that's what an ANS would do.
37

38 The proposal that's on the book that
39 the Board of Game will be reviewing does not have any
40 mention of ANS at all, they're simply dealing with the
41 C&T finding at this point. I think someone's pointing
42 out language that was written in the draft version of
43 the proposal and that was struck. So all the
44 description of ANS and the Department recommendation,
45 either for or against ANS, that's no longer in the
46 proposal and -- and the Board of Game may ask for that
47 to -- you know, for comment on that and for some
48 perspective on that, but as of now, again, it's not in
49 the proposal.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Tom, you
2 had a motion on the floor, I think in regard to what
3 was on the wall here on Proposal 53, what would you
4 like to do.

5
6 MR. ROHRER: I'd like to second his
7 motion.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Sam. A
10 motion made by Tom and seconded by Sam.

11
12 Discussion.

13
14 MS. CHERNOFF: What was it for, take no
15 action?

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Take no action.

18
19 MR. KOSO: Call for the question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion. We
22 got one comment here, hold on.

23
24 MS. CHERNOFF: I would just like to say
25 I would like to see this supported. As a subsistence
26 board, I think it's important to have C&T findings, and
27 so I would be in favor of supporting this.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
32 Coral. The way I understand this, positive C&T
33 findings currently exist for Canada and Emperor geese
34 and then where it says ADF&G does not recommend the
35 Board pursue an ANS, that whole sentence is no longer
36 in there; is that correct?

37
38 MR. DAVIS: Yes, this is Brian Davis,
39 that is correct.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, Brian, this is
42 Karen Deatherage from OSM. And I guess you had a draft
43 one in the book because we do have the proposal book
44 here and that statement is in the proposal book under
45 this proposal.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. DAVIS: Okay, Karen, this is Brian.

50

1 I want to apologize, I think I may have made a mistake
2 in my statement there. I think I'm looking at the
3 actual proposal book now and I'm sorry I wasn't
4 prepared to speak but I'm trying to catch up here.

5
6 I think the take home message is kind
7 of what I was saying before, that the C&T is the first
8 step in kind of a longer process, where a stock is, you
9 know, established as a subsistence stock and then, you
10 know, there's quite a bit of work that goes into
11 determine the ANS for each stock in each unit.

12
13 So, again, I do apologize for my
14 mistake before, the comment is in there about an ANS
15 finding. My understanding is that the Department's
16 recommendation that ANS not be established at this time
17 is simply a matter of the fact that a lot more work is
18 required and that the C&T finding that's proposed here
19 is the first step.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we
22 have a motion on the floor to not approve this
23 proposal, or not support this proposal -- or not take
24 any action and a second. I did hear a call for the
25 question so I'm going to go ahead and ask for this to
26 go to a vote.

27
28 So all in favor at this point of the
29 motion say aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
34 sign.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Aye.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Aye.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, are you
41 still on line.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I had my mute on
44 and I didn't have it switched quick enough. I'll go
45 with the flow.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So I believe the
48 ayes have it.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
Karen, moving on.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I
regret to inform you that there are no more proposals.
Thank you all for your patience.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
you. Now, we are to -- is it the WP18.....

MS. BERNS: No, we're down here or no,
wait.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair and
Council. I believe at this time you should return to
Proposal 18-20 because you were waiting for the
discussion on these proposals prior to making your
decision.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, thank you.
That is correct. So now we are down to the WP18-20,
align Federal caribou hunting regulations with State
regulations in Unit 9D.

Tom.

MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I'd make
a motion to approve this proposal with the
modifications to remove the unit specific regulations
referencing quotas and closures and delegate the
authority to announce quota and needed closures via
delegation of authority letter, only, and that the Unit
9D caribou season be a -- limit be one to four animals
based on conservation concerns and harvestable surplus
with the seasons from August 1st to September 30th and
for residents only from November 15th to March 31st.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I see Karen
shaking her head.

MS. DEATHERAGE: I apologize, I'm
trying to get my computer up over here. Tom, I did not
get that motion and so if you could repeat it once I

1 get this system set up, just give me a minute.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 (Pause)
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
8 Chair. Member Schwantes, I'm ready for you to repeat
9 that motion.
10
11 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Madame Chair.
12
13 The motion would be to support Proposal
14 WP18-20 with modification to remove the unit specific
15 regulation referencing quotas and closures and delegate
16 authority to announce quotas and any needed closures
17 via a delegation of authority letter only. Unit 9D
18 caribou would be a limit of one to four based on
19 conservation concerns and harvestable surplus with
20 seasons August 1st through September 30th and November
21 15th through March 31st.
22
23 MS. SKINNER: Second.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We've got a
26 motion made by Tom and second.
27
28 Discussion.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat and Rick,
31 are you good.
32
33 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair. I don't have
34 the regulations book in front of me there, just a quick
35 question on those dates. Were those dates in there by
36 the Feds or were they by the State and are you changing
37 them to coincide with which one.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.
40
41 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair, this is
42 Sam. Those are to coincide with the State dates.
43
44 MR. KOSO: Thanks, Sam.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, are you on
47 line, do you have any questions or discussion.
48
49 MR. HOLMES: No, I'm fine with it.
50

1 MS. BERNES: Question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have a
4 motion made to approve WP18-20 and amended by Tom,
5 question's been called. Okay, go ahead, Tom.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I need to add one
8 thing into that, that should be by Federal registration
9 permit only.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Tom
12 amended his motion, is the second still good?

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, one more quick
17 question, please.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rebecca
20 seconded and.....

21

22 MS. BERNES: Tom motioned.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I know that,
25 okay, and you called the question.

26

27 MR. KOSO: I just had a real question.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rick, go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. KOSO: I guess on the number of the
33 caribou, one through four season, I guess I'm maybe
34 just a little bit confused on this proposal that we
35 discussed, that Proposal 126, where we proposed two and
36 one, 150, that kind of stuff, so where does that
37 correlate with that?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: Rick, this is strictly
42 a Federal subsistence permit. It's a Federal
43 registration permit only.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Oh, okay, thanks Tom.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Rick,
48 it's just giving the Refuge manager the leeway if the
49 State says two caribou in 2018, the Refuge manager can

50

1 match that for subsistence for two caribou. That's
2 basically an easy way to say what this proposal would
3 do.

4
5 MR. KOSO: All right, thank you for
6 that.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. A
9 motion's been made, seconded and the question's been
10 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
15 sign.

16
17
18 (No opposing votes)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good job.

21
22 Let's see the next item on our agenda
23 will be 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
24 Robbin.

25
26 I've got a request to take a five to 10
27 minute break so everybody can just get some fresh air
28 while Robbin is getting set up so we'll do that.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We are on line
37 getting ready to do the 2018 Fisheries Resource
38 Monitoring Program.

39
40 Robbin.

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Madame
43 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Robbin
44 LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office of
45 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. My regions are
46 typically Bristol Bay and Southcentral but since the
47 retirement of my associate, Palma Ingles, I am -- I
48 have the great honor and luck of coming out here on
49 such a gorgeous day, as well. So I flew out today, it

50

1 was clear almost all the way up and it was a stunning
2 flight, so thank you for having me here today.

3

4 So my goal today is to present you with
5 a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll review
7 the funding process, your regional overview, and finish
8 up by requesting Council comments and input on the
9 proposed 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in
10 the Southwest Alaska region. No motion is necessary.

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The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program materials begin on Page 20 of your Council book. There's an updated handout that I've just passed to you that is specifically for your region, the Southwest Alaska region overview.

The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort that enhances subsistence fisheries research and provides necessary information.....

MR. HOLMES: I don't know if anybody's interested about the lady spider out here in the web, it's nailed a fly and.....

(Teleconference interference - participant phones not muted)

MS. LAVINE:for the.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, could you mute your phone, please.

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, pardon me, the biologist watching other critters while I'm doing this, sorry.

(Laughter)

MS. LAVINE: Okay. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort that enhances subsistence fisheries research and provides necessary information for the management of subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. We encourage partnerships between tribes, rural organizations, universities and Federal and State agencies. In addition, we encourage inter-disciplinary approaches to conducting research

1 and addressing issues.

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The Monitoring Program is administered through the Office of Subsistence Management in order to advance projects of strategic importance to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also coordinates communications and information sharing of ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

The monitoring -- since its inception in 2000, the monitoring program has funded 452 projects statewide, with the total allocation of close to \$117 million. The following figures demonstrate both the allocation of funds and the number of projects funded through the Monitoring Program by the organization of the principal investigator. It should be noted that as we encourage partnerships that much of the -- the pie might be divided up a little differently. Some of these funds have been used by the principal investigator or organizations to subcontract with research partners like communities, tribes and other research organizations.

This slide demonstrates the allocation of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an initial target for planning, however they are not final and are often adjusted as needed to ensure that we fund quality projects rather than just ensuring that a specific dollar amount goes to each region.

The state is divided into six regions that approximately correspond to Federal subsistence fishing areas and to stock, harvest and community issues that those regions hold in common.

For each of the six regions, Office of Subsistence Management Staff works with Regional Advisory Councils and Federal and State fishery and land managers to ensure the Monitoring Program focuses on the highest priority subsistence fishing information needs. Input and guidance from Councils are used to develop priority information needs by identifying issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries. Ideally principal investigators will work closely with Councils in order to develop strong proposals that are responsive to those needs.

The Office of Subsistence Management provides technical assistance as needed.

1 The Program requests new projects every
2 two years. Submissions must be complete, on time and
3 address five criteria outlined in the notice of funding
4 opportunity in order to be competitive. Those criteria
5 are strategic priority, technical scientific merit,
6 investigator ability and resources, partnership and
7 capacity building and the cost benefit of each project.
8 You can find a more detailed description of the five
9 criteria in your Council book on Page 25.

10

11

12 Once submitted, a Technical Review
13 Committee evaluates and rates each proposed project.
14 The Technical Review Committee is a standing inter-
15 agency committee of senior technical experts brought
16 together to ensure program transparency. It is the
17 responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
18 develop the strongest possible Monitoring Program for
19 your region and across the state based on high quality,
20 cost effective projects that address critical
21 subsistence questions.

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During the proposal evaluation process, the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific guidelines in order to assess how well a project addresses the five criteria. While some agencies may have more than one senior expert on the committee, like a social scientist, or a fisheries biologist, each agency only provides one, single, consolidated review and will not score their own proposals. The final score for each proposal is based on an assessment of the five criteria.

Once a draft monitoring program is developed, it is brought -- actually Draft Monitoring Plan is developed, it is brought before the Regional Advisory Councils for their input and comments. This is where we are at in the current cycle and will come back to it in a moment.

Additional comments on the process and draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the Southwest Alaska region are provided by the Inter-Agency Staff Committee and these, along with those developed by the Councils, are then forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board takes into consideration comments and concerns generated by the process and endorses the funding plan. Final approval of the funding plan is made by the Assistant Regional Director of the Office of Subsistence Management.

1 Okay. So the Southwest Alaska region
2 overview, and this is relating to your handout.

3
4 In Southwest Alaska 55 projects have
5 been undertaken for approximately \$10 million in
6 funding. Project leads were predominately held by the
7 State of Alaska or the Department of the Interior, but
8 remember most of those projects also included other
9 agencies and Alaska rural organizations as research
10 partners. If you're wondering, the other category
11 generally includes universities, non-profit
12 organizations, independent contractors and other non-
13 governmental organizations.

14
15 So this is what your draft Monitoring
16 Program looks like for 2018.

17
18 There is an anticipated one to \$1.5
19 million available for new projects statewide and up to
20 \$1.6 million for ongoing already funded projects.
21 Please note that the available funding for 2018 is
22 budgeted for each project's first year, not the total
23 project request. You will notice that the total
24 project request adds up to over \$1.6 million just for
25 this region alone. But the \$1.5 or approximately \$1.5
26 that is available, again, is only divvied up between
27 the first year's funding request for each project.

28
29 So for the Southwest region, five
30 projects were submitted -- yep. The projects are
31 listed in order by the strength of their Technical
32 Review Committee scores. Justification for your
33 projects begin in your Council book on Page 32 and
34 they're followed by project abstracts. So if you want
35 more detail about each project, you can read further.

36
37 And at this point, we're back to step
38 four. Once, again, we are seeking your input and
39 comments on the Draft Monitoring Plan for your region,
40 no motion is necessary and I'm ready to take your
41 comments and questions.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, go ahead.

46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I just have one
48 quick question. I believe you said when these projects
49 are submitted, a group of high tech experts took them

50

1 up and took a look at them. Who are these high tech
2 experts?
3

4 (Laughter)
5

6 MS. LAVINE: Those folks with specific
7 expertise on subsistence fisheries across the state
8 would be representatives of the State, we have folks
9 from Fish and Game, commercial fish, sportfish. We
10 have technical experts from the Office of Subsistence
11 Management that Chairs the committee. We have people
12 from US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forest Service.
13 And a number of others. So these are folks that are
14 actually on the ground implementing subsistence
15 management across the state.
16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.
18

19 MS. LAVINE: Thank you.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
22 comments or questions.
23

24 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
27

28 MS. SKINNER: So the list of projects
29 that we've been provided is the entire list of projects
30 for the FRMP Southwest region?
31

32 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, through the
33 Chair. Correct.
34

35 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So Bristol Bay
36 didn't have any projects?
37

38 MS. LAVINE: Actually, I believe there
39 is another project that is multi-regional and you'll
40 notice that -- and I think it kind of -- it straddles
41 both the Bristol Bay region and the Yukon-Kuskokwim
42 Delta.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Karen.
45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: I apologize for the
47 interruption, Madame Chair. I just received a text from
48 OSM and the multi-regional is in the meeting book.
49
50

1 MS. LAVINE: Okay, yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: So it's different than
4 -- so it shows the proposals in the meeting book but it
5 doesn't show the multi-regional proposals in the
6 updated handout that she gave you.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess is that
11 like on Page 49.

12

13 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner at
14 OSM. And the multi-regional proposals are listed on
15 Page 45 of your meeting book.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

20

21 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess, we had a
22 number of meetings throughout the fall and winter
23 concerning these projects with Bristol Bay. We met
24 with Bristol Bay a couple of different times. So I
25 guess my question is, when we're looking at funding for
26 these projects, are the Bristol Bay projects, because
27 we're all part of the Southwest region, are the Bristol
28 Bay projects thrown into this as well so when we're
29 talking about these programs, for instance, the Buskin
30 River sockeye salmon stock program and then I noticed
31 that Bristol Bay has the Togiak River harvest there, so
32 are what we commenting on today -- are we trying to
33 determine where we want to fit each one of these six
34 different projects in the list? I mean there's five of
35 them on our list, actually seven, there's two on
36 theirs, so are we just discussing ours and not worrying
37 about Bristol Bays, even though they're part of our
38 region?

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Tom these are -- the five
41 that we have on Page 31 were all the projects that we
42 are considering for the Southwest region. So these
43 include any projects that were submitted -- that could
44 have been submitted to Bristol Bay. I believe these
45 are the only ones that were reviewed and submitted and
46 are under consideration.

47

48 The other two on Page 45 came under
49 multi -- let's see, multi-regional projects so they're

50

1 not actually even Bristol Bay specific.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you for that
4 clarification.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any
7 other questions or discussion.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Basically what
12 are you asking us to do at this point?

13

14 MS. LAVINE: We're asking you to
15 provide comments. When we leave here today, this is --
16 this is the preliminary Monitoring Plan for the
17 Southwest region. These are the projects that we're
18 looking at. We have potentially about \$1.5 million
19 that are going to go statewide. And we are looking at
20 those projects that are going to address important
21 needs for your region and others across the state.

22

23 So having your comments to accompany
24 this lineup when we submit this to the TRC for their
25 final review and then the Board for their review and
26 approval, just adds more information to consider.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And when
29 we went through this process before, and as Tom said we
30 had meetings with Bristol Bay, so this list -- your
31 proposal, this list doesn't include anything from
32 Bristol Bay but they're part of the Southwest region.

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, yes. These
35 were the projects that were submitted to the entire
36 Southwest region -- from the entire Southwest region.
37 These were the projects that were submitted to address
38 the priority information needs that a working group
39 that was -- that you put together between the
40 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council and the
41 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, you guys worked
42 together and developed a list of priority information
43 needs for our 2018 call and these five here are the
44 proposals that were submitted to address those priority
45 information needs. So there's no more that you will --
46 you will not be considering a different list, this is
47 going to be the same projects that will be presented to
48 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council for their
49 comments.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any comments.
2
3 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.
10 Go ahead, Pat, and then Rebecca.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: I think in clarification
13 on this, Page 30 has the priorities needs list that we
14 developed with the folks from Bristol Bay. And so
15 there's quite a few of them that were in there and
16 obviously a lot of -- some of them weren't -- or no
17 proposals were submitted for them and so folks might
18 want to take a quick look at Page 30 and then look over
19 to 31 for the ones that evidently this committee has
20 approved for funding.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
25
26 Rebecca.
27
28 Okay, go ahead.
29
30 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Just to
31 clarify these projects have not been approved for
32 funding, they're -- they have been -- they have been
33 assessed by the TRC. They have been scored and the --
34 based on the five criteria. And approval for funding
35 won't occur until all statewide proposals are
36 considered by the Board and then the ARD of OSM.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.
41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: So I guess what we
43 should -- I think what I'm understanding is that you
44 should come away from this meeting with an idea of what
45 our priority are for these five projects; is that what
46 you're looking for?
47
48 MS. LAVINE: Well, we're really
49 interested in if there's -- they have been ranked on
50

1 quality, they've been ranked on -- based on the -- or
2 they have been scored based on the five criteria, and
3 they're strong projects in this particular order. We
4 would like to know your comments, if there is anything
5 of interest, if priority information needs may -- your
6 information needs may have changed, if there's
7 something that maybe even those don't addressed, and
8 this might be a good place to even start thinking about
9 any potential information lacuna in the future. Now is
10 a good time to start.

11

12 We might be looking for you -- from
13 you, let's say these proposal alignments with your
14 priority information needs, the score order, what you
15 think about the abstracts. You can also provide
16 information or comments just on your thoughts on the
17 overall process.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. Thank you
22 for this presentation. And I am very excited to see
23 Buskin River sockeye salmon right there at the top of
24 the list because, of course, we're a little selfish
25 about our projects, where we're from. So that's good
26 to see.

27

28 And I am really excited that Unalaska,
29 you know, we had our meeting out there last August and
30 we were able -- since we went to the area and talked to
31 locals and went to a local meeting we had a pretty good
32 grasp on some of their issues that were going on, so
33 I'm really happy to see a couple of their projects on
34 the list.

35

36 And then I have a question.

37

38 So all five of these projects, so
39 they're rated, do we know how much money is available
40 yet? Will likely all five of these be funded or maybe
41 only two or three or we just really have no idea yet?

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Through the
46 Chair. Yeah, we have -- right now we're not too sure
47 about the money that we have available for first year
48 project funding but considering all of the projects
49 statewide, not all of these projects will be funded.

50

1 But it's really hard to say just now. Because of the
2 scoring process and because of our efforts to ensure
3 that the projects that are forwarded -- or that are
4 eventually approved for final funding are strong
5 projects, they could be excellent ideas, they could be
6 fantastic expert -- have great expertise, wonderful
7 partnerships, but they may not be drafted in a way that
8 ensures success, we don't know what the entire line up
9 looks like for this year and that's also why I said
10 when we look at kind of where our general allocation
11 for each region might potentially go each year, it's
12 going to change. That funding will go to some of the
13 strongest projects, the ones that are most -- that meet
14 the priority information needs that you've laid out
15 that are strongly designed, that have great
16 partnerships and that have a good structure that
17 ensures the success of the project.

18
19 So until we have the whole plan
20 together before the Board, we're not too sure where our
21 funds are going to go. Like I said, it's a smaller --
22 it's a smaller amount this year than in years previous.
23 We're looking at about \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars
24 statewide.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Deputy
29 Assistant Regional Director, OSM.

30
31 When you look at this type of funding
32 and that we're in a cycle at the very beginning of four
33 years of funding and that we're still paying for
34 previous cycles of funding coming through, where we hit
35 the shortage this year is if we would receive, let's
36 say, \$5 million, for instance, and we commit \$1.2, we
37 still would have to be paying these other projects from
38 the past that we've committed funding already to.

39
40 And as we go through a fiscal year --
41 and as we go through a fiscal year, we have to be able
42 to essentially -- if we see extra monies that would be
43 available and we see savings, we try to add those
44 monies in. But we can't pre-commit what we don't have.

45
46 Yep.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We understand
49 that.

50

1 And, given all that, I'm going to throw
2 something out there for those representatives from
3 Kodiak, when you look at the Buskin River sockeye
4 salmon stock assessment, and the subsistence harvest
5 trends of salmon and non-salmon fish in four southern
6 island communities, basically those two have tied.
7 Now, is it possible if you took a priority in one of
8 those two, can you and move up the Unalaska fish
9 harvest practices. I just feel strongly that that is
10 important based on all the public testimony we had when
11 we were in Unalaska last year, and whether that's
12 something that can be considered. I know I would
13 appreciate it, and I'm sure Unalaska would.

14

15 But I'm throwing that out there.

16

17

18 Karen.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
21 Chair. I think you're exactly on the right track. I
22 just want to back up a little bit because this is
23 always so confusing.

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 If you'll recall, a working committee
was developed of several Council members from this
Council as well as Bristol Bay to establish priority
information needs so that you all would not feel like
you're competing with one another, but rather
complimenting one another if possible, and at least
recognizing the needs for each unit within this
Southwest region. And what has happened here is pretty
remarkable. Because the Southwest region, the Kodiak
region, Kodiak/Aleutian region have some very
impressive proposals that meet those priority
information needs.

 And so what this is about is to present
to you where they are currently ranked and how you feel
about where they are. Like Della just said, should we
consider commenting that we believe perhaps the
Unalaska surveys might be more important for this
Council than the Buskin River weir. That doesn't mean
it's going to happen, but certainly this is what, I
think, is being asked of the Council right now. Is to
look at what has happened as a result of your work in
establishing those priority information needs, what
projects came in and what comments you have on how
they're being presented.

1 Thank you.

2
3 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
6 Rebecca and then Tom.

7
8 MS. SKINNER: I guess I want to give
9 our RAC a pat on the back for the work we did over the
10 last few years in going through and setting our
11 priorities. I think we had -- well, I shouldn't speak
12 for the group, but I'm going to.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MS. SKINNER: I mean I think we had a
17 realization that it really starts with identifying --
18 doing a really good job identifying and documenting the
19 priorities, letting the, you know, people or entities
20 that will write the proposals, letting them know what
21 those priorities are and then getting through the
22 process so that the proposals actually get written and
23 submitted. And I assume that that's what happened
24 here.

25
26 I'm surprised and it sounds like
27 there's other Council members that are surprised that
28 there aren't Bristol Bay projects on this list. I
29 remember the first year when I looked through the
30 project list it was -- I think it was primarily Bristol
31 Bay projects and it was a lot more projects, I think it
32 was like I don't know 20 projects. So I think that's
33 why you had several people ask several times where's
34 the Bristol Bay projects, are you sure, you know, this
35 is the whole list, because it looks very different from
36 what we've seen in the past.

37
38 So those are my comments on the
39 progress we've made and the overall process.

40
41 Specifically in regards to the
42 projects, you know, I would like to see some money go
43 out to Unalaska. I do think that's important.
44 Although from being out there, I do think the issues
45 that they really want help with just can't be funded
46 because the projects, the waters aren't Federal,
47 they're not Federal fisheries, from being out there and
48 talking to the community. But I do think that -- you
49 know, I'd like to see some money go out there.

50

1 That being said, I think that the
2 Buskin weir project, the sockeye salmon stock
3 assessment and monitoring is -- it's very important for
4 Kodiak. It is, I think, the largest subsistence
5 fishery in Kodiak and the value of having that
6 consistent year over year data from the weir in
7 managing that stock and allowing ongoing subsistence
8 harvest is really important.

9
10 So I did want to get that in the
11 record.

12
13 And I think that's all I have, thanks.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

16
17 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I have to say I
18 was surprised to see this list and not a whole lot from
19 Bristol Bay because I worked on that committee as well
20 and it seemed to me like they had some really good
21 projects.

22
23 I tend to agree with what Rebecca has
24 said. There's no question the Buskin River sockeye
25 stock assessment is extremely important to Kodiak. It
26 is probably our number 1 subsistence fishery in the
27 area. Although looking back at that we've had funding
28 for that project for several years now and I would
29 certainly not be opposed to giving that up to see, at
30 least temporarily, to see some of these other projects
31 from the Dutch Harbor area be moved up on the list.

32
33 That would be my comment.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Well, Tom and I are old
40 geezers and argue all the time. I would not like to
41 see the Buskin funding go away. I do feel, however,
42 the evaluation in reading these points from the
43 committee, there are some in here, when it tied, the
44 subsistence -- number 451, it weighs in there that only
45 the proposal -- the proposal only minimally addresses
46 information needs for comparative ecological evaluation
47 of sockeye rearing habitats of Olga and Akalura Lake
48 watersheds. And a little further down, does not
49 effectively address priority information needs as a

50

1 research effort. You know we do need to have
2 information on the south end, but I feel that there
3 needs to be -- that Unalaska, particularly, there are
4 subsistence surveys -- there hasn't been one out there
5 for many years. One of the topics that I'm surprised
6 didn't get any proposals, or maybe it did, was Dan
7 Dunaway, or the Bristol Bay group and myself tossed out
8 the idea of having a -- trying to build capacity and
9 doing some test studies where you could train local
10 communities, such as that one proposal for King Cove
11 and Sand Point, to where the communities could be
12 participating more vigorously in the harvest surveys.
13 That didn't make it.

14
15 But that item 18-451 is important. But
16 the systems there that are being discussed, I think you
17 needed to have a bit of input from the Fish and Game
18 Staff there because Olga Lakes and Akalura Lakes,
19 that's all part of a fishery in Moser/Olga Bay and
20 there are five different runs there, early and late,
21 but at one time they were able to manage it, Fish and
22 Game, because there was a program, that honestly I got
23 started in '85 for stock separation, where they could
24 manage for weaker stocks. They haven't had that money
25 in years, all they can do is manage that whole south
26 end based on the strongest run and that's the Frazer,
27 and then whatever happens is strictly what happens.
28 And even if you had information on those lakes, which
29 would be great to have, when you compare that to the
30 study -- and I'm going to bat a bit for Bristol Bay,
31 but I think Unalaska is our second important area, but
32 that proposal that was in for quality escapements, I
33 remember, Becky spoke to that, as well as other folks,
34 and I'm just surprised that, you know, that that didn't
35 make the cut.

36
37 451 is good, but I'd rather see things
38 bump up and maybe something else there because your
39 technical review is a technical review, but it doesn't
40 include -- I mean you come to the Councils for one bit
41 of information on what is important but some of that
42 seems to get lost, and I'm sorry you make the grade
43 precisely but some of the real meat is lost.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

48
49 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess you guys
4 harped on that pretty hard there so I guess you covered
5 most everything. But I'm kind of in favor with Della
6 and a couple of the others that we should maybe look at
7 Unalaska. I know during our meeting in August of last
8 year there, it was one of their main subjects. So if
9 we could direct funding to that and get that running
10 then that would really be a big plug for us I think in
11 this whole deal.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
16 Rebecca.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: I forgot to make a
19 comment on one of the proposals.

20

21 Proposal 18-401, the Southwest Kodiak
22 Ecological Assessment and the priority need addressed
23 by that project was the Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake
24 watersheds and the final sentence in that project
25 description really caught my eye, that the
26 investigators missed an opportunity to involve local
27 residents on this project. And I guess I was surprised
28 at that and disappointed, because I'm pretty sure that
29 the Olga Lakes and Akalura Lakes are something that
30 Mitch has discussed almost every single meeting. Mitch
31 being from Akhiok and Akhiok being referenced in the
32 description.

33

34 And so I'm making this comment now
35 hoping that somehow this does get back to the people
36 who wrote the project and the importance of -- I mean I
37 can't imagine that they didn't reach out to Akhiok but
38 the importance of documenting that and really doing a
39 good job of presenting that in their proposal. Because
40 I do think, subject-wise, this proposal was a good one
41 and I know that Mitch, again, he's talked about the
42 need for this, so it is concerning or disappointing
43 that the component of really involving the community or
44 involving Akhiok didn't -- apparently it didn't come
45 together.

46

47 And then my other comment: I do agree
48 with Pat that I don't think this is the time to, like I
49 would not agree with pulling the Buskin River

50

1 monitoring off of the list. I don't think -- my concern
2 is that I don't think the State is in a good place to
3 step up and take over that monitoring and that without
4 any monitoring subsistence in Kodiak is going to take a
5 big hit and so I am very concerned about the risk of
6 that.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Robbin.

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Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And,
again, when we talk about Southwest region we're
talking in reality three regions, Bristol Bay,
Aleutians and Kodiak. And when we're put in this bag,
and it's a big bag, trust me, you know, I think we also
got to recognize over the years where a lot of this
funding has gone and to be able to address the needs in
other regions.

And to be honest with you, what I was
asking if you're top two are tied and they are Kodiak
projects, can you move one of those top two to maybe
number 3 and move Unalaska to number 2. Chances are,
and hopefully they all get funded, that would be ideal,
but if you're given a budget that God only knows what
that's going to be just because of, you know, right now
where things are at, but that's what I was asking.

Thank you.

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. I can't
change the scores as they were presented but I can

1 forward your comments, your recommendations, your
2 concerns, any input that you may have, I can forward
3 those on to the Board.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All
6 right, thank you.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: A question to the lady,
13 forward them on to the Board, the Subsistence Board
14 makes the decision or the Technical Committee?

15
16 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. The
17 plan is reviewed by -- let's see, actually I have it --
18 let me just go back to my notes to be sure.

19
20 So the Technical Review Committee does
21 the initial scoring based on the five criteria. We
22 come to you, the Councils, for your input. We also go
23 to the Inter-Agency Staff Committee, which really is
24 the support Staff to the Federal Subsistence Board
25 members for their review, their comments. And then the
26 whole package goes before the Board, and the Board
27 approves a funding plan based on, at that moment, what
28 our funds are, the strength of each project from one
29 region to the next and, you know, we have to look at
30 them, not just in a region, but across the state as a
31 whole, and once the Board approves a funding plan, the
32 final -- the final funding plan is made by the
33 Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Through the Chair, thank
36 you for that clarification.

37
38 And I have another question, I think
39 back when I joined when Della was chairing, did we --
40 there was a part of this whole evaluation program, is
41 that there was one member from each Council that
42 participated in the Technical Review Committee and that
43 disappeared several years ago and I was wondering why
44 because I think most of us felt that that provided a
45 little bit of, not necessarily technical part, but a
46 little bit of on the ground reality for each region.

47
48 Thank you.

49
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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I'm
4 sorry, but that arrangement occurred before my time
5 here and I don't know if there's anyone on line who's
6 listening that might be able to provide some background
7 on that but unfortunately I can't answer your question,
8 I'm sorry.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Well, if you could look
11 into that and get it back through Karen, because I
12 personally feel that that would have a considerable bit
13 of merit. And I know some of those folks are retired
14 and they're still hanging around Anchorage, but anyway
15 I think it would merit some thought on doing that
16 again.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
21 I think our comments are on the record at this point.
22 And hearing nothing else we will thank you.

23

24 I'll just throw this out there, team,
25 we didn't talk about -- we talked about Unit 10 as in
26 Adak but we didn't talk about Unit 10 caribou. We did
27 have it on this list. So I don't know if it's
28 something we can take care of, I think, before we leave
29 or do you want to leave that for tomorrow and do the
30 identifying -- the identifying issues for 2017.

31

32 Karen.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. I think we talked about maybe having the
36 Council hear from both Izembek and the ADF&G
37 representative on Unimak and then the Council could
38 discuss some of the issues that they have. I think
39 that was what was discussed earlier.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So we
44 will leave Unit 10 Unimak for tomorrow. And then if we
45 can, I think, go ahead and take care of the identifying
46 issues for 2017 annual report.

47

48 Karen.

49

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. As you know the annual report to the Board is a
3 report on generally non-regulatory related issues that
4 concern the Council.

5
6 In the past you've talked about sea
7 otters, you've talked about the Emperor goose issue,
8 the CAG Alaska issue caribou with caribou. So what we
9 are -- what the Council needs to be doing at this
10 meeting is to identify issues for a draft annual report
11 and what we will do at OSM is draft that annual report
12 for you for review at your winter meeting where it will
13 be finalized and sent to the Board for reply.

14
15 And as a side note your annual report
16 is in your -- your fiscal year 2016 annual report is in
17 the meeting book and there are responses to the issues
18 that you had from the Board. And so that's where we
19 are right now.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And that is on
24 Page 52; is that correct?

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Yes, that is correct. And you can also take a
28 few minutes, if you'd like to read through the
29 responses because if you feel like you need to bring
30 this issue forth or have a different question, based on
31 the responses, then you could certainly add that to the
32 fiscal year '17 report.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Would it maybe
37 be advisable at this point for letting everyone take
38 this home for their homework tonight and marking up so
39 we can actually come back in the morning and go through
40 this.

41
42 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
45 Rebecca.

46
47 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I agree with taking
48 it home and thinking about it.

49
50

1 I did want to note in regards to our
2 annual report that we submitted last year and the
3 responses, I wasn't at the February meeting last year,
4 so the -- some of this might have been discussed at the
5 February meeting, but I really appreciated the
6 responses we got on the rural determination process and
7 I felt like the information that came back was really
8 responsive to some of the concerns that we had and some
9 of the questions, for example, what baseline are you
10 starting with when you're determining if a community
11 has changed and the concerns that some communities
12 might face year after year of request to change their
13 rural status. And while much of that writing could
14 probably just be considered advisory in nature, it's
15 not binding, I did think it went into a lot of very
16 helpful detail and did seem very responsive to concerns
17 that this Council brought as well as the written
18 comments that other Councils submitted as part of the
19 rulemaking process.

20
21 So I did want to, I guess, commend, the
22 Federal Subsistence Board and everyone, all of the
23 Staff that worked on those responses because I think
24 rural determination is a -- it's a big deal for
25 communities that have had to grapple with that and
26 Kodiak is one of them. And having as much clarity and
27 consistency in the process as possible is really
28 important.

29
30 So that was one thing that I definitely
31 noticed in the responses to our annual report.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 Rebecca.

37
38 Tom.

39
40 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Madame Chair.
41 Just a recommendation, if we're going to hold off on
42 this until tomorrow, I would not be opposed to hearing
43 from the Izembek Refuge manager and then possibly Fish
44 and Game, if we can, so that we can get into that
45 Unimak.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you ready to
48 do your report, I'm fine, our dinner is not until 6:00.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. RISDAHL: Well, I was actually
4 hoping to have a little more than five minutes.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. RISDAHL: But my goal was to
9 summarize, simplify my report that I gave you guys. It
10 is a longer, I think, than has been done in the past.
11 Partly that was because, you know, I'm new, and I'm
12 sort of an over achiever and I wanted to make sure I
13 knew what was going on on my own Refuge.

14

15 First, I want to mention that there is
16 one typo. When I came back from my moose hunt, I
17 looked over this again and I said oh that number is
18 wrong, so on Page 11, it has to do with bear survey
19 information, second paragraph.....

20

21 MS. SKINNER: I'm sorry can I -- I'm
22 sorry to interrupt, can I ask a clarifying question.
23 Did you mean about caribou or did you mean the whole
24 Izembek report?

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, we might as well
27 do the whole report.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Oh, okay, thanks.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: I mean I don't care, we
32 can just do the Unimak or.....

33

34 MR. RISDAHL: Okay, you want to just do
35 the.....

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Okay. I didn't know what
38 you meant when you asked.....

39

40 MR. RISDAHL: Oh, I'm fine there, too.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: Thanks.

43

44 MR. RISDAHL: Whichever you'd prefer to
45 do, Madame Chair.

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: Do we have Fish and
48 Game on line so that if we just do the Unimak, can we
49 get into Fish and Game then or are they not on line.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.
2
3 (No comment)
4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: If not, then we might
6 as well.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, are.....
9
10 MR. SCHWANTES:do his whole
11 report.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris, are you
14 still on line at this point, did you hear what Tom was
15 saying?
16
17 (No comment)
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Since Fish and Game is
20 not on, why don't we just go ahead and do his whole
21 report and then -- I mean if.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.
24
25 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess I would like to
26 recommend, since it's so late, that we just take this
27 up tomorrow, so that he's not feeling rushed, we have
28 time to comment and ask questions and then more people
29 -- people who are not on the phone now also have an
30 opportunity to listen in.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I agree.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think if we
37 can look at the annual report issues tonight, take the
38 time when our minds are fresh in the morning. With
39 that, I know Matt is bringing in some issues that he
40 wanted me to read into the record and I would like
41 everybody here when I do that and I think some of it
42 ties into some of the decisions that we make tomorrow,
43 plus our annual report, to add to that.
44
45 So with that I think -- Rebecca.
46
47 MS. SKINNER: Sorry. I had a question.
48 In regards to the agenda and the Unit 10 caribou, are
49 we still doing that as a separate agenda item so that
50

1 both Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game can be ready
2 at the same time and are we doing that first thing in
3 the morning -- no.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, I think we
6 would like to listen to the -- I would prefer to listen
7 to the reports and what they have to say before, I
8 think, we go get into that, would be my recommendation.

9
10 Tom.

11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: I didn't hear
13 everything you said, but I think you said we're going
14 to take both reports before we take up Unimak.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

17
18 MS. SKINNER: So then would we expect
19 to discuss the Unimak issue at the end of all of the
20 Staff reports or just after whichever Staff report is
21 last on the list, just so that both Fish and Game and
22 Fish and Wildlife are prepared to discuss the caribou
23 issue when we're ready to discuss it.

24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. Maybe we
26 can rearrange them so that we have the other
27 organizations testify first and then we can get Izembek
28 and Fish and Game to testify -- or give their reports
29 at the end and then we can take up the Unimak issue.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So what
32 your thoughts are at this time is tomorrow when we come
33 in we're going to go back to the identifying issues,
34 the annual report. We will do agency reports, which is
35 tribal governments, Native organizations. And then go
36 ahead and move maybe to the Kodiak Maritime -- or
37 Kodiak Refuge and then Alaska Maritime and then maybe
38 go to the Izembek and then move on to the State of
39 Alaska, ADF&G, I guess, and then maybe we can do Buskin
40 River and then do Izembek and then tie up with the
41 State for this portion of the region and then we can do
42 caribou. So caribou is going to end up coming up prior
43 to OSM reports tomorrow; does that sound right.

44
45 Karen.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
48 Chair. And there's also the report from ANSEP on the
49 -- that we added to the agenda regarding the Monitoring

50

1 Program. And the presenter has requested, you know,
2 that if there's a way we can figure out a time that
3 might work for him so he has an idea when that might
4 occur and I'm waiting to hear back from him to see what
5 might work for him so I can keep you apprised of that
6 for tomorrow.

7

8

Thanks.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I would say
11 maybe -- let's try this. On identifying issues, maybe
12 we can go ahead and move that toward the end when we're
13 getting ready to wrap up, yeah. And let's do all these
14 reports. So I'd say maybe 10:00 would be pretty fair.

15

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
Chair. To request that he do his presentation at
10:00?

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Let's just
go ahead and have him do his report and then we can go
in the order we were talking about on the other ones.

24

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, I will do that,
thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

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MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, hey, Della, this is
Rick here. I had a question, a couple of guys asked me
here and I forgot to ask it on the Emperor goose there,
are they allowed to mount those or is this just food
only type thing on those.

39

40

41

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, do you
have any idea on that.

42

43

44

45

46

MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, it's subsistence
only for the spring hunt and you're allowed regular --
if you want to mount your one, that you get in the
fall, you're allowed to do that.

47

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49

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MR. KOSO: Okay. That was presented to
me a couple of different times in the last couple of
days. Okay, so thank you I wanted to get back to them

1 before they left.

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Well, Greg, you're tomorrow morning so you're off the hook for tonight.

MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: With that I think we'll break, guys, everybody's pretty tired and we'll be back together and start at 9:00 in the morning.

Okay, see you in the morning.

Thank you, everybody.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 26th day of September at Cold Bay, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of October 2017.

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