

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Dolly's Hall
Naknek, Alaska
March 13, 2018
8:40 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nanci Morris Lyon, Acting Chair
Dan Dunaway
William Maines
William Trefon
Richard Wilson

Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson

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Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Naknek, Alaska - 3/13/2018)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, I am
8 going to call the meeting to order at 8:40 and we'll
9 get started here. Let's open up with an invocation
10 and, Richard, would you please do that for us.
11
12 MR. WILSON: Before we get started,
13 let's -- a moment of silence for Pete Abraham, and also
14 Mike Bangs out of Southeast just recently, so a moment
15 of silence out of respect for them and then we'll
16 continue
17
18 (Moment of Silence)
19
20 MR. WILSON: Heavenly Father, Lord we
21 thank you for moments like this where we get to come to
22 you and just thank you and be very appreciative, Lord,
23 for everything that you hand down to us. And, Lord, we
24 just pray that you be good at members here and just ask
25 your blessing upon this meeting time here and for good
26 fellowship. In Christ we pray, Amen.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
29 you, Richard. I really appreciate that and I truly
30 appreciate remembering a couple of our elders who did
31 so much to further this Council and the directions we
32 were headed and the time that they spent and dedication
33 that they had, not only to us as a Council, but to
34 their communities as well. They will be sorely missed.
35 And I hope that all of us have learned from lessons
36 from them that we can take forward for everybody in the
37 future.
38
39 With that, can we get a roll call,
40 Carl, would you do that for us, please.
41
42 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Ma'am.
43
44 Dennis Andrew is the first on the list
45 and Dennis won't be able to make it. He had some
46 weather challenges in getting here, so hopefully he'll
47 be able to join us on the line. I know Donald
48 encouraged him to do that.
49
50

1 Nanci Lyon.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Here.
4
5 MR. JOHNSON: Molly is out. She's
6 recovering from surgery so hopefully she will get well
7 soon.
8
9 William Trefon.
10
11 MR. TREFON: Here.
12
13 MR. JOHNSON: William Maines.
14
15 MR. MAINES: Here.
16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Dan Dunaway.
18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.
20
21 MR. JOHNSON: And Lary Hill is also out
22 for medical reasons, Madame Chair.
23
24 Victor Seybert. Donald was notified
25 that he would not be able to make the meeting but
26 didn't get an explanation as to why.
27
28 And, then, lastly, Richard Wilson.
29
30 MR. WILSON: Here.
31
32 MR. JOHNSON: So, Madame Chair, with
33 only nine Council members appointed, with five you have
34 a quorum.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
37 Carl. It is our tradition here to welcome everybody
38 that came to the meeting. It looks like we have mostly
39 Staff here but it's also our tradition to have you
40 introduce yourselves, and we'll introduce ourselves
41 around the table, too, for a couple new faces that I
42 see and that way you'll know who we are and where we
43 come from.
44
45 So, we'll excuse Nathan from that, but,
46 Carl, would you like to start and we'll go around the
47 table and then into the audience.
48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Madame Chair.
50

1 My name is Carl Johnson. And of the various hats I
2 wear at the moment, today I'll be your Council
3 coordinator, but I'm also the Council Coordination
4 Division Chief from the Office of Subsistence
5 Management.
6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: And I'm Dan Dunaway. I'm
8 from Dillingham. I retired from Fish and Game after
9 about 22 years from Bristol Bay to Dutch Harbor and
10 have been serving on this for awhile. I'm also
11 Secretary to the Nushagak Advisory Committee for Fish
12 and Game.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I'm
15 Nanci Morris Lyon. I am not your Chair. Molly is your
16 Chair. And I'm very nervous about filling her very big
17 shoes even though she's a very minuscule person. So I
18 am here from King Salmon, as well, this is my side of
19 the bay and I'll be the Chair today.
20

21 MR. WILSON: And I'm Richard Wilson.
22 It says Secretary here, but I don't really look like a
23 Secretary I don't think. It's been going on 10 years
24 here, amazing how time flies.
25

26 Good morning.
27

28 MR. TREFON: Yeah, My name's Billy
29 Trefon. I'm from Nondalton. I'm a newly appointed to
30 this committee here and it'll be interesting to learn.
31 I'm truly 100 percent subsistence. I grew up in a
32 subsistence lifestyle, so I'm very well under
33 subsistence, not so much in sport.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 MR. MAINES: Good morning. I'm Billy
38 Maines. I'm with the Curyung Tribal Council out of
39 Dillingham, Alaska. And this is one of the many hats
40 that my Council has directed me to sit and fill. This
41 is my second term. I just got the letter saying
42 congratulations you're reappointed for another three
43 years and it's been an interesting education for myself
44 as well, like Billy Trefon says, I'm 100 percent
45 subsistence and that's how I live my life and may have
46 passed it on down to my kids, but at the same time I'm
47 looking in ways to see if that's true.
48

49 I'll introduce a Board member in
50

1 training, hopefully one of these days he'll take over
2 his grandpa's position, (In Native) Messe, we all him
3 Keela, he's 8 years old, in the third grade at the
4 Dillingham Elementary School, and it's spring break so
5 he gets to travel with Papa.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Welcome.

12

13 MR. LARSON: Good morning. This is
14 Cody Larson from the Bristol Bay Native Association
15 over there in Dillingham representing all of the region
16 so I'm the subsistence fisheries scientist.

17

18 MR. MAINES: I'm also from BBNA,
19 natural resource department. My name is Chris Maines.
20 I'm the new subsistence outreach specialist. I took
21 over for Gayla just about a month ago. Nice to meet
22 you guys.

23

24 MR. LIND: I'm Ronald Lind from Chignik
25 Lake, SRC.

26

27 MR. HAMON: Troy Hamon with the
28 National Park Service. I'm the natural resource
29 manager for the Katmai, Alagnak and Aniakchak Park
30 units.

31

32 MS. CHISHOLM: Good morning everyone.
33 I'm Linda Chisholm. I'm the subsistence coordinator
34 for Aniakchak SRC and the cultural resource division
35 lead for Katmai, Aniakchak and Alagnak.

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're having
38 trouble hearing anyone on the phone, could the people
39 in the room come up to the mic or speak louder please.

40

41 MR. LIND: Good morning. Orville Lind
42 from the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the
43 Native Liaison for that office. Glad to be here.

44

45 MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning. I'm
46 Susan Alexander. I'm the Refuge Manager at the local
47 officer here in King Salmon of the US Fish and Wildlife
48 Service. I'm the manager for Alaska Peninsula and
49 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

50

1 MR. HARVEY: Good morning everybody.
2 I'm Pete Harvey. I'm the new law enforcement officer
3 for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife
4 Refuge.
5

6 MS. HENRY: Good morning everybody.
7 I'm Susanna Henry. I'm the Refuge Manager at Togiak
8 National Wildlife Refuge over here from Dillingham and
9 pleased to see everybody.
10

11 MR. CHEN: Aloha Council Members. My
12 name is Glenn Chen, I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief
13 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And then can
16 we get introductions on the phone, please.
17

18 MR. JOHNSON: And, now, could we have
19 people on the teleconference line please introduce
20 yourselves.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 MR. AYERS: This is Scott Ayers,
25 fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence
26 Management. Glad to be calling in today.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 MR. SHARP: Yeah, good morning. this is
31 Dan Sharp with BLM in Anchorage.
32

33 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is
34 Carol Damberg with the US Fish and Wildlife Service
35 here in Anchorage, subsistence coordinator.
36

37 MR. BURCH: Hi, this is Mark Burch with
38 the Department of Fish and Game.
39

40 MS. REAM: Good morning. This is
41 Joshua Ream, anthropologist with the Office of
42 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
43

44 MS. WORKER: Good morning everyone.
45 This is Suzanne Worker. I'm a wildlife biologist with
46 the Office of Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.
47

48 MR. GERKEN: Good morning everyone.
49 This is John Gerken with Fish and Wildlife Service, I'm
50

1 a fisheries biologist at the Anchorage Field Office.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Anyone else on the
4 teleconference who hasn't yet introduced themselves.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, well, if that's it,
9 just remember everybody please enter star-6 to mute
10 your phones and if you want to talk enter star-6.
11 We'll definitely make sure to prompt if there are
12 opportunities for everybody to provide comment.

13

14 Thank you for joining us.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
17 Carl. And, thanks, everybody for the introductions.
18 We do warmly welcome you here and look forward to your
19 participation in our meeting, whether you're on line or
20 here present with us.

21

22 With that, let's go ahead and put some
23 work ahead of us.

24

25 Has everybody had a chance to review
26 the agenda.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MR. MAINES: Move to adopt.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I have a
33 motion. Dan.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: I will second that but
36 I'd also like -- with a friendly amendment to add an
37 amendment to add old business, which seems to be
38 missing. Donald called that to my attention and there
39 is an item that we should include in that old business.
40 We can't reconsider Proposal 18-24 but I would like to
41 add a discussion on it and recommend some action once
42 we have the discussion. So with the approval of the
43 move I'd like to second that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. MAINES: I'll approve and accept it
48 as a friendly amendment making that Item No. 10 and
49 moving everything else down one.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, let's
2 make it 9A. We'll just make it 9A, that'll be easier
3 than having to renumber everything.

4

5 MR. MAINES: 9A, okay.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
8 Discussion.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Other than like I
11 mentioned, that we can discuss that 18-24 when we get
12 to that on the agenda.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. MAINES: Question.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
19 question's been called. All in favor please signify by
20 saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed,
25 same sign.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, motion
30 carries. We will add 9A to our agenda, it'll be old
31 business, where we're going to review some new
32 information on WP18-24.

33

34 Okay. Then let's also start, I'm going
35 to hand the mic over to Carl, I think that's the most
36 appropriate thing to do here and we'll get our
37 elections taken care of as well.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Members of the Council. The next item on the agenda is
41 election of officers. This is something we do at the
42 winter meeting cycle. Under our charter, officers are
43 elected for a term of one year. There are no term
44 limits. And we do this at the winter meeting because
45 it's the first meeting after we have newly appointed
46 Council members, so it's a good chance to revisit
47 Council leadership.

48

49 At this time the floor is open to

50

1 nominations for the position of Chair for the Bristol
2 Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would like
5 to also inform the Council that Molly has indicated
6 that she does have a desire to continue as Chair and
7 because of that I would like to ask for a unanimous
8 consent in once again appointing her to that if I may.

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: Are there any objections
11 to unanimous consent for Molly Chythlook for the
12 position of Chair.

13
14 (No objections)

15
16 MR. JOHNSON: Hearing none, Molly
17 Chythlook is the new Chair for the Bristol Bay RAC.

18
19 Next, since Molly is not here I will
20 continue -- next the position of Vice Chair.
21 Nominations are now open for the position of Vice
22 Chair.

23
24 Dan.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: I move to nominate Nanci
27 as Vice Chair.

28
29 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Nominations, we
30 have Nanci for Vice Chair. Any others.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Call for unanimous
35 consent.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Unanimous consent
38 has been asked for, for the position of Vice Chair for
39 Nanci. Any objections.

40
41 (No objections)

42
43 MR. JOHNSON: Hearing none, Nanci, is
44 your new Vice Chair. And I will then hand the gavel
45 back over to Nanci to continue the last of the meeting
46 -- you're on from here.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All right,
49 that's fine. I'll go ahead and ask for nominations

50

1 then for the Secretary.

2

3 MR. MAINES: I'll move that even though
4 he doesn't think he's a good looking Secretary, I would
5 like to nominate Richard Wilson to continue as our
6 Secretary, and ask for unanimous consent.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I have
9 to say I'm willing to accept that unanimous consent
10 because I'm convinced he's eventually going to look
11 like one.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we'll
16 go ahead and put Richard in that roll again, and, thank
17 you very much, both for the faith in me and for your
18 serving, Richard, I appreciate it.

19

20 Okay, has everybody had a chance to
21 review the previous meeting minutes and are there any
22 -- actually let's put them on the table and then we can
23 discuss if there's any corrections or not.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adopt the
26 minutes.

27

28 MR. MAINES: Second.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
31 have a motion and the second for the review and
32 approval of the previous meeting minutes.

33

34 Is there any discussion, corrections or
35 additions.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. I looked
38 them over and I couldn't find anything that I had any
39 concern over.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. MAINES: Question.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
46 been called. All in favor of approving the previous
47 meeting minutes please signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed,
2 same sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Motion
7 carries.

8
9 Let's go ahead and have our Council
10 member reports. We'll just go around the table. I'll
11 start with you, if you don't mind, Billy, and you can
12 give us a quick synopsis of things you've heard about
13 or seen in your area, or would like to share with the
14 Council. The mic's yours.

15
16 MR. MAINES: Thank you. I was just
17 going through the reports and the minutes from last
18 meeting and the updates, especially with the letter
19 going to Chairman Anthony from our Board, and
20 everything that was in there rang true and clear as far
21 as what I've seen and what I've been hearing dealing
22 with the moose in our area. I know that the times I've
23 gone up the river it's not as plentiful as it used to
24 be. When I used to take my kids up the river there'd
25 be moose on every corner, and the last couple of years
26 I just don't see the bulls, don't even see the cows as
27 plentiful as they used to be. More times or not you'd
28 see four or five cows with a couple calves, now days
29 you're lucky if you see one with a calf.

30
31 The issue with Arctic hare and
32 ptarmigan in our letter, I could not tell you the last
33 time I saw an Arctic hare in the Dillingham area as
34 well as ptarmigan. When I was younger they were
35 plentiful. I used to trap the Arctic hare on a regular
36 basis, they were a good staple. Last time I did trap
37 them all their livers were spotted so I quit trapping
38 them. And I don't know if that's one of the reasons
39 why they're not as plentiful as they used to be.
40 Ptarmigan was always a great supplement and we don't
41 have those anymore.

42
43 It was good to have and see that a lot
44 of the folks in my neck of the woods were able to get
45 down and get caribou last year. And since we've gotten
46 some snow this year they've been going down there also,
47 the question is whether or not they can actually leave
48 from Aleknagik or Dillingham to get down there because
49 the river's been open quite a bit all summer long -- or

50

1 all winter long. I want to say summer because it seems
2 like that's all we have anymore.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I know.

7

8 MR. MAINES: But I know that under the
9 current Administration they don't want to call it
10 climate change, that there's no verbiage such as
11 climate change, and the current Administration wants to
12 deal with policy versus science, but I'm a firm
13 believer, you can't really set policy unless you have
14 good science. So I appreciate the fact that this
15 Council, as well as the people that I work with in
16 different arenas still believe that there is something
17 going on and we need to address that.

18

19 So so far I've been real happy and it's
20 been an honor and a pleasure to represent my Council on
21 this RAC and I look forward to what the future has to
22 hold.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
27 Billy.

28

29 MR. TREFON: Up in the Lake Clark area
30 things haven't changed last time I talked to you at
31 Board of Fish and still the concern is the rod and reel
32 issue that the State, how is the State rules and law
33 and how is it written and the subsistence uses of rod
34 and reel because we had State Troopers come on our
35 subsistence fish camps and issued citations to kids and
36 that's all because of the wording in the State laws
37 saying rod and reel is not considered a subsistence
38 gear. And we're in the process of trying to submit a
39 proposal to change that law.

40

41 And as far as the Chulitna River, it's
42 overhunted by outside hunters in the fall hunt. We
43 compete with outside sporthunters down this way from
44 Anchorage and Kenai, from Lower 48. And I've been up
45 in Chulitna River, two years ago, and I bet I counted
46 20 airplanes coming in there in one day. And they're
47 bringing in boats, they're bringing in motor, they're
48 bringing camping gear, I mean they bring everything
49 that you'd bring from your house, your portable

50

1 potties, I mean everything, and they go on corporation
2 rivers and we compete and they have planes that do
3 their -- looking for moose for them. And, we, in the
4 village, don't have pilots that'll go out there and
5 spot moose for us and compete. In Long Lake there's
6 one mile stretch of State land, that's what they're
7 utilizing to get in because it's right smack in the
8 middle of the Preserve.

9
10 So we're dealing with State, Federal
11 and priv -- probably we don't have an issues with the
12 -- the Park Service works really well with us, they
13 have been. We've been very fortunate to get good
14 superintendents, and that's always a red flag warning
15 when a new superintendent comes up, you're able to
16 invite them down and find out who they are.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

21
22 MR. WILSON: Good morning. I was
23 sitting over there at the State game meeting here just
24 recently and most of the proposals were dealing with,
25 you know, 9C and 9 below was pretty well received. We
26 had a change in dates it looks like in 9B to match up
27 with 9C on the moose.

28
29 The caribou hasn't really shown up here
30 in this area, they've kind of been holding back on the
31 Nushagak there somewhere. They're coming through in
32 little pods here and there, but very few.

33
34 One thing I noticed in the regulations
35 there that south of the Naknek, the Tier II portion of
36 9C actually closes earlier than 9E and maybe at some
37 point it'd be nice to work on that issue and have
38 everything the same. I'm not really remembering or
39 knowing why there is a difference in the season dates
40 right there so that'd be something that I would like to
41 see, you know, discussed here at some point.

42
43 Understanding that there is more
44 ptarmigan showing up in the hills up north of us.
45 People are seeing flocks of 50 and 100 here and there
46 so that's promising, you know, and we used to see a lot
47 of that over there in Upper Kukoklik, over there on the
48 coast years ago when I used to travel that area and
49 some are being spotted now so that's a good thing.

50

1 A lot of smelts. Anybody need smelts
2 they're on the river. Probably a little chancy now
3 with the high tide came in and kind of busted up the
4 ice a bit, you know, a little hard getting out there
5 but subsistence wise, I think that's the only thing --
6 fish wise that I see, I know people are out there pike
7 fishing and enjoying that.

8
9 But nothing else that I can think of
10 that's an issue with me at this moment.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Let's see there's a few things.

14
15 One thing that was a concern in the
16 Dillingham area and I wanted to bring up for other
17 folks about there was a herring proposal, 236 that
18 snuck into the Board of Fish last fall, and it had to
19 do with changing dates in the Dutch Harbor food and
20 bait fishery but there was also a move to reallocate
21 some fish from Togiak to the Dutch Harbor area. That
22 set off the Nushagak Advisory Committee, as we have
23 some herring fishermen there. I think there's some
24 from over here. And a bunch of other groups also when
25 to the Board of Fish. And other changing the date,
26 which was not an issue, the reallocation was halted.
27 So that has been pretty much resolved. I was just glad
28 to learn that yesterday because that possibly could
29 have influenced some subsistence uses over there. And
30 in the past we've dealt quite a bit with that.

31
32 Also, like Richard mentioned, we had
33 the State Board of Game meeting in Dillingham, bring it
34 more locally, and I got a letter from the Board saying
35 that it was successful, they felt like we treated them
36 well, and they're interested in coming back. Maybe we
37 should share them over on this side next time. But
38 it's nice to have the meetings locally and we saw with
39 one proposal where local influence, guys Sno-Go over
40 from Manokotak about this issue of positioning animals
41 with a Sno-Go and they had a big group of folks show
42 up, some of the, what I call the real people that are
43 out there hunting, daily, and they worked out a new set
44 of wording and there may be some accommodation of their
45 interest, but I could not find the tentative wording,
46 and when I tried to get it, I guess that's really --
47 the regulation specialists are really hashing over how
48 to put that into words. But, mainly, it'll be they'll
49 allow some positioning and -- but not pursuing at

50

1 distance, that you have to stop I think 300 yards, was
2 it, and you can't go at high rate of speed. But I'm
3 kind of thrilled, a hunter from Manokotak came to the
4 Advisory Committee, and came to the Board of Game and
5 made a difference, and that's why we do these. And
6 we'll probably talk about this a little more in 9A.

7
8 Nushagak Advisory Committee is going to
9 be submitting some proposals dealing with subsistence
10 fishing in the Dillingham area, and I don't know when
11 -- I don't need to spend a lot of time on it but we're
12 currently on a three day a week program from July 2nd
13 to July 17th, and that's causing some issues so we're
14 going to put in some proposals to change that and we'll
15 see where it goes.

16
17 Also possibly allow driftnetting for
18 subsistence because there's crowding on the beaches.
19 That one's probably going to be a lot more
20 controversial, and I'm not sure where that will go.

21
22 Other items that I wanted to bring up,
23 like Richard said, and I might be hearing it from the
24 same source he is, friends of mine in Igiugig were
25 seeing some flocks of ptarmigan when they went up in
26 the mountains. I believe I heard the wildlife
27 biologist said he was seeing some flocks of ptarmigan,
28 not big ones, but some, when he was doing some of the
29 fall moose surveys, which is reassuring because we were
30 pretty alarmed this time last year.

31
32 Also I'm just getting reports that
33 there's caribou being taken near Ekwok and New
34 Stuyahok, as well as people going down on the Nushagak
35 Peninsula when conditions allow them to cross the
36 rivers. And I was drooling because my neighbor was
37 cutting up a caribou the other day.

38
39 I also understand that there's about 50
40 wolves have been taken, about 25 in the aerial gunning
41 folks, in the wolf control area and the local folks on
42 snowmachines have gotten another 25 or 26. And I also
43 wanted to mention I've got an email from the wildlife
44 biologist in Dillingham that I could read a real short
45 summary when it comes to agency reports. He had lost
46 track of this meeting and they're deep into moose and
47 wolf collaring efforts right now.

48
49 So, with that, I'll conclude my report.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
4 you, Dan. Thank you, rest of the Council Members.

5

6 I have -- I don't have a lot of
7 anything new to add. Richard kind of stole my thunder,
8 what little there was of it, but the two things that
9 come to mind is that I am grateful that we had such a
10 good fish year last year and I'm looking forward to
11 another one this year.

12

13 And I was wondering if our Council
14 Member from down south, Mr. Lind, could you give us an
15 idea of what the ptarmigan are looking like down in
16 your area too. I spent quite a bit of time down in the
17 Becharof area and know that numbers have been really,
18 really low down there as well, and have you seen
19 anything further south that is more enlightening
20 than.....

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: In the Chigniks.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.

25

26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very low
29 numbers.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Haven't seen them
32 for a long time.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well,
35 hopefully the northern growth will spread down our way.

36

37 MR. TREFON: There is a lot of
38 ptarmigan in my area.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, we've
41 been sadly lacking them for several years now.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Up in around Groundhog
44 that - (no mic) there's a rookery there.....

45

46 REPORTER: Wait, could you put your mic
47 on. Thanks.

48

49 MR. TREFON: Yeah, there's a mountain

50

1 up there in Groundhog that we -- it's like a rookery
2 for the ptarmigan and usually there's just thousands
3 and thousands of ptarmigan in that one specific area
4 every year but now there's so much traffic going on up
5 there you don't see as much as you used to.

6
7 And a lot of our game up on that
8 mountain is the same reason, the amount of traffic, and
9 air traffic that goes up on that mountain, those
10 drilling rigs. Because I had talked about that, I
11 said, yeah, you drill into solid rock, rock vibration
12 travels a long ways and that's not natural for animals,
13 so they get scared of that.

14
15 That's my theory anyway.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
18 Thanks everybody.

19
20 Carl, then, are you ready to give a
21 coordinator's report.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
24 you. This will just be brief.

25
26 I just want to call to the attention of
27 the Council, if you'll turn to the end of your Council
28 books you'll see that your new charter is in there.
29 Now, since this Council -- even though you're created
30 by ANILCA, you are also administered by another law
31 called the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which
32 requires that all FACA committees have a new charter
33 renewed every two years, so this is a normal process
34 you go through. And so this last December was when
35 your new charter was issued.

36
37 And what I want to do is call,
38 particularly, to your attention, some language -- some
39 new language that was inserted into the charter. This
40 language is being included in all of the Federal
41 Advisory Committees within the Department of the
42 Interior, and if you go to the section of your charter
43 that deals with duties and responsibilities you will
44 see some new provisions there towards the very end,
45 and, you know -- I apologize I'm trying to find, in my
46 own meeting book where that is -- there we go.

47
48 Particularly provisions I and J.

49
50

1 Now, these were inserted, again, for
2 all Department of Interior committees and every
3 committee as they go through their charter renewal
4 process in the Department of Interior is going to have
5 these, too.
6

7 The first provision, I, deals with two
8 new Secretarial orders that were issued by Secretary
9 Zinke last year, that relate to conservation,
10 stewardship, an outdoor recreation, and also enhancing
11 opportunities for outdoor recreation, including
12 sporthunting and fishing on Federal public lands.
13

14 The next provision, Paragraph J, deals
15 with a series of executive orders going back to the
16 Clinton Administration that address a variety of things
17 from reducing regulatory complexity to government
18 efficiency, reducing costs and things like that.
19

20 Now, what I wanted to note is these new
21 provisions do not change the Council's duties. What
22 they do is they change, in some way, the reports that
23 we give to DC on what the Councils are doing. Because
24 a lot of the things that are in some of these
25 Secretarial Orders are things that the Council already
26 do as part of their regular business. For example,
27 create greater collaboration with States and tribes.
28 This is something that is part of the normal business
29 for Councils, we invite tribes to participate, we
30 invite the State to participate. You collaborate a lot
31 and discuss issues with those parties. You know we're
32 all about expanding access for hunting and fishing,
33 it's just subsistence, and we also have commercial and
34 sport users on these Councils, too, so we have their
35 viewpoints that come in to Regional Advisory Council
36 operations.
37

38 So what these do is they just -- they
39 change some of the ways we report information back to
40 DC. These do not create new duties for you to do here
41 at these meetings. You're not going to be having
42 hearings on, you know, enhancing sport -- recreation,
43 you know, shooting opportunities on Federal public
44 lands because that's just not part of your mandate.
45 But if -- you know, if we do have something that, for
46 example, enhances youth opportunities with use of
47 Federal public lands, some of the Council's are engaged
48 in various different things that interact with youth
49 and create a lot of interaction and so we would report
50

1 it back that this is something the Council did that
2 fulfills this Secretarial Order objective.

3
4 So, again, it's not creating new duties
5 for the Council, but it's just how we report that
6 information back to DC.

7
8 And that's really the only thing that I
9 had to report for the Council coordinator report.

10
11 Madame Chair.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
14 Carl.

15
16 So I'm not sure that we really have
17 anybody that this applies to but I guess if anybody --
18 everybody should know that if anybody has any testimony
19 to give we have cards, I'm assuming, I didn't even
20 check the table, do we have cards back there, to go
21 ahead and fill out, to provide information or testimony
22 to the Council members. Seeing how it's a fairly quiet
23 meeting and what not, we'll keep it fairly informal
24 and, especially, most of you guys are from agencies out
25 there and often times you'll have information that will
26 help us in our discussions and I would encourage you to
27 make yourself known at that point and we would be happy
28 to call on you to add to that. Same with the folks on
29 the phone. So I hope everybody is willing and able to
30 do that.

31
32 But there are cards on the table should
33 we have people come in.

34
35 Okay.

36
37 9A, let's go ahead and go on to our old
38 business with our change in the agenda.

39
40 MS. WORKER: Good morning, everybody.
41 This is Suzanne Worker in Anchorage with OSM.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good morning
44 Suzanne.

45
46 MS. WORKER: So Donald asked me to give
47 you an update on the proposals related to using
48 snowmachines to hunt in Unit 17. As Dan mentioned,
49 there were proposals submitted to both the Federal and
50

1 State Boards to allow the use of snowmachine to
2 position a caribou, wolf or a wolverine in Unit 17.

3
4 So when the Alaska Board of Game took
5 up this issue at their meeting in Dillingham, they
6 voted to support the proposal on the State side. They
7 did make a couple of changes.

8
9 First, they limited the change to the
10 positioning of caribou so it doesn't apply to wolves or
11 wolverines at this point.

12
13 And they also added a phrase to clarify
14 that actively chasing, tormenting or molesting caribou
15 was prohibited, and they provided definitions of those
16 activities.

17
18 So the Board of Game adopted this
19 proposal with a 4/3 vote so it wasn't unanimous. And
20 much of the discussion they had was focused on whether
21 this change was actually providing clarification or
22 whether it was making things more complicated.

23
24 So that's where things are at on the
25 State side.

26
27 A quick recap of where we're at on the
28 Federal side.

29
30 Currently you can use snowmachines for
31 hunting caribou in Unit 17, but you cannot take
32 wildlife from a moving snowmachine or use a snowmachine
33 to drive, herd or molest wildlife. And, remember, that
34 both Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service have
35 prohibitions against positioning an animal by
36 snowmachine, so any changes that result from a Federal
37 proposal would be limited to BLM land.

38
39 When this Council took up the Federal
40 proposal at your meeting you voted to oppose it. And
41 much of the discussion was about what it meant to
42 position a hunter versus position an animal, and about
43 the difference between positioning and chasing.

44
45 And so the reason that we want to bring
46 this up is because this proposal will be on what we
47 call the consensus agenda at the Board meeting in April
48 and so what that means is that the Council, the
49 InterAgency Staff Committee and the Alaska Department
50

1 of Fish and Game all agree on the desired outcome of
2 the proposal. So in this case everyone either opposed
3 it or was neutral. And this matters because the Board,
4 the Federal Board doesn't deliberate the consensus
5 proposals individually, they simply vote to affirm the
6 outcome that all those other entities agree on.
7

8 So if there are additional thoughts
9 that the Council has that you'd like to get on the
10 record and that you would like to communicate to the
11 Board, particularly in light of what the Board of Game
12 did, you'll need to request that the proposal be
13 removed from the consensus agenda, and it's as simple
14 as that. The Board will then take it up individually
15 and they will be able to hear any additional, you know,
16 discussion that you have about the proposal.
17

18 So that's sort of the main thing that
19 we wanted to make sure that you were aware of.
20

21 Like Dan said, we're not asking you to
22 formally reconsider it, but we just wanted to give you
23 an update, let you know where things are at and how
24 it's going to be handled at the Board meeting.
25

26 The final thing we can talk about is,
27 you know, at your last meeting you guys talked about
28 the need for outreach on this topic and so we did -- a
29 couple of us here met, you know, and sort of talked
30 about that a little bit and I can speak a little bit
31 more about how we might be able to take some next steps
32 on that if you'd like me to.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks very
35 much. Dan, go ahead.
36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair.
38 Through the Chair.
39

40 Suzanne, yes, I know that was a very
41 strong component of the final decision with the Board
42 of Game, was to -- they can't do more than just ask, I
43 guess, but it seemed like there was considerable
44 interest among agencies to find a way to do an
45 educational program. And I know personally, my
46 personal testimony at the Board of Game requested that,
47 so if you could elaborate I'd sure appreciate it.
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 MS. WORKER: Yeah, Dan, you're right.
2 That is something that came up at the Board of Game
3 meeting as well.

4
5 And, you know, so of course budgets and
6 funding are always an issue with stuff like that and I
7 don't have a lot of detailed information about how we
8 might approach that. But I think the first step will
9 be for, you know, if the Council is committed in trying
10 to get something out, the important question, and these
11 are, I think, are questions for the Council to decide;
12 who is the primary audience, so who are you targeting
13 and how is the most effective way to reach them. So
14 thinking about things like format and delivery. And
15 then finally what is the message that's -- you know,
16 the most sort of important thing that is understood and
17 transmitted.

18
19 So if this is something the Council
20 wants to pursue, Donald suggested that a smaller group
21 working with input from the public and with input from
22 the State and Federal programs would probably be a good
23 way to proceed so that, you know, there's a unified
24 message and agreement about, you know, what the message
25 is.

26
27 That's all I really have on that.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
30 thanks, Suzanne.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
33 Chair. Thank you, Suzanne.

34
35 Yes, and after sitting through our
36 Advisory Committee meetings and the Board of Game
37 meeting, and that I live in Dillingham, I'm to
38 represent the people that live in the area, I feel
39 obligated to move that we ask the -- that this proposal
40 be taken off of the consensus agenda and I'd like to
41 speak to that more after -- if I get a second.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Second.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Yes, there is very, very strong interest in
49 clarification of what constitutes appropriate use of
50

1 snowmobiles for hunting and I know it's controversial.
2 I have real mixed feelings.

3
4 I've felt that the Board of Game did a
5 really good effort in bringing a lot of -- like I said
6 earlier, the real people, the real hunters, the folks
7 who are out there doing it every day, try to
8 accommodate them to clarify, and it will never be
9 crystal clear. But I think that some of this language,
10 and like I said they're still wrangling over the exact
11 wording but it would have helped me feel a lot better
12 when I went down hunting last year to have those words
13 in there. So I would like this information conveyed to
14 the Federal Board. And also I'm very strongly in
15 support of the outreach and education. I know in our
16 area, the Togiak Refuge Staff, is in the schools quite
17 a bit and has a pretty good program, and they might
18 have something we could work with to go in the schools,
19 go in the communities and help explain why chasing's
20 bad, but also to learn from the local folks what good
21 hunting techniques would be. And I'd be willing to
22 work on any group for that.

23
24 So I'm hoping I can get support.
25 Because from the Togiak and the Dillingham area,
26 there's really strong support for a clear definition so
27 they can go out hunting without being paranoid of doing
28 the wrong thing and still be effective hunting.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I am not --
33 I need convincing in the sense that I need to have
34 somebody paraphrase for me what the argument was and
35 what happened at the Board of Game, basically, even
36 though you'll be paraphrasing for those that changed
37 your mind. I would like to hear that discussion a
38 little bit.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Nanci.

41
42 Well, apparently there's folks that do
43 the out and out chasing, which, generally I think
44 people don't like. But I think there's been some folks
45 that -- a couple things, that weren't sure what was not
46 chasing and yet still getting close to the animals, and
47 I think a few people got citations and I don't know the
48 exact circumstances of those. I'm inclined to think
49 that they probably were not necessarily borderline
50

1 cases. But a lot of us feel a little bit paranoid when
2 we're out there, what -- you know, if you're going
3 along, like in my case, I was -- had seen or heard
4 quite a ways out, I was trying to flank the herd and
5 kind of working my way through an area and all of a
6 sudden this caribou burst out in front of me. Well, if
7 somebody had just come over the ridge and saw me at
8 that moment it might have looked like I was chasing him
9 and I had no idea that thing was there. Another case,
10 we're on the way home, our sleds are full of meat and
11 we're just idling along and this caribou herd trots out
12 ahead of us for several miles, we weren't chasing them
13 but they were running in front of us, and it was like
14 oh, my gosh, is an enforcement agent on a hill here
15 thinking, oh, they're chasing them, you know.

16

17 So a couple of people in Manokotak got
18 citations and they decided to see if they could clarify
19 the rule.

20

21 I've actually seen people, you know,
22 look like they're going 70 miles an hour chasing
23 caribou and that's just not cool. And I've heard
24 stories of people, you know, driving up and chase them
25 until their tongues are hanging out and driving
26 alongside and shooting them. And I think in some cases
27 some of the younger folks with the big machines have
28 not really -- not paying attention to their elders or
29 have not been taught as well. But it seemed like it's
30 just a concern that was boiling up all over the area.

31

32 We didn't have many public in most of
33 the Board of Game, but when it came to that we had like
34 50 people sitting there. People drove over from
35 Manokotak on their snowmachines, what, that's 22, 30
36 miles, something like that, and crossings of the rivers
37 was still a little bit dicey and they made the effort
38 and the people showed up and spoke.

39

40 So Larry Van Daele, a Board member, who
41 used to live in Dillingham, worked really hard to come
42 up with this language that would make it easier so that
43 -- and other people said well when my grandpa had dogs
44 we used the dogs to move the animals around to be able
45 to shoot them, or move them a little bit and position
46 some people out ahead, and that sort of thing. And it
47 is awkward. And like I say initially I was just
48 totally opposed to anything. I think this -- if they
49 can get the language right it will be a help.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 I see other people want to talk.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

8 I was also at that meeting and what Dan is saying is so
9 true. They actually had a -- during the lunch break
10 there they had some of the Staff get together with one
11 of the State members there, who took his time, to hear
12 out the community. They had a meeting there, a
13 community meeting during that lunch break, and there
14 was several people there talking about -- everybody
15 just seemed to be worried about getting cited for this
16 kind of move. And we had the enforcement there telling
17 his side, and he said it's really -- it's a difficult
18 wording situation but he said it really has to be
19 pretty blatant for them to cite somebody. And he'd
20 shown -- you know there was like four cases in over a
21 number of years that he remembers, or I think that
22 they've actually cited somebody.

23

24 So the numbers really weren't there.

25

26 Very few people were cited for this
27 activity, but the ones that were cited, it was pretty
28 blatant.

29

30 So that kind of -- I think it calmed
31 people down a little bit thinking, well, maybe this
32 isn't really a big issue but -- and then the challenge
33 is trying to find language to, you know, what is
34 positioning, and so that was a lot of discussion on how
35 to position yourself where you're not really chasing,
36 you know. So it's going to be a tough challenge, I
37 think, for them to get some language in there that
38 would really identify -- because the Troopers were
39 saying that it's really hard for them to, you know, the
40 interpretation was there and some of the discussion was
41 new guys that come in, you know, to help enforce, maybe
42 they don't read the rule book the same way as the guy
43 before them, and so their idea of chasing is a little
44 different than the other one and so then here comes the
45 language thing.

46

47 But he did mention that it was very few
48 and they were pretty blatant.

49

50

1 So out of that the education, I think,
2 is the important part. We have a lot more single
3 parenting, different things going on, I think, in our
4 communities, but just education, perhaps in the schools
5 or wherever it might be appropriate, I think, was one
6 of the big things that needs to get out there to, you
7 know, and also educate the enforcement people, you
8 know, and so everybody's on the same page when it comes
9 to this kind of thing.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

14

15 MR. MAINES: Thank you. I'm trying to
16 think of how to paraphrase it, only for the fact that
17 now days that things are settled in court and it's
18 always somebody's interpretation of a certain word.

19

20 When I used to spend my time down on
21 that Peninsula, I would find myself always behind the
22 herd, only for the fact that I'd try my best to catch
23 up to them, but by the time I got up to where they were
24 at I'd see their breath coming off the lichen that they
25 were just that close, not fresh and then when I'd look
26 up I'd say where in the heck did they go. And I was
27 going down there by myself. I learned to go with some
28 of my friends from Manokotak down that way and we would
29 agree to split up and go in separate directions and I
30 would see a herd and I would go and position myself in
31 an area that I knew that my partners were going to be
32 coming around and turning those caribou to come back in
33 my direction.

34

35 So my problem's always been, well, to
36 me it's almost like I'm letting them herd the caribou
37 towards me. And I know that some of the old folks used
38 to use their dog teams and that would be the same way,
39 is that, one person, the shooter would be in a certain
40 area and position themselves that way while other folks
41 would go out and around and turn them to go back in the
42 other direction.

43

44 So I don't know the proper term or if
45 there's any adequate way to put in the words exactly
46 what you're trying to do and how you're going about
47 doing it without somebody coming up and saying you're
48 in violation of the law and getting cited for that.

49 And whether it's blatant or not it's still a citation,

50

1 a citation is a citation, and all you're doing is
2 trying to go get the meat to put on your table and put
3 in the freezer.

4
5 So that's why when this came up last
6 year I was saying, well, geez, you know, the last thing
7 I want to do is for us to put ourselves in the
8 likelihood to be cited for one way or the other. And I
9 know that Mother Nature makes those animals as smart as
10 they are because they use their senses to let them know
11 that there's somebody there wanting them and I'm also a
12 firm believer that an animal gives itself to you. So
13 it was a mixed can of beans for me, one way or the
14 other.

15
16 And I know friends of mine would be
17 saying, Billy, you're selling us out, and I'm saying,
18 no, I'm not I'm trying to protect what we have, and I
19 can't come up with the words to do it.

20
21 So whatever the verbiage is, whoever
22 puts it in there, it's going to take that education
23 component on all three sides. It's going to take the
24 management, the enforcement, and the user to understand
25 that this is how it's done and this is how we're going
26 to do it. And it's got to be on a regular basis
27 because people come and people go, and there's new
28 hunters, there's new management people, there's new
29 enforcement people, not everybody's there for an entire
30 decade, let alone two or three years at a time.

31
32 So whatever the answer is, it's got to
33 be a continuous evolving situation because I've had
34 plenty of experience dealing with lawyers and I just
35 came from DC last week where I faced a bunch of lawyers
36 and I asked a simple question as to what does
37 implementation mean to you and I got answers from each
38 and every one of them, different from each and every
39 one of them. I says, it's a good thing that Webster's
40 Dictionary is only so thick, because if it was left up
41 to them it'd be a whole row of books.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
46 Billy.

47
48 Dan.

49
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, these guys reminded
2 me of a couple things. Another reason I'd be
3 interested in somehow reopening this issue is that we
4 could be looking at an inconsistency of the regulations
5 here that'll add more confusion. One of the things
6 I've always tried to dedicate my effort to is to have
7 things as close to parallel as possible to eliminate
8 confusion.

9
10 And so if we can -- I'm still a little
11 unclear on this, other than to take it off the
12 consensus agenda, make the Board aware that these other
13 issues are coming by asking them to take it off the
14 agenda.

15
16 The other thing that I also wanted to
17 bring up was that we've had funding through the Federal
18 Subsistence Program for TEK and other items and I'm
19 wondering, if, with some help from OSM, could we be
20 looking at somehow emphasizing or regathering or
21 recollecting the TEK on proper hunting practices in the
22 past that could be added to this educational program.
23 Maybe we could get some elders to say, how we did it
24 with dogs, and, no, we didn't just chase the caribou
25 flat out, or even how the early uses of snowmobiles.
26 And so, you know, we usually review these fisheries
27 research programs and other things, can we find a way
28 to tuck an education program into the TEK aspect of
29 those funds. And so maybe appeal to BBNA or somebody
30 to propose a program that would quality for those
31 funds.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

34
35 MR. MAINES: I was just going to say
36 that Dan brings up an issue and a concern of mine, but
37 at the same time looking at our charter and the things
38 that we do, around this table, is that, hopefully we're
39 the ones that are trying to share with everybody else
40 what the customary and traditional ways of doing things
41 in our lifestyle and our livelihoods and stuff like
42 that. So trying to put into language that today's
43 science understands what the traditional ecological
44 knowledge that elders and other folks bring along
45 dealing with our wildlife and our plants and stuff like
46 that, it's something that every Federal agency is
47 dealing with and having a hard time with, coming up
48 with that definition.

49
50

1 And depending on whether you're here in
2 Alaska or down in Florida, with seminole and stuff
3 like that, how they do things and how we do things are
4 totally separate and opposite too.

5
6 So when I was talking about the way I
7 remember going over and hunting the caribou down on the
8 Peninsula, to me, that was shown and taught to me and I
9 would try to put my little twist to it to make it a
10 little bit quicker and stuff like that, but it was the
11 traditional way of trying to get -- and the customary
12 way of trying to get that meat in your sled and back at
13 home and stuff like that.

14
15 So I don't know if it was actually TEK,
16 but it definitely was the way we would hunt that herd.
17 And it's definitely different than I would hunt the
18 Mulchatna caribou. So I don't know how the -- again,
19 how that helps with the discussion or anything, but you
20 brought up TEK and it made me think, well, it depends
21 on what area of the -- which unit I would be going
22 after, whatever game.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
25 Billy.

26
27 Mr. Trefon.

28
29 MR. TREFON: Yeah, going back to
30 positioning and chasing them. Traditionally, I mean
31 caribou is a migrating animal, it never stands still,
32 ever, I mean it's just constantly moving, and I was
33 raised up -- I mean the only way you could get caribou,
34 you either flanked them, and there's always somebody
35 chasing them and herding them. And it does look like
36 you're chasing and positioning but that's the only way
37 you can get at these animals if you're hunting on the
38 ground, walking or snowmachining, versus people that
39 have their aircraft where they could actually put
40 themselves ahead of a herd where they could sit and wait
41 for them to come through a certain valley, whereas us
42 traditional hunters, we had to literally get on the
43 ground and chase that animal and herd it to a certain
44 -- same thing with the moose, and we live in timber and
45 mountains and it's kind of hard to chase a herd of
46 caribou out in the country anyway wide open, in my
47 country.

48
49 But I could understand where that
50

1 chasing comes out where these big snowmachines could
2 just literally run these caribous into the ground.

3

4 And I understand that, and I totally
5 disapprove of that kind of hunting because it ruins the
6 meat, it makes it really tough.

7

8 But that's my opinion. Yeah, that's
9 the only way you can get caribou is by chasing it and
10 herding it, I mean traditionally.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Gently.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. TREFON: Yes. The way, I mean --
17 we were not supposed to harass these animals, respect
18 them, I mean not to go and just go out and kill 30
19 caribou just because they're there. I've saw that.
20 And it used to be outside hunters, there was a lodge in
21 Anchorage came in, with a big pilatus, but it was -- it
22 landed in Long Lake and they pulled out something like
23 four snowmachines and then they ran down something like
24 30 caribou and all they took was the legs, left
25 everything there. Wanton waste literally. They lost
26 every -- they got caught, but it was still sporthunters
27 coming from Anchorage area or Kenai and just taking the
28 prime meat and leaving the rest of the meat there.

29

30 But we experience that a lot.

31

32 But that's how you hunt caribou and how
33 you hunt moose, that's the way I was raised up,
34 traditionally, you had to position somebody in front or
35 flank it but don't get a big 500 snowmachine and run
36 that sucker down, that's not the way to hunt.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

41

42 MR. WILSON: It's funny how the word,
43 chasing, even though he said it in the most kindest
44 way, chasing still seems like you're chasing, you know.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. WILSON: It's funny how the English
49 language works that way.

50

1 But this proposal, when it first came
2 out, it had wolverine and wolves attached to it and it
3 was kind of a consensus at the Board there to just
4 strictly to consider this a caribou affair, and not
5 with the wolves and the wolverines. So I think they
6 deleted it from it -- if I'm not mistaken, they deleted
7 the wolf and the wolverine off of this proposal, and
8 it's strictly just the caribou that we're talking about
9 here now.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
12 that has been an extremely helpful discussion for me,
13 who didn't have the benefit of attending the meeting.

14

15 I would like to know from our
16 coordinator, what are our options other than requesting
17 this be removed from the consensus agenda. Do we have
18 options, and, I guess, where my mind is going it sounds
19 to me like -- it is a matter of tradition for hunts, I
20 would totally agree and my knowledge isn't nearly as
21 deep as many of you Council members, I think we need to
22 acknowledge that and do our best to find a way to make
23 it legal, number 1; and number 2, carry on with
24 education in all three forums. I also think that we
25 have extremely high turnover in both management and
26 enforcement and that's just as important, to make sure
27 that education is out there and maintained for them as
28 well as for us to do our part in our villages.

29

30 So, Carl, can you give us some ideas on
31 options, whether we need to even be looking at putting
32 in a new proposal for the next go around, or if there's
33 something, some other ideas.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madame
36 Chair. And just to give the Council a background of
37 why you can't reconsider this at this meeting. That
38 Federal Advisory Committee Act, that I mentioned
39 earlier, requires public notice for the -- for the
40 public to know what the Council is going to be
41 discussing. Now, it's normal practice that you can add
42 things to your agenda because something might come up,
43 but when it comes to regulatory proposals that you are
44 going to make recommendations to the Board, that's
45 where the line is really drawn on what the public has
46 to have notice of. So that's why you can't reconsider
47 your recommendation to the Board.

48

49 However, there's no prohibition under
50

1 the Federal Advisory Committee Act for you asking the
2 Board to take off the consensus agenda, because you're
3 not making a recommendation on the proposal itself.
4 Also if you just bring new information to the Board
5 without changing your previous recommendation and just
6 say you want the Board to consider that information
7 when they deliberate the proposal themselves, that's
8 not a recommendation. And I think that would be the
9 safest way to go, is just to bring new information to
10 the Board's attention, not attach any recommendation to
11 it, and then just ask the Board to make its best
12 decision based on the record.

13
14 And now if the Board does decide to
15 reject the proposal, consistent with your
16 recommendation, then your best bet would be to submit a
17 proposal. You could also submit a special -- I don't
18 know if this could be special action, I would have to
19 research that for you, because normally special actions
20 are, you know, you're changing the regulation to define
21 an activity that I think would go beyond special
22 actions, I think your best option, your only option
23 would be to submit a new proposal.

24
25 But also part of your information that
26 you bring to the Board, I would suggest you include the
27 aspects of the education and outreach and how really
28 this is one of the -- it seems to be, from what the
29 Council is discussing, it seems to be what the Board of
30 Game discussed, one of the core underlying problems is
31 an issue of education, helping hunters understand,
32 having clear language that law enforcement can rely on,
33 although I'm sure law enforcement would tell you
34 there's no such thing as really clear language when it
35 comes to regulations, a lot, but it seems to be that
36 just presenting that information to the Board without a
37 recommendation would be acceptable.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.
40 I'm going to call you Mr. Trefon just because we have a
41 couple of Billy's here.

42
43 MR. TREFON: Okay, no problem.

44
45 Yeah, I just want a clarification on
46 wording here, I'll just ask, chasing versus herding.
47 What's the definition. I mean it's the same thing to
48 me. I mean we're traditionally herding, we're herding,
49 we're not chasing, we're actually trying to get the
50

1 animals to go to a certain -- I believe that's actually
2 herding that's how you have to be -- that's how you
3 hunt on the ground, where chasing, it's like taking a
4 500 snowmachine and just literally chasing and running
5 an animal down. You're not doing it violently to where
6 you're actually hurting animals, you're herding, no
7 different than moving cows around.

8
9 So is there a definition or wording or
10 is there a clarification of the law on chasing versus
11 herding.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm not sure
14 we have anybody on line or in the audience that's ready
15 to answer that question in particular. And I think
16 that it's probably a better question that could be
17 answered -- you know, I guess where I'm going right now
18 with it in my mind, is, I think the Board of Game might
19 be taking care of those definitions and that research
20 for us and I think maybe we can tag along with them.
21 At this point I'm inclined -- I think that it said,
22 according to the instructions I got from Donald, is
23 that, when the Chair's -- the designee, that I can
24 state based on recent developments, that the RAC would
25 like reconsideration of the Council's position it took
26 at the last meeting and request to have it taken off
27 the consensus agenda.

28
29 And I think at this point that would be
30 what I'm hearing from all of you Council members, that
31 you would prefer to see that happen. I believe that
32 probably our discussion has been captured by Nathan,
33 for you, Carl, to put together our justification for
34 that and then hopefully when Molly attends the meeting
35 she can further inform the Council and we can see what
36 happens. But I think that until we have that wording,
37 whether -- if the Board of Game falls short on that
38 then we will have to take it up and I think we should.
39 I agree with you. I think herding will be a much
40 better -- and Richard as well, than chasing, just
41 because of the immediate connotation in a person's
42 mind.

43
44 But that is going to be the difficult
45 part of it and somebody's going to have to take it
46 on, and it could end up back in our laps. It wouldn't
47 be the first time I saw that.

48
49 But I think right now, for our first
50

1 steps, what I'm hearing from the Council, is the wishes
2 to have it taken off
3 the consensus agenda and to revisit it ourselves in the
4 near future. Would that be accurate, if we.....

5

6 (Councils nods affirmatively)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
9 Richard, go ahead.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I'd be
12 interested if there was any Staff here on the Federal
13 side that had anything to add to this proposal, if
14 there was any comments or anything, I'd be interested
15 to see what they would have to say.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Susan, by
18 all means, please come up, and if there's anybody on
19 the phone, too, that might want to add something,
20 please, feel free to speak up and we'll acknowledge you
21 as soon as Susan's done.

22

23 MS. HENRY: Good morning, Madame Chair
24 and Members of the RAC. I'm Susanna Henry, the Refuge
25 Manager at Togiak Refuge. And since I live in
26 Dillingham, I was able to attend the Alaska Board of
27 Game meetings last month as well, including the town
28 hall that was called by the Board Member Larry Van
29 Daele, and that was advertised well on FaceBook and got
30 the participation that Dan Dunaway described, and
31 Richard described.

32

33 And also at that town hall meeting was
34 Allen Miller, he's the deputy Refuge Manager at Togiak
35 Refuge and a law enforcement officer and has been in
36 Dillingham, I believe, 20 years. He was the law
37 enforcement officer that spoke about the rate of
38 citations. And I looked at my notes. He said that in
39 the last five years he believed that he had cited three
40 people for chasing caribou while hunting in Unit 17 on
41 the Nushagak Peninsula on Federal lands, on Togiak
42 Refuge. And over the last 10 years maybe five were
43 cited. In one of the cases he told me that the person
44 had repeatedly taken shots at caribou and had chased
45 the caribou over five miles, repeatedly pursuing the
46 same herd. So he's well aware that there might be some
47 alternative that somebody might have come across
48 caribou and then seeing their trajectory maybe try to
49 reencounter them at a different place, but this was not
50

1 that way, this was keeping the caribou in sight and
2 pursuing them directly.
3

4 There was also a member of the public
5 Nick Nikita, who spoke at the town hall, and I thought
6 it was really -- he was a very interesting speaker
7 because he said he was from up river, 25 years old, and
8 you said the Nushagak Peninsula is different than the
9 Mulchatna Caribou hunt, but he said that it's important
10 to teach your -- young hunters, teach your kids to be
11 precision shooters, don't let them do the wrong thing,
12 and he encouraged education, hunter education.
13

14 And since the meeting of the Board, I
15 will mention that I did make contact with our
16 colleagues up at the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
17 in Kotzebue, and you might remember that there is a
18 different rule there for State lands and other Federal
19 lands in, I think, Game Management Units 22, 23 and I
20 think it's 25B, correct me if I'm wrong, that does
21 allow some positioning of the animals with a
22 snowmachine, and that has not been an easy situation.
23 I did talk to Brittany Sweeney, she's the visitor
24 services manager up there, and they're having to do
25 some educational efforts to try to help people
26 understand what not to do, and they have experienced
27 some wounding loss of animals and there has been some
28 struggles with that. It's not ideal to allow
29 positioning with a snowmachine, positioning of animals,
30 with regard to caribou.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Let me just
33 ask a quick question, because it totally relates to
34 this.
35

36 Do they have an education program along
37 with that, that is an ongoing education program,
38 whether it be in schools or what not?
39

40 MS. HENRY: Yes, Madame Chair. They
41 are working on continuing and improving their education
42 program. And Brittany Sweeney provided me with some of
43 the materials that they've developed. And I have to
44 admit I haven't had time to really look closely at
45 them, waiting to see what the outcome is, since I know
46 the Board of Game decision was vague enough that
47 they're having to really look at it and see what
48 actually was decided.
49
50

1 But I think we're -- if something is
2 approved, that is okay on private property or State
3 lands or maybe the -- well, it may not apply to the
4 Refuge, but we're still going to have to react to it,
5 because I think that it's going to just create
6 confusion so education is super important.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
9 Question's anybody for Susanna.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That was
14 hugely helpful for me so thank you for that.

15
16 Anybody else have anything they'd like
17 to add or say.

18
19 Go ahead Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: I thought earlier on I
22 heard some papers shuffling as Nanci was asking for
23 anybody on line with additional information, so we'd
24 encourage you to speak up.

25
26 MS. WORKER: Madame Chair, this is
27 Suzanne Worker.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please, go
30 ahead, Suzanne.

31
32 MS. WORKER: I just wanted to add, to
33 remind the Council, that currently among the
34 prohibitions of using snowmachine in Unit 17, you may
35 not use a motorized vehicle to drive, herd or molest
36 wildlife. So, you know, when the discussion gets into
37 the difference between herding and chasing, herding is
38 currently -- there's not a definition for herding, but
39 it is used in the regulation and it is prohibited,
40 currently.

41
42 So just one thing to keep in mind.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
45 Suzanne.

46
47 Dan.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, see that's the
50

1 case. And my one successful trip last year, we'd been
2 trying to catch up to this herd, quite a distance, we
3 never caused them to run and we kept trying to outflank
4 them but we would go behind a ridge, and go down and
5 come back and oop, they're farther out. Finally, two
6 of us stopped and we had to refuel, eating lunch and
7 we're just sitting there and, kind of, well, what do we
8 do, well the other two guys in our group had -- we lost
9 track of them and they finally spotted us on this ridge
10 and so they're working their way over, well, caribou
11 appear between us. And so then we saw our friends,
12 going very slow, you know, maybe 50 feet at a time
13 trying to inch around this big alder patch to see if
14 they could get lined up for a shot, and it was too deep
15 to get off the Sno-Go and try to walk, and those -- and
16 I thought well that herd is heading down the valley and
17 going to go off to our left and we'll never see them,
18 and then all of a sudden, as these guys keep (making
19 sound) and it was just really short, and I couldn't
20 even see it happen, all of a sudden I realized the
21 caribou were coming towards us, out of our view below
22 the ridge, but we could tell by the way our friends,
23 all of a sudden they were looking towards us, and then
24 we could hear them a little bit, you know, how caribou
25 make the noise and the next thing I got ears and
26 antlers coming right over the hill to us, and then they
27 veered around, but we were able to go across the ridge
28 and we got five.

29
30 But the whole time I'm going, is that
31 herding, and that sounds like -- kind of like what
32 Billy Trefon is saying here, and I've done that even on
33 foot, where you kind of nudge them along, but it's not
34 where they're fleeing wildly, and they're not getting
35 exhausted, they're trot, trot, trot, trot, trot, trot,
36 and then sometimes you're just lucky finally getting in
37 the right spot, but the whole time I'm going, is this
38 herding, is this harassing, because they're on
39 snowmachines, but, boy that meat tastes good.

40
41 But we weren't chasing them. And I did
42 see a guy just go after them and he didn't have a
43 chance and it was just dumb and I wished they hadn't
44 done it. But what we were doing, I felt, was not hard
45 on the animal so I want to think gently herding,
46 or.....

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY:and you even
2 sometimes do it with moose, like you say, that you kind
3 of just nudge them along a little bit. So that's the
4 confusion.

5
6 And I think one of the -- there's been
7 a change in the Troopers in our area. We had a guy for
8 a long time, he'd grown up in King Salmon and Aniak and
9 other places and he kind of knew local ways, and then
10 we had a guy -- some other guys that were from like up
11 in the Big Lake area or something, who, partly because
12 they're used to working with bigger populations of
13 people, a lot more strict. And then in one case were
14 kind of accusing some people of unethical hunting
15 before he'd even seen anything go on, and I know the
16 couple people I respect as hunters were really
17 offended, and so it kind of induced this kind of a
18 paranoia and distrust, that what was acceptable under
19 one Trooper, might not be with another. And I always
20 want to respect the Troopers, I'm generally friends
21 with them, but it's not good to be, you know, hunting
22 for a moose and then, am I doing something wrong, and
23 feeling there's some weight on you the whole time.

24
25 So hopefully we can thread the needle
26 on this one.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

31
32 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Ma'am.

33
34 I'm trying to clarify in my mind, the
35 motion is to take this proposal off the consent
36 calendar. What happens to it when it -- if we vote to
37 do that, what happens to the proposal. And when we're
38 doing whatever we're doing, we still at this time have
39 the option of adding additional information, or is the
40 Board going to just not even consider it whatsoever.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
43 Billy. Carl.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 And, Through Chair, Billy.

47
48 So once it comes off the consensus
49 agenda it will go through the full process, which means
50

1 the Staff analyst will give a presentation to the Board
2 on the proposal, provide an overview of the analysis,
3 then we'll go through a process of hearing from the
4 Councils, from the public, from the State, other
5 agencies on what they think about the proposal. Now,
6 at this time, you would, as the Council, being
7 represented by your Chair, would give your Council's
8 recommendation that you made at your fall meeting, but
9 then also present new information for the Board to
10 consider, based on this discussion, but not change your
11 recommendation. You would just say this is our
12 recommendation from our fall meeting, this is the
13 reason for the recommendation, because the Board always
14 wants to understand why you recommend something the way
15 you do, but then you would say, but also, Mr. Chair,
16 talking to Chair Christianson, we also want to bring to
17 the Board's attention, some new information to consider
18 when it decides what to do with this proposal. And
19 then that would be it. And then the Board would
20 deliberate and decide what to do on the proposal.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
23 ahead, Billy.

24
25 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Carl. Our
26 recommendation also included the wolverine and wolves
27 that was in that too, so changing our recommendation to
28 me would be with the caveat that we were considering,
29 not only just caribou but also the wolves and
30 wolverines in the process. So that might have had some
31 reasonings as to why we took the action we did. But at
32 the same time my understanding of my memory, is that,
33 we were having the same issues that we're having right
34 now, dealing with definitions. What is positioning.
35 What is chasing. And who's doing what, where, when,
36 why and so forth.

37
38 So, to me, it doesn't seem like
39 changing the recommendation should be an issue one way
40 or the other just as long as we have the opportunity to
41 provide more information as to why we decided what we
42 were doing. And it wasn't just dealing with the
43 caribou, but also the other animals in the proposal
44 that was before us but at the same time the
45 misunderstanding, or not understanding of what the
46 verbiage actually means and whether or not there is
47 going to be somebody there to tell us definitely what
48 the definition would be.

49
50

1 So those -- I'm kind of -- I want to go
2 through the whole process so that actually it's ironed
3 out. So I don't have an issue going and taking it off
4 the consent agenda. But I want to make sure that the
5 issues and questions that we had then and now are
6 actually going to be answered.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right. And,
11 Billy, I think our -- I agree, and I think that's where
12 we're headed by doing this because without our public
13 notice, I think that's our big kicker, why we can't
14 really have new discussions on this and that's where
15 we'll be going in the future by doing this. I would
16 hope.

17

18 Is that correct.

19

20 MR. MAINES: I do too.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair. And I
23 think, again, when this is presented -- if the Board
24 does agree to take it off the consensus agenda, then
25 the approach, again, is to summarize the Council's
26 recommendation and then have a clean line between that
27 and the new information you want to present for the
28 Board to consider, if it adopts it, but also this
29 discussion lays the groundwork for, if need be, for the
30 Council to submit a very well thought out proposal at
31 its winter meeting next year because that'll be the
32 call for wildlife proposals.

33

34 So you have a year to work with your
35 Council coordinator, to work with any other resources
36 we have available at OSM to craft a really thoroughly
37 thought out proposal that will have a good
38 administrative record, not only here, but also based on
39 the discussion at the State Board of Game meeting and
40 this town hall, will give a lot of opportunity to have
41 a really thought out proposal.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right. And
44 that was where I was going with my thought as well as
45 just that the Board of Game might do a lot of this work
46 for us ahead of time and, if so, that's great, if not,
47 we're still going to have time to get the work done if
48 they fall down short on it.

49

50

1 Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
4 Chair. And thank you Billy for the bit about wolves
5 versus caribou and just to clarify, when I made my
6 motion initially I was thinking caribou because like we
7 said, the Board of Game separated them out from the
8 original proposal, 148 is the number. And that was my
9 intent is to address the issue of hunting caribou with
10 snowmobiles.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So with
15 that, Carl, we don't need a motion, is that correct, we
16 just need direction or how would you like to see this
17 proceed?

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. There is a
20 motion on the table that has been seconded. The
21 Council has been engaged in vigorous discussion on that
22 motion, so still at this point in time there still
23 needs to be a vote on the motion.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. MAINES: Question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
30 been called. All in favor of removing Item 18 -- let
31 me get the numbers right -- 18-24, from the consensus
32 agenda, making that request known to our statewide
33 board, please signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed,
38 same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Motion
43 carries. Is that the direction you need then?

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
48 you. Let's go ahead and take a break. I see people
49 squirming so we'll go ahead and take a 10 minute break

50

1 and then we'll hit it again.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
10 you everybody.

11

12 Now, we're on to Item No. 10 on the
13 agenda.

14

15 New business. Call for Federal
16 fisheries proposal. Who's going to take the lead on
17 this.

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. There
20 should be somebody on OSM who is going to be doing this
21 presentation, that would be Scott Ayers.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Excellent.
24 Scott, you can feel free to.....

25

26 MR. AYERS: Hello, Madame Chair. This
27 is Scott Ayers at OSM.

28

29 May I go ahead?

30

31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Scott,
32 you can go ahead with your presentation if you'd like.

33

34 MR. AYERS: Wonderful. Thank you. The
35 Federal Subsistence Board is accepting proposals this
36 spring of this year to change Federal regulations for
37 the subsistence take of fish and shellfish on Federal
38 public lands and waters for the 2019 through 2021
39 regulatory cycle. You can find an announcement flyer
40 starting -- or in your books that describes the
41 regulatory cycle process more in depth.

42

43 The Board will consider proposals to
44 change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest
45 limits, methods of harvest and customary and
46 traditional use and nonrural determinations. There are
47 a number of ways that you can submit proposals. If you
48 have a proposal that you would like to submit as a
49 Council or as individuals, we can discuss that right
50

1 now. You can also submit proposals to OSM through your
2 Council Coordinator, by hand or by mail and we can
3 assist you in crafting if you would like. There is
4 also an online process outlined more clearly in the
5 flyer in your books, however, the call through the
6 online process on regulations.gov is not yet open.
7 There's been some delays but we expect it will be open
8 soon and it will be open for at least 30 days.

9
10 So this concludes regulatory cycle
11 update.

12
13 Are there any specific questions that I
14 can help with at this time.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Mr. Trefon,
17 you know, this might be a good opportunity for you to
18 get your proposal initiated on our end, for the
19 Subsistence Board, end, if you would like. I don't
20 know if, Scott, you had heard Mr. Trefon's concerns
21 about having citations issued to children while they
22 were fishing with rod and reel around a subsistence
23 site. I'm actually fully aware of that up there.

24
25 So if you want, Mr. Trefon.

26
27 MR. TREFON: My name is Billy Trefon.
28 I'm from Nondalton. I'm on the Nondalton Tribal
29 Council here.

30
31 And our biggest concern up there is we
32 had a State Trooper come into our subsistence fish camp
33 and cited some kids there for fishing with rod and
34 reels on the subsistence fish camp. The reason what
35 brought this to light is that the State said rod and
36 reel is not recognized as subsistence gear. And so
37 we're trying to submit this proposal to the State and
38 the -- I don't know what the Fed's wording, I'm working
39 with BBNA on that, to submit a proposal for that, rod
40 and reel be considered as subsistence fishing gear,
41 because I mean it's no different than your boat, no
42 different than your motor, you snowmachine. I mean if
43 we have to continue to do traditional hunting we'd be
44 out there with bow and arrows and stalking game. So I
45 mean it's no different with a rod and reel.

46
47 I mean some of the wording can go. I
48 mean if you're in a boat and you're drifting, that's
49 considered sportfishing, I mean you're out there just
50

1 to have fun and relax. Yeah, I can see that. But if
2 you're in your subsistence fish camp and you're with a
3 rod and reel, most people there, they're fishing off
4 the dock to change their diet because you're eating
5 salmon, you're eating salmon, you get tired of eating
6 salmon so you want to change your diet, you want a
7 whitefish, you want a grayling. And that's where the
8 chumming came in, when we had that big discussion about
9 chumming, that's what brought this all about.

10

11 And we want to submit the wording that
12 we want to see rod and reel added to the Federal and
13 the State law as considered subsistence gear because we
14 had the kids get cited in Nondalton and we -- it was on
15 Facebook, I don't know, one of the Anguson's got cited
16 down here for the same reasons, fishing with rod and
17 reel and out getting fish for himself to eat for
18 subsistence use, but the fish Trooper told him to
19 submit a law -- a proposal.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, good,
22 so you are working with BBNA on that then?

23

24 MR. TREFON: Yes, I am working with Cody
25 here.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, good.
28 Yeah, Cody, go ahead.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 So, yeah, this is a concern that Billy brought to us
32 and spoke with the Council about getting their nod of
33 approval to pursue something like this.

34

35 So in the State's regs there's a few
36 different locations in the state where rod and reel is
37 used for subsistence, and in some cases it's the only
38 like method that's allowed for subsistence. Up in -- up
39 by Nome and some of those areas, so a lot of the
40 language change at the State side is just, you know, to
41 take those other areas and say, yep, Sixmile Lake area
42 is where we want to do that as well.

43

44 That area where we were looking at it,
45 I'm not -- you know, I'm not super familiar with the
46 area and it's right on the boundary of the Refuge and
47 kind of right where -- next to Sixmile Lake is, the
48 village corps, lands and so those are under -- at least
49 in the wildlife under, you know, State regs on that.

50

1 So it's sort of like researching into is this going to
2 be under State fishing regulations or is this going to
3 be under Federal fishing regulations. If you look on
4 Page 40 of the fish and shellfish harvest area here it
5 does talk about use of a fyke net, or like a fish trap
6 and the tributaries of Lake Clark and tributaries of
7 Sixmile Lake, and then it talks about within the
8 exterior -- boundaries of the Park and Preserve. So
9 that one, you know, is talking about the tribs of the
10 lake but not the lake itself.

11
12 So the question that I have is would a
13 Federal regulation open up those waters within Sixmile
14 Lake to that gear type, and, if -- I don't know if
15 anybody on the phone or in the audience here could
16 clarify is Sixmile Lake subsistence regulations Federal
17 or State, right, because it's right on the fringe
18 there. And, you know, again, like Mr. Dunaway, getting
19 those to match so that there isn't sort of like a GPS
20 line of this gear method to that gear method when
21 really folks are just out there trying to mix up your
22 diet, doing something, you know, a family activity -- a
23 subsistence family activity during fish camp, during
24 that subsistence period, when there's not ice and so
25 your rod and reel isn't through a piece of ice to allow
26 for it.

27
28 So that's kind of where we're at with
29 this. We do have a little bit of time to -- for this
30 call for proposals on the Federal side, but April 10th
31 is the call for the State Board of Fish and so that's
32 where we're at.

33
34 I can field any questions.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, first
37 let's see if anybody's either in the audience or on
38 line that can answer your question. Does anybody have
39 an answer.

40
41 MR. AYERS: Hi, yes, this is Scott
42 Ayers with OSM, again. I don't know specifically
43 whether or not Sixmile Lake would be considered Federal
44 public waters, although it is adjacent to the land
45 management area, and typically it's waters within and
46 adjacent that are covered under those regulations and
47 as he pointed out earlier, it is in the book
48 specifically related to the fyke net and lead and
49 tributaries of Lake Clark, and tributaries to Sixmile
50

1 Lake. I would suggest submitting proposals in both
2 systems, within the State and the Federal Subsistence
3 system, for alignment purposes so that -- to ensure
4 that this particular gear type isn't an issue on either
5 side.

6
7 Directly above the section that was
8 pointed out on Page 40, it does say that in Lake Clark
9 and its tributaries you may also take salmon without a
10 permit by snagging, by hand line, or rod and reel using
11 a spear, bow and arrow, or by capturing with their
12 hands. And certainly that section could be clarified,
13 specifically to state that, you know, rod and reel is a
14 viable option.

15
16 I hope that helps.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
19 Scott.

20
21 Troy.

22
23 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
24 the Council. Troy Hamon with the National Park Service
25 in King Salmon.

26
27 Two things.

28
29 I'm not the expert on the Lake Clark
30 boundary. I did just pull up their map so that I, at
31 least, know -- and the boundary as drawn is the south
32 shore of Sixmile Lake, so the -- at last based on the
33 boundary -- the regulation that allows us to apply
34 management of Park waters is contingent on that water
35 being within the boundaries. So one of the mechanisms
36 that we have to require or to authorize this kind of
37 use inside of our boundary is not in play here as the
38 gentleman on the phone indicated. With Federal
39 subsistence, sometimes waters that are adjacent to or
40 on that boundary can be considered. I don't know
41 whether or not that's the way Sixmile Lake has been
42 handled, so I verified that it's not within the
43 boundary.

44
45 What I can do is try to make contact
46 with my colleagues at Lake Clark, and if I get a
47 response to how it's been handled then I'll let you
48 know what that is.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would
2 be great, thank you, Troy.

3
4 Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 And I think Scott's point is an excellent one. And
8 also when you look at the potential that the south
9 shore might be Federal, but if you look at where the
10 fish camps are, at the mouth of the Newhalen, you have
11 them both on the south and the north side, so you might
12 have the south side in Federal and the north side in
13 State, so it illustrates the point of submitting a
14 proposal in both regimes. And, here, just what you
15 need as a Council, is a motion to submit a fisheries
16 proposal and it should state, you know, what type of
17 gear should be used and where it could be used. And
18 then from there, when we're doing our research and
19 figuring out, and as Scott noted, the call for
20 proposals technically isn't open yet, we're still
21 waiting for clearance on that, but you can develop your
22 proposal on the record and we can get it ready for when
23 that time does come.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And,
26 yeah, that's why I was thinking that if Mr. Trefon's
27 already working with BBNA on developing one for the
28 State side, that it could probably be piggybacked into
29 the Federal side once the opening happened. But I
30 would leave that up to you, Mr. Trefon.

31
32 Mr. Trefon.

33
34 MR. TREFON: Yeah, we already made that
35 decision that we're going to submit one both to the
36 Federal and the State.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

39
40 MR. TREFON: Because we are actually on
41 the boundary of State waters and Federal. If you go
42 down river from the fish camp you're in State waters
43 and there's subsistence fish camps down river. So it
44 pertains to State and Feds.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, good,
47 well, it sounds like that one's covered.

48
49 Billy.

50

1 MR. MAINES: I was just going to say if
2 you look in the regs on Page 40, it talks about taking
3 fish with a fyke net, and lead in tributaries of Lake
4 Clark and the tributaries of Sixmile Lake, within the
5 exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and
6 Preserve, otherwise -- unless otherwise prohibited.
7 But right down below it says, you may take rainbow
8 trout only by rod and reel or jigging gear. If you
9 take rainbow trout incidentally in other subsistence
10 net fisheries or through the ice, you may retain them
11 for subsistence purposes. So I was just trying to
12 figure out, other than rod and reel and other means,
13 what other means are there and if this is already in
14 the regs why isn't it being allowed to be utilized if
15 we're talking about Lake Clark and Sixmile Lake in the
16 same sentence.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Jigging is through the
19 ice, I mean it's a little tiny rod and it's a reel, I
20 mean it's through the ice.

21
22 MR. MAINES: I understand that. But
23 before that it says only by rod and reel or jigging
24 gear, and.....

25
26 MR. TREFON: Jigging gear, yeah.

27
28 MR. MAINES:so to me it's two
29 separate items.

30
31 MR. TREFON: Because I was told the
32 Federal might have wording in this okaying that we
33 could use rod and reel but the State doesn't, the State
34 doesn't recognize it so we're submitting to both just
35 in case.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And, again,
38 I think it's prone to interpretation. Because I see
39 that last sentence as being read two different ways.

40
41 You may take rainbow trout only by rod
42 and reel, so no other species. Or is it, you can take
43 rod and reel only by rod -- or you can take rainbow
44 trout only by rod and reel.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: No, that's
49 interpretation.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, so --
2 okay, are there any other fisheries concerns anybody
3 would like to mention at this time.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, very
8 good. Well, as they develop, we can feel free to
9 contact Donald with them, we believe, and/or make use
10 of our BBNA and its resources to develop them. When is
11 the date that those are going to open up, Carl, remind
12 me again.

13
14 MR. JOHNSON: At this time, Madame
15 Chair, we're still waiting for approval in DC to
16 publish the call for Federal fisheries proposals. This
17 is, if you recall, we had this problem last year with
18 the wildlife proposals, so that's why we still have
19 Council's discuss on the record if they want to submit
20 a proposal.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
23 you'll just send out notice then, thank you.

24
25 Okay.

26
27 So call for nonrural determination
28 proposals. Orville, I know -- I believe we have Joshua
29 on line, too, so who's going to take the lead on this,
30 Orville or Joshua.

31
32 Joshua.

33
34 MR. REAM: Yes, this is Joshua. I plan
35 to go ahead and give the talking points.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Awesome,
38 please, go ahead.

39
40 MR. REAM: Okay. Good morning, Madame
41 Chair and Members of the Council. Again, for the
42 record, my name is Joshua Ream. I'm an anthropologist
43 for the Office of Subsistence Management here in
44 Anchorage.

45
46 So I'll provide you this morning with a
47 brief overview of the new call for proposals for
48 nonrural determinations in Federal regulations.

49
50

1 The materials in your Council books
2 begin on Page 14 and there should be copies on the
3 table there in the room for people in the audience.
4 This is not considered an action item.

5
6 I'll start with some history.

7
8 In January of 2017, the Federal
9 Subsistence Board adopted a new policy on nonrural
10 determinations that was developed with input from all
11 10 Regional Advisory Councils. We presented the final
12 policy to you at your 2017 meeting about a year ago.
13 It lays out requirements for submitting a proposal and
14 a three-year timeline.

15
16 Proposals submitted during the upcoming
17 call will be acted on by the Federal Subsistence Board
18 in January of 2021. The official call for proposals,
19 like the fisheries call, is expected soon and we will
20 be accepting proposals for a minimum of 30 days.

21
22 I want to draw your attention to the
23 flyer, How to Submit Proposals to Change Nonrural
24 Determinations, and this can be found on Page 14 of
25 your Council books. The flyer includes a list of items
26 a proposal must contain to be accepted for
27 consideration by the Board and information on where to
28 submit a proposal. A form is not available.

29
30 The anticipated timeline for this
31 process begins on Page 24 of your Council books.
32 Councils will have multiple opportunities to provide
33 recommendations and feedback on proposals affecting
34 their region, during the fall meeting cycle in 2018 and
35 then again, once the analysis is complete, during the
36 fall meeting cycle of 2020. The Board would then make
37 their decisions in January of 2021.

38
39 This is a four-year cycle that begins
40 concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory cycle.
41 So the next call for proposals on regulatory changes to
42 nonrural determinations will not occur until the
43 January of 2022.

44
45 Again, this is not an action item for
46 your Council, but an update on where we are in the
47 process.

48
49 I thank you very much for your
50

1 attention and I'll try my best to answer any questions
2 that your Council has.

3

4 And the actual policy can be found
5 beginning on Page 16 of your Council books.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
10 Joshua.

11

12 Questions.

13

14 Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't really have a
17 question, and I don't expect we're going to have a
18 proposal here but I think this is an example of showing
19 OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board are listening to
20 us. Because I remember we worked through this quite a
21 bit and it kind of has changed their perspective.
22 Instead of spending lots of time determining everything
23 rural, we decided those few places -- and I think that
24 partly was Nanci's recommendation, and just identify
25 the places that aren't rural. And so I want to thank
26 everybody that worked on it, because it's kind of proof
27 that they listen to us and I think this is, hopefully,
28 be a more workable process.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
33 Anybody else.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good,
38 Joshua, thank you very much for that information.

39

40 MR. REAM: Thank you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We'll be
43 contacting you if we do have any more questions or
44 concerns.

45

46 MR. REAM: Perfect. I look forward to
47 it.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, it

50

1 looks like, Scott, you're back up, Fisheries Resource
2 Monitoring Program updates and discussion, you want to
3 go ahead with that.

4

5 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, yes, thank
6 you. And, again, for the record this is Scott Ayers
7 with Office of Subsistence Management.

8

9 So we'd like to give you an update on
10 the 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. We're
11 currently in the final stages phases of this funding
12 cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met on February
13 22nd and 23rd in a work session and made a
14 recommendation to approve the plan. Following this
15 recommendation, normally the Office of Subsistence
16 Management, Assistant Regional Director, will approve
17 the plan, however, this year we're unable to notify
18 recipients at this point in time as we do not yet have
19 a final budget and are operating under a continuing
20 resolution. Additionally, each grant over \$50,000 has
21 to have Department of Interior approval, and we've been
22 told that that's going to be about a possibly eight
23 week process, which we've already initiated. So until
24 all these steps are executed we're not going to be able
25 to let folks know which projects will receive funds for
26 this cycle.

27

28 However, even though the 2018 Plan has
29 not yet been finalized, it is time for the Councils to
30 begin thinking about and forming priority information
31 needs for the 2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
32 Program call for proposals that would be due out in
33 November of this year.

34

35 Priority information needs are an
36 important component of the program as they identify
37 issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to
38 subsistence fisheries using input from the Regional
39 Advisory Councils. These priority information needs
40 determine the types of projects that are sought for
41 each region and provide a framework for evaluating and
42 selecting project proposals.

43

44 Councils that do have working groups
45 will meet during this coming summer to start developing
46 those priority information needs aiming at somewhere
47 between four or six, or more or less, as needed, per
48 region. And if you would like, as a Council, for this
49 Council's working group, which works with the Kodiak

50

1 Aleutians group, to continue, the working group -- the
2 priority information need working group for the next
3 cycle, please let us know if that's the case and which
4 Council members would be a part of this group.

5

6 And I would be happy to answer any
7 questions at this point in time that I can.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

12

13 Questions.

14

15 Dan.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I think
18 we talked about this a little bit in the fall. I'm
19 just trying to remember what kind of a wish list we
20 have going at this point.

21

22 I know we used to have quite a bunch of
23 studies and I think it's dwindled down. I'm kind of
24 looking at BBNA people, if they've been pushing for
25 something. Because I think -- I don't have really
26 super pressing needs -- my favorite one, which, still
27 there's no way of really answering it, is somehow help
28 the folks of Port Heiden get a better handle on salmon
29 escapement. But it looks like maybe Cody from BBNA has
30 got some answers.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah,
35 thanks, and I was thinking the same thing, Dan. But
36 we've -- as I recall we have a long list of wants and
37 needs and it kind of brings us right back to the Kodiak
38 issue, which hopefully we'll address here in this
39 discussion as well, because I do think we need
40 representation there. It's tough when you have to
41 share monies across such a broad spectrum and so many
42 really important fisheries. And so I do hope that we
43 have somebody there.

44

45 Cody, do you want to go ahead and
46 answer Dan's question.

47

48 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 So the priority information needs that were set in, I

50

1 think it was October of 2016, were adjusted a little
2 bit and some of the scope was broadened in some areas,
3 like, you know, salmon in general and some were more
4 focused like to look at the Dolly Varden harvest in the
5 Togiak drainage. So the Togiak Wildlife Refuge, the
6 Division of Subsistence with ADF&G, and NOAA, as well
7 as with BBNA have put a together for the FRMP funding
8 and hopefully we will be notified soon here, Scott,
9 whether or not this Dolly Varden harvest assessment
10 will be funded. But I think it's a great proposal
11 looking at a few different things, harvest amounts and
12 also tacking on a little bit of the -- some of the
13 baseline genetic stuff that Mark Lisac has done in
14 looking at the natal streams of those Dolly Varden that
15 are being harvested in the Togiak community in the
16 drainage. So that's an exciting project that we're
17 hoping to hear back on.

18
19 In preparation for that, with high
20 hopes, this next week with finishing up on a two year,
21 you know, the previous FRMP cycle of looking at chinook
22 harvest in Togiak, we're also adding the questions
23 about Dolly Varden to these household surveys next week
24 and so we'll be collecting some of that preliminary
25 information to hopefully get a three year timeline if,
26 indeed, that funding is awarded.

27
28 So that's where one of the priority
29 information needs is at.

30
31 So that might not be one that needs to
32 be a priority information need for this next cycle,
33 hopefully.

34
35 The Meshik River chinook, or the Port
36 Heiden subsistence harvest of that, you know, speaking
37 with those folks it still is a concern. We're going to
38 look at submitting a proposal to the Board of Fish for
39 the April 10 deadline in allowing -- or reducing some
40 of the restrictions to the access to subsistence there.
41 So some of the history in that inner section is that
42 there used to be a larger commercial fleet in the inner
43 section that was residents of Port Heiden and there was
44 a market for those fish so there -- that market has
45 gone away in recent years and meaning less kings were
46 retrained from that commercial fleet and brought into
47 the community, and so the commercial retention was
48 looked at as a -- you know the subsistence fish coming
49 into the community and that may be one of the reasons

50

1 with that market going away and those commercial
2 fishermen from the community not being next -- you know
3 fishing in that inner section there and retaining some
4 of those kings for personal use or, you know, for the
5 home, reducing the amount of fish in the community.
6 And so one thing we're looking at is to adjust and
7 allow for some more fishing -- more, you know, methods
8 of harvesting those kings within that section.

9
10 It doesn't take away the monitoring
11 component of that stock and the Meshik system had, you
12 know, aerial monitoring for -- specifically for
13 chinook for many, many, many years and also had an
14 escapement goal for many years but with recommendation
15 to the Board of Fish, that escapement goal has been
16 eliminated because of lack of ability to monitor
17 through aerial surveys. And so that was a way that I
18 was hoping to collaborate with the State and with the
19 National Park Service in doing a feasibility study on
20 monitoring chinook in the Meshik River. So that
21 conversation is still ongoing. And the National Park
22 Service has -- had at that time, you know, wanted to be
23 part of that project in doing some of that monitoring.
24 But based on my conversations with folks from Port
25 Heiden that's still a concern and we're still going to
26 have that conversation on how do we monitor for this
27 stock and is it warranted to have an escapement goal,
28 as it did for many years.

29
30 So that's the conversations around some
31 of the priority information needs, certainly not all of
32 them. It's a very large region. But that's where
33 we're at.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
36 for Cody.

37
38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
42 for that, Cody. Any other -- yeah, Richard.

43
44 MR. WILSON: It's just more of a -- I'm
45 curious, at our last AC meeting the sportfish side of
46 life here seems to -- I think there's going to be
47 several proposals for whatever fashion in these river
48 systems, in the Naknek and the Branch and possibly the
49 Kvichak, and I'm not quite sure what species they're

50

1 targeting but do we have any monitoring programs going
2 on with our trouts and with the king salmon still in
3 the Alagnak?
4

5 MR. LARSON: My understanding of the
6 monitoring in the Alagnak drainage, there is an aerial
7 survey that the Sportfish Division and CommFish
8 Division of ADF&G do to determine next year's
9 possibility of having a commercial fishery for sockeye,
10 and so that's the link with the chinook monitoring in
11 the Alagnak, is that it's to determine the future years
12 sockeye potential harvest.
13

14 So that's the monitoring that I'm aware
15 of for chinook in the Alagnak. As far as trout I'm not
16 sure.
17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Troy, thanks
19 for coming up. I know you guys have done studies up
20 there but I don't know what's most recently.
21

22 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
23 the Council. Troy Hamon with the National Park Service
24 in King Salmon.
25

26 To my knowledge, we don't currently
27 have any efforts ongoing with regards to rainbow trout.
28 There was an extensive set of projects done on the
29 Alagnak, both by the National Park Service and the
30 USGS. And a lot of that had to do with hooking injury
31 rates and stress levels and there's a fairly extensive
32 set of publications, not a whole lot of surprises, but
33 as you can imagine it's stressful to be injured, but
34 there seems like there's a cohort -- we do get requests
35 periodically from our operators to look into the rates
36 of hooking injury in some particularly fished streams,
37 we hear this about every three or four years at Moraine
38 Creek that there's so many injured fish that it's a
39 feature. We have not found that to be a subsistence
40 issue because it's not something that subsistence users
41 have asked us about so we haven't talked about that as
42 a subsistence proposal, and we haven't talked about it
43 with Cody or the Staff here.
44

45 The Department of Fish and Game worked
46 with us way back at the beginning of the Fisheries
47 Monitoring Program to get some actual tower counts on
48 the Alagnak. The Alagnak had tower counts that ended
49 in the mid-1970s, and we felt like, especially during
50

1 that time period, the Kvichak River run was very low
2 and the fishing had been curtailed there but it wasn't
3 clear what, if any, effect there was going to be from
4 that on the Alagnak. We wanted to make sure we knew.
5 There was funding obtained for three years and it
6 documented some of the largest runs in the history of
7 the Alagnak at least. Since that time the Department
8 of Fish and Game has made an effort to actually staff a
9 counting tower for sockeye salmon. They have
10 periodically tried to extend it to either do a better
11 job of getting numbers for silvers or possibly some of
12 the other species, but it is primarily a sockeye tower.
13 They have not been successful in getting funding every
14 year. They were back out there this last summer is my
15 understanding.

16
17 So those are the things that have been
18 kind of somewhat consistent. I'll also add that the
19 Department of Fish and Game has periodically, and Dan
20 might be more familiar with the timing of that, been on
21 site, both down on the Alagnak itself and up at Moraine
22 Creek with krill surveys. And a couple years ago they
23 were on site actually looking at smolt outmigration.

24
25 So the State has been active on the
26 river somewhat, but we have not, to my knowledge had an
27 actual study of rainbow trout for probably almost a
28 decade on the river.

29
30 I think that's all of the activity that
31 I can recall off hand.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
34 Troy. Is anybody else on line care to share us with
35 any enlightenment, further.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Does
40 that help, Richard. Go ahead.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yes, it
43 does, thank you. And one of the reasons why I brought
44 it up is, you know, in our state here the kings down in
45 Southeast, they're probably not going to have much of a
46 season this year because of the lack of kings returning
47 down there so those systems that are generally sport
48 sections, the pressure is now on us. I believe, you
49 know, that this area is probably going to see an

50

1 increase in pressure with kings and in doing that it's
2 also going to affect other, you know, I don't think you
3 can but help catch rainbows and other things while
4 you're out there. But that was my concern, I guess, is
5 that, you know, just trying to get ahead of the curve,
6 that if something starts coming up, you know, we got
7 some information to share with one another here to help
8 us to regulate, you know, the amount of fish able --
9 you know that are available.

10

11 That was my main purpose.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
16 Richard. I think that's helpful.

17

18 Dan.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's a good
21 point, Richard. I hadn't thought of it. I was just
22 reading articles about how there's lots of talks of
23 preseason closures on sport fisheries for kings all
24 over the state. All I know of right now is I think
25 they have an ongoing king salmon tagging program on the
26 Nushagak. There's -- funds for sportfish on the ground
27 projects have been pretty limited the last few years.
28 I just sent a couple of emails to Jason Dye to see if
29 he's got anything new because when I was working there
30 we had pretty frequent projects on the Alagnak and here
31 in the Naknek. And I'm trying to remember what I
32 should have heard at the SWIM meeting, which is an
33 InterAgency meeting, but I think mainly they're focused
34 on that radio tagging program on the Nushagak. They're
35 just kind of strapped for funds.

36

37 But I will talk to them about this idea
38 of potential for shifting effort west due to Southeast
39 closures. I think they were talking about total closure
40 in the Cook Inlet even and there's all kinds of people
41 just really saying pretty wild thing on some of the
42 published articles and newspapers.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Richard, and then Billy.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.

50

1 Yeah, and we saw it this last year. You know the last
2 couple of years we've had an increase in return in our
3 kings, they're starting to build here in these systems
4 again and along with it you see the increase in
5 sportfish activity for those kings. So, you know, even
6 though we're getting bigger returns it seems like we're
7 getting more people targeting our kings and I think
8 it's even going to increase even more now that the
9 Southeast is having a problem.

10

11 So I'd -- you know, it's a real big
12 head's up in my mind. I just -- you know, I'd like to
13 get ahead of it, you know, instead of -- because kings,
14 it takes so long for them to come back. I mean we were
15 very fearful here just a few years ago about our kings
16 and fortunately, you know, the pollock fishery and that
17 down below us has curtailed their season openings, you
18 know, to help with the king migration and I think
19 that's probably a big help for us.

20

21 But I'd just like us to keep an eye on
22 that so that we can react in time instead of too late.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

25

26 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 I just wanted to make some blanket statements dealing
28 with fish period because believe it or not my culture
29 is fish culture, salmon culture.

30

31 We're fortunate that we have all five
32 wild salmon species along with the freshwater species
33 that we do have and some of the ocean run fish that
34 follow our salmon into our streams and stuff like that.
35 Richard's talking about fear of king salmon, well, the
36 king salmon has been on the top of my list ever since I
37 was my grandson's age, if not even younger than that.

38

39 And when the Kenai was being overrun,
40 the Nushagak was second with a bullet. I remember from
41 Black Point all the way up to -- I want to say even as
42 far above Koliganek, the multi-million, if not billions
43 of dollars of commercial -- not commercial, but
44 sportfishing gear, float planes, skiffs, kickers,
45 weather ports, it just seemed like that the population
46 on the Nushagak River was echoing the population of
47 Bristol Bay at one time, if not more. And then we had
48 that big fall out with the ocean trawlers where they
49 took 120,000 of the Nushagak kings as bycatch without

50

1 really reporting the full number but at least they
2 counted 120,000 that were tagged for Nushagak and
3 almost killed off our king salmon run. I remember
4 standing on a beach catching a king, taking me three
5 hours to land the thing and it was seven feet, some odd
6 inches tall, in length, we don't see those anymore. We
7 haven't seen them for I don't know how long. Some of
8 the folks up the river are telling me that they're
9 starting to catch big ones again but more times or not
10 it's nowhere's compared to what it used to be. I used
11 to brag that our kings would rival any of the Kenai
12 kings any time anywhere, any place.

13
14 We do still have three clearly
15 distinctive runs. But those runs are smaller. Their
16 patterns have changed a little bit. The early run is
17 always a silent run, it runs fast, furious and deep and
18 goes straight up the river. The folks up the river
19 catch them before we do in Dillingham. And then
20 there's the main run where the males are chasing those
21 females and trying to get their last rights. And then
22 we have our late run where it's, to me, the real meaty,
23 the strong, the girth, the black kings.

24
25 And we have seen such a decrease -- I
26 was real happy when the State, a few years ago, decided
27 to target Nushagak for a study in seeing how come our
28 kings were the last known run, sustainable run in the
29 state and what made it so different and why we were so
30 fortunate. But at the same time with fortune comes a
31 cost and that cost, again, is coming back and seeing
32 more of those planes and those boats and those
33 fishermen coming over to our neck of the woods and
34 bringing all that and I don't want to say, polluting
35 our waters, but at the same time, with that comes a
36 cost.

37
38 Everything that we have in our backyard
39 right now is so fragile. It is God given. And it's
40 got the right dimensions, the right cobble, the right
41 degree of flow, the right nutrients, whatever Mother
42 Nature and God and Father Time have given us, it's been
43 there from eons before any of us even were here and
44 it's up to us to keep it there.

45
46 And when we're looking at how we
47 traditionally take care of it, how we customarily take
48 care of it, our traditional ecological knowledge, the
49 landscape, the people who we are and stuff like that,

50

1 every one of those little creatures depend on us and I
2 am in fear if we don't do our due diligence and hold
3 our partners feet to the fire to at least monitor
4 what's going on then we're going to end up losing what
5 we have. And I just want to continue to make sure that
6 we do what we do, for the reasons that we're doing it
7 so that his grandkids have the opportunity to see and
8 do the same thing that he's able to do right now with
9 me.

10

11 And that's just a blanket statement,
12 so, thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well said.

15

16 Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, while we were
19 talking here I emailed Jason Dye, who's the area
20 sportfish biologist and they're planning a krill survey
21 on the Alagnak for kings in 2019 so good to hear they
22 might be free -- the Nushagak -- and trying to spread
23 their effort around. Because we -- I know when I was
24 there we pretty routinely had a cycle of hitting all
25 the big rivers.

26

27 I asked him another questions about
28 this shift in effort concern and he hasn't gotten back
29 to me.

30

31 I would remind folks that they do have
32 the guide log book program, which gets some data and
33 it's -- but it's usually delayed quite a bit because it
34 takes a long time to get it all back and longer time to
35 analyze it. I know people view that data with very --
36 levels of confidence, and there is also the sportfish
37 mail out survey that, again, same thing, it's a one
38 effort to monitor, it's usually delayed by a year and a
39 half and, again, there's kind of a wide range level of
40 response as well as levels of confidence in it.

41

42 But it -- when I was working there it
43 was some indicator of effort and we usually really paid
44 attention when there was a sudden jump or decline in
45 effort somewhere.

46

47 So that's information I know right now.

48

49 Thank you.

50

47
48
49
50

So that's information I know right now.

Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

2 Anyone else.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would just
7 add the proposals that Richard is talking about are
8 unique and I'm unfortunately, or fortunately, I'm not
9 sure which, intimately familiar with the debate that's
10 actually taking place in the sportfishing arena that
11 surrounds those proposals.

12

13 They don't actually have to do with the
14 number of fish in the water, they have to do with the
15 number of people in the water fishing.

16

17 And it's something that as subsistence
18 users we don't think about or consider and it's
19 uniquely protected under the State's Constitution
20 because it's mandated to regulate for quality and
21 quantity. And I put a proposal in, I don't even
22 remember, it was in the late '80s or early '90s, into
23 sportfish and it has reared its beautiful or ugly head,
24 depending on how you want to look at it, to me it's
25 getting ugly because it's reared its head so many
26 times, that was in the same context. And the State's
27 Constitution demands that it be looked at because
28 quality can be interpreted, again, Billy, to go back to
29 your verbiage, it can be interpreted many different
30 ways and that was originally my claim, is the quality
31 of a fishery includes how many people you're going to
32 run into during the day while you're fishing.

33

34 So it's not -- it's unusual but for us,
35 as subsistence fishers, it's something I think that we
36 should keep in mind and kind of watch as these
37 proposals move forward. I'm obviously going to be
38 watching them with great interest because eventually
39 this is the strongest outcry I have seen since my
40 proposal, and the times that it's been brought back up,
41 it could be a tool for us to use in our subsistence
42 fisheries as we see these things taking place and the
43 pressure increasing as it makes it more difficult for
44 subsistence activities to take place. We also deserve
45 a quality in our activity.

46

47 So I'm going to leave it at that.

48

49 But just thought that might be valuable

50

1 for everybody to consider as well.

2

3 Carl, can I hand this over to you for
4 the green handout we just received.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Ma'am. But just one
7 quick backtrack. Part of Scott's overall presentation
8 on FRMP was included an inquiry as to whether the
9 Council desired to continue to using the working group
10 process to develop its priority information needs and
11 who would serve on that working group.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And I
14 had already stated and totally forgot, so thank you for
15 jogging our memories, again, I would say that I -- as a
16 Council member, not your Chair, I would say that we
17 really do need to have representation on that. We have
18 very few funds, they're spread very thin and we've got
19 an awful lot of important fisheries as does Kodiak and
20 I think that we do need to be on there.

21

22 So do I have volunteers or suggestions
23 from my members.

24

25 Richard.

26

27 MR. WILSON: I'll volunteer Mr.
28 Dunaway.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Mr. Dunaway.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: When do these normally
35 occur.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.
38 Donald will coordinate with Karen Deatherage. This
39 would still be a continued plan cooperative with
40 Kodiak/Aleutians Council, right, so he would coordinate
41 with the Kodiak/Aleutians Council coordinator and with
42 you guys to just figure out what's a good time for your
43 schedules.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. I definitely think
46 we need to be sitting at the table. They deserve
47 funding but we deserve funding as well. And they've
48 had some real issues that I think we've kind of allowed
49 them to have funding for awhile.

50

1 I guess I'll be willing to serve. I'm
2 finding myself almost in too many committees lately but
3 I kind of look around the room, I am retired and other
4 folks are going to be fishing and stuff, so I'd give it
5 a try. And if I can't do it maybe I could find
6 somebody else to step in if it's just a real time
7 crunch.

8
9 Because I really want to see if -- I
10 pester BBNA a lot and I pester some of Fish and Game, I
11 want to see proposals and I want to -- because we have
12 concerns and we should be doing our best to address
13 them.

14
15 So, thank you.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Dan, I just think
20 you do a wonderful job in that position because you're
21 -- you know, the former work that you've done in this
22 area as a biologist and I think it's important to know
23 a pretty good scope of what's going on and you seem to
24 be on top of a lot of issues almost all the time.

25
26 So I'd appreciate it, thanks.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
29 would echo that, Dan, as well, and I would say as a
30 fellow Council member, if things do come up and you
31 find yourself strapped, I would, if there's any way I
32 can clear my schedule I would try to help out for you
33 and I hope that everybody else would do the same. But
34 I think it is very important that we are at that table.

35
36 So does that fulfill your requirements
37 then, Carl.

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair, it
40 does. We'll make a note of it and Donald will take it
41 from here.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go
44 ahead.

45
46 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, if I may.
47 This is Scott Ayers again.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Scott,
50

1 go ahead.

2

3 MR. AYERS: I would like to know -- I
4 have one more update to provide to you related to
5 fisheries and I don't know if this is a good time or
6 not, I'll leave that up to you.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
11 standby in a second. Dan, did you have a comment you'd
12 like to make on this current issue.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to thank you
15 guys for your confidence in me but encourage you all to
16 contact me. I'm in pretty close contact with most of
17 you, you can find me on Facebook or email me or dial me
18 up. Because like I'm looking especially at Billy
19 Trefon, he's in a corner of the world I don't get to.
20 But, yeah, we're in pretty good contact pretty regular.
21 So anybody else, too, so thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
24 you, Dan.

25

26 Scott, yes, let's go ahead and have
27 your update and then we'll have that one off too.

28

29 MR. AYERS: Yeah, my apologies for not
30 getting this on the agenda earlier. We also have a
31 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Update that I'd like
32 to present at this point in time.

33

34 This fall the Office of Subsistence
35 Management will be seeking proposals for the Partners
36 Program to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
37 involvement in Federal subsistence management. The
38 Partners Program is a competitive grant that is
39 directed at providing funding for biologists, social
40 scientists, and educator positions and Alaska Native
41 and rural nonprofit organizations with the intent of
42 increasing the organization's ability to participate in
43 Federal subsistence management.

44

45 In addition, the program supports a
46 variety of opportunities for local rural students to
47 connect with the subsistence resource monitoring and
48 management through science camps and paid internships.
49 The notice of funding opportunity will be announced in

50

1 the fall of 2018 via a news release and posted to the
2 Office of Subsistence Management website. Our office
3 contact is Karen Hyer, and you can contact her here at
4 the Office of Subsistence Management at area code 907-
5 786-3689.

6
7 And that's all I had unless there were
8 any other questions related to that.

9
10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
13 Questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
18 Everybody's writing furiously. Appreciate the update
19 and the information on that, Scott.

20
21 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, go ahead
24 we have one here from Mr. Trefon.

25
26 MR. TREFON: You're talking about these
27 grants that are available, is there a set rate or is it
28 just by need, the grants that he's proposing to be
29 available for these Native Corporations to get involved
30 with management. Is there a limit or is there a number
31 or what of the grant that's available?

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Scott, can
34 you answer that for us.

35
36 MR. AYERS: Yeah, unfortunately I don't
37 have that information in front of me right now but I'm
38 certain that we can get it and it will be part of the
39 notice of funding opportunity, the specifics of how
40 much money is available within each of these grants
41 that go out. I would be happy to make sure that Donald
42 Mike gets that information and provides it to the
43 Council as soon as possible.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
46 Scott.

47
48 Anyone else.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Carl.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6 And as to the next agenda item, that was the final look
7 at your annual report.

8

9 Now, if you recall in fall you
10 identified issues for inclusion in your annual report.
11 The annual report is a process that's set forth in
12 Section .805 of ANILCA and it allows the Council to
13 report issues related to subsistence uses and resources
14 in the region. And, typically, how we also look at
15 this process is for a way for you to call to the
16 Board's attention issues that are outside of the
17 regulatory process, so, you know, if you wanted to
18 change something related to seasons or methods and
19 means and all that, you'd use a proposal, but this is
20 the way you bring other issues to the Board's
21 attention.

22

23 Now, based on your input at the fall
24 meeting cycle, Donald drafted an annual report and this
25 is the green handout, there's also copies available on
26 the table for the public, and it includes six items
27 that you identified.

28

29 One related to concerns about moose
30 populations in Unit 17C.

31

32 The second issue relates, and, again,
33 this has been reinforced by the Council's discussion
34 today with your member reports, concerns about Arctic
35 hare and ptarmigan populations in the region.

36

37 The third issue relates to cooperation
38 and collaboration. How there needs to be increased
39 cooperation between State and Federal agencies in light
40 of impacts due to climate change. And, again, that was
41 something that Council mentioned earlier today during
42 member reports.

43

44 Agency representatives and how much the
45 Council values and needs to have representatives from
46 State and Federal agencies who are involved in fish and
47 wildlife management in this region present at these
48 meetings.

49

50

1 Fifth, the issue of consultation
2 between the Office of Subsistence Management and tribes
3 and ANCSA Corporations. And, particularly, how the
4 Federal Subsistence Program needs to explore ways to
5 improve and increase that consultation.
6

7 And then finally, the last issue was,
8 expression of a desire for there to be an All Chair's
9 meeting in connection with the Federal Subsistence
10 Board meeting. So this would be a meeting between all
11 of the Regional Advisory Council Chairs, who are
12 traveling to the Board meeting, so while they're there,
13 let's get together and have a Board meeting so we can
14 discuss issues of concern.
15

16 And just as an aside, because, as to
17 the issue earlier we were talking about with WP18-24
18 and FACA requires there be public notice and a public
19 discussion of Council recommendations, the way these
20 All Chairs meetings have to work is we generally don't
21 want to schedule them before the Board meeting on the
22 off chance that the Councils might discuss issues
23 related to regulatory recommendations. So when we do
24 have them we want to have them scheduled so that
25 they're after the Board meeting and that way we don't
26 run the risk of having a private meeting that could
27 result in recommendations to the Board. So typically
28 these could be shared issues of administrative concern
29 between the different Councils, different approaches to
30 regulatory recommendations and possibly developing
31 multi-region working groups like they have with the
32 four northern Councils related to caribou management.
33

34 So those are the six issues that are in
35 your annual report right now and this would be the
36 opportunity for the Council to express its wishes as to
37 whether or not you want to present this as your draft
38 or if you want to make any changes to it.
39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
43 you, Carl. I did neglect to mention that this will
44 have to come on the table and voted on, up or down.
45 But, with that, I'll open it to questions or comments.
46

47 Dan.
48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just going to move
50

1 to adopt and then we can discuss.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, we
4 have a motion.

5

6 MR. MAINES: I'll second it just to get
7 it on the table for discussion.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, Billy,
10 go ahead.

11

12 MR. MAINES: Carl, I guess clarify a
13 little bit to me why it would have to happen after the
14 Board meeting when there is clear notification and
15 discussion, description of what the meeting would be
16 for? Why would it have to be after instead of before?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. And Through
19 the Chair. So the Chairs have expressed a desire that
20 when they have this All Chairs meeting, that it's a
21 private meeting, it's not a public meeting. So if it's
22 not going to be a public meeting, the Chairs could not
23 discuss anything that would result in recommendations
24 to the Board.

25

26 So in order to have a private meeting
27 they would have to stay away from topics that could be
28 recommendations to the Board to take action.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
31 questions or comments.

32

33 Dan.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, overall I think it
36 summarizes the issues very well and I personally can't
37 think of anything to add to it. When we get, later,
38 this one on moose populations, I have some information
39 to add but I think I'll wait for agency reports. But I
40 think it's good news.

41

42 So, anyway, thank you for doing that
43 work and I support us submitting it.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Just one comment here. I

50

1 don't know if it falls under it or not but we had a
2 discussion on this monitoring programs and stuff, you
3 know, does that go before our Federal Board, some of
4 that discussion or is it important to put it in front
5 of the Federal Board, our monitoring needs?
6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, we've
8 done that before, Richard. And I don't know if you
9 have any comments on the importance of it but I do
10 think it's kind of like the predator issue, sometimes
11 it doesn't matter how unfavorably heard it is it needs
12 to be pointed out that it's a concern.
13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.
15 Richard. So the monitoring discussion and you, and Dan
16 participating in this working group to develop your
17 priority information needs, you really lay the
18 foundation for what sort of research will be conducted.
19 Because after you develop your priority information
20 needs, those priority information needs are listed in
21 the notice of funding opportunity when that goes out to
22 solicit research projects for the Fisheries Resource
23 Monitoring Program. And one of the criteria that the
24 Technical Review Committee looks at when they're
25 grading those projects is whether or not it meets the
26 priority information needs stated by the Council. So
27 that work is key to this process of developing
28 fisheries research in the region.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: But, again,
31 we can ask for all the research we want, until we get
32 the money, we don't get the research.
33

34 MR. WILSON: I guess that's why I
35 brought it up, to make sure that they realize it's a
36 very important tool that we need and it needs to be
37 funded appropriately.
38

39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So is that
40 something we want to add to this list we already have?
41

42 MR. WILSON: I think if it's
43 appropriate at this time, I would like to add it, just
44 so it doesn't fall by the wayside or, you know, take a
45 back seat, you know, it's an important piece of the
46 puzzle, we, as Council members need, you know, to
47 discuss and to have good discussion and make good
48 decisions here. We need that information so it's kind
49 of -- it should be in the same toolbox.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Comments.

2

3

Billy.

4

5 MR. MAINES: Well, I understand what
6 Richard's trying to do but at the same time, to me,
7 it's all part of the cooperation and collaboration
8 part, where the tools and resources are there for, in
9 this case it says, adapting to climate change, to me,
10 monitoring and keeping track of everything that is
11 available through the State and Federal realm, to me,
12 is in that same classification, whether or not you want
13 to see that key word, monitoring, put in writing, to me
14 it just seems like it's all part of it as it is right
15 now. I'm not sure.

16

17

MR. WILSON: I would like to see it in
18 writing, thanks.

19

20

(Laughter)

21

22

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Carl.

23

24

25

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27

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33

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37

You know, state the concern and then
what is it you want the Board to do about it.

38

39

40

41

So if you -- that would give them kind
of a good guidance as to how they want to consider what
the Council's addressing.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, you
know, just I think it's pretty well spelled out. It
wouldn't be very hard to put words to it, that it's a
necessary -- it's important to the process, that that
funding stream needs to be there for monitoring so we
can have those tools to help us in this process as a
Council.

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I
2 would concur. Because I feel like we're well aware
3 that funding sources have dwindled and diminished in
4 many cases and the more so that that happens the more
5 difficult our job also becomes. So, to me, I agree
6 with Richard on that, I think it's fairly clear, too.

7
8 Billy.

9
10 MR. MAINES: I then would, under that
11 third topic, cooperation and collaboration, the second
12 sentence in the second paragraph, I would just go in,
13 myself, to make it inclusive, I would put down there
14 the monitoring, the analysis and research provided on
15 climate change, including fish and wildlife
16 populations, which will provide the Council with the
17 necessary information to address their activities on
18 whatever purpose it would be.

19
20 If that's helpful with the discussion
21 to make sure that it's in that section where we're
22 supposed to be gathering all this information as well
23 as keeping an eye on things and coming up with our
24 friends here, the analysis and research on whatever is
25 going on.

26
27 Does that help a little bit.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I like it
30 but I might add funding to it as well. Funding for it.

31
32 Dan.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 And, Richard, are you kind of -- your comments are
36 especially focused on fish populations or in general
37 all wildlife populations.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

40
41 MR. WILSON: I think I would like to
42 keep it general,
43 you know, because we have needs on both sides, you
44 know, every cycle. So I think I'd just like to keep it
45 more general because, you know, I'm sure they have a
46 list of the needs or, you know, they're updated on our
47 monitoring programs and things.....

48
49 (Teleconference interference -
50

1 participant phones not muted)

2

3 MR. WILSON:but just to emphasize
4 that, you know, if the word could be in there, it'd be
5 great. Just to keep them sharp.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
8 Richard.

9

10 Billy.

11

12 MR. MAINES: Well, I was going to take
13 another stab at it then, based upon what you had
14 recommended.

15

16 I would just put in there that the
17 funding for the monitoring, analysis and research
18 continue on climate change including fish and wildlife
19 populations and continue with that, as long as the
20 funding is in there for the monitoring, they're going
21 to have to do an analysis and they're going to have to
22 research it. That's what my quick fix would be for
23 that.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, do
26 you feel like that meets your needs?

27

28 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I think that's, you
29 know, pretty close to what I feel is appropriate.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Carl, did
34 you capture that.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair. And
37 I'll also add in there, the other issue that Richard
38 raised and that you also mirrored and that is that you
39 need this information in order to do your job and
40 presumably the managers do too. It's hard for them to
41 manage the resource without this information. Because
42 there's kind of a mixture already in this -- how this
43 particular issue is stated, that it combines the needs
44 for the managers to address, but also that the users
45 themselves need to know what's happening so they can,
46 you know, live in the land the way they have.

47

48 So we'll incorporate that into this
49 existing Item No. 3, cooperation and collaboration to

50

1 include these points.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are we ready
4 for the question then.
5
6 MR. WILSON: Call for question.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Question's
9 been called. All in favor of having this.....
10
11 MR. MAINES: As amended.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm sorry.
14
15 MR. MAINES: As amended.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I
18 don't know that it was really an amendment because it
19 was open for discussion. I didn't hear anybody say
20 that they wanted it accepted as presented, did we have
21 that statement made.
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: I kind of did.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, did you,
26 was that your intent, then, yeah, let's.....
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, however, I could
29 view that as a friendly amendment.
30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And then
32 what about the second, does the second feel the same
33 way?
34
35 MR. MAINES: Yeah.
36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
38 we'll use it as a friendly amendment, so everybody in
39 favor of this motion as friendly amended, please
40 signify by saying aye.
41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed,
45 same sign.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, motion
50

1 carries.

2

3

Okay.

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I'm debating and looking for some assistance and advice here. Knowing that our next thing on the agenda is our agency reports, I'm wondering if we wouldn't be smarter to go ahead and break for lunch now so everybody can get set up for their reports and when we come back we can do -- go ahead, Susan.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame Chair. I put my hand up because I, unfortunately, have a conflict this afternoon that I could not reschedule. I have our assistant manager cued up and she's planning to come this afternoon and can give our report but if you'd rather hear it directly from me I could go ahead and do that now.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely, no, yeah, and I appreciate you coming forward and letting us know that. I think that we would rather directly hear it from you. That would be my initial preference. And I was thinking -- I know a lot of times that people have slides and what not to set up so that was my concern, more than anything, to get that done.

So with the Council's permission we'll go ahead and listen to this report, and I would ask, I guess, is anybody else in the same boat or can we go ahead and work with everybody else this afternoon.

Okay, good enough, then that's what we'll do. So, please, go ahead, Susan.

MS. ALEXANDER: So, thank you, Madame Chair. I appreciate the Council accommodating my schedule this way.

And I know we all went around and introduced ourselves this morning but one of the things we're happy about at the moment at Alaska Peninsula and Becharof is that we have a new member of our team, Pete Harvey, has joined us just in the last couple of months and I just wanted to give him a chance to say -- to greet the Council and say a couple of words about himself.

1 MR. HARVEY: Hello, Madame Chair and
2 the Council. Like Susan said, I'm Pete Harvey. I just
3 got here at the end of December. I'm the new law
4 enforcement officer for the Refuge. I'm originally
5 from Pennsylvania and I'm really looking forward to
6 being here in Alaska and especially working on the
7 Peninsula. Nice to meet all of you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody have
10 questions for Pete.

11
12 MR. WILSON: You alone or are you
13 coming with family.

14
15 MR. HARVEY: I came with my fiancée,
16 yep.

17
18 MR. MAINES: What part of Pennsylvania.

19
20 MR. HARVEY: Brooks County,
21 Southeastern PA.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm really glad to
24 see you here, Pete, and I'm really glad you had the
25 opportunity to hear our discussion on herding and
26 chasing and help you get tuned into the local way of
27 things and welcome you and I hope you are here awhile
28 because I think it's better to have folks that learn
29 the ways and getting to know the people, spending time
30 in the villages instead of hiding in the bushes and
31 jumping out at people. It usually works way better.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: So thank you very much.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
38 would echo my Council Members, warm wishes of welcome
39 as well and hope that you enjoy many years with us
40 here, so, thank you.

41
42 MR. HARVEY: Thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

45
46 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
47 Chair. And actually Pete has already had one
48 opportunity to visit Port Heiden with our education
49 specialist, went down and helped out with the school

50

1 program down there. I know he and we, both, plan that
2 he will be taking opportunities to get out to the
3 villages, not on enforcement patrols, but just to meet
4 and greet people and participate in life out there.

5

6 So, thanks, Pete.

7

8 MR. HARVEY: Yes.

9

10 MS. ALEXANDER: So Carl just handed out
11 our agency report, I apologize somehow there was a
12 glitch in the system and it did not get in your books.
13 But I want to just highlight a couple of items having
14 to do with moose and I'm extremely happy to report that
15 we were actually able to get out and do some moose comp
16 and abundance surveys last fall.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I thought
19 that's where you were going to be this afternoon.

20

21 MS. ALEXANDER: I know, we have snow.

22

23 Unfortunately the window for that only
24 goes through December 10th, by our survey protocol, but
25 we had.....

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participant phones not muted)

29

30 MS. ALEXANDER:the way our lead
31 biologist described it, was adequate but patchy snow.
32 And these are the first significant surveys that we've
33 been able to do since 2012. So these are the first
34 since I've been here, long time, too long, as you all
35 know.

36

37 And we've also stepped up our efforts
38 this year to try to coordinate more with both the Park
39 Service and with Fish and Game on those surveys. Our
40 Refuge pilot flew both Fish and Wildlife and Fish and
41 Game biologists to accomplish these surveys. And we
42 were able to survey in four trend areas. Three of
43 those were in 9E and one in 9C. And rather than try to
44 give you a very partial report on numbers from that, I
45 believe that the local Fish and Game biologists are
46 planning to be here this afternoon and we have provided
47 them all our information because our data is just one
48 piece of that bigger puzzle. So it's almost a little
49 misleading to look at it in isolation, but they have

50

1 that data and we're -- like I said, we're trying to
2 kind of step up our involvement coordination with them.

3

4 REPORTER: Can you hold on a second.

5

6 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm sorry.

7

8 REPORTER: Hold just one.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participant phones not muted)

12

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Again, as a reminder to
15 everybody on the teleconference, please enter star six
16 to mute your phone or just push the button that says
17 mute on your phone.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
22 Carl.

23

24 MS. ALEXANDER: So any questions on
25 that. I realize I'm not giving you any data but I'm
26 really happy to be able to say, yes, we flew some
27 surveys.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I see we do
30 have preliminary results on it so.

31

32 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. And we've
33 analyzed our data and turned that over to Fish and
34 Game, so they're working on that and I hope will be
35 able to tell you something of the bigger picture.

36

37 So moving on to the moose reproduction
38 and survival survey, this is one that's been ongoing
39 since 2009, since that time, we've collared a total of
40 37 cow moose and have been tracking them during calving
41 for reproduction rates and survival of calves and
42 survival of cows. And we continued that study in 2017,
43 we are planning to run it in 2018, but we are starting
44 to sunset that probably. The collars are expiring and
45 we're working with Fish and Game before their batteries
46 die to pull the collars because we can download
47 additional information directly from the collars that
48 we don't get through the GPS link. And there's a
49 possibility that Fish and Game, I gather, may elect to

50

1 put fresh collars on and continue some work along that
2 line but that's still being discussed.

3
4 So for results for 2017 and, of course,
5 as you all know, this being a multi-year study, no one
6 year tells the story, but just to give you a feel for
7 what we had seen in the past and what we saw in 2017,
8 the previous years of the study we were seeing good to
9 excellent body condition in both adults and yearlings,
10 calving rates were very high, twinning rates were very
11 high, adult survival was very high, calf survival was
12 low. This is not, I don't think, a picture a that's
13 not familiar to most of you.

14
15 In 2017 we saw both adult survival and
16 twinning rates decline. And calf survival, however,
17 was the second highest it's been in the study. So it's
18 difficult to draw any conclusions from this, it could
19 be -- you know, it's one year, it could be an anomaly,
20 or it could be indicative of something larger, we don't
21 really know at this point, but we are in the process of
22 working both with Don Watts (ph), who was our mammal
23 biologist previously, who started this study, he's now
24 working at Kenai Refuge, and Dan Peppin, who's our
25 pilot biologist is kind of jumping in and picking up
26 the thread on this. And between the two of them we
27 plan to get this data analyzed and synthesized and I
28 hope next year to be able to give you sort of a summary
29 report on our conclusions from that. But I just wanted
30 to let you know that it is ongoing and that's what we
31 saw last year.

32
33 Again, it's hard to tell from one year.

34
35 It'll be interesting to see what we see
36 next year.

37
38 Part of the problem is that with some
39 loss of cows through attrition, cows dying, and also
40 through some loss of collars with batteries dying, we
41 have a smaller and smaller sample size every year, so,
42 you know, the smaller your sample size, the more likely
43 you are to get odd effects in there that aren't
44 statistically significant.

45
46 So any questions from the Council on
47 the moose survival.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

50

1 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah, just
2 curious, along with your survey there, on the predator
3 side of things, do you see -- is there any correlation
4 at all that you see yet, in the predator side with the
5 calving?
6

7 MS. ALEXANDER: The study isn't set up
8 to give us any formal data on the causes of calf
9 mortality, so all we have really is kind of anecdotal.
10 Unfortunately, as I understand it, in order to get good
11 solid data on the causes of calf mortality, you have to
12 actually get out there and collar the calves which is
13 expensive and pretty involved and we did not take that
14 on.
15

16 However, the two kind of anecdotal
17 indications we have are that very consistently we have
18 noted that when the cows are getting ready to drop they
19 tend to move out into open country, which in Don Watts'
20 opinion, indicated, that they were more concerned about
21 bears than they were about wolves.
22

23 The other anecdotal piece of that is
24 that we have definitely seen bears on -- you know,
25 sometimes -- because we try to fly everyday, basically
26 we fly everyday that we have weather when we're doing
27 these surveys because you've got to catch the calves
28 when they drop and say, okay, we've got twins today, do
29 we have twins tomorrow or the next day. So we're out
30 there a lot. And sometimes we'll see the predators on
31 the kill. And the only cases in which we've actually
32 seen a predator on the kill was in the instance of
33 bears, we've never seen a wolf still on the kill.
34

35 That's anecdotal but that's kind of all
36 we have from the way this survey design was set up.
37

38 MR. WILSON: But I got to believe as
39 you're doing that you're actually keeping track of
40 those amount of kills from predators, correct?
41

42 MS. ALEXANDER: Correct. We track that
43 data but it's not anything that can really be
44 rigorously analyzed, but, yes, we do record that
45 information.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody
48 else.
49
50

1 Dan.

2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Just real quick. I'm
4 increasingly pleased to hear the friendly collaboration
5 and coordination that all the different agencies, State
6 and Federal are doing to do a better job on these
7 wildlife populations. It's working good over in
8 Togiak, Dillingham area, and it sounds like it is here
9 too, and that's excellent because you can get so much
10 more work done when you all are working together.

11
12 So, thank you on that.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well noted.

15
16 Anybody else.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
21 ahead.

22
23 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
26 Dan.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and this one isn't
29 exactly directed to Susan but when we -- we have a
30 thing called the InterAgency -- we call it SWIM
31 meeting, Southwest InterAgency meeting, a bunch of
32 fisheries folks usually get together and there was a
33 comment made there that on the national level, the
34 Refuge leadership seems to be tending towards hiring
35 more enforcement and less interested in hiring
36 biologists and we do need enforcement and so I'm not
37 against having a few around, but I guess I want to
38 speak out in a general term that I hope the biology
39 isn't getting neglected at the national level and I
40 hope they don't see these Refuges as being just kind of
41 these armed camps of enforcers out there. We need the
42 biology and we need the biologists, but we also have
43 budget constraints.

44
45 So, anyway, just a little rant I had.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
50

1 Susan.

2

3 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. Thank you, Dan. I couldn't agree more. And
5 essentially our situation, you know, we have a new
6 officer filling the same one position that we've had
7 all along. We -- after Pete was hired, ran into the
8 hiring freeze, and so we have a vacant biology position
9 that I would love to fill and we have another biology
10 position that's currently being filled, and this is
11 actually our subsistence biologist, moved to Colorado,
12 and I knew that if he resigned, because his wife had a
13 job in Colorado, we would have no one in that position,
14 and he's a really good hand, so he is now working for
15 us half-time from Colorado, because half a good
16 biologist in Colorado is better than no biologist at
17 all. And so I couldn't agree more.

18

19 I actually have pushed a little bit
20 more of our total Staff resources in the direction of
21 biology on an org chart recently, but then we hit
22 hiring freezes and there are a few positions that are
23 being filled in the region but I haven't successfully
24 managed to argue to fill our biology positions yet but
25 they are at the top of the list.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy. Go
28 ahead.

29

30 MR. MAINES: I wanted to ask a question
31 as far as your report goes, as far as the lake
32 temperature. How long has that been going on and how
33 long do you anticipate to continue it, is funding an
34 issue because I do know that temperature is increasing
35 all around the world and stuff like that and it's a
36 major issue for those of us who keep an eye on our fish
37 and stuff like that because right now our salmon like
38 cool waters, but at the same time some of the spawning
39 streams I know of are reaching that threshold to where
40 the temperature is getting kind of warm for them, and
41 it has affected some of our fish and stuff like that.

42

43 So I was just kind of curious with the
44 one that you have right now, how long have you been
45 doing it? Is there any synopsis from what you see and
46 how long do you plan on continuing it?

47

48 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, good
49 question. And I would have to look back and see if

50

1 it's in my notes, the exact date that we started that,
2 I believe it was somewhere around 2010, 2012. It was
3 shortly before I got here in 2013. And funding
4 allowing, I would love to keep that going indefinitely.
5 I think it's the type of thing that's intended to be
6 long term monitoring. I think it is very important.
7 And we are contributing our data to part of a statewide
8 network, that is InterAgency and I think part of what's
9 important with this kind of data is the long term
10 aspect of it and part of it is to be able to detect
11 broader patterns across a large geographic area. And
12 so that's our intent in having these out there.
13 They're relatively low maintenance. We have to get out
14 in the spring and the fall and kind of hang a buoy on
15 it and put a monitor at the surface and then we just
16 submerge it and let the ice form over the top.

17
18 So my intent is to see that continue
19 indefinitely. So we don't see a -- we don't have a
20 plan to end that project.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
23 you.

24
25 Richard.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 I could not remember the last -- the meeting we had in
29 Dillingham last fall, Susan you were talking about the
30 science camp, and how that was kind of going away, and
31 I wondered, we had some suggestions out there for you
32 on who to partner with and wondering if that took any
33 ground at all, and where is that going?

34
35 Thanks.

36
37 MS. ALEXANDER: We have not restarted
38 anything with science camp at this point. Partly
39 because, this is kind of happening with all our
40 programs simultaneously, we're trying to step back and
41 take a broader look at our involvement in various
42 aspects of visitor services and that's everything from
43 outreach to the schools to science camp, to the King
44 Salmon Visitor Center, to -- and we basically have two
45 folks who do all of that. And while we don't want to
46 abandon the King Salmon Visitor Center, we've actually
47 taken a little bit more of a back seat with that lately
48 and my intent being to be able to put some more energy
49 towards outreach to villages and working with some of
50

1 our guides and outfitters, of whom we have a lot, and
2 many of whom get no orientation to the local area, or
3 the fact they're on a Refuge.

4

5 So it's somewhat in flux still, is, I
6 guess, the bottom line of all of that.

7

8 What we are doing is we're maintaining
9 our work with the schools in the villages and here in
10 Naknek. And while that's the intensive experience for
11 a small number of kids, we do expose a larger number of
12 kids to some science education and some natural
13 history.

14

15 I'm not ruling it out for the future
16 but I kind of want to.....

17

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participant phones not muted)

21

22 MS. ALEXANDER:give my new
23 visitor services manager an opportunity to complete
24 this planning process and then we'll look at our
25 highest priorities are.

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participant phones not muted)

29

30 MR. WILSON: I still believe that, you
31 know, that camp is actually a very good tool for our
32 youth because it gives you a connection, you know, with
33 Mother Earth and also with locals, you know, and that
34 combination and the interest that young people might
35 have when they actually are hands-on out there, I think
36 is very vital, you know, it seems like it's taken a
37 back seat and I really wish that different agencies or
38 perhaps, you know, the corporations or somebody could
39 help us out here in trying to provide that opportunity
40 still. Maybe it needs to be in a different area, but
41 it just, you know, I think it's pretty vital yet, and
42 I'd still like to see that program continue for
43 whatever reason.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
46 Sue.

47

48 MS. ALEXANDER: No, I was just going to
49 say thank you. I appreciate your comments. It does

50

1 help for me to know kind of that the program has value
2 and obviously that's part of what, in trying to make
3 these priority decisions, part of the kind of things
4 that we look at and weigh, so I appreciate you
5 reemphasizing that.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
8 would echo it as well. I mean I think our youth tend
9 to be not as exposed to professions and opportunities,
10 if they should choose to go on to higher education, and
11 I think it's a great way for them to see what the
12 potential is out there for that.

13
14 And, I'm sorry, because I was going to
15 call on you, next, Mr. Trefon, I didn't mean to take
16 that away from you, but go ahead.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I was looking at
19 your thing about Alaska land birds and I heard several
20 conversations concerning the ptarmigan population, how
21 is it monitored over there on the Refuge?

22
23 MS. ALEXANDER: We have a ptarmigan
24 monitoring program that we had been doing for, again,
25 I'd have to -- I put my notes back on my chair, but I
26 believe six years, going every other year because we
27 wanted to shoot for the spring is where we didn't have
28 a fall bear -- or a spring bear season going on, to
29 avoid conflicts with bear hunters, and it's, again,
30 kind of like with the moose, it's a little preliminary
31 to draw conclusions about that data. But we were not
32 seeing very good numbers. And so I think it's safe to
33 say that the work that we had done so far kind of
34 mirrors what people are seeing, that the numbers are
35 not looking robust.

36
37 But it is still, at this point, an
38 ongoing study. So it's always a little hard to draw
39 conclusions part way through.

40
41 MR. TREFON: Okay. So that means it's
42 not just the local area, it sounds like it's a regional
43 concern for the ptarmigan, it's not just Peninsula,
44 it's all over.

45
46 MS. ALEXANDER: And I should say that
47 our survey kind of -- as you were saying, can
48 contribute to the bigger picture of what's going on.
49 It was focused on Becharof National Wildlife Refuge,
50

1 the area around Becharof Lake, and we did do some
2 survey points here around King Salmon and Naknek as
3 well since we are here to try to broaden that out a
4 little bit more. But logistically -- it's a really
5 challenging survey to do, logistically because we're
6 moving these crews around from point to point and our
7 pilot was both being a biologist and a pilot and kind
8 of hopping people from one place to another. So that's
9 kind of the geographic area that our particular survey
10 was looking at.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
15 anybody else.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

20

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
again, Susan, appreciate it.

21

22

23

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, again, for
accommodating my schedule. I appreciate it.

24

25

26

27

28

(Teleconference interference -
participant phones not muted)

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35

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Back to Plan
A, I believe, we will go ahead and break for lunch and
now let's try and be back and be ready to go about
1:15, hopefully that will give the people who are
setting up enough time to set up and eat. But let's do
that.

36

37

(Off record)

38

39

(On record)

40

41

42

43

44

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I am
now going to officially call the meeting back to order.
Let the record reflect it's about 1:12 in the
afternoon.

45

46

47

48

49

And we will continue on with our agenda
to Item No. 11, agency reports, and we'll start at the
top, now that we've had a portion of Alaska Peninsula's
report. I don't believe we have any tribal governments

50

1 here, do we, that we're going to hear from.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, not
6 that I had seen either.

7

8 So let's go on then to Native
9 organizations, and that'll be BBNC, John Kreilkamp, if
10 you want to come give us your presentation on Katmai
11 Land and the direction that you're headed, we'd love
12 that.

13

14 MR. KREILKAMP: My name is John
15 Kreilkamp. I'm the President and CEO of Bristol Bay
16 Alaska Tourism, which was started by Bristol Bay Native
17 Corporation in 2012.

18

19 We have about 120 employees amongst
20 four different lodges as well as our Anchorage office
21 base.

22

23 As you know Bristol Bay Native
24 Corporation had been investing heavily in programs
25 outside, as we get this going here, let's see, there we
26 go. And for a long time obviously they'd been waiting
27 to find something they could really reinvest in the
28 region. We represent a very, very small portion of
29 BBNC's bottom line, but the portion that we do have is
30 very visible amongst those who are in the region
31 because it's the business you know best, and that's
32 fish.

33

34 One of the things that has been of
35 interest is getting into the sportfishing industry. In
36 2012 with the acquisition of Mission Lodge, and from
37 Dale -- I forgot his last name all of a sudden, you
38 probably know his last name, Nanci, anyhow that was
39 acquired in 2012 and then in most recently 2016 we
40 acquired the Katmai properties from Katmai Land, Ray
41 Peterson, who started Brooks, Grovner and Kulik Lodge
42 along with some other families that have been involved
43 in the area, I think that some of you know.

44

45 It's interesting to note that both
46 Grovner and Brooks are part of the National Park
47 concessions, thus, we're concessionaires, partners with
48 the National Park Service and this year you are
49 celebrating, what is it, your 100th Anniversary of
50

1 Katmai National Park being a National Monument, and so
2 we're proud to be affiliated with that.

3

4 And with that I'll go ahead and show
5 you a little bit of what I have to present here. For
6 those of you who are phoning in, my apologies, but
7 we've got a PowerPoint along with a slideshow, I'll
8 just give you a debrief of everything and then I'll be
9 happy to answer any questions that you might have
10 afterwards.

11

12

13 Before I start I want to say one thing,
14 this film you're about to see was done in the late
15 '40s, believe it or not, early '50s, Don Horter, those
16 of you who are familiar with -- you can log on to
17 YouTube and take a look at Katmai Lands video but this
18 is vintage stuff. And the genius behind Ray Peterson
19 is that he wanted to make sure that people understood
20 that access to Katmai is simple, as simple as stepping
21 off a plane, and I think you'll see that in this photo
22 especially when it comes to the gentleman who's
23 stepping off what looks like a Beech 18 aircraft in his
24 wingtips and doublebreasted suit ready to go fishing,
25 but only that you'll see in this program.

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Let's go with start, why is it not
starting. Here we go. Go to here. It's not -- oh,
from the beginning, oh, this gives you the full view.
All right.

(Video playing)

So obviously Brooks Falls is part of
the anglers paradise, I guess you could say,
nomenclature that what we became known for in the
region, and Consolidated Airways, of course, is the
first one to put some of these lodges together all on
home rivers, such as the Brooks and the Kulik and now
Grovner as well.

The aerial view of Kulik, as you can
see from 1950, a small camp, today it houses up to 24
people -- or 28 people in 12 cabins. As you can see
the gentleman stepping off in his doublebreasted suit
with wingtips and ready to get some fishing actions in.
But my favorite scene, as you'll see, is the boat that
they use to go fishing out of this area, which is not
one that you'll see very often. But really, I think,
what it was back then, Ray Peterson, was an absolute

1 pioneer in the sportfishing industry along with Mr.
2 Walatka and some of the other folks that are from the
3 area, but as you can see they're getting in a boat that
4 you won't see on the Brooks River or out on Kulik Lake.
5 This is one that they were using in the 50s. But it
6 became renowned as one of the best places in the world
7 to go fishing.

8
9 And I really get a kick out of seeing
10 these old ones as they progress.

11
12 Again, apologies to those who are
13 dialing in, it's just an old film, if you'd like to
14 take a look at it you can by logging on to YouTube and
15 taking a look at the Katmai Land photo that was done by
16 Don Horter.

17
18 Joanna Balker (ph), yeah, thank you, I
19 think she was water skiing on Lake Kulik, yeah.

20
21 But this is an abridged version, I've
22 only got a few minutes of it. But as you can see there
23 was some real characters that were part of this program
24 back then.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. KREILKAMP: Those of you who are
29 familiar with the book, Rods and Wings, by Bo Bennett,
30 a very, very interesting film that talks about the
31 history of the fishing lodge development, sportfishing
32 lodge development in Bristol Bay. Bo has returned this
33 year as our manager, now, of Kulik Lodge. So he's
34 retired from his winery position and he's still flying
35 and he's returning back. He just spent the last few
36 weeks with us up in Anchorage so we're happy to have
37 him back.

38
39 Let's talk real quickly about the
40 existing tour operations that we have. A fly out
41 sportsfishing lodges, of course Mission Lodge and Kulik
42 Lodge. Mission includes all the flights to the various
43 drainages that we go to and, of course, that's over in
44 the Aleknagik area right near the mouth of the Wood
45 River. And Kulik Lodge is obviously one that we
46 include everything except the flights. If you want to
47 buy the flights while you're out there, you can to
48 various drainages in the area, but we're right on the
49 Kulik River, which is one of the best places to fish,
50

1 period, in terms of rainbow trout and of course the
2 sockeyes that come through there as well.

3
4 Our National Park concession lodges and
5 venues, again, Brooks Lodge and the Land of the 10,000
6 Smokes Tour, as well as Grovner Lodge, which is a small
7 nine person lodge that I'll show you here in a minute.
8 And finally our air taxi operations include -- actually
9 it's eight aircraft and three of Mission's aircraft, so
10 we have a total of 11 aircraft now. The Katmai
11 operations are a part 135, whereas Mission is a part 91
12 operation. Anchorage headquarters is at Lake Hood, a
13 big red hanger, right on the shores of Lake Hood. We
14 have our sales marketing office there as well with our
15 maintenance operations.

16
17 Those of you who are familiar where
18 these lodges are at, you know, I apologize, but for the
19 majority of you you know where they're at. Kulik Lodge
20 up here (no microphone) Colville is where the Brooks
21 Lodge is and of course Brooks Lodge (no microphone)
22 but each one of them, the genius behind what Ray
23 Peterson did was put them right on a home river, so if
24 it's blowing, whatever, the people can still fish that
25 day, and get out and enjoy themselves.

26
27 That's probably one of the better shots
28 that we are known for and it's on our current brochure
29 that we have out, but the rainbows in the area are all
30 catch and release of course. And, you know, the one
31 thing about all the lodges that we have, whether it's
32 Brooks, Mission or Kulik, and even Grovner Lodge, is we
33 highly emphasize that our guests limit their kill, not
34 kill their limit. And we're not really known as a meat
35 lodge, so to speak, there's a lot of camps that that's
36 their thing. Ours, we do all guests to take home some
37 salmon, typically about 20, 25 pounds, for those that
38 want to take it, but the majority of our guests are
39 those that really enjoy the art of catch and release on
40 the Native species.

41
42 This lady I happened to be out with, it
43 was her first fish she ever caught and need I say more
44 about the excitement that it generates for those that
45 get out there.

46
47 And, of course, bear viewing has become
48 truly remarkable in terms of the growth. We've
49 experienced literally in the last two years incredible
50

1 growth in the one day market as well as those guests
2 flying into King Salmon, overnighing, and going out
3 for a couple of days, out to Brooks, this is a pretty
4 phenomenal experience. I think what really -- it's
5 interesting, if you take a look at Explore.org, and now
6 that this has gone world wide and it puts it right into
7 the living rooms of everyone around the world, there is
8 something like 12 critter cams, I believe, that are
9 live around the world, whether it's sharks or other
10 things, and locations from New Zealand to Florida to
11 you name it, but the bear cam out pulls the others by
12 about three-to-one during the summer time. Everybody
13 loves this and it's obviously become very big and
14 growing even larger with the Chinese market. Our group
15 business has gone up almost three times what it was two
16 years ago and it's a remarkable growth.

17
18 And I think one thing that we're being
19 very careful here is to not exploit this but to manage
20 it carefully. We're actually putting a cap on some of
21 the dates that we have so that we don't overwhelm. I
22 think everybody who's been at the Brooks has
23 experienced a bear jam now and then, that is something
24 hopefully that will be relieved a little bit when the
25 new bridge comes in. I think that will make a big
26 difference. We look forward to that being in effect,
27 in 2019. And so that's a big thing that we're all
28 looking forward to.

29
30 As we move along after this meeting,
31 actually I have to get down to our new investment, it's
32 right on the water, this is our new float plane base
33 right on the shores of the Naknek River and we are --
34 it's about a third as big as what our old facility was
35 but our old facility was 60 years old. It was time for
36 something new. So we're excited to have a new panaboat
37 structure there. Lee Raymond constructed it, he'll be
38 finishing it up in May of this year. And the old
39 building, we hope to have a small retail outlet in
40 there for last minute things that people want to take
41 with them, whether it's water or apparel, that will be
42 there as well.

43
44 We also employ a number of folks from
45 the region, Theresa Capo, from Naknek as a matter of
46 fact, and she is our cultural presenter. You know so
47 many people come through this region to see bears, but
48 they don't know about the region, and so we made a real
49 effort this last year and doubled her presence to
50

1 really be able to share her story, what it's like
2 during the winter time, what it's like to grow up here
3 as a child, and people have
4 really given us a lot of very, very positive feedback.

5 We also hope to have Theresa working with the
6 National Park Service and doing some of the orientation
7 early in the season in terms of how that's -- how
8 things are presented out at the Barbabra and she's an
9 herbalist, knows a lot about medicinal medicines from
10 the region, has really been a nice addition to the
11 Staff there.

12
13 A gentleman that we have locally, --
14 excuse me, not locally, but Ryan Conway will be
15 returning as the manager there and we'll be hiring a
16 number of people who have been living in the area as
17 well.

18
19 So just moving on, Brooks Lodge, as you
20 know has approximately 60 beds. All of the units there
21 have four twin beds in them -- or twin bunk beds, so
22 each room can take up to four guests. It's the iconic
23 picture on the left that you'll see right in Times
24 Square, you'll see it all over the world, and it's one
25 that's become synonymous with what, in a way, another
26 wild facet of Alaska. These are some of the -- an
27 example of the SkyTel building on the right and some of
28 the cabins on the left, again, each holding up to four
29 guests per unit. And then, of course, the Brooks Falls
30 overlook, a very, very population place. Last year was
31 -- it's been 15 years since I actually visited this
32 place and coming back to it it brought back just the
33 magic of how close you can get to -- what we're known
34 for here which is incredible bear viewing.

35
36 Unfortunately this is a little bit
37 washed out, but that's a picture of Kulik, around Kulik
38 Lake, and, of course the iconic lodge, log cabin
39 design, 12 cabins, again, 28 guests and guests are
40 primarily are coming here for the fly fishing
41 experience. A wonderful, warm, rich atmosphere, open
42 hearth fireplace, everything included, everything
43 except your, of course fly outs. The cabins
44 themselves, I would not call them luxurious by any
45 means but very, very accommodating, each with bath,
46 shower and their own facilities. There's a better
47 view, I think you could see, of the property right on
48 Kulik Lake. Again, a 5,000 foot strip that's partially
49 owned by both the National Park Service and ourselves,
50

1 we maintain it, and along with, about what looks like
2 maybe a quarter mile road that goes up to the strip for
3 our guests to access Kulik Lodge.
4

5 One of the things that has become very,
6 very popular is the evening fishing. Guests who go
7 bear viewing during the daytime, come back, have dinner
8 and then get out on the river for some wonderful
9 fishing right on the Kulik, again, it's proximity being
10 right there makes it very easy. The Kulik, as you
11 know, a very, very short river, you know, in terms of
12 the length but it has some of the most incredible trout
13 fishing in the region and it's also one that you can
14 wade very, very easily so it makes it one, I think,
15 guests really enjoy because they can get out there and
16 walk through it.
17

18 Grovner Lodge on Colville Lake and
19 Brooks Lake, only nine guests, three cabins. There's a
20 guide and a chef that do everything for you. A very,
21 very nice small retreat and guests can either come in
22 two at a time, four at a time, we prefer to try and
23 keep it up around six if we can, just because obviously
24 you can imagine the expense of running an operation
25 like this and not having a full house. So it's a
26 challenge, let's put it that way. We still have some
27 space for this year. We've already met what we've done
28 this year in terms of sales, all of last year, so we're
29 on pace to have a good season.
30

31 Panaboat construction. This is
32 preaching to the choir, you folks know what the fishing
33 is like in the area and what's going through but that's
34 something that we share with our guests on line.
35

36 Again, our Part 135 operations include
37 eight aircraft owned by Katmai Air, including both twin
38 engine Navajo as well as two, we're adding a second
39 turbine Otter this year, along with 206 and several
40 DeHavilland Beavers and a 207 Savoy as well.
41

42 The other operation that we have over
43 in Aleknagik is Mission Lodge and this is an all
44 inclusive lodge right on the shores of the lake and
45 three aircraft that support that as well. A very rich
46 history there in the region. This used to be the
47 school for -- Mission School for Aleknagik, this year
48 we're going to be commemorating a wall from what it was
49 like during the 1950s and having interpretive signage
50

1 on the wall so people understand what an integral place
2 this facility played in the role of the community. It
3 was the place they'd go to basketball, it's where they
4 met on Friday nights, it's what they did for social
5 activity. The Chairman of the Board, Joe -- I forgot
6 his last name right now.....

7

8 MR. MAINES: Chythlook.

9

10 MR. KREILKAMP: Thank you. Joe
11 Chythlook was married in this building along with his
12 wife. So it has a very, very rich history as well.

13

14 And fishing the local drainages.

15

16 So none of this -- are things that you
17 have not seen. We continue to be, I think -- we look
18 forward to being a very strong player in the
19 sportfishing market. Again, our motto is limit your
20 kill, don't kill your limit, it's all catch and release
21 primarily on the Native species, but this is one that
22 -- I guess our angle is sportfishing and bear viewing
23 and the incredible wildlife and sightseeing that you
24 see along the way.

25

26 So that's my presentation.

27

28 I'd be happy to answer any questions
29 that you might have
30 in terms of our future growth.

31

32 Right now I think we're going to chew
33 on what we have. I don't see us expanding quite a bit.
34 It's going to try and bring those occupancies up to
35 where we want them to be. We're very happy with the
36 progress that we've made this year, just this year
37 alone, up significantly. So we're real happy in the
38 direction that we're going.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
41 John.

42

43 Question's for John.

44

45 Richard.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
48 Thanks John. That was a great -- as a person wearing a
49 subsistence hat here, on this Council, curious if --

50

1 how much of that system, or have you guys looked at how
2 much that system, either at the Kulik River or the
3 Brooks River can handle as far as anglers catch and
4 release. You know, I got to believe that a fish caught
5 several times is probably going to stop eating at some
6 point. And I just wonder if you guys ever look at
7 these things as, you know, going forward and if there's
8 -- is that why you feel like you're at a spot where you
9 should probably stop.

10

11 MR. KREILKAMP: No, I think what I was
12 referring to -- thanks, Rich, for asking the question.
13 What I was referring to is the bear viewing, which has
14 almost become a victim of its own success. During the
15 peak of the season -- I think the interesting thing
16 about it is that around the world people think the only
17 time to see bears at Brooks is July and the point is is
18 that, you know, I was there for the Walatka's annual
19 outing June 1 and there were bears on the beach and
20 they didn't leave until the end of September, actually
21 it was well into October. So the last two years
22 because of the really strong returns there's been just
23 an incredible strong year for bears. I'm sure the
24 National Park Service could probably attest to that as
25 well. But there have been years when you have, you
26 know, typically it's July, but the last few years it's
27 been very strong and from what I understand ADF&G
28 reports say it should be another strong year next year.

29

30 With respect to your specific question,
31 Rich, good question. I can't answer that. I should be
32 probably looking into that and I'll be happy to address
33 that once I get a little bit more information directly
34 to you.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You know as
37 a user of all of those areas, too, I would point out to
38 Richard that one of the biggest challenges that Katmai
39 Land has had for many, many, many years is the growth
40 in the sportfishing industry in this area just because
41 they have the camps there, we access them ourselves all
42 the time. When I say, we, I put my lodge owner hat on,
43 and that includes people flying their own planes out
44 from Anchorage and camping on the rivers at times. At
45 Kulik I know they do that and I know they do it at
46 Grovner as well. So, you know, therein kind of lies
47 the bubble about how to handle it. Because you can
48 handle it internally when you have a lodge on a river
49 but it doesn't necessarily mitigate or stop the problem

50

1 because of the other influences that are being created
2 there.

3
4 MR. KREILKAMP: In my two years being
5 out there I would say that the interest in Kulik last
6 year seemed to be strong, very strong. Prior to that
7 it wasn't as strong. But this last year it certainly
8 was a strong season. We try and get our guests out on
9 the river right away in the morning so that they've got
10 some of the better places. And, you know, to be real
11 honest with you if they sleep in, especially during the
12 peak season, there'll be folks flying in and on peak
13 days, maybe two or three planes that we'll see there,
14 much more than that, very, very rarely.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Thanks. Yeah, I got to
17 believe that, you know, in the future, I mean this is
18 great, you know our eco-tourism stuff is increasing in
19 the area, given employment to our people that has to
20 make a living around here but, yet, we need to be good
21 stewards about what we're doing. And I got to believe
22 at some point, or maybe it's already happening where
23 everybody's collaborating together to figure out how to
24 manage this system, you know, what's not enough and
25 what's too much.

26
27 I understand there's challenges out
28 there, everybody's competing, you know, but wish you
29 luck.

30
31 Thanks.

32
33 MR. KREILKAMP: Well, there's certainly
34 an incredible of fisheries in the area, or I should say
35 drainages in the area that one of the nice things about
36 it is most of the Katmai Properties are within 20
37 minutes hop of another great fishery and so if we -- we
38 try and-- if there's too much in one area, we try and
39 go where there's very little activity if we can to get
40 guests the best experience possible.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I
43 would add to Richard's admonition for us to keep these
44 things in mind for the future, there's also a very
45 large and rapidly increasing pure eco-tourism, no
46 fishing involved, that's occurring, and I think that
47 that's a lot of what you're seeing out there. I have
48 more and more phone calls every year from people who
49 just want to go on hikes, go see the walrus, do the
50

1 valley tour, is there anything else interesting out
2 there that we can do, no, we don't fish. So it's
3 something that's coming, it's something that's
4 happening. I find that refreshing as long as it
5 doesn't get abusive, because I think that we also have
6 cities that are overfilled with people who's children
7 do not have the opportunity to see where their food
8 actually comes from and I think there's a huge value in
9 being able to encourage that eco-tourism, to a point.

10

11 MR. KREILKAMP: You see it in the
12 changing brochures that are out there right now, a lot
13 of people adding an eco-tour element, and adventures to
14 their program, whether it's kayaking, guided hikes, as
15 you say the wilderness sightseeing, wilderness viewing
16 and especially for those that don't fish.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
19 comments or questions.

20

21 Dan.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just -- last year
24 was the first time I tapped into the bear camera and
25 then once I looked at it, I would look at it pretty
26 often, especially like late evening or early morning,
27 more like late evening for me, and I really enjoyed it
28 a lot. It was really interesting.

29

30 Does that -- do you guys run that or
31 does the Park Service run that.

32

33 MR. KREILKAMP: That's actually not us.
34 I think there's a joint venture between Explore.org and
35 I know GCI was the first one to help them get it
36 broadcasted so to speak with their service, I'm not
37 sure if they're still involved. But it really was a
38 stroke of genius in a way but it's also something
39 that's become incredibly popular for guests.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, Members of
44 the Council. In direct answer to the question,
45 explore.org is the primary manager of the bear cams
46 remotely. They are managed remotely. They come and
47 they set them up. They train a couple of our Staff
48 members and then our Staff members deal with on-site
49 problems and troubleshooting and we have access to the

50

1 management of the cams so that our interpretive Staff
2 can actually provide on-site interpretative programs
3 over the cams periodically. The -- and as John
4 indicated, GCI broadband out here, I think almost the
5 day that it went live, Explore had already arranged for
6 an exclusive bunch of that data and that's how they
7 operate.

8
9 So as far as it goes it's a joint
10 venture, we do have a formal partnership with Explore,
11 they provide most of the technical know how and we try
12 to help, where needed, with maintenance, and whatever
13 logistical issues and provide some of the information
14 content.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. One other
17 comment, if I may.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Also, Nanci and I are
22 both involved with the flyfishing academy and Mission
23 Lodge has been available to us several times now and
24 Kulik once and they both have been wonderful places to
25 run the academy and the Staff have always been really
26 accommodating and we really do appreciate you
27 supporting that program.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. KREILKAMP: Well, I think that's a
32 lot in part due to Nanci's leadership actually on that
33 program. You've been instrumental, and quite frankly I
34 had the opportunity to go to your lodge once this
35 summer, sat down and had dinner with a couple of your
36 guides who are recent graduates, Ruben specifically,
37 what an outstanding representative of the area. Not
38 just, you know, a wonderful guide, I'm sure, but a
39 natural born leader, and one that literally held court
40 with the guests that were there. Fascinating. And the
41 young lady, I forgot her name, that was out at your
42 lodge, that also you have on staff there, was great as
43 well.

44
45 But I think Trout Unlimited, which
46 provides some of the guidance, as well as the local
47 entrepreneur, this is a great way to tell folks and
48 demonstrate to folks what a great industry this can be.

49
50

1 This week we have our chef from Mission
2 flying up to participate in training with the local
3 school district here on preparation of meals, et
4 cetera. Kyi is -- it's been arranged by Sara Fullheart
5 to participate in this and he'll be here all week and
6 then returning but, yes, Sara is a very big proponent
7 of making sure people know more than just about the
8 fish here. It's about training the locals and the
9 opportunity, whether it's as a pilot, which is a huge
10 demand, huge demand, A&P, airframe and powerplant
11 mechanics. Guides. Quite frankly we're looking for
12 dock workers to work at our -- right here at King
13 Salmon. If you know young folks that enjoy being
14 around planes we'll be hiring and they can find that on
15 the BBNC website as far as the jobs that are available,
16 whether it's in the lodge, whether it's on the dock,
17 and even in Anchorage that are available this summer.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I love
20 the opportunities that this opens up to the academy
21 students. I have always seen -- I appreciate your very
22 kind words, but I don't -- I thank you. But I've
23 always said from the very inception of the academy and
24 it was my huge driving force in wanting to create and
25 be a part of it, is we have the most incredible
26 resource out here in our young people that is so
27 valuable. If we're going to have visitors coming here
28 there's nobody who can carry our story better than our
29 young people, with pure hearts and pure minds and the
30 ability to share knowledge with what happens out here
31 and what it's like and to me it's always been a no-
32 brainer. And I couldn't be more thrilled that BBNC has
33 decided to become a part of the lodge and guiding
34 industry out here because I see it as a wonderful
35 conduit for these kids, it's going to give them a
36 comfort level that they haven't had before. I've been
37 blessed to have a number of them come to work for me
38 but I truly think that most of it has to do with them
39 having a large comfort level because they've gotten to
40 know me. Now, that BBNC's involved we'll be able to
41 spread that wealth out more I hope.
42

43 So thank you for that.
44

45 MR. KREILKAMP: I would agree with that
46 and only other thing I would add is that I think we've
47 all been some place on a tour with somebody that's not
48 from the area and you some how miss the added value.
49 But to have somebody that's from the area, that grew up
50

1 there, that can talk about the winter, that can talk
2 about what it's like going to school that's in rural
3 Alaska -- I spent 10 years up in Nome before I moved
4 here and I have an appreciation for rural Alaska that
5 certainly makes a big, big difference when you have
6 somebody local providing that tour and that knowledge
7 of what's just around the bend.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
10 Billy.

11
12 MR. MAINES: I'm one of the ones that
13 would like to sort of put things in perspective.

14
15 It took BBNC some time to actually
16 reinvest itself back in the area that it came from.
17 And I was one of the loud voices that used to keep the
18 Board of Directors busy until the wee hours of the
19 morning reminding them where they came from. And when
20 they finally decided to start looking at where they can
21 invest in the region, Mission Lodge, was one of them,
22 it was nice for them to take over the BIA school and
23 renovate it and put work -- put people back to work
24 locally, as far as what they could.

25
26 I sit on the Bristol Bay Heritage Land
27 Trust, which was the Nushagak Mulchatna, Wood Tikchik
28 Land Trust, we're the ones that came up with the fly
29 fishing academy, we went to BBNC, it's a means to try
30 to keep it happening every year because had an ulterior
31 motive and that's to reinvest in our own people in our
32 own region to stop the possibility of something coming
33 in and destroying our region, and so we were looking at
34 that.

35
36 And it's people like Nanci, and, now,
37 like BBNC, and other folks that have a vested interest
38 to make sure that continues, because I agree with you
39 there's nobody else better qualified to talk about an
40 area than somebody who's grown up in that area. I did
41 guiding for a couple of years up on the Nushagak and I
42 had some recurring clients, which I wasn't planning on
43 doing because I wasn't going to make it a career or a
44 hobby or anything, I just happened to go and help a
45 friend out, and it -- I still get comments from folks
46 that were around back in those days, saying, geez, how
47 come you're not doing that, why didn't you continue
48 doing it or something like, we used to like sit in the
49 meal tent with you at night after a day of fishing and
50

1 storytelling and stuff like that to hear you.

2

3 So it's great that BBNC is actually
4 investing back in the region where it came from.

5

6 It is nice to have BBNC investing in
7 the people of the region to give them the opportunity
8 to better themselves in more than one direction because
9 there are a lot of things out there and a lot of our
10 young folks who leave the region come back with their
11 tail between their legs because it wasn't nice leaving,
12 and it would be -- it's always nice to give somebody an
13 opportunity to stay home if they want to stay home,
14 than have to push them out the door and say don't come
15 back. And for the longest time that's the feeling I
16 got from BBNC as well as my own local village
17 corporation, we'll send you out to get your training
18 but no, we're not going to have anything back here for
19 you to come to, well, it's good to see that mind set
20 has done a 180. We'll send you out, we'll help you
21 even get that training as long as you come back and
22 work for us.

23

24

So I appreciate what BBNC has done.

25

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Thank you.

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Obviously pilots, A&Ps, all those
things are in such strong demand and, quite frankly,
very well compensated now. We've had to adjust our

1 wage scale just to compete, much like PenAir, much like
2 rest of the folks, are having to take a second look at
3 how to keep people. As Danny would say, there's not a
4 pilot shortage problem, there's a pay problem and it's
5 all about getting the right people in the right place.
6

7 So I think you can look forward to our
8 company continuing to reinvest in that direction as
9 well.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
12 Mr. Trefon.

13
14 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm glad that
15 there's something else for -- I'm a wildland
16 firefighter and I travel a lot around the country and
17 I'm glad that I have something else to talk about on
18 Katmai Land and Katmai. Because my biggest issue with
19 Katmai -- it's famous, it is very famous all throughout
20 the United States, Canada, I travel all over the
21 country -- but my biggest thing that always gets
22 brought up to my face is Timothy Treadwell.
23

24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. TREFON: That's what I see is what
27 made Katmai famous to the firefighters, everybody talks
28 about Tim, but to have this lodge here and what you
29 guys are saying here, we could have other things. I
30 could only see the negative, the bear guy, and he's
31 teaching California people how to hunt bears and
32 they're social animals.
33

34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. TREFON: But I really appreciate
37 what's going on with this.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. KREILKAMP: There's up sides and
42 down sides to lore, that's for sure, and Timothy was
43 part of that.
44

45 But, if anything, you know, Alaska -- I
46 should say this region has an enormous challenge in
47 terms of just the fact that it's trying to carve out
48 its piece of the pie with, now, one million cruise
49 passengers coming to Alaska, plus the others that are
50

1 coming over the road. We don't get an awful lot of
2 cruise traffic through here, but what we do get, I
3 think, are an awful lot of independent travelers who
4 spend the time, stay the extra night, and that's really
5 a very, very attractive guest. If we can do more of
6 that in the process, I think that's great.

7
8 But, also, as you say, opening up the
9 variety of what we have, not just bear viewing, not
10 just sportfishing, but it's about eco-tour, but managed
11 eco-tourism as well.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
14 Anybody else have comments or questions for John.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I really
19 appreciate you accepting our invitation out here, John,
20 I played a part in that with Donald Mike, our
21 coordinator, and I appreciate you taking us up on it.
22 We had a lot of questions last fall when it was our
23 first opportunity to meet after you announced the
24 purchase last spring so everybody was curious and we
25 appreciate you filling us in.

26
27 MR. KREILKAMP: Thanks for the
28 opportunity.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
31 And with that, I just would like to take one second to
32 recognize the fact that we have an ex-Chair of our
33 local RAC that has entered the room, Randy, welcome.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You might have to
36 holler, he's getting hard of hearing.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that's
39 what I hear.

40
41 So welcome very much Randy Alvarez,
42 we're very happy to have you here. And if you do have
43 any issues, let us know. We're probably only going to
44 be here today, we're running through our agenda quite
45 rapidly so don't be afraid to let us know and welcome.

46
47 Okay, with that, BBNA, are you going to
48 take care of that Cody.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 For the record, Cody Larson here with BBNA. And I've
5 already spoken a bit about my projects. I'll just
6 breeze through a few more and answer any questions that
7 I can.

8

9 With the -- an update to the Togiak
10 chinook health assessment project, again, I'll be over
11 there next week and doing some household surveys in
12 Togiak and Twin Hills. We've got our second year of
13 lab results from a tissue sample that we took checking
14 for a disease called ichthyophonus and the results are
15 basically that it's not present in the stocks so that's
16 a good, sort of indicator of the health of the stock of
17 the king salmon in the Togiak.

18

19 Last week at the SWIM meeting I
20 presented some of those preliminary results of the
21 Togiak household surveys and tried to start a
22 conversation about what can managers do when we don't
23 have monitoring in terms of escapement and things like
24 that on the Togiak River and some of the other indices
25 that managers can use to sort of, you know, not just
26 assess the health but maybe make some management
27 decisions without real, you know, concrete information
28 like counting towers and aerial surveys and things like
29 that. And so some of the other methods of collection
30 or other monitoring, I should say, outside of actual
31 escapement monitoring through the subsistence permits
32 and emphasizing, you know, this is a report of a catch
33 rate over time, a trend. I've spoken with some of the
34 folks at the State about the commercial retention, so
35 when commercial fishermen are out and they retain some
36 of those king salmon for home use that that gets put
37 onto a fish ticket and so I've spoken with the folks
38 who do the e-landing system, which is the new
39 electronic fish ticket thing and just looking at
40 options for, you know, what's the easiest transition
41 for fishermen to be able to report those retentions
42 from commercial harvests. So that's another index.
43 The sportfish log books, you know, is information. And
44 then TEK and household surveys being the longest data
45 set that the region has in terms of information on the
46 species.

47

48 So that's what I was able to present at
49 the SWIM meeting and get that discussion started, of

50

1 what do we do without resources to have concrete
2 monitoring.

3
4 Another project is the sharing networks
5 project that we talked about with the six communities
6 down on the Peninsula. We're kind of wrapping that one
7 up this year. Hopefully I'm hiring an intern with UAA
8 ANSEP program this week to work on transcribing some of
9 the elder interviews and working with some of that
10 information. So a local college student that's at UAA
11 may be working with the Division of Subsistence, in
12 Anchorage, just because that's where they're located in
13 the winter time.

14
15 Some of the other internships, and,
16 Dan, Through the Chair, you had mentioned briefly about
17 the Nushagak project that the Sportfish Division is
18 doing. So we're collaborating with two of the interns
19 this summer to do a mortality study on catch and
20 release of the king salmon stocks in Nushagak so
21 that'll be a couple of lucky interns that are out
22 catching and releasing king salmon for six weeks or so.
23 And also that partnership with the University of
24 Washington up at the FRI cabins Lake Aleknagik.

25
26 And then the proposal I mentioned about
27 the Dolly Varden harvests over in Togiak.

28
29 So that's a quick rundown.

30
31 I know, like you said, we're wrapping
32 things up pretty quickly. If there's any questions
33 I'll answer, if not.....

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

36
37 MR. WILSON: Just a quick one. On the
38 catch and release monitoring program, is there like a --
39 something that you put on the fish to monitor it on
40 how many times it's gotten caught or how do you record
41 that fish.

42
43 MR. LARSON: So that project was
44 designed, and I was able to give some commentary to the
45 sportfish biologist, Jason Dye, and he would definitely
46 be the one to be able to answer that directly, but my
47 understanding is that the technicians, you know, catch
48 the kings and put a transmitter inside the kings and
49 release them in a manner that would be, you know, the
50

1 same as fishing, and then there's either daily or every
2 other day they do a run up and down the river with an
3 airplane and monitor, are those fish going down stream,
4 going up stream, what's happening to those fish. And
5 the transmitters themselves, if they become stagnant or
6 say stop in a specific stop that's obviously not a
7 spawning spot, they'll emit a code that -- a different,
8 ping, if you will, or a different sound, for the pilots
9 -- or the surveyors to know that that fish has died.
10 And so that's how they're going about that study.

11
12 Only one year is done. They'll be
13 doing it another year, and there was some talk at the
14 SWIM meeting about trying to continue it for a third
15 year or find some funding like that, so that project
16 is interesting. It's filling an information gap, you
17 know, that some folks have some interest in filling.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan first
20 and then Mr. Trefon.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 Thank you, Cody.

24
25 A quick thing, I had forgotten, but
26 Richard, I think, and this is very, very early
27 tentative data, but mortalities they're seeing are in
28 the six percent range which is considerably less than
29 the 9 percent down on the Kenai. But it's very early.
30 They'll have more samples in the future. But it may
31 kind of answer some concerns.

32
33 Cody, you talked about monitoring, or
34 talking into the commercial retention of fish for
35 subsistence, and that was something that used to leave
36 me scratching my head when I was a manager. Where is
37 it that you're doing this.

38
39 MR. LARSON: So when the -- so in
40 context, the Togiak district is a fairly localized
41 commercial fishing section, in that, the fishermen, you
42 know, there's a large portion of the fishermen that are
43 from Togiak that are doing that, and so there is
44 retention from those commercial catches, but those fish
45 tickets are generated -- I mean that e-landing system
46 is a statewide and it's with crab and it's like with
47 all of these different species, and so I've just been
48 speaking with the folks and managers that use the
49 information from that to -- it's a newer system but,
50

1 you know, so that the -- the folks that have the fish
2 being delivered to them that are generating the fish
3 tickets have a pretty simple way to input that field,
4 and I've also suggested that by regulation it's
5 mandatory that the kings and cohos get reported on for
6 retention so suggesting that that be a mandatory field
7 in the -- you know the apparatus that has the
8 information put into it, be a mandatory field input.
9 If it's a mandatory reporting have it be a mandatory
10 field. But that can cause some headaches with 14,000
11 fish tickets generated every season so it's finding a
12 good common ground of what's going to be simple and
13 effective for getting that information gathered.

14

15 And so just finding simple solutions to
16 getting data that may be useful when we don't have the
17 resources for monitoring that we'd all like to have.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, if I may continue.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: I commend you for that
24 and I hope you continue it. Because when I was also
25 working for the University, sometimes I was out in the
26 Nushagak district during a commercial opener or usually
27 right at closing, sometimes I would see kings laying on
28 other boat's decks and I know they're supposed to
29 record them, but it could be a hassle. And I want to
30 come at this from the reducing hassle factor, not in
31 harassing the commercial fisherman. But there's kind
32 of this question of how many kings, even in Nushagak
33 are going home, but it's such a hassle to record them.
34 And I've even thought of proposing that let the
35 commercial fisherman take his subsistence permit, if
36 he's local, out on his boat, and write them down there
37 because sometimes if it's early in the season they
38 might get four kings and two reds and it's not worth
39 running an hour to the tender and then three hours
40 against the tide to record them, and it's -- on a
41 tender, because you're supposed to go to make a fish
42 ticket, how do we effectively and most easily capture
43 the information.

44

45 And so I'm kind of excited, I hope you
46 can continue and see what we could come up with here.
47 I'm really glad to hear that.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. LARSON: Mr. Dunaway. Through the
2 Chair. I think that the household surveys that, you
3 know, do get funded, are probably the best method
4 because folks, you know, that do get busy during the
5 commercial season and don't write these things down --
6 or don't recall if they've written them down sometimes
7 on a fish ticket, sometimes on a subsistence permit,
8 sometimes on both, it's kind of -- you know that time
9 of year is chaotic and having the general public be the
10 data collectors can be kind of iffy. So those
11 household surveys are pretty fantastic in, at least,
12 saying, that yes, this is occurring but it's all post-
13 season stuff. And so there's not really an in-season
14 type of thing that managers can make -- and that's not
15 built into any management plans as a trigger, if you
16 will, for any changes or reductions in harvest or
17 things like that.

18
19 So just, you know, to reemphasize the
20 household surveys are -- you know, the way that we're
21 documenting that this is occurring, whether or not that
22 information can be used in in-season is probably not
23 likely but it's just another bit of information.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
26 you.

27
28 Mr. Trefon.

29
30 MR. TREFON: I'd like to come back to
31 what Richard was saying about tagging -- I mean
32 monitoring your mortality of your catch and release
33 program. I mean to put a monitor inside of a fish, the
34 Park Service and Lake Clark have done that to fish and
35 the battery eventually dies and you couldn't tell where
36 the fish was at. But right back in the day that I
37 remember FRI used to put tags on these fish, why don't
38 you put a tag with an ID number, issue them out to the
39 lodges, that way they can write down the number, how
40 many times that specific fish has been caught and
41 eventually it's going to die and then somebody will
42 pick it up and say it died five years later or
43 something like that.

44
45 Suggestions.

46
47 Tagging.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I'll

50

1 just, from my own knowledge, they actually -- I think
2 that Jason told me so this is not solid, set in stone,
3 but if I remember right he told me that on times when
4 they're catching more than they can adequately tag fast
5 enough or monitor -- or put the trackers in, they are
6 tagging them because I caught some when I was guiding
7 over there this last summer, which we called in the
8 numbers to him too, so I think it is being done, in
9 just so that they can monitor travel through them as
10 far as where they're getting to and if there is
11 mortality involved on them.

12
13 But, again, that's not law, but I know
14 I caught tagged fish that I reported last year.

15
16 MR. TREFON: Well, that's good to know
17 because the tagging was effective, I thought.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

20
21 MR. TREFON: I mean you didn't do no
22 harm to the fish other than a little tiny plastic tag
23 they drag around, jewelry, bling, whatever you want to
24 call it.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. TREFON: But, yeah, I mean that
29 would be a good way to track those fish without having
30 to put in a monitor under the skin. They did like
31 something like a 100-fish when CarolAnn Woody was up in
32 the Lake Clark, and those fish travel a long ways
33 before they even get into their spawning creeks, I mean
34 they travel a long ways.

35
36 The idea is that the mortality --
37 because it is a good idea to find out how many times
38 will a fish get hooked before it quits eating.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
41 anybody else.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank
46 you, Cody, appreciate it.

47
48 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair
49 and Board.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Togiak,
2 you're next on the agenda if you would care to come up
3 Susanna.

4
5 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair. Members of
6 the RAC. I'm Susanna Henry, the Refuge Manager at
7 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge again. And you'll find
8 that our report is on Pages 37 through 42 of the book.
9 And I'll add on a few things.

10
11 Just to bring you all up to date about
12 some of the ongoing activities and then the winter
13 hunt. As you know we talked a little bit about the
14 Nushagak Peninsula and the caribou herd, there's an
15 ongoing hunt right now that's open until March 31st and
16 originally the target objective was for 300 animals.
17 That was an objective that was set back in the middle
18 of the summer, but in October we had a composition
19 survey flight that showed us that maybe our calf/cow
20 ratio was a little lower than we had thought, and the
21 objective was reset to a target objective of 218 not
22 too long ago. And that would get us down -- if that
23 were achieved, we'd be around 750 animals, give or
24 take. And right now our harvest reports are at 42
25 animals harvested so far for this season, that's the
26 2017/2018, that's 31 males, 10 females, and one
27 unknown. And that includes five males and two females
28 that were taken as part of the RC501 hunt. So, of
29 course, this is ongoing. And usually we have a lot of
30 harvest reports lag the end of the season. Last year
31 we had good compliance because our interpreter, John
32 Dyasik, called every single person that had not
33 reported, to try to get some more accuracy to the
34 harvest reports. And as you remember, last year it
35 ended up being about 380 caribou that were harvested,
36 so it was an alltime -- three times the record last
37 year.

38
39 We have good travel conditions right
40 now. So I feel certain that that number of 42 is going
41 to go up.

42
43 We had a winter moose hunt in 17A that
44 just finished on the 20th of February. It ended up
45 with 27 moose that were harvested, that was reported,
46 18 cows and nine bulls. And I will mention that there
47 is another ongoing moose hunt and that's over in Unit
48 18, I know that that's out of the purview or main area
49 of the Bristol Bay RAC but I will mention it because I

50

1 think the RAC, this RAC has had an influence on Unit 18
2 and the conservation efforts that have been taken up in
3 Unit 17 have translated in moose that were able to move
4 over into Unit 18, and that's benefited the part of
5 Unit 18 in Togiak Refuge and probably beyond.
6

7 The Goodnews Drainage, they're enjoying
8 a winter hunt right now for up to 10 moose. It started
9 on March 12th and goes through the 31st, so I think
10 that's something that we can all be proud of. You guys
11 should be proud of that accomplishment.
12

13 Our agency report mentions that Amanda
14 Cochran, our visitor services manager, took a new job
15 going back to work for the Park Service at Bryce Canyon
16 National Park as the Deputy Chief of Interpretation.
17 We were really sorry to see her go. I think you'll
18 notice in the Staff reports, many of the Ranger for a
19 Day programs, nature walks, library reading program, a
20 lot of things were attributed to Amanda so a very hard
21 working person and I think we'll be hard pressed to
22 keep up the steam on that one. That's not a position
23 that I'm allowed to fill just yet.
24

25 We have kind of a soft hiring freeze
26 going on and our Regional Office says which positions
27 are the next priority. I am pleased that the Refuge
28 Information Technician position over in Togiak that is
29 vacant because Keemil Kenrud resigned back in December,
30 that one we are allowed to fill, and just became I left
31 to come over to King Salmon and Naknek I got word that
32 we're ready to advertise that position, along with a
33 seasonal to assist that RIT this summer.
34

35 But, with that, I also had some news
36 that John Mark, who's our Refuge Information Technician
37 in Quinhagak is planning to retire at the end of June,
38 and he's really an elder statesman for us and has been
39 a tremendous leader, and he is an educator by training,
40 he's already retired once, he was the principal in
41 Quinhagak so this is his second retirement. So I
42 anticipate that I will be able to fill that position,
43 since the region has put a very high priority on Refuge
44 Information Technicians.
45

46 But right now I feel a bit of depletion
47 in our Staff overall and a lot of the people who have
48 left or are about to leave are very high performing,
49 hardworking folks that really add to our overall
50

1 productivity.

2

3 I think it's been mentioned already
4 that there is going to be a moose survey planned for
5 part of this week and then a collaring effort for
6 wolves, caribou and moose that's planned to go on next
7 week in cooperation with the State of Alaska. So that's
8 some of the other ongoing planned things.

9

10 You guys have any questions for me,
11 I'll be happy to try to answer.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, any
14 questions or comments.

15

16 Go ahead, Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a question because
19 we were trying to remember whether you have a pilot
20 right now or not, and am I mistaken that Cara is a
21 pilot or, anyway, curious.

22

23 Thanks.

24

25 MS. HENRY: Yes, through the Chair.
26 Dan, yes, Cara Hillwig is our pilot biologist, but she
27 is the only pilot we have right now. And one of our
28 conversations at lunch, she's currently flying the Cub.
29 She's a relatively low hour pilot, she's still gaining
30 experience daily, every day that she flies, and so
31 that's currently the only aircraft we have.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody
34 else.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
39 very much Susanna.

40

41 MS. HENRY: That's it, I'm let off so
42 easy.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, because you're
47 always so prepared and have your report in the book so
48 we can read it and it's thorough and we really
49 appreciate it.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. HENRY: All right, very good.

4 Thank you all.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We've
9 already taken care of Alaska Peninsula Becharof and we
10 have Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative.
11 Who's going to be presenting for them.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Are they on line.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Alrighty
18 then, I guess we can come back to them if we have time.

19

20 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna,
21 that says Gilbert.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: It will just take a
24 moment to connect to the computer.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please, go
27 ahead, get it set up.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MR. CASTELLANOS: Okay. Thank you,
32 Madame Chair. Thank you, Members of the Council. It's
33 an honor to come before you again. I thank the people
34 and the ancestors of this land for welcoming me here
35 once again to address you all on some of the work we're
36 doing in the Arctic, which includes much of this region
37 as well according to our, sort of international
38 definition.

39

40 I had the grand opportunity to address
41 you all about a year and a half ago, I guess, October
42 in Dillingham. And there's my family, currently, last
43 time we spoke I think my daughter was only four months
44 old, so she's growing up fast. And I have the great
45 privilege and honor to call Alaska my home, and I live
46 out in Anchorage with my wife and my two kids there.

47

48 MR. MAINES: Is that your patio?

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. CASTELLANOS: I'm sorry, yeah,
4 yeah, right.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. CASTELLANOS: Not quite, it's a
9 park out in New Orleans, and we were out as a family
10 recently enjoying a little bit of thawing from the
11 Alaska winter. And so I just wanted to give you guys a
12 quick update. I talked a little bit about myself and
13 my history at the last meeting, so I won't go into that
14 in-depth, but I will say that I've been living in
15 Alaska for about six years, where I have the distinct
16 honor and pleasure of serving as the United States
17 representative to the Arctic Council Conservation of
18 Arctic Flora and Fauna or CAFF working group. And so
19 today I'm going to go through and review what that is
20 once again. I know there's a lot of acronyms and it's
21 been, like I said, a year and a half since I talked to
22 you, so it might be worth just kind of reminding you
23 what it is and why I think it's important -- why we
24 engage in it as a country, as a state, as community
25 members.

26

27 A little bit of an update on the
28 chairmanship, which is why I was here last time and
29 I'll go a little bit over what that means and what's
30 next.

31

32 So the Arctic Council is essentially
33 the foreign ministers of the eight Arctic countries who
34 get together once every two years, for the United
35 States, the Secretary of State, and they talk about
36 what are things that we can cooperate in the Arctic.
37 There's an emphasis on environmental protection and
38 sustainable development of the Arctic and engaging
39 closely with Arctic indigenous communities. One thing
40 that separates the Arctic Council from any other
41 international organization is that the foreign
42 ministers of these countries sit together with
43 representatives of Arctic indigenous communities in
44 making all decisions about what happens and how we
45 should cooperate. That's pretty unique and pretty
46 special. We take it very seriously as a responsibility
47 in the United States.

48

49 What is the CAFF working group. Well,

50

1 as I mentioned, it is a working group of the Arctic
2 Council. So the ministers meet every two years and
3 they talk about what we should cooperate on, and then
4 there's six working groups and those working groups
5 then carry out the work that the ministers agree and
6 sign their name to in a declaration. So, I, as I said,
7 have the distinct honor of serving as your
8 representative, the United States representative, to
9 the CAFF working group, the Conservation of Arctic
10 Flora and Fauna working group.

11
12 Both the Arctic Council and the working
13 groups each have two year Chairmanship periods. So in
14 May of 2017, I joined Secretary of State Rex Tillerson
15 -- it's a little awkward to say that right now because
16 I guess he's no longer our Secretary of State.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. CASTELLANOS: But nevertheless he
21 was representing the United States and I had the honor
22 to be on that delegation with Don Young and Senator
23 Murkowski and Sullivan and the Governor and a number of
24 other people. And they signed a declaration, and that
25 was the conclusion of the US Chairmanship of the
26 Council. But beginning in 2017 the United States took
27 the Chairmanship of the CAFF working group.

28
29 When I came before you in 2016 it was
30 to get your advice and your input on how we might make
31 that Chairmanship successful and I hope that what I'll
32 talk about today will give you an example of how I've
33 taken your advice and your input, how we've taken it as
34 a Fish and Wildlife Service, and as the United States
35 government and tried to make it really mean something.

36
37 So our Chairmanship of that working
38 group runs from May 2017 approximately to May 2019, so
39 we're right in the middle of it and this is a status
40 update for you all.

41
42 You see there the flags of the eight
43 countries. The symbols of the six Arctic indigenous
44 communities, a number of international organizations
45 and observer countries. Together the Arctic Council
46 represents about half the population of the world.
47 They have representation in one way or another in the
48 Council.

49
50

1 And so just a little bit of a highlight
2 on what are called the permanent participants, these
3 are the Arctic indigenous community representatives, as
4 I said there's six of them. And four of them have
5 representation in Alaska. The Inuit Circumpolar
6 Council. The Aleut International Association.
7 Gwich'in Council International. The Arctic Athabaskan
8 Council. The two others are the Saami Council, which
9 represent traditional reindeer herding communities of
10 Finland, Sweden, and Russia and Norway. And then you
11 also have RAIPON the Russian Association of Indigenous
12 People of the North, and those make up the six
13 permanent participants of the Arctic Council. As I
14 said they sit right next to the foreign ministers of
15 the eight Arctic countries in making decisions about
16 how we can work to protect the environment of the
17 Arctic and advance sustainable development.

18
19 There is a map, more or less, of what I
20 mean by the Arctic, and you can see when we're talking
21 about Alaska, we're talking about Inupiaq or what, in
22 Arctic Council terms the Inuit, the Yup'ik, and the
23 Aleut, of course, Inupiaq and Inuit including St.
24 Lawrence Yup'ik, Chup'ik and another of other
25 communities as well.

26
27 So why should we engage
28 internationally. I gave this slide to you all last
29 time, I don't think I need to explain it to you. That
30 a number of different species are co-located or spread
31 around the entire circumpolar Arctic. We have a lot
32 more to learn. From going and talking with Norway or
33 Russia or Canada, about species protection, about what
34 they're seeing in terms of changes in species
35 composition, about management responsibly of herds and
36 of other species than we do -- then talking with folks
37 further south. And so there's a reason and a purpose
38 and a genuine kind of interest in engaging
39 internationally on species that don't respect
40 boundaries.

41
42 Birds from Alaska overwinter in every
43 single continent on Earth, and so we've got that
44 connection as well. We could spend a billion dollars
45 trying to protect birds in Alaska, but if they're going
46 somewhere else and dying, then they'll never come back
47 no matter what we do, so we've got to engage with these
48 folks.

49
50

1 So what is the CAFF doing on
2 subsistence, getting more sort of specific to this
3 Council and the work that you all do here. I mentioned
4 last time that we went through a whole process for
5 seven years, everything that we do in the CAFF working
6 group is strategic and based on years and years of sort
7 of trudging along, continuing along the chain of
8 saying, what do we know about the Arctic, about
9 species, about plants, about animals, about people;
10 what do we not know, and what do we need to know, and
11 then getting that information that we need to know for
12 decision makers, whether at the community level, the
13 State level, the national level, or the international
14 level.

15
16 The Arctic Bio-diversity Assessment has
17 17 recommendations in it. In 2013 the ministers of the
18 Arctic approved this and said those recommendations are
19 our recommendations, we call upon the working groups to
20 implement them. ABA recommendation 14, recognizing the
21 value of traditional ecological knowledge and work to
22 further integrate it into the assessment, planning and
23 management of Arctic bio-diversity. This includes
24 involving Arctic peoples and their knowledge in the
25 survey, monitoring and analysis of Arctic bio-
26 diversity. The United States takes this charge very
27 seriously. And as part of our CAFF Chairmanship has
28 made it a priority of the work that we're doing.

29
30 I think every one of the 17
31 recommendations, in one way or another, are important,
32 and germane to subsistence, to the people of Alaska and
33 to the United States, but this is just an example of
34 what some of the recommendations look like.

35
36 My last visit, as I said, I think your
37 input was important, we had some dancers, it was
38 fantastic, it was a beautiful day, you can't really see
39 from that picture, but it was -- for that time of the
40 year in October, I understand we were quite blessed
41 with some wonderful weather and I really enjoyed being
42 out there for that.

43
44 So what have we been up to since my
45 last visit with you all.

46
47 I also met with a number of other
48 Regional Advisory Council in Utqiagvik and elsewhere
49 and received their input. And I just wanted to give
50

1 you some examples of some of the work that we're doing.
2 The truth is that the Conservation of Arctic Flora and
3 Fauna Working Group, the Arctic Council and the United
4 States efforts are complex. There's a lot of different
5 projects, a lot of different activities going on, but I
6 just wanted to highlight a few of them that I thought
7 might be interesting to you. I think that also were
8 strongly influenced by your feedback to me at the last
9 meeting and I just wanted to followup and say I
10 appreciate your input and that we're taking it into
11 account in the work that we're doing.

12
13 The three examples that I'll talk about
14 are:

15
16 1. Monitoring bio-diversity on the
17 Arctic Coast.

18
19 2. The Arctic Youth Ambassadors
20 Program and the Youth Exchange Program that we've
21 developed.

22
23 3. A new project that we've just taken
24 on that the Fish and Wildlife Service has committed
25 funding to and that we're only initiating now, Salmon
26 People of Arctic Rivers.

27
28 Monitoring bio-diversity in the Arctic
29 Coast. So as part of the Arctic bio-diversity
30 assessment and in implementing the most important
31 program of the CAFF working group, it's called the
32 Circumpolar Bio-Diversity Monitoring Program. Through
33 that we have basically around 400 of the world's
34 leading experts on all things bio-diversity, I'm
35 talking about from microbes in the ocean all the way up
36 to bowhead whales, caribou, moose, everything in
37 between. We've got experts in all eight of the Arctic
38 countries, in universities, it's over 400 and we tap
39 them when we ask, what do we know, what do we not know,
40 and what do we need to know about the species, the
41 plants, the landscapes, the ecosystems of the Arctic.

42
43 Those are split up into four expert
44 groups.

45
46 Marine.

47
48 Fresh water.

49
50

1 Terrestrial.

2

3

Coastal.

4

5 The marine plan is done. It's been
6 implemented and we've gotten the first state of Arctic
7 marine bio-diversity report, that one was approved by
8 ministers in May.

9

10 We are just in the process now of
11 finalizing the terrestrial, State of Arctic terrestrial
12 environment and the State of Arctic freshwater
13 environment. Those will be delivered as part of the
14 conclusion of the US Chairmanship of the CAFF working
15 group in 2019.

16

17 And the last one that's being developed
18 is the coastal expert monitoring plan. This is the
19 first effort within the CAFF working group to do real
20 co-production of knowledge. What does that mean.
21 Well, what it means is that we have brought together
22 elders, indigenous knowledge holders with scientists in
23 the traditional sense, Western science in one room and
24 hashed out from the beginning what are indicators, what
25 is monitoring, and how should we do it.

26

27 So to give you an example of how that
28 might have influenced it, and I don't want to get ahead
29 of the plan, because it's not done yet, experts are
30 still working on it.

31

32 But just to give you a sense.

33

34 When we're talking about focal eco-
35 system components or indicators in the fresh water
36 environment, the things that you'll see are the kinds
37 of things that you might expect to see, right, the
38 health of the fish, how much does it weight, how many
39 are there, how many eggs are they laying. How the
40 coastal one will be different is that we're not looking
41 at necessarily an individual species, we might look at
42 a landscape and then the indicators that we were
43 looking at are different. So that one of the
44 indicators that could be included is the taste of a
45 salmon. How does a salmon taste. And that's something
46 that indigenous knowledge holders would be able to give
47 us and Western scientists wouldn't necessarily include
48 as something traditionally, to say what's the health of
49 salmon in the rivers. So this is a way that I think

50

1 it's been influenced and it will be interesting to see
2 that plan sort of be finalized and presented to
3 ministers in 2019.

4
5 The National Park Service and the
6 government of Canada are providing the leadership in
7 the development of this plan. They met in Anchorage
8 in, I guess it would have been about September last
9 year, with indigenous knowledge holders and scientists.
10 I joined them about a year before that in May out in
11 Ottawa. So there have been a series of workshops
12 getting experts together and then they've been meeting
13 since then and there's a writing team that's putting
14 that together.

15
16 Again, the goal is to develop this
17 monitoring plan which meaningful includes traditional
18 knowledge and the importance of subsistence from the
19 out set. So we're looking forward to getting that
20 plan. I think that's been influenced by some of the
21 input we've gotten from this Council and others.

22
23 The US Arctic Youth Ambassadors
24 Program, an aspiring Arctic voices through youth,
25 ultimately culminating in 2019 with an Arctic bio-
26 diversity congress and Arctic youth summit.

27
28 So I talked a little bit last time
29 about some of the youth efforts that we're doing as a
30 priority of the US Chairmanship. A program that was
31 started way back in 2015 and has recently continued is
32 this Arctic Youth Ambassadors Program. These are youth
33 from Alaska. When I say youth, I mean about under
34 graduate age, somewhere between 17 and 21 or so
35 typically. And we have a program that brings them
36 together to basically serve as ambassadors for their
37 community, to talk with others about what it means to
38 be from an Arctic region, what it means to be a youth
39 and why the Arctic matters to them, to their
40 communities and to the rest of the world. The
41 recruitment for the new cohort of the Arctic Youth
42 Ambassadors Program, which runs for a two year period
43 has been completed. We've selected 13 Arctic youth
44 ambassadors from Alaska that represent 12 different
45 communities. Noorvik, Marshall, Bethel, Shishmaref,
46 Unalaska, Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, a number of different
47 communities are represented, so is Anchorage and Juneau
48 by the youth that make up this amazing cohort of kids.
49 I call them kids, sorry, but my tendency, yeah.

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. CASTELLANOS: And so we gathered
4 for the first time in January in Anchorage, and brought
5 them together to learn to sort of understand what does
6 it mean now that they're an ambassador. What does it
7 mean. What are they going to do and how are they going
8 to do it. How can they serve as these sort of
9 emissaries, these representatives of their communities
10 and how can they help us in the Arctic Council and in
11 other venues of decision makers to make good decisions
12 that really take their input into account.

13
14 That's exciting.

15
16 Another effort that we're doing -- so
17 the Arctic Youth Ambassadors is a domestic US, Alaska
18 effort. Separately we also have an Arctic Youth
19 Exchange Program. This inspiring Arctic voices through
20 youth program.

21
22 What this one is doing is getting youth
23 from other Arctic countries and bringing them here to
24 Alaska so they can understand what does it mean when we
25 say the US Arctic region, what does it mean when we say
26 Alaska. What does it mean when we say the Arctic and
27 what's important to people here. We're also bringing
28 youth from Alaska and taking them out to other
29 countries to have them talk about what their community
30 is like, what their experiencing in terms of climate
31 change, what's important to them.

32
33 We had nine youth recently in October.
34 It was the first youth exchange. This included a
35 number, 5, from Alaska, one from the Russian
36 Federation, one from Norway, a youth from Singapore and
37 a youth from South Korea. We went out to Iceland, we
38 met with a whole number of different folks. Senator
39 Murkowski, the foreign minister from Iceland, the
40 foreign minister from South Korea, we went around the
41 country. We met with the government of Iceland. We
42 told them, here's why the youth voice matters, here's
43 what's important in Alaska. And it was just a great
44 event. It went across about two weeks. They had an
45 opportunity to share their story and come back and
46 bring that story to their communities. We're really
47 excited about this youth exchange program.

48
49 Really, what it is is just one or two
50

1 weeks where youth from other countries get to come here
2 and folks here get to go there. But what we don't want
3 -- we're not running a tourism program here, what we're
4 running is genuinely a development program, getting
5 youth and preparing them to take my job and the job of
6 other folks in government in decision making roles,
7 people from the community who really know what's going
8 on. And so we're really excited about that.

9
10 And we're building up towards self-
11 directed projects that the Arctic youth ambassadors
12 will be doing and those are -- they're identifying
13 those now.

14
15 One of the current Arctic youth
16 ambassadors is Evan Hopson, III, he's up in Utqiagvik
17 and he's really into film and video and photography so
18 he's working on a project on how he might produce a
19 documentary or something. We're there to help him
20 fulfill his vision to advance his story of what he sees
21 in the Arctic, what he thinks is important, as well as
22 all the other Arctic youth ambassadors.

23
24 We have a number of opportunities that
25 we've identified for engaging them. We've recently
26 sent two youth ambassadors to Norway for the Arctic
27 Frontiers Conference where they were able to share
28 their Alaskan stories.

29
30 We're looking for opportunities to host
31 youth here in Alaska. If you know of camps or other
32 events. Often what we find the best thing is that
33 there's already some kind of program where it would be
34 easy enough to include two or three youth from Finland,
35 from Norway, from somewhere else to come here and
36 experience, what does it mean to be -- and it could be
37 a one week program, it could be a two week program, and
38 we could figure out the logistics on how to make it
39 happen.

40
41 But like I said we're not running a
42 tourism program. We don't want to pat ourselves on the
43 back and feel like, okay, we've engaged youth for this
44 one week, everything's fantastic, life is wonderful
45 now. We're really building towards something that's
46 going to continue.

47
48 In October of 2018 the government of
49 Finland, as part of their current Chairmanship of the
50

1 Arctic Council will host the Arctic Bio-Diversity
2 Congress. This is the largest gathering of world
3 experts on Arctic bio-diversity and conservation and
4 science issues. And the government of Finland, world
5 wildlife fund Arctic programs and the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service have committed to doing an Arctic youth summit.
7 So we will bring together, I don't know, 50, 100 youth
8 from around the Arctic to develop their own
9 declaration, an Arctic youth declaration, about what
10 matters to them. That will be the youth summit, a
11 couple of days. Then we'll have an Arctic bio-
12 diversity congress, where all the scientists, experts,
13 industry representatives, Arctic indigenous community
14 representatives gather and discuss what the most
15 important issues in the Arctic and how can the Arctic
16 Council help address those. And then the last two days
17 is an Arctic environment ministerial where ministers
18 will gather -- youth from the summit will present
19 their declaration to the ministers directly and say,
20 here, we the youth of the Arctic believe this, and so
21 we'll have some representatives from Alaska, from the
22 US, who will be beholden to the other youth -- their
23 friends, their colleagues, their family in Alaska to
24 bring forth this united, sort of presentation, and more
25 importantly, a strategic plan.

26
27 So here's what we think's important and
28 here's what we're going to do about it. And that's
29 what we're looking for, is this kind of long-term
30 commitment to making sure that the communities are
31 represented, their interests are represented, they're
32 doing something, and we're facilitated their action and
33 their voice.

34
35 Salmon People of Arctic Rivers. The
36 third project I thought I'd talk a little bit about, we
37 have just announced and the international steering
38 committee has just met for the first time last week.
39 That we are going to create a framework for salmon co-
40 production of knowledge.

41
42 So this is the first project ever that
43 has been put forward to the Council by all six of the
44 permanent participants, the Arctic indigenous community
45 representatives. They have come together and said,
46 we've done a ton of assessments. This was an
47 assessment. There's many other assessments that have
48 been done. But no assessment has ever been done that
49 was done entirely by Arctic indigenous communities. So
50

1 what they're going to do is they're going to develop an
2 assessment of salmon people's based on traditional
3 knowledge. What does that mean. I'm not quite clear
4 yet. But I'm telling you that it's going to be led by
5 the Arctic indigenous community representatives. We're
6 going to bring together elders, traditional knowledge
7 holders, other experts from the community and they're
8 going to say, if we were to do an assessment of salmon
9 in rivers how would we do it from an indigenous
10 knowledge perspective, from a traditional knowledge
11 perspective, and it's going to start from the very
12 beginning. It's not going to be here's a strategy, a
13 scientific strategy and let's bring people together
14 that, you know, after the fact, it's going to be before
15 we even start, what are the things that we need to do
16 in order to do this the right way.

17

18 The project aims to organize
19 information about fresh water ecosystems that
20 recognizes that these are salmon people's cultures
21 who's identities are bound to and responsible for
22 salmon.

23

24 It's a -- it's different.

25

26 It's not been done before in the Arctic
27 Council.

28

29 We've been stepping our way there.
30 We're really excited about what this project might look
31 like.

32

33 For Phase I. We're planning to do a
34 workshop in Fairbanks, probably as soon as May. We
35 want to bring together, as I said, elders,
36 representatives of Arctic indigenous communities salmon
37 people, to come there and say, what stories are
38 important about salmon. How do you relate to salmon.
39 If there were to be an assessment of salmon and salmon
40 rivers, how would we do it, what would be important.
41 We'll engage partners to implement the work. We'll
42 finish a review of existing scientific and TEK
43 literature to look at discussion points.

44

45 And that's Phase I. We've committed
46 the funding to make that happen.

47

48 So I know I've only got a few minutes
49 and I want to make sure you guys have the chance to put
50

1 forward any questions you may have.

2

3 Just to summarize.

4

5 The US is actively engaged in a number
6 of activities that advance US and Alaska interests.
7 It's part of our Chairmanship of the CAFF working
8 group. It's part of our purpose and responsibility in
9 engaging in the Arctic Council.

10

11 I want to thank all of you for your
12 helpful input last time. This is a status update.
13 We're working towards the US Chairmanship conclusion of
14 the CAFF working group in May 2019, so this is kind of
15 a mid-way check in with you to let you know that I
16 heard what you guys were saying about the importance of
17 youth, about the importance of TEK and these kinds of
18 issues on subsistence and we're taking those into
19 account in the work that we're doing. I hope you'll
20 see in just the few examples I was able to provide.

21

22 And I'll welcome any other comments or
23 input that you all may have.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
28 very much Gilbert.

29

30 Okay, I'll open the floor for questions
31 or comments.

32

33 Would anybody care to.

34

35 Go ahead, Mr. Trefon.

36

37 MR. TREFON: It's nothing really
38 important. I was looking at the agenda here. I didn't
39 hear you mention flower, berries, trees or anything,
40 but on your agenda here it says conservation of Arctic
41 flora and fauna, just curious.

42

43 MR. CASTELLANOS: Through the Chair.
44 Thank you, Mr. Trefon. I appreciate that.

45

46 As I said there are a number of
47 different projects that we're working on. There's a
48 group, an expert group -- as I mentioned there's a
49 number of different experts engaged in this work,
50

1 they're called the CAFF Flora group, their expertise is
2 pretty amazing.

3
4 I'll say one thing, which I've heard
5 from, our flora experts, is that there's fewer and
6 fewer of them, and that people who really know Arctic
7 flora are less, let's say, than people who know let's
8 say moose or caribou or salmon but we do our best to
9 try to bring them in and those are certainly important
10 traditional resources as well just a part of the
11 landscape that are essential to the bigger species,
12 right, without your lichens, without your mosses,
13 without your small plants, you don't get to have
14 caribou or moose or some of the other species that are
15 important to us.

16
17 So we definitely recognize that there's
18 a number of different mapping projects that we're doing
19 to figure out where the flora is changing. If it was a
20 result of climate change.

21
22 There's a lot of work going on but I
23 wanted to kind of try to focus on subsistence but I'll
24 take that note, important to not forget our plants.

25
26 MR. TREFON: It was just on our agenda
27 as flora and fauna, that's why I brought it up.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

32
33 MR. MAINES: Thanks for your
34 presentation too. It's nice to see that the Arctic
35 Council is interested in taking a look at salmon
36 people. And here you are, you're sitting in a region
37 that salmon people exist still to this day. And
38 without jeopardizing what we have and where we come
39 from, I was just wondering why are the Arctic Council
40 moving into Fairbanks to learn about salmon people when
41 there have been many of studies, as you said, that have
42 gone on and it's not only in Alaska but it's across the
43 nation dealing with indigenous people and salmon are
44 the livelihood of those folks.

45
46 I was just kind of surprised or taken
47 back that the salmon people weren't included with that
48 presentation. Because as I see it, I don't see that
49 happening because as I said there's been -- there's
50

1 numerous studies and the latest one I saw is that 50
2 percent of the world's demand for salmon come from
3 right here in Bristol Bay, and there's plenty of songs
4 and plenty of stories and plenty of pictures to
5 illustrate that.

6
7 And you guys are going to be meeting
8 down in Unalaska here shortly, and what group is going
9 to be down there.

10
11 MR. CASTELLANOS: Through the Chair.
12 Thank you, Mr. Maines for those points, they're
13 excellent. A couple of things that I'll mention.

14
15 One is that starting in reverse order,
16 the meeting that will happen in Unalaska is a meeting
17 of our expert working group, the Conservation of Arctic
18 Flora and Fauna Working Group, working closely with the
19 Aleut International Association, Qawalangin Tribe, a
20 number of other groups to have our meeting there. What
21 we've done, as part of our Chairmanship has said
22 there's four representatives of Arctic indigenous
23 communities in the Arctic Council who represent Alaska,
24 and so we've been -- we will have four meetings over
25 the course of those two years, and so we're working
26 individually with each one to try to figure out where
27 to have our meeting.

28
29 Our first meeting was in Bethel,
30 Alaska. That was working closely with the Inuit
31 Circumpolar Council. One thing that I heard from, is
32 it Mary, who's normally the Chair, the last time she
33 was surprised.....

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Molly.

36
37 MR. CASTELLANOS: Molly, sorry.

38
39 She was surprised that the Inuit
40 Circumpolar Council was supposed to represent this
41 region as well, and so we worked with them and said we
42 really want to have a meeting somewhere that showcases
43 all of the US Arctic region, no Arctic Council meeting
44 had ever been held in the YK region, it had never been
45 held in Bethel, that was the first meeting ever held in
46 Bethel of the Arctic Council and so we were excited to
47 be there and to do that and to bring these
48 representatives from Finland, from Sweden, from the
49 Russian Federation, from China, from a number of
50

1 different places into Bethel and so that was exciting.

2

3 And the next one that we're having is
4 going to be in Unalaska, we're really looking forward
5 to that one.

6

7 The first point you made is also a very
8 good one, and it's one that we often struggle with,
9 it's to say, you know, why are we meeting, wherever,
10 when there's so many other issues, or the people that
11 you're trying to reach aren't over there, they're over
12 here, and I didn't mention earlier, but when I say
13 salmon people's of Arctic rivers, since this is an
14 Arctic Council product, it's not just salmon people of
15 the US or of Alaska, the goal here is to bring together
16 the Saami people, there are some Saami people from
17 Norway and Finland who rely on salmon. We're going to
18 bring traditional knowledge holders, indigenous
19 knowledge holders, elders and experts from there, we're
20 going to bring together Russian experts and we're going
21 to bring together Alaska experts and most of the
22 funding that we've provided is going to be for travel,
23 to bring experts, and Fairbanks just ended up being a
24 more cost effective way to get the greatest number of
25 participants who really know into one place. Because
26 getting experts from Norway and everywhere else to
27 Naknek or Dillingham, though we wish we could, just
28 starts getting more and more expensive, and so it's
29 really just, how do we get the greatest number of
30 representatives and that means often trying to find a
31 central place like Fairbanks.

32

33 But I hope you'll appreciate that we're
34 doing the best that we can to try to make sure that our
35 meetings are representative of the US and the Arctic
36 region in Alaska and that's something we're going to
37 continue to do over the course of our Chairmanship.

38

39 MR. MAINES: I don't want to sound
40 condescending, it's just that the US is always happy to
41 include Alaska when it's to their benefit and the
42 Arctic Council is no different, since Alaska is part of
43 the US and the only state in the US that's in the
44 Arctic.

45

46 I just, at times, have concerns when
47 we're looking at the Arctic, we do have our State map
48 and it shows a nice little guideline saying Arctic
49 Circle and then if you look at that and find out where
50

1 Unalaska is, and that's -- incorporated in the Arctic
2 Council, it just floors me, you know, but politics are
3 politics and as long as we're in the forefront with the
4 Arctic, and what's going on in the Arctic, I will be
5 100 percent behind it.

6
7 It's just that I don't like to be
8 thought of second, or at the end like the US tends to
9 do that with us, but they don't have a problem when
10 it's to their benefit. And I'll say that without being
11 rash or crash or rude or crude, it's just that it's
12 nice to finally be in the limelight per se, when it
13 comes to issues of concern worldwide.

14
15 So thanks for the work that you're
16 doing.

17
18 I was invited to Unalaska for this
19 meeting but I don't think I'm going to be able to make
20 it down that way. But I really appreciate the work
21 that the Arctic Council is doing on behalf of all of
22 us, so thanks.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anyone else.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I, too,
29 appreciate the works you guys are doing. I do feel like
30 our causes were heard and action was taken so I
31 appreciate that.

32
33 MR. CASTELLANOS: Thank you very much.
34 I hope that as we get towards the conclusion of our
35 Chairmanship, I'll be able to come back and address you
36 and update you on what we've done and where we are and
37 maybe even encourage some continued engagement from
38 this group and the communities in moving forward.

39
40 But, thank you, once, again, for the
41 opportunity to present. I appreciate it.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
44 you, Gilbert. I think I can speak for the Board and
45 say that we will always find room for you on our
46 agenda, so, please keep us in mind.

47
48 Okay.

49
50

1 With that being said, let's move on now
2 to National Park Service. Lake Clark is first on the
3 agenda.
4

5
6 (No comments)
7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Nobody on
9 line either. Okay, so then let's go ahead and move on
10 to Katmai.
11

12 MS. CHISHOLM: Madame Chair and Council
13 members. Thank you. My name is Linda Chisholm and I
14 will be reporting on the Aniakchak SRC and I have one
15 item from Katmai National Park to share with you as
16 well.
17

18 The SRC met yesterday in King Salmon.
19 And, although we had no formal actions taken, we had a
20 very nice discussion about animal composition in the 9E
21 and 9C units, mostly caribou and moose, and I would
22 just like to take a moment to thank our SRC members.
23 Mr. Ronald Lind is sitting with us today and he has
24 served as Chair. Our SRC folks come from a couple of
25 different villages and it's often difficult for us to
26 provide transportation, considering weather and the
27 logistics, but we have been able to hold a quorum
28 several times over the last few years and everyone has
29 been very dedicated to the point where they will
30 actually call in from their vacations to participate in
31 our meetings. So we've been very fortunate to have
32 such dedicated and knowledgeable members on our SRC.
33

34 Our Superintendent Mark Sturm is at
35 training this week, and he apologizes that he's not
36 able to attend in person. But he did want to share
37 with the Council that Katmai continues to work on
38 restoration plans out at Brooks Camp on the unplanned
39 road. We have additional meetings and site visits that
40 are in the works for later this spring. And we're
41 hoping to begin restoration work later this summer on
42 the road.
43

44 And that is the update that I have.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay,
47 not a problem, Linda, we appreciate the brevity as
48 well.
49

50

1 Questions.

2

3 Yes, Richard.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.

6 Thanks, Linda. Yeah, the restoration project, we had a
7 chance to sit with Mark Sturm in one of our village
8 corporation meetings, he came there, because we're a
9 land holder, you know, adjacent to the Park there, and
10 we also are some of the indigenous people, you know,
11 from the area. So he came to us after a long -- been
12 trying to schedule it in, his schedule and ours and
13 stuff, and so we got together and kind of came up with
14 some preliminary ideas on what that -- you know, what
15 our people were kind of looking at on doing with that
16 restoration, understanding that there was -- you know,
17 there was five old sites in the area that are known and
18 two of them, I guess, this road -- unplanned road had
19 gone over two of them, and so, you know, we've been
20 trying to figure out all along here, since last year or
21 so, what to do with all this.

22

23 So it was a -- the idea that we threw
24 out there as Podvik was that maybe this area, since
25 it's up on the Brooks Lake side of the Park would be to
26 create this site -- this site originally didn't have
27 any visiting type atmosphere going into it, it was just
28 known sites, but now that they have this road going
29 through it, they want to bring back the road, which is
30 kind of a given, so it's not a road traffic thing, but
31 possibly it could turn into a trail, and in doing that,
32 we suggested that perhaps the area could be converted
33 or turned into some sort of a mini-village or something
34 that showed what our ancestors did and what it looked
35 like, so kind of a walk-through kind of a thing that
36 nothing like that's been done before, up there, but
37 since it's already disturbed, we thought, well, here's
38 an idea. You know, instead of doing nothing, do
39 something that's beneficial to the site.

40

41 And that's some of the ideas that we
42 had there for that one.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
47 for that, Richard. Any other questions or comments.

48

49 Dan.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Is this the right time to
2 ask you Park Service progress on the Pike Ridge
3 boundary efforts.

4
5 MS. CHISHOLM: I'm going to turn around
6 and see if Troy is behind me.

7
8 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. Members of
9 the Council. There's nothing wrong with asking us for
10 progress on things that you've asked us on before and
11 that we've been working on, in part, on behalf of your
12 constituents.

13
14 The -- Pike Ridge is a very small area
15 with a whole lot of options, sometimes the options were
16 complicated, we've talked to you folks about kind of,
17 how we would like to solve the problem. Right now we
18 are still trying to wrap up the final details before we
19 send out a draft for public comment.

20
21 At this point, one of the things that
22 agency has become more interested in pursuing is
23 something that we were told we couldn't pursue. It
24 turns out that it just depends who in the agency you
25 ask so we kept asking others.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. HAMON: Just a quick, a very short
30 recap.

31
32 We're trying to make sure that a
33 section of what became our north -- or our very western
34 boundary, but kind of the northwest corner of that Pike
35 Ridge zone is still accessible by people who have been
36 using it to travel to primarily probably moose and
37 caribou hunting for a long time, and we looked at
38 whether there were ways to authorize the use of the
39 trail in the Park. Whether there were ways to make
40 that so the land wasn't ours, where it was occurring;
41 whether we could get a little assistance from the
42 friendly, United States Congress, to add some language
43 that would authorize it's use in the manner in which it
44 had traditionally been used. That seemed to us, like,
45 what made the most sense on the face of it, but whether
46 or not they would do that, is something the Regional
47 Director has become very concerned about, and what
48 might end up happening if we throw it in their lap.

49
50

1 And the other thing that we thought
2 about was redrawing the boundary of the Preserve so
3 that this section that encompasses Pike Ridge becomes
4 Preserve and not Park.

5
6 And it's lawyer-ize, as far as the
7 details. But the bottom line is there were some that
8 thought that we had to do certain things that we
9 couldn't with that boundary in order to be able to do
10 that, and other people said, they didn't think that was
11 necessary, So the Agency at this point expects to
12 pursue a small Preserved designation as a boundary
13 adjustment to Katmai Preserve.

14
15 But we're still putting the details in
16 the document so we don't have it to hand out, but
17 that's where we think we are.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, well, thank you.
22 The biggest thing is that we're still forging forward
23 and it sounds like you have found some possible
24 solutions to a long term problem and I'm excited to
25 hear that. I know there's times and other issues, other
26 agencies where stuff just stalls and they kind of hope
27 we quit asking. But I'm really -- I remember Diane
28 committed she was going to find a way to fix it and it
29 sounds like it's moving forward so I really thank you
30 for that.

31
32 MR. HAMON: Well, and I appreciate you
33 guys continuing to ask. Because the reality is it's a
34 big enough issue for our local folks that it's been a
35 30, 40 year issue. It's a small enough issue that it
36 falls off the table when we get new managers, if we're
37 not careful. And this time we kept it on the table, we
38 have enough momentum going, I think it's going to get
39 done, and I think that's the manner in which it's going
40 to get done based on our current guidance.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

45
46 MR. WILSON: Just a little comment
47 there. We also had picked that one up on our meeting
48 with Mr. Sturm there, and it looks like the boundary
49 adjustment, if we went with that program, could be
50

1 adjusted back to the last time the government
2 readjusted their lines and encompassed that portion.

3
4 There's a piece of that in there, where
5 we can actually -- with 19,000-some odd acres, it could
6 get adjusted back to that point and be part of the
7 Preserve instead of the sort of the Park.

8
9 MR. HAMON: And since I missed part of
10 your presentation, are you covered.

11
12 MS. CHISHOLM: Yes.

13
14 MR. HAMON: I wanted to let the Chair
15 know as well, that I did finally -- I apologize for
16 being out of the room, I was finally able to contact
17 Dan Young from Lake Clark so when you're interested I
18 have an update on the fisheries jurisdiction, boundary
19 issue that we discussed earlier.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
22 Now, is the perfect time, please go ahead.

23
24 MR. HAMON: Okay. So this relates back
25 to discussion that happened under 10A, I think,
26 discussion of fisheries proposals.

27
28 I spoke with Dan Young, Dan's the
29 fisheries biologist at Lake Clark and he's very
30 familiar with Sixmile Lake issues, specifically, which
31 I knew he would be. As we discussed, for most of our
32 Park management, we don't consider something outside of
33 our boundary. Also as we discussed, in the subsistence
34 regulation environment, the waters that border our
35 units become part of the area that we consider as
36 Federal subsistence waters. And the reason for that
37 are multiple, but it includes the fact that that's the
38 exact nature of the water way where the Katie John
39 Decision was affirmed. Those are mostly rivers, not
40 lakes, so I don't know that there's been a legal test
41 of this.

42
43 And, so, two things that we wanted to
44 pass on.

45
46 One, in discussion with Dan, both of
47 us, based on the way it's been handled and discussed,
48 feel like Sixmile Lake proper is probably legal for
49 Federal subsistence activities. However, there's a
50

1 difference between us thinking that and us recommending
2 that you do something that's going to get you in
3 trouble with the Troopers. So, rather than take my
4 word for it, he and I both agreed, we'd be talking to a
5 solicitor and we would actually be calling OSM for
6 advice on that before we were to tell you. So I'm sure
7 Carl's excited that we're throwing that at him.

8
9 The other part of that, though, is
10 that, hearing the discussion here and in conversation
11 with Dan, a lot of the area of concern is fish camp,
12 and fish camp is slightly down stream of the end of the
13 boundary. And so now we're stretching what we would
14 call adjacent a little bit to be adjacent and down
15 stream. And, again, if you're 50 feet away, this is
16 maybe adjacent, if you're 50 yards, at some point it's
17 not reasonable to call it down stream water and
18 adjacent water, it's not the same definition. So,
19 again, depending on the specific location it might be,
20 not enough Sixmile Lake, it might be too much Newhalen
21 River. So that's something to consider.

22
23 The short version is, I didn't find an
24 answer that I would trust, if I were you, but we think
25 Sixmile Lake is probably Federal subsistence
26 authorized. We would want to talk with OSM before we
27 made you feel like that was a safe assumption if you're
28 having some concern about whether the State will view
29 that interpretation favorably. And as you go down
30 stream, we would get less and less comfortable with
31 people expecting that to be the answer.

32
33 So to the extent that you're trying to
34 align Federal and State options, certainly the State
35 regs would take care of some of this. The State's not
36 often been very fond of hook and line as a subsistence
37 discussion. I've seen some of those debates. So if
38 you're not successful with the State, the options on
39 the Federal side are probably not as broad, but they
40 might be a little bit of available waters.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
43 Questions or comments for Troy.

44
45 Go ahead, Mr. Trefon.

46
47 MR. TREFON: Yeah, a discussion about
48 Sixmile Lake and Federal waters, that's been discussed
49 several times over the past. And the Feds actually do
50

1 patrol Sixmile, it's the river.

2

3 MR. HAMON: Yeah.

4

5 MR. TREFON: Because it's right there
6 at the mouth of the boundary, State and Feds. It's not
7 exactly adjacent, other than the fish camp on the south
8 side.

9

10 MR. HAMON: Right.

11

12 MR. TREFON: So that's the issue of
13 coming up with the terminology, what is State and what
14 is Feds.

15

16 MR. HAMON: And I'll tell you that in
17 the case of a lot of the waters that we deal with, it's
18 often both so.

19

20 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that is why the
21 discussion of the rod and reel came up, because of the
22 State Troopers coming into our subsistence fish camps.

23

24 MR. HAMON: I am pretty familiar with
25 the parts that we've just talked about, I'm not at all
26 familiar with the Trooper activities and the
27 experiences that you've had up there.

28

29 I did get from Dan that he followed a
30 discussion, I think, that was included at the Board of
31 Fish, but I'm not sure, but it included the regulatory
32 side of the State and, more or less, the end result of
33 that discussion was that the activities that were a
34 concern at the outlet of the Sixmile Lake where people
35 were concerned they were going to get tickets were not
36 the kind of things that the Troopers said they would
37 ever actually prosecute a ticket for.

38

39 But that's not necessarily comforting
40 when you're on the ground with a different Trooper who
41 says otherwise. But that's -- the higher ups in the
42 Troopers made that statement in a venue where Dan was
43 present, so that was his feeling about it.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
46 Other questions or comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
2 thanks, guys, appreciate the information.

3
4 Okay, two more.

5
6 You're a little too tanned for me,
7 Dave, but it's your turn.

8
9 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Good afternoon. Members of the Council. Yes, I just
11 returned from Mexico. Trying to get back in the
12 saddle.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. Yep.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. CROWLEY: With your approval,
19 Madame Chair, my intention is to very quickly go
20 through the recent Board of Game decisions and discuss
21 the population status relating to these proposals and
22 then just take any questions from there.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would
25 totally excellent, thank you.

26
27 MR. CROWLEY: Okay. Thank you. I'm
28 going to start with proposal -- I'll start with putting
29 my glasses on, Proposal 125, which was to shift the
30 season for the Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 9E, and
31 that was amended, based on our amendment to keep the
32 opening date of August 10, extend the season to October
33 10, leave it to the locals on the ground to decide
34 whether or not they want to actually harvest a bull in
35 October, the bag limit is a caribou.

36
37 So that option is there.

38
39 And that was to allow people that live
40 on the Bering Sea Coast the possibility of harvesting a
41 caribou early -- in that early season. The season
42 closes and reopens in the winter. The caribou have not
43 been showing up on the coast until, you know, just
44 before the close of that fall season. So that was the
45 intention. The Board did adopt that along with the
46 amendment.

47
48 And that's the NAP Caribou Herd, of
49 course, Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd. That
50

1 herd is increasing, slowly but steadily. Our last
2 survey, we had 24 calves per 100 cows, which is kind of
3 right on the edge. We like to see it a little higher
4 than that. On the other hand our bull to cow ratio was
5 70 bulls per 100 cows. That's quite high. That's
6 higher than it should be. So our survey conditions
7 were lots of low clouds in the mountains, we couldn't
8 get into the mountains, we were missing collared cows
9 that were in the mountains, so we believe that the
10 calf/cow ratio is biased low, the bull/cow ratio is
11 biased high, and we intend to hopefully correct that in
12 our next survey.

13

14 But otherwise, you know, the status of
15 the NAP is slowly but steadily increasing.

16

17 I did increase the number of permits
18 for the Tier II hunt from 200 to 300 this year and that
19 was because our harvest has been, I think the first
20 year of the Tier II hunt, it was around 40, and last
21 year was 82. We have a harvest quota of 150 animals in
22 that, so I increased the number of permits to 300 just --
23 almost everybody who applied drew a permit. There's a
24 little bit of controversy there. In State Tier II
25 hunts, these are not limited -- they're subsistence
26 hunts, but they're not limited to local subsistence
27 users like the Federal subsistence hunts are. If a
28 person has a demonstrated history of hunting the NAP
29 and they no longer live here, say they live in
30 Anchorage or somewhere else in the state and they
31 answer that question, number 1, you know, we've been
32 hunting the NAP for 20 years and then it closed so we
33 would have continued hunting it, well, they score high
34 on that so that's why we saw non-local resident Alaskan
35 hunters draw approximately 35 of them. And there was
36 one person who had their contact info in Duluth,
37 Minnesota, that person was originally from Naknek, you
38 know, the Troopers are investigating that. This might
39 be someone who's in school, we don't know.

40

41 The hunt was under subscribed, 289
42 permits, I believe, were issued. We had 300 available.

43

44

45 Some people were declined that were
46 obviously qualified and generally that's because of an
47 error on the application. If you forget to put your
48 zip code down, the computer's going to throw your
49 application out, most likely. So there is a few errors
50

1 like that.

2

3

So with that I will move on.

4

5

6

I'll skip, 126 was -- which was the
Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd.

7

8

Proposal 127 was to combine the caribou
9 hunt RC504, which is that little sliver north of Naknek
10 that was opened -- it was kind of an opened as
11 available, or may be -- I forget the wording -- may be
12 opened. That was combined with RC503, which is the
13 main Mulchatna Caribou hunt with a season of August 1
14 through March 31st.

15

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Proposal 129 was to lengthen the
resident hunting season for moose in Unit 9B by five
days. The Board supported that proposal. The moose
population in Unit 9B and 9C, we got a composition
count in there two falls ago, good bull to cow ratio, I
think it was 36 bulls per 100 cows. Decent calf/cow
ratio, about 25 calves per 100. We'd like to see that
a little higher but it was actually the highest it had
been in quite awhile. Local hunter harvest has been on
the increase in Unit 9B and we recognize that we could
take a few more bulls in that area without any
biological concern. And like I said, the Board did
adopt that. So now the season in Unit 9B and 9C are
aligned, and they both close on September 20th.

Proposal 130 was kind of an odd one.
It was to allow hunters to -- in Unit 9B to register on
line. This actually wasn't a regulation so the Board
didn't really have any authority over it -- that was a
condition of the permit that the Department of Fish and
Game put on, but we did go to the Board. We discussed
this with our Advisory Committees, we went to the Board
to get their recommendation, and they also supported on
line registration agreeing with our Advisory Committees
and the Department. So that hunt in Unit 9B will be
available on line and we're going to be monitoring the
local harvest to see if there's a change in that or if
there is a dramatic increase in non-local harvest,
which I really don't think will be the case.

Proposals 131 through 133 were related
to bear hunting. The first two would have increased
opportunity for resident hunters. Ultimately the Board
took off -- based on concerns of the Department for a

1 declining bear harvest and potential overharvest of the
2 bears in Unit 9, the Department shortened each of the
3 fall and spring seasons by one week, so delayed the
4 start. So the season for fall -- and it's still every
5 other year, season for fall, October 7 to 21. Season
6 for spring, May 10 to 25. And these seasons were in
7 use historically for many years in Unit 9. So there's
8 nothing surprising there. They went in place in the
9 '70s, they were in use in the '80s and part of the
10 '90s. So we went back to what historically worked for
11 Unit 9 bears.

12

13 We had two small game proposals.

14

15 The first one was put in by the Lake
16 Illiamna AC, and that was to shorten the season for
17 ptarmigan and reduce the bag limit in Unit 9. The
18 Board of Game supported that with an amendment to end
19 the season on the last day of February. So the season
20 was shortened from August 1 to February 28th, or the
21 last day of February, and that is to protect the birds
22 late in the winter and early in the spring and on the
23 breeding grounds where the research in Alaska, not
24 here, but elsewhere in Alaska and in Europe, indicates
25 that if you're harvesting ptarmigan late in the winter
26 and into the spring it's additive mortality. You're
27 taking adults that have survived the winter, survived
28 that fall hunt, and it's additive mortality. And
29 certainly we have a lot of refugia for ptarmigan on the
30 Peninsula, most ptarmigan never see a person on the
31 Alaska Peninsula, but this is geared more towards
32 helping the ptarmigan recover around populated areas.
33 You know, places where people like to get out and hunt.
34 We're going to back off on the season, we're going to
35 back off on the bag limit and allow the ptarmigan to
36 recover when the conditions allow it.

37

38 And finally the last proposal, 135, was
39 to close the season for Alaska hares in Unit 9. That
40 was a Department proposal. We amended our own proposal
41 to allow a short season, which is November 1 through
42 January 31st and have a bag limit of one per day and
43 four total for the year. And the Board of Game
44 supported that proposal, and they also added a
45 requirement that the meat and hide be salvaged for
46 human use. And they also determined C&T, customary and
47 traditional use for both ptarmigan and hares in Unit 9.

48

49 And that's what I've got so far.

50

1 If there's any questions, Madame Chair.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

7 Dave, thanks. Tan looks good.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. WILSON: While you were gone, you
12 know, your office had gotten quite a few calls on the
13 Tier II hunt of the NAP herd. And the amount of
14 applications that you had increased, and so -- because
15 I sit on the AC we were getting calls in about why so
16 many outside, outside being out of this area, Alaska
17 residents got, you know, permits, and they were afraid
18 that, quote, you know, the only thing they're
19 interested in is coming in here to do antler hunts.
20 And so there was some concern there. And over the
21 course of a few days there we had kind of narrowed it
22 down believing that if we had more education out here,
23 more opportunities for people to know about the
24 deadlines on the registering for the hunt and getting
25 more word out, that those numbers outside of the area
26 will probably decrease and the permits would probably
27 stay more locally here.

28

29 It was kind of one of those deals
30 where, you know, we felt you guys had increased the
31 amount of applicants, and your intentions were to get
32 more locals to apply because you didn't think enough
33 applied, when actually the reverse happened. More --
34 all the locals wanted to apply probably did and the
35 permits went to non-area residents. And so in some of
36 that discussion we were hoping that perhaps that number
37 could come back down a bit, if necessary for the
38 permits, and more education out in these communities,
39 trying to better understand what the deadlines are and
40 making sure that even if you're not -- you know, for
41 those people that are concerned about it, even if you
42 don't really intend to get out there and harvest all
43 the time, if you got a permit, it would keep other
44 people out, kind of attitude.

45

46 So that was some of our thoughts that
47 we came up with, what do you think there, Dave.

48

49 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

50

1 Madame Chair. Yeah, we have been discussing that, and
2 it's kind of a difficult situation. Because we, you
3 know, the Department, we already put out the public
4 notices, it goes out on the radio station, we try to
5 post these deadlines everywhere and this is all across
6 this state. You know, the only thing I can think of
7 that we might do additionally, and this is especially
8 in the more remote villages is maybe a postcard, you
9 know, to each box holder. We currently don't do that.

10

11 We've done it for -- you know we might
12 have even done it when the season first reopened after
13 being closed for 10 years. We try to send each box
14 holder a postcard that says, this is a new hunt, these
15 are the seasons and bag limits and this is when you
16 need to register or apply for a drawing hunt.

17

18 That's something that we can consider.

19

20 I mean it's really the only other
21 option that I can think of that, you know, come maybe
22 October, you know the drawing period is basically
23 November and into December, come October send a
24 postcard out to every box holder in Unit 9, you know,
25 just stating here comes the drawing hunt application
26 period again, don't forget.

27

28 MR. WILSON: I forgot what the
29 reasoning was behind your deadline dates. Why are
30 those dates so significant?

31

32 MR. CROWLEY: The Tier II drawing hunts
33 are tied in with the whole statewide drawing permit
34 system. So they're basically all programmed into your
35 super computer in Anchorage, or whatever it is, that
36 does this drawing, so it's tied in with all the other
37 drawing hunts in the state.

38

39 MR. WILSON: One last thing, Madame
40 Chair.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, please,
43 go ahead, Richard.

44

45 MR. WILSON: On that first proposal,
46 the changes in the dates in 9E, did that also include
47 part of 9C, that same herd there, was 9C included in
48 that date change?

49

50

1 MR. CROWLEY: No, Mr. Wilson, it was
2 just 9E. 9E wide. Originally that was proposed for
3 just the drainages, oh, I forget it was Dago Creek to
4 another river down there, Ugashik, I guess it was, it
5 was specific to those drainages and to the people in
6 Pilot Point and Egegik, and what the Department did
7 was, say, we don't want to limit it to that, let's go
8 all of Unit 9E, since we did not have a biological
9 concern with the harvest down there.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody
12 else.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: I just have a quick
15 question.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
18 Dan.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Were you intending to
21 discuss Unit 17 stuff at all or not?
22

23 MR. CROWLEY: Mr. Dunaway. Madame
24 Chair. No, however, I have my assistant Chris Peterson
25 here who also works out of the Dillingham office and
26 she could probably answer questions about Unit 17 much
27 better than I could.
28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I had an email
30 from Neil, and I was going to read it for the group if
31 nobody was here to cover it but I'd much rather have
32 folks actually doing the work talk about it.
33

34 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair. Members
35 of the committee. I'm Chris Peterson. I'm the
36 assistant area biologist here in Unit 9 and 10, as well
37 as up in 17.
38

39 I wouldn't mind hearing what Neil's
40 email says, but he did call this morning and wanted me,
41 basically, if you have questions, I can run through
42 those with you. But the main topic that we were
43 interested in was west of the Weary River and moose.
44

45 The -- and I'm -- and this was with
46 short preparation so I don't have the actual surveys
47 and all with me. But this past year in 17, we did
48 conduct a survey. In most of 17C we had very low
49 bull/cow ratios and very, very low calf/cow ratios. It
50

1 was very concerning. We did -- one pilot and I, toward
2 the end of the survey went over basically from the lake
3 -- from Wood River west and as we -- the further west
4 we got we did encounter more calves than anywhere else
5 in the entire unit and it was a much higher calf/cow
6 ratio over towards the Weary River. And that kind of
7 buffered the rest of the unit, calf/cow ratio. It --
8 to the point where it had us wondering and we just
9 don't have enough information yet, but it's a
10 possibility that that area over in the Weary is
11 actually kind of a calf -- a very high calving ground
12 for moose, which makes it pretty important in our
13 management.

14

15 But we do -- we acknowledge that it is
16 higher, and we just need more information.

17

18 And based on that and the other numbers
19 that we were able to gather we would really like to
20 avoid having any increases in harvest or in-season or
21 anything over there until we have an opportunity to get
22 out and get more information.

23

24 So we did have a project going all this
25 past year. We put out collars on -- telemetry collars
26 on moose cows and we monitored those through the year
27 starting in May for parturition and twinning. We
28 actually had pretty good twinning rates. Health of the
29 animals, it is an indirect indicator, but when we look
30 at them and capture them we do assess them on body
31 condition, everything looked -- they looked very
32 healthy. Parturition, pregnancy rate is pretty good.
33 I don't believe it was as high as in 9, but it was very
34 good. We had very good production of calves. I believe
35 the twinning rate was up around 40-some percent. And
36 then as days went by -- we monitor them for at least
37 the first two weeks and then pretty much go to six
38 weeks and then monthly if possible, and the mortality
39 began, and we had an extremely low calf survival.
40 Really low. Which is very concerning. Also we were
41 not seeing very many yearlings.

42

43 It is our -- we postulate about what,
44 you know, could be the basis for these things and one
45 possibility is that we just were very lucky at the
46 beginning of this project in that we initiated the
47 project at a time when there was an increase in
48 predators and so an increase in mortality of calves.
49 And we just need more time to continue studying that.

50

1 So we will be putting out more collars here in a couple
2 weeks, first -- or early April, and we are conducting
3 another survey next week -- well, we're trying to move
4 it up and do it here in a couple days -- a GSPE of 17C
5 so we can get better numbers there and start putting
6 together a better picture of what's going on there.

7
8 I -- we know that there's been some
9 requests on the Federal side for some, you know,
10 increase harvest of moose over in that area and at this
11 time we just are asking that maybe that could be held
12 off and we can continue collecting data and see what we
13 can find.

14
15 And that's the main thing that I know
16 of that Neil wanted to go over but if there's any
17 questions or if you -- from his email, if there's
18 something else I'd be glad to go through that.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, go
21 ahead, Dan.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think that's the
24 point -- the point he emphasized to me and I was really
25 eager to share it here because earlier in our book and
26 in some of our priorities we had requested that the
27 Department really look at getting moose estimates for
28 17C and what Neil tells me in here is that he had funds
29 and plans to estimate in 17B but given we've had --
30 that they would get the best survey conditions we've
31 had for a long time, right now, he's re-arranged the
32 survey to be in 17C, and that answers Manokotak,
33 Dillingham, NewStu. You know, because NewStu, they're
34 kind of on the edge of 17B, but I'm pretty excited that
35 -- I think he's making the right decision, and I kind
36 of wanted to get that out to the public as well as.....

37
38 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair. Just to
39 interject there also.

40
41 We did a survey in 17C a few years ago
42 and typically we aren't able to repeat a GSPE survey
43 very frequently. Logistics and funding are very
44 difficult for that. So we had this all set up and we
45 were on our way to 17B east and we just put the brakes
46 on and shifted to 17C. It'll be really good. We
47 wanted to, as well, to get these numbers now while
48 they're really pertinent. So I think it'll be a really
49 good thing.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, and
2 like Billy was saying, and I remember, too, you could go
3 up the Nushagak and there was a moose on every sand bar
4 or three. And boy there's times now, like I can
5 remember it was a matter of course to see six, seven,
6 eight moose every night and the last time I made it up
7 river to hunt I was lucky to see six cows in eight days
8 of hunting, even the cows. So I think you guys -- the
9 Dillingham area is going to be very pleased with your
10 decision.

11
12 And the only other thing, and I
13 mentioned it earlier, is that, he's also postponed a
14 little bit of this activity because both the on the
15 grounds and in the air wolf reduction people are
16 vigorously reducing so.....

17
18 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY:if.....

21
22 MS. PETERSON: If you'd like more
23 information on that I can give that. I didn't know.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: In the past we really
26 were hard on some of the Federal agencies for being so
27 resistant on predator control and I think people around
28 here would be interested to know where it is being done
29 and.....

30
31 MS. PETERSON: Well, I can go over that
32 if you'd like.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, because that's all
35 I really had to add.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Well, Madame
40 Chair and Committee. The SDA program, the IM program
41 is basically up in 17B, it includes a small portion of
42 17C and it extends over into 9B and up into 19A and B.
43 This year -- well, I'll back up a little more. Up
44 until this year it was just the SDA portion extended
45 from just north of Koliganek over into the Stuyahok
46 Hills and down and it included New Stuyahok and Ekwok
47 and over to the McClong Hills and up to Tikchik
48 Mountain and that was the entire area that was in the
49 same day airborne.

50

1 The same day airborne program includes
2 aerial shooting as well as land and shoot. In the past
3 few years we've had as many as 40 pilots permitted and
4 as many as 25 to 30 gunners. The first year of the
5 program, they harvested 11 wolves and that was a good
6 year for snow. And that -- you know, we were happy
7 about that. And on the ground, the trappers and
8 hunters from Koliganek and New Stuyahok, in particular,
9 harvested I believe it was 68 wolves. It was very
10 good. So a total of about 80 some wolves taken that
11 first year.

12
13 The next -- sadly that did not
14 continue. The next few years we didn't get any snow.
15 And so the Sno-Goers from the villages weren't able to
16 get out. We had a lot of reports of them trying and
17 beating their machines into pieces, it just didn't
18 work, and they're very supportive of doing it and it
19 just wasn't working. The people in the air, the same
20 day pilots, they still signed up, I still issued them
21 permits and I think we went -- it was about two years
22 without a single flight and then one year we had one
23 flight of three hours duration and one flight by a
24 pilot from Soldotna and he was able to harvest, it was
25 either -- it was around four wolves, and that's the
26 total harvest up until this year.

27
28 This year, up until two weeks ago, we
29 had five wolves harvested and it was by that same pilot
30 who got the three or four wolves a couple years, and he
31 worked really hard to get those, the snow conditions
32 were not good, but the flying conditions were improved
33 over the last few years, not so much icing in the air.
34 And then two weeks ago we got snow. And it came down
35 pretty good. Unfortunately it blew through Lake Clark
36 and blew half of the snow into the Tikchik Mountains so
37 half of the unit was still pretty bare, but we had four
38 pilots that moved into the snow part and over the last
39 two weeks we've harvested -- it's difficult to tell on
40 Sat phones and radios what somebody is actually saying,
41 so I'm just going to give you a range but in the last
42 10 days we've gotten somewhere between 22 and 28 wolves
43 harvested, which is just really good. And on the
44 ground, out of Koliganek, they were up to around 12
45 wolves up until 10 days ago, and I believe now they're
46 up around 20 some as well. So it's 'doing really well
47 and the snow made all the difference.

48
49 So we're really pleased with that. Oh,
50

1 and also this year -- I should have said this earlier,
2 I apologize, we did take that small area and we
3 expanded it. It is now more than three times the size
4 that it was. It extends from the McClong Hills, it
5 still has that same original area included, though,
6 that has a different starting date, it starts the 1st
7 of February for this season and goes until the end of
8 April. Whereas the additional area starts -- well,
9 that's to be determined, but it will start probably in
10 November and go through the end of April. So it's more
11 than three times the size, it extends north of the
12 original unit and then takes in all the additional part
13 of 17B, almost all of it, clear up to the Hoholitna
14 River southfork and Whitefish Lake. It does not quite
15 get to the eastern boundary in Lake Clark Park, we
16 didn't want to have any overlap there, so it does fall
17 short of that. But this year I permitted 18 pilots and
18 I think we're up to eight gunners and only five of them
19 have really gotten out there this year but they're
20 doing really good.

21
22 So to remove those wolves can only
23 improve 17C moose calf survival so it's really good.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 Any questions I'd be glad to.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good.

32
33 MS. PETERSON: Okay, thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very good,
36 thank you very much Chris.

37
38 Yes.

39
40 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm going to need
41 clarification on the Newhalen River for jurisdiction.
42 Who has -- in writing, I want this in writing from the
43 State and from the Park Service, is that I want
44 clarification, who has jurisdiction over the Newhalen
45 River. This issue would have never come up with the
46 State Troopers didn't land on our subsistence fish
47 camp.

48
49 We're proposing a rod and reel change

1 on tackle gear, and submitting a proposal to the State
2 and the issue is, who has jurisdiction over the
3 Newhalen River, State or the Feds.
4

5 MR. CROWLEY: I believe the sportfishery
6 is the State and that's managed out of -- our
7 sportsfisheries biologist out of Dillingham. I'm
8 wildlife so I'm really not the person to be asking
9 this. I'm not a fisheries biologist.
10

11 MR. TREFON: Okay, thank you. I'll
12 find some way to get that answer.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I might even
15 suggest, too, Mr. Trefon, that you contact the office
16 over there and they could probably investigate it for
17 you.
18

19 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's my next step
20 is to get a hold of the Park Service. Because the Park
21 Service, like he said it's the adjacent boundaries and
22 the Sixmile Lake is -- I recall the discussion did come
23 up that Sixmile Lake is, but it's the river.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right.
26

27 MR. TREFON: It's not exactly adjacent.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Final
32 report, OSM.
33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Who's that guy.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I know, our
37 very own homegrown.
38

39 (Laughter)
40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
42 Orville.
43

44 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Board
45 members. Honored to be here. And also I want to thank
46 each and every one of you for your service on the
47 Regional Advisory Council.
48

49 As you know, very important to be able
50

1 to serve on this panel and we appreciate your time.

2

3 So OSM report. I'd just like to share
4 with you that during our last meeting, of course, you
5 realized that we were four positions down and we have
6 essentially been on a freezing -- hiring freeze, until
7 recently, and then we're actually attempting to get
8 waivers for the anthropology lead position and also a
9 fisheries biologist position within OSM. Of course,
10 they need to go to headquarters in D.C., for that
11 approval.

12

13 The other anthropology lead and request
14 to convert a pathways fisheries position to a permanent
15 fish biologist position will be directed for decision
16 to the Regional Director of the US Fish and Wildlife
17 Service. So, in short, we do have a pathways student
18 that is working for us currently and it would be of the
19 approval of the Regional Director and the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service to allow him to work permanently for
21 OSM. And with the other positions it may take up to
22 six months to a year to refill the positions.

23

24 We have received approvals from the
25 Department of Interior and Agriculture of the 2017-2019
26 fisheries regulations, they did get published and these
27 were January 2017 Board approved fish regulations.

28

29 Thank you, Carl.

30

31 There has been heavy scrutiny of
32 regulations passed within the last 90 days of the last
33 Administration. And as such this review has taken a
34 long time but we can say the regulatory process is
35 moving on more quickly.

36

37 However, OSM is pleased that the
38 wildlife cycle was approved by the Fish and Wildlife
39 Service headquarters and Department of Interior is in
40 the process moving forward and our Regional Advisory
41 Councils and Boards are functioning as usual. The
42 period to submit applications and nominations to serve
43 on one of the 10 regions councils closed on February
44 16th and OSM received 71 applications, which is a good
45 number.

46

47 A preliminary budget for subsistence in
48 the coming year, it looks about the same as last year.
49 And the President's budget and recently passed House

50

1 budget for subsistence is similar to last year's
2 budget. There's still a possibility of reductions to
3 our funding but so far so good for our base of
4 operations. We will still experience a reduction in
5 funding but we have responded internally and
6 implementation of travel caps, but also with caveats
7 that if we have any realized savings that we can put
8 those funds towards the Fisheries Research Monitoring
9 Program.

10

11 Again, I want to thank the Regional
12 Advisory Council for allowing OSM to give their report,
13 and, with that, I would like to share the tribal
14 engagement session that was conducted in Juneau of last
15 October 30th, which is the first of its kind.

16

17 Melinda Burke, who used to work at OSM
18 as a Council coordinator put this together. And one of
19 our goals, the OSM goals in my position as Native
20 Liaison for the State of Alaska having to deal with 229
21 Federally-recognized tribes, well, this being a fairly
22 new program, we wanted to increase the awareness of the
23 Native Liaison position and tribal consultation
24 policies with the Federal Subsistence Board. And so as
25 I attended on October 30th, we had invited the Vice
26 Chair and the Chair of the Regional Advisory Council,
27 Southeast Regional Advisory Council, we invited the
28 Forest Service Directors and Staff to join us. We
29 invited several tribes and several corporations, which
30 I believe we had four tribes and two corporations from
31 Southeast. And, with that, our goal, again, was to
32 increase awareness of the Native Liaison position, my
33 position, and really letting the word out to the tribes
34 that their voice has to be heard and the government has
35 to listen to their voice. And whether it be change in
36 regulations, amending regulations, you know, any talk
37 or topic that would affect those tribes, they can talk
38 about it.

39

40 I thought it was very successful.

41

42 Donald and I have been talking. I
43 believe in your next fall cycle we will try to set up a
44 day ahead of your Regional Advisory Council to actually
45 do a tribal engagement session here in Bristol Bay.
46 Again, which would include all the tribes here in
47 Bristol Bay and corporations, and invite them to come
48 down and listen to tribal consultation.

49

50

1 The who's, what's and why's.

2

3 After that, I've already started
4 working with Western Interior to also do a tribal
5 engagement session with them also.

6

7 The coordination division that Mr.
8 Johnson runs is people -- really awesome people to work
9 with. They're motivated, they're dedicated, and I
10 could see this program doing very well in the future.
11 And we're going to try to cover -- my goal is trying to
12 cover all 10 regions, so eventually the tribal
13 engagement session will reach all 10 Councils.

14

15 And, with that, if you have any
16 questions for me I'll try to answer.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you so
19 much, Orville. I think -- just because I have the mic
20 -- I think that would be hugely beneficial to us,
21 especially right prior to one of our own RAC meetings
22 because there's -- that's the easiest, clearest, most
23 sensible way to bring issues to the table and hear
24 about them and have them fresh in our minds.

25

26 Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: I didn't have my hand up.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I know, I
33 read your mind.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. WILSON: Okay, thank you. Thanks,
38 Orville.

39

40 Yeah, the discussion earlier with the
41 Park and the sites that were disturbed with the
42 indigenous people and things, and I've continually
43 mentioned liaisons between them and the people because
44 it seems like there's always -- I mean they're trying
45 their best, you know, and -- but it's -- there can be
46 more done, I think, and your position I believe that,
47 you know, there could be some help in that manner, you
48 know, helping getting people together somehow. But I'm
49 glad you're there because I've got confidence.

50

1 Good.

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 MR. LIND: Thank you, Member Wilson.
6 Three years, two and a half months in the position, I'm
7 happy to say I'm doing fair. I hope to do better. But
8 like I said, OSM has a tremendous amount of dedicated
9 people land there's a lot of process that goes through
10 that OSM office and I'm just honored to work with them.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
13 Orville.

14

15 Dan.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
18 Chair. Yeah, Orville, and this might even apply to
19 Gilbert a little, I know this current Administration is
20 kind of trying to smoke out any place they don't think
21 is operating well or has got excessive regulations and
22 I think -- I worry that in some of these places -- this
23 stuff is really important, but your average suburban
24 Lower 48'r doesn't have a clue, so I hope, you know, I
25 support what you guys are doing and these kinds of
26 regulations aren't the kind of -- well, in some cases
27 they are annoying or inconvenient or whatever, but I
28 think this is not just the regulations for the sake of
29 regulations like some agencies are accused of, this
30 stuff is important to our everyday life and we're kind
31 of used to the process, so I hope we can defend you, if
32 needed, or you're able to defend yourself and your
33 higher levels.

34

35 So I just want to kind of go on record
36 as saying we -- some of this isn't appropriate to be
37 attacked by those parts of the Administration that want
38 to eliminate or stop regulations.

39

40 Thank you for your work on this.

41

42 MR. LIND: Thank you, Member Dunaway.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
45 Dan.

46

47 Anybody else.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
2 Orville, thank you very much, yeah, appreciate it.

3
4 Oh, go ahead, Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 While we were still on the OSM report I
9 thought I'd give you an update, this is relayed from
10 Scott Ayers at OSM to followup on a question that Mr.
11 Trefon had earlier about how much funding is available
12 to these Partners Programs when there is a notice of
13 funding opportunity.

14
15 Now, again, we don't know how much
16 we'll be able to offer at the notice of funding
17 opportunity that's going to be going out this fall, but
18 he wanted to let the Council know that the last time we
19 had a funding call, the funding available was \$170,000
20 per year for up to four years for each Partners
21 Program. So just to give you an idea of, at least,
22 what it was before, we don't know how much it will be
23 this time.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good.
26 Thanks for sharing that Carl.

27
28 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Council Members.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
32 Okay, guys, I'm pleased to say it's time for us to take
33 a look at our spring meeting, or excuse me fall meeting
34 dates and confirm them. Does anybody have any -- go
35 ahead, Carl.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 And just to give some information to the Council when
39 you're thinking about what dates you want to select for
40 your winter meeting cycle, your options are now
41 limited, this is what happens when you're one of the
42 last Councils to meet, you get what scraps are left on
43 the table, and in this case the only weeks that are
44 currently available are the first week, when the window
45 opens on February 4th and the last week, the week of
46 March 11th when the window closes.

47
48 MR. TREFON: But we're doing the fall.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, we'll
2 review the fall first and then take that into
3 consideration.

4
5 Is everybody still happy with November
6 6th and 7th, is that working for everybody's schedules?

7
8 MR. WILSON: Still good here.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm looking
11 over at Mr. Maines because I remember he did have some
12 conflicts and that's why we chose those dates, but are
13 they still going to work for you.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: He's probably like Robert
16 Heyano, he's got every date for the next two years
17 scheduled.

18
19 MR. MAINES: Yes.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. Okay.
22 Then we can leave those.

23
24 Then for the winter schedule, to choose
25 our dates, I would warn us very strongly to hopefully
26 not take that last week again, because it should
27 theoretically speaking be spring break again and we are
28 big advocates of having our youth participate in these
29 meetings and by having it on spring break this year
30 you'll note that we have no local youth here, only one
31 that is on spring break. I think that's a big mistake
32 on our part.

33
34 Which means that we either have to make
35 the early February dates work or figure out something
36 else that's going to work for us.

37
38 So any comments from anybody on those
39 dates.

40
41 Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, at first I thought,
44 oh, I like it later but, you know, I'd really rather be
45 -- I could have possibly gone on a caribou hunt if I
46 hadn't had this, so I'd be willing to vote for the
47 early February. Wintertime, it's harder to be doing
48 other stuff then, usually, you don't have quite as much
49 light so -- but I'll live with either one because I'm

50

1 pretty flexible.
2
3 Thanks.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
6 Others.
7
8 MR. TREFON: Second week of February?
9
10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: First.
11
12 MR. TREFON: First.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Fourth
15 through the 8th, that is correct, right, Carl, you said
16 that was our choice?
17
18 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, Madame
19 Chair. And the reason for that is we don't have the
20 ability, Staff wise or equipment wise to support three
21 Council meetings in one week and the rest of those
22 weeks already have two Councils scheduled in each week.
23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25
26 Mr. Trefon, did you have a comment that
27 you were going to make.
28
29 MR. TREFON: No, I'll go for the first
30 week of February.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Others.
33
34 MR. MAINES: Well, I'll go with the
35 majority of the Council. I usually have meetings
36 elsewhere at that time, yeah, we'll just have to wait,
37 I'll just go with the majority of the Council.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
40 then I'm going to suggest that we do the first week, do
41 you want the first part of the week again, guys, does
42 that work for you, or middle or end. I know that
43 Tuesday usually is the preference because everybody
44 travels on Monday, so do you want Tuesday/Wednesday, or
45 would you prefer Wednesday/Thursday.
46
47 Go ahead.
48
49 MR. MAINES: If it was up to me I'd
50

1 travel Monday and do the meeting Tuesday/Wednesday and
2 go back Wednesday night or thursday.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does that
5 suit everybody.

6
7 MR. TREFON: That works for me, I mean
8 it works great. I mean this is new to me but I could
9 work with that.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
12 let's do that, please, 5th and 6th of February for
13 Bristol Bay.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Where is it going to be
16 held at.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Here.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Naknek.

21
22 MR. TREFON: Okay.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Closing
25 comments.

26
27 Dan, please.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'd actually been
30 saying to a few people that, well, ever since Randy got
31 off we never did a one day meeting, how could we only
32 do it when Randy's here, but I guess it's possible with
33 other folks, too, it's just the circumstances, and so
34 I'm tickled to get it done in a day and I think
35 everybody who came and reported and it's fun to have
36 some new members on. I think Billy Trefon's going to
37 be a good addition. He's up there in a corner where
38 sometimes we've had a hard time getting representation
39 from over there, but it's really important.

40
41 So, anyway, thanks everybody.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

44
45 Mr. Trefon.

46
47 MR. TREFON: Yeah, thank you, Dan, for
48 that. Because I really appreciate you guys picking me
49 to get on because I know it's a very competitive
50

1 position to get in to do and it took a year process
2 before I even got selected, and I appreciate it. I
3 will do my utmost best and start catching up on what's
4 going on here. But part of my Council, though, I'll
5 continue fighting for the Council, which is -- I'm glad
6 we're on it because we are 95 percent subsistence, one
7 of the biggest subsistence users in the region.

8
9 Thank you, appreciate it.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
12 I would like to echo the welcome to the Board as well.
13 You will be a huge asset to us, we appreciate your time
14 and energy that you put forth with that as well.

15
16 And, Carl, are we missing anything or
17 can we say the famous word.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Don't think too hard.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I might say
22 it anyways.

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: I get paid to think hard,
25 Mr. Wilson.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. JOHNSON: No, the Council has
30 covered its agenda. You know the action items that
31 needed to be done have been done. You've identified
32 the persons who you want to serve on your working group
33 for developing your priority information needs. And
34 that seems to be it for the business of the Council for
35 this meeting.

36
37 Madame Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very good
40 then. Let the -- okay, go ahead, Mr. Trefon.

41
42 MR. TREFON: Thank you. But it's got
43 to do with some of the concerns with the location here
44 this morning and breakfast.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh. Yes,
47 duly noted. In fact, I want that notes, because it's
48 something we should have addressed before -- it's not
49 the first time we've had the problem. We need to start
50

1 the winter meetings probably at 9:00 or 9:30 because
2 all of the restaurants in the area don't open up until
3 8:00 and people need to be able to eat, especially
4 breakfast. So if we could make note of that for our
5 start time, I think that would be helpful.
6

7 Thank you, very much.
8

9 Now, anybody else.
10

11 (No comments)
12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay, then
14 let the record reflect that at 3:55 we stand adjourned
15 from our winter Council meeting.
16

17 MR. WILSON: Nice job, Nanci.
18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Nice job.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 everybody.
23

24 (Off record)
25

26 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 13th day of March at Naknek, 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 20th day of March 2018.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18