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BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Dillingham Middle School Gym
Dillingham, Alaska
November 6, 2018
8:35 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nanci Morris Lyon, Acting Chair
Dennis Andrew
Dan Dunaway
Lary Hill
Billy Trefon
Richard Wilson

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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

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3 (Dillingham, Alaska - 11/6/2018)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'm
8 going to go ahead and call the meeting to order at 8:35
9 a.m. for the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory
10 Council. And I'd like to start by asking Orville Lind
11 if he would lead us in an invocation for the meeting.

12

13 (Invocation)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
16 very much, Orville.

17

18 Okay.

19

20 Donald, do you want to do roll call for
21 us, please.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 Donald Mike, Council coordinator. Roll call of the
25 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council. We have one
26 vacant seat.

27

28 Mr. Dennis Andrew.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Here.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Here.

35

36 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.

37

38 (No response)

39

40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Ms. Chythlook
41 had a previous engagement and she couldn't attend this
42 meeting.

43

44 Mr. William Billy Trefon, Jr.

45

46 MR. TREFON: Here.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. William Maines.

49

50

1 (No response)

2

3 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, at this time
4 Mr. Maines is in medical so he couldn't be attending
5 this meeting.

6

7 Mr. Dan Dunaway.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.

12

13 MR. HILL: Here.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Victor Seybert.

16

17 (No response)

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Seybert
20 had some previous engagements also with his tribe and
21 couldn't be here.

22

23 Mr. Richard Wilson.

24

25 MR. WILSON: Here.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, you have six
28 members present, you have a quorum.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
33 Donald. I'd like to welcome everybody here this
34 morning. We will probably run this meeting as we have
35 in the past with a fairly open agenda and a fairly open
36 ear to people. We are on a bit more of a time
37 constraint just due to personal matters so we will try
38 to keep from getting derailed too much on any
39 particular subject. I'm going to try and keep us on
40 track so we can keep moving forward. I am in hope that
41 we will be able to complete our task here today through
42 the agenda in this day in and of itself.

43

44 So with that being said I also welcome
45 my fellow Board members. Thank you very much for
46 attending, showing up, and bringing your knowledge here
47 with you. It's always extremely valuable.

48

49 Has everybody had a chance to review

50

1 the agenda.

2

3 MR. WILSON: We have, Madame Chair.

4

5 Thanks.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody care
8 to put it on the table.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Second.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
15 have a motion and a second for adoption of the agenda.

16

17 Any discussion.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Call
22 for the question. All in favor please signify by
23 saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
28 sign.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Motion
33 carries.

34

35 Previous meeting minutes. Has
36 everybody had a chance to review those.

37

38 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Donald.

41

42 MR. MIKE: I don't know if the Council
43 wish to have a welcoming introduction from the folks
44 attending this meeting and online.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
47 you, Donald. I was just thinking about the folks
48 online too. I -- and let's start with the folks
49 online. The folks online, would you please introduce

50

1 yourselves for us.

2

3 MS. WORKER: This is Suzanne Worker.
4 I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
5 Management. Good morning, everyone.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

8

9 MS. WILBURN: This is Dawn Wilburn, the
10 Chignik area management biologist with the Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game. And with me I have Ross
12 Renick, the assistant manger. Good morning.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good morning
15 and thank you.

16

17 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
18 Chair. George Pappas, Office of Subsistence
19 Management, State subsistence liaison.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good
22 morning, George. Anyone else.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Very
27 good. And, yes, let's go ahead and we'll have the
28 audience please go ahead and introduce yourselves as
29 well. I see a few new faces and that way we'll be able
30 to add a name to those faces.

31

32 Orville, you want to start. Thank you.

33

34 MR. LIND: (In Yup'ik) Hello.

35

36 (In Yup'ik)

37

38 Good morning. My name is Orville Lind,
39 I'm the Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence
40 Management and glad to be here.

41

42 MR. LARSON: Good morning. My name's
43 Cody Larson. I'm the subsistence fisheries scientist
44 for the Bristol Bay Native Association.

45

46 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, everybody.
47 Gayla Hoseth, director of natural resources, BBNA.

48

49 MS. CREST: Good morning. My name is

50

1 Heidi Crest. I work at BBNA in the natural resources
2 department.
3

4 MS. HENRY: Good morning, everyone.
5 I'm Susanna Henry, I'm the refuge manager at Togiak
6 National Wildlife Refuge and it's a pleasure to be
7 here.
8

9 MS. WOODY: Good morning. I'm Carol
10 Ann Woody with the National Park Service. I'm the
11 fisheries biologist in the regional office. And I'm
12 here representing Clarence Summers, he couldn't make
13 it.
14

15 MS. SKORA: Hello. Good morning. My
16 name is Leslie Skora, I'm the wildlife biologist at
17 Katmai National Park.
18

19 MS. CHISHOLM: Good morning. My name
20 is Linda Chisholm. I'm the cultural resource program
21 manager and subsistence coordinator for Katmai,
22 Aniakchak and Alagnak.
23

24 MS. RUPP: Good morning. I'm Liza
25 Rupp. I'm the cultural resources program manager and
26 subsistence coordinator for Lake Clark National Park.
27

28 MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning. Susan
29 Alexander, Refuge manager, Alaska Peninsula and
30 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.
31

32 ANDY ADERMAN: Good morning. Andy
33 Aderman, wildlife biologist, Togiak National Wildlife
34 Refuge.
35

36 MS. JONES: Good morning. I'm Bronwyn
37 Jones. I'm a subsistence resource specialist with the
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
39 Subsistence.
40

41 MR. GERKEN: Good morning. My name's
42 Jon Gerken. I work for the Fish and Wildlife Service
43 in Anchorage. I'm a fisheries biologist at the field
44 office there and I'm also the Federal in-season manager
45 for Bristol Bay, Aleutian Islands, Chignik and Alaska
46 Peninsula.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Madame Chair and
2 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm the
3 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
4 Affairs.

5
6 MR. MAINES: Good morning. I'm
7 Christopher Maines, subsistence outreach specialist for
8 the Bristol Bay Native Association.

9
10 MR. DYE: Good morning. My name is
11 Jason Dye and I'm the Bristol Bay area management
12 biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
13 Division of Sport Fish.

14
15 MR. BORDEN: Good morning. I'm Lee
16 Borden. I'm the assistant area management biologist
17 with Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish.

18
19 MS. LaVINE: Good morning. I'm Robbin
20 LaVine an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
21 Management. Great to be back as always.

22
23 MS. HARDIN: Good morning, everyone.
24 My name is Jennifer Hardin and I'm the subsistence
25 policy coordinator for the Office of Subsistence
26 Management.

27
28 MR. AYERS: Good morning, all. My name
29 is Scott Ayers. I'm the fisheries biologist at the
30 Office of Subsistence Management that is now assigned
31 to this region following Don Rivard's retirement. I
32 look forward to working with you all and I'm glad to
33 meet you in person.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
36 everybody. Nice to meet all of you, the new faces as
37 well. And we're looking forward to getting to know you
38 better throughout the meeting and in future meetings to
39 come.

40
41 Okay. With that being said -- thank
42 you, Donald, for that reminder. I was trying to think
43 of where to fit that in and just kept moving along.

44
45 Did everybody have a chance to review
46 the previous meeting minutes.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

49
50

1 MR. WILSON: Second.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
4 have a motion and a second to adopt the previous
5 meeting minutes.

6

7 Is there any discussion, corrections or
8 changes?

9

10 MR. WILSON: Question.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
13 Question's been called. All in favor please signify by
14 saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
19 sign.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Motion
24 carries.

25

26 With that let's go on to what I think
27 is one of the more relevant pieces of our meetings
28 every year and biyearly actually and let's do our
29 Council member reports, let's hear about what's going
30 on in everybody's areas.

31

32 And I'll go ahead and start with you,
33 Larry, if you don't mind.

34

35 MR. HILL: Yeah, I was having a senior
36 moment and -- almost. Had my eyes closed.

37

38 I'm from Lake Iliamna. We're having
39 what we call unseasonably warm weather which is good
40 for fuel consumption and -- and things, but we're
41 having a hard time reaching any of our -- our resources
42 to -- namely the moose, caribou. We're not seeing many
43 ptarmigan at all. Seems to be a decent amount of
44 spruce hen. There are quite a few bear in the area. I
45 think there might have been oh, -- I'll let Billy speak
46 to the upper part. But from Lake Iliamna down we
47 didn't get that many moose, probably five as it were
48 locally. There's -- they weren't moving as much as
49 they were last year. Our fish harvest went as -- our

50

1 subsistence personally went as -- pretty much as
2 planned. We got our (in Yup'ik), red fish, late and
3 having a hard time with them drying because the
4 weather's so warm.

5

6 And that's about it I guess.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

9

10 Dan.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. I kept thinking well, I got other Dillingham
14 folks to cover -- back me up if I forget something, but
15 doesn't look that way.

16

17 So let's see. We had a monster red
18 salmon run in the Wood River here. And I don't think
19 anybody had any problems getting fish, but as I think
20 we may hear later it's been kind of a controversy
21 raised up that there were extended -- you know,
22 extended -- extensive commercial fishing. It was --
23 the bag limit's increased to four in the sport fishery,
24 but right here in the Dillingham area we had a -- we've
25 had a long term, three day a week schedule from the
26 June -- July 2nd to 17 which is -- can be pretty darn
27 onerous for people especially as more and more people
28 have an 8:00 to 5:00 job. And well, a few years ago it
29 got shifted to a Saturday for one which helped some,
30 but you get in these sequences of funky weather, funky
31 tides, people working, it can still be frustrating hard
32 to go out and get your fish.

33

34 And we had a pretty intense discussion
35 in our advisory committee meeting last week about
36 changing that and there's a proposal before the Board
37 of Fish and the advisory committee supported it. And I
38 -- it was originally designed to stop wastage, but I'm
39 kind of thinking that there's another way to control
40 waste and allow people to get their fish. But that's a
41 pretty hot issue locally and especially frustrating
42 when you had like millions and millions more fish than
43 you even wanted up the Wood River.

44

45 We had a pretty good king salmon run
46 and I haven't really heard, but I think the subsistence
47 folks got their kings reasonably well because that
48 usually happens in the seven day a week fishery before
49 the restrictions kick in.

50

1 Let's -- I don't -- haven't heard about
2 ptarmigan, it seems like spruce hen are okay.

3
4 Moose, there's less of a harvest this
5 year than in the past and there are concerns. I was
6 hoping our wildlife biologist could be here, but he
7 isn't. He's seen some concerns I believe in our moose
8 abundance, but we do have Andy, he can probably talk to
9 it. Personally I was very lucky, I hunted for about
10 six hours and one trip and shot -- helped shoot the
11 biggest moose I've shot which isn't that big, but our
12 freezer is full. But I think there's going to be some
13 concerns on what's going on with moose around here and
14 I'm not sure what biologists are going to recommend,
15 but I think the bears are eating a lot of calves.

16
17 Caribou still don't seem to be very
18 abundant in -- in the Mulchatna herd, I understand the
19 Nushagak herd's doing okay, but is significantly down.

20
21 Some other things on the horizon,
22 jumping back and forth, wildlife and -- our animals and
23 fish, it's looking like we're going to have a review of
24 the Nushagak King Salmon Management Plan. There's been
25 some sport proposals to change it and that kind of
26 opens the door to everything. And I -- there's
27 questions on the sonar counters and how they're working
28 and I think our advisory committee advised that the
29 Board not really take any action, but -- except to form
30 a working group to really kind of sort through where we
31 are with the science in the fisheries. But we're
32 really lucky, our kings seem to be doing all right.

33
34 Some other proposals on the horizon
35 here locally is I personally put in a proposal to allow
36 dipnetting for subsistence locally and strictly for
37 subsistence, not recreational fishing. Again to answer
38 some of the gear costs, we have crowding problems here
39 locally. When we have a lot of pinks people really
40 want a red or a silver, but they don't want all the
41 chums and pinks and the dipnet might be a way to do
42 that. There's also a proposal to allow drift netting
43 locally. And some of these could be fairly
44 controversial, it'll be interesting to see how the
45 Board of Fish deals with them which will be here in
46 town in -- the end of this month.

47
48 There -- I attended a FRMP
49 teleconference about a month ago and I think we agreed
50

1 that the Chigniks are a source of concern because we
2 have to share our money, our research money with the
3 Aleutians and Kodiak area. There's a subsistence lake
4 down near Dutch Harbor that there's real concern and I
5 agreed that those things are of concern. Since then
6 I've become aware more that there's some problems with
7 our ability to count kings also on the east side of
8 Bristol Bay. And so I wish I'd have been a little more
9 up on that when I was in that FRMP meeting. But
10 something I want to bring up as we go here further that
11 they had difficulties counting kings in the Alagnak,
12 I've become aware that there's a real concern for kings
13 and the fishery on the Naknek river. So I'm hoping in
14 the future we can also stand up for -- for projects
15 that support enumerating kings and sorting out some of
16 the issues on -- in the Bristol Bay region.

17

18 So sorry to be so long-winded, but I
19 think that covers most of my concerns.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And thank
24 you for being so thorough.

25

26 Dennis.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank -- thank you,
29 Madame Chair, and the rest of the members here who are
30 on the Council.

31

32 First of all I really want to thank a
33 person that encouraged me to sit up here and she does a
34 lot of good work for the bay and stuff is -- I want to
35 thank you, is Gayla Hoseth that been doing a real good
36 job even -- even watching her on TV and stuff, I mean,
37 we need more younger ladies like her.

38

39 So thank you, Gayla.

40

41 But anyway I've been up the river on
42 the Nushagak all my life and then this is the first
43 big summer that I've witnessed. And me, I'm -- you
44 know, I don't fish no more, how high the water was.
45 Constantly high from spring, just -- just going. And
46 on -- on that part some of -- for the hunting reason
47 and stuff I think you'd move a lot of game off the
48 islands and stuff. And -- and it's hard -- gets harder
49 for the boys, for the guys that are out there trying to
50

1 fill their tags.

2

3 Same thing, I don't want to repeat, the
4 caribou what this gentleman said, but there's some
5 stragglers that have been popping up.

6

7 Other than that just -- it ain't just
8 the bears. I've heard reports from the guys traveling
9 it's the wolves, not just the bears itself. I mean, if
10 we could just give it a window opening in the near
11 future here I think it would help even on the moose to
12 do a air hunt on them wolves. Even 72 -- 72 hours or
13 something. I mean, with no snow conditions and stuff
14 boys can't -- you know, can't get out there.

15

16 But, yeah, we had a big record run and
17 everything else was good. No ptarmigan, but a lot of
18 berries.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
23 Dennis.

24

25 Richard.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Good morning. Thanks,
28 Madame Chair. Yeah, very busy last year here. Of
29 course we all know that where the weather is as warm of
30 the seasons we've been having it's sure changing things
31 out there. But in our area in Naknek which I'm a
32 resident of, we've seen a few more ptarmigan showing
33 back in the hills which was -- I was very glad to see
34 there was a few flocks that was -- that were about.
35 And rabbit population seems to be pretty good.

36

37 The fall hunt, best I know there was --
38 it was kind of mixed, you know, some -- some people
39 went out and got moose fairly early on the Kvichak,
40 Batch River, King Salmon Creek area and stuff was kind
41 of minimal, it was kind of a hit and miss. And so I
42 think overall it was -- it was probably less than what
43 was probably expected.

44

45 But aside from that there's an
46 occasional caribou and the caribou that we've been
47 seeing is like -- and mentioning here is just -- you
48 know, they're -- I don't think we've seen anything
49 bigger than about a seven in the herd, you know, coming

50

1 off the ridges there, off of the, you know, Sharp
2 Mountain area or down in there. And every once in a
3 while they're hitting the river system and we get lucky
4 enough to get on one. So pretty -- pretty minimal on
5 the caribou side.

6
7 And wolves, you see -- you know, the
8 wolves are very prevalent, you see them around always.
9 You know, and bears, had the chance to get up into the
10 hills there and spend some time and at any one time you
11 could see eight, 10 bears browsing. Berries, lots of
12 berries. Lots of berries. But the bears are very
13 healthy, very -- and a lot, you know, a lot of them.

14
15 Our salmon season started off real
16 slow, real slow and small. And we were -- at some
17 point we were a little bit concerned that, but then
18 they -- everybody moved over to Nushagak and gave us
19 some room and we're getting a few more. And the
20 Nushagak just kept going and going. Ours eventually
21 showed up and it was -- it was a decent run. But it's
22 just -- it's amazing how, you know, some parts of our
23 coastline just missed, you know, the salmon just didn't
24 return. And things are changing and I -- you know, and
25 we really need to keep track of this change and how to
26 accommodate for it and how to make sure that, you know,
27 we're not overharvesting in certain areas and --
28 because of this change.

29
30 The erosion, lots of erosion going on
31 on the east side of the bay. Mammoth tusks are being
32 found and teeth and different things coming out of the
33 bank, you know, which is always amazing to see, you
34 know, history in your hands, you know, just thousands
35 and thousands of years old. It's very interesting
36 stuff.

37
38 But our relationship with the Park is
39 growing, we're doing very well there I think. I think
40 there's a lot of effort on both sides, community and --
41 and the park trying to -- trying to help each other out
42 and learn more about each other. And the people seem
43 to be taking very -- you know, accepting that very
44 well.

45
46 So I'm -- it's been good, it's actually
47 been a very decent season.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1
2 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
3 Richard. Will, you want to go?
4

5 MR. TREFON: Hello. Thank you. Hello
6 my name's Billy Trefon, I'm from Nondalton.
7

8 And I really appreciate being here and
9 I'm glad I got selected for this position because it
10 really helped my community a lot. We do have a lot of
11 concerns in my community and a lot of them have to do
12 with Chilligan River basin drainage which is our
13 subsistence area, where we subsist and hunt for moose
14 as far back as I can remember. And we've been working
15 with the Lake Clark National Park Service every year to
16 manage that area. We work with them to shut down
17 airboats because of noise. We had the Park Service
18 work with us shutting down jet boats in the river
19 across from the village because they were high powered
20 boats with big jet units were washing out the banks
21 which was destroying habitat.
22

23 And now we're in the process of working
24 with the Park Service to do something about the air
25 traffic with the sport hunters that come in from the
26 other areas. Long Lake has a one mile easement where
27 they can come in there and they come in there with
28 airplanes, they come in there with Twin Otters, Twin
29 Otters are loaded down with either a bike or maybe a
30 bike and a boat on each float. And we can't compete
31 with that because we don't -- couldn't afford to buy an
32 airplane to fly up there and go hunting above the
33 shallow parts of the Chilligan River. And it's really
34 hard to hunt in that area and for us to compete with
35 that many outsiders coming in, my uncle Butch was up
36 there two years ago, he counted 20 aircrafts in one
37 day, 20 aircrafts coming in there, bringing in hunters,
38 bringing in their gear. And that year when I went up
39 there I took -- me and my son and son-in-law took the
40 first moose we saw because there was no moose up there.
41 There -- there's aircrafts flying up and down the
42 Chilligan River at -- under 500 feet looking for moose
43 on private land.
44

45 And the other thing is we have going
46 for us, we have the snagging proposal, I missed that
47 meeting, but we do have snagging on issues again. And
48 I'm snagging and we -- we've been snagging forever. I
49 mean, if you live in country where you got millions of
50

1 fish you throw a hook in there, you're going to snag a
2 fish whether you want it or not. So I don't know how
3 you're going to get around that. But and the other
4 thing we have going for us is the rod and reel which we
5 put a proposal to the State again and (indiscernible)
6 come out in the fish meeting.

7
8 And our salmon run was pretty good this
9 year, everybody got their fish. It wasn't great, it
10 was really slow at the beginning of the season.

11
12 We had no bear issues which is really
13 unusual. I haven't seen a brown bear all year.
14 Everybody in fish camp never had bear issues, nobody
15 got their fish destroyed this year. We had bears come
16 through the village at nights, but they just go through
17 and don't bother nothing.

18
19 Other than that Nondalton's doing
20 pretty good. We are in the process with the city of
21 Nondalton with Lake Clark National Park to try and see
22 if we can work on putting a boat launch ramp across the
23 village we have access to Iliamna.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
28 very much.

29
30 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

33
34 MR. HILL: Yeah, I'm sorry. I got
35 caught by surprise, I thought I was going to be last
36 and have time to figure out what I wanted to say.

37
38 I wanted to add -- thank you, Billy,
39 that was really good. And I was up in the Chulitna
40 area this fall just to get some berries. And I was
41 there for like three days and from daylight to dusk it
42 was continuous, continuous air traffic. And it was not
43 800 feet, it was right on almost treetop level. And
44 usually you can count on floating the river and getting
45 a decent moose.

46
47 While we were picking berries, the
48 highbush cranberries, you'd expect to see moose sign
49 close to the bank, but there weren't. You had to go
50

1 back in like almost a hundred yards or sometimes
2 further to see any of their nest or the -- call them
3 nests, beds, where the -- where the moose would lay
4 down and rest and their calves, take care of their
5 calves. You didn't see much except where they would
6 cross. So I could see the affect in my opinion of that
7 air traffic. And he's -- like Billy said these big
8 Twin Otters and these others that just -- right at
9 treetop level going up -- going up the river. And some
10 because of the weather and almost fog and they're going
11 to get up there and up until where Billy's talking
12 about there's some private land up there because these
13 people are hauling out and setting up tents and camps
14 and building fires on private land. And there's
15 nothing that we can -- we can't get up there to do
16 anything about it. So I want to add that to it.

17
18 And the Kvichak River, the same thing.
19 There are very few bears there. We spent a -- time
20 there this fall too. And I -- I noticed one bear track
21 and usually when we're up there we're constantly on the
22 alert for bears. Salmon are around and the bears know.
23 But there weren't any. And at the same time I noticed
24 there were -- I don't know what you'd call them, but
25 some -- I guess their jet boats going up the river,
26 making a lot of noise. And I don't know if that's why
27 the bears are not there or -- but the fish were. And
28 usually where's there's fish and it's easy getting the
29 fish, that's where the bears are.

30
31 So I wanted to add that to what Billy
32 was talking about.

33
34 And last is caribou in Iliamna
35 area, there's small groups. I didn't want to say
36 anything about it because I didn't want anybody getting
37 our caribou. But -- not really. But they're moving
38 back in in small herds and these caribou are in real
39 good shape, there's a lot of feed there and there
40 aren't many wolves. So I don't know when the caribou
41 decided to get into these large herds for protection
42 from the wolf packs, but anyway they are moving back.
43 And the local people have been getting caribou and
44 they're in really good shape and they're huge like the
45 old mountain caribou used to be.

46
47 And lastly we -- I noticed the last
48 year and then this year especially very few gulls,
49 seagulls around. I don't think I saw -- usually you'd
50

1 see them around the lakes and where fish -- people
2 cutting fish, you know, hundreds of gulls, but there
3 weren't any, very, very few, you know, (indiscernible)
4 lake there were few. And I don't know what's happening
5 there, if it's a die off or they decided to go
6 somewhere else, but I was -- wanted to mention that
7 part of it to see if there's any -- other areas where
8 they're noticing a lack of gulls.

9

10 So that was all.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
17 ahead, Billy.

18

19 MR. TREFON: I'd also like to add to
20 that. This is a new letter that came up and Glen
21 Alsworth worked on it. It was written on November 1st.
22 He wrote a letter to the Park Service and this was
23 actually greeted to all the pilots. It's really not a
24 proposal or anything, it's just a letter asking all the
25 pilots to fly over a thousand feet. He's asked -- I'll
26 just read it to you.

27

28 November 1, 2018. Greetings to pilots.
29 Used to be I could shoot a high powered rifle off my
30 front porch in any direction without concerns or -- of
31 -- for injury, injuring anyone except for perhaps my
32 own shoulder or eye. Can't anymore. We are sharing
33 this wild place with many neighbors, friends and guests
34 these days. Some things never should change like the
35 way our ancestors utilized their resources for
36 subsisting. And some things will necessarily change
37 like the way we access and share these special places.

38

39 The Chulitna River drainage on the
40 north shore of Lake Clark is very important habitat for
41 moose and other species critical to the subsistence
42 diet of most of our local village residents. Access is
43 primarily by boat during the open water and snowmachine
44 during the winter months and aircraft noise can be
45 destructive to successful hunting.

46

47 Recently a number of subsistence
48 hunters/users expressed their concerns at a Subsistence
49 Resource Commission meeting regarding low flying

50

1 aircraft during the fall hunt season and asked what
2 could be done about that. My first inclination is to
3 simply ask the pilots to understand and respect the
4 Chulitna River corridor. Many pilots are not familiar
5 with the significance of the Chulitna and are not
6 informed regarding respect practices that we all kind
7 of adhere to. First during the fall hunt season after
8 mid August through September 20th, please avoid the
9 river itself, preferably by flying at least a thousand
10 feet high and fly to the side of the valley instead of
11 directly over the river. Second, pass the word around
12 to fellow pilots and operators. This common sense
13 solution will benefit the users immediately without any
14 pursuit of regulatory relief which often has unforeseen
15 consequences that may be worse than the problem itself.
16 Third, avoid low flying over Long Lake and Nacovana
17 (ph), I'd said Nicaboona (ph), but it's actually
18 Nacovana Lakes except to takeoff -- except for takeoff
19 and landing to minimize disturbance of wildlife. I
20 acknowledge that we continue to recognize the safe
21 coming first and flying where it is the safest to fly
22 even if you must remain near the river during weather
23 conditions that dictates it. A few minor changes will
24 make us all more considerate neighbors. Sincerely,
25 Glen Alsworth, Chair.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
30 Billy. I think Donald pointed out that that could be
31 an annual report issue and I think it would be wise to
32 include it since we heard from two Council members and
33 a outside member. If possible, Donald, in our annual
34 report to the Board if you could make a note of that,
35 please.

36
37 And I'm going to take a break here just
38 one second to welcome our students that our here.
39 Would you mind introducing your class and then,
40 students, if you'd introduce yourselves. And if
41 anybody has any issues that they would like to have us
42 consider please bring them forward while you're here.
43 We welcome you and are very grateful to see you here.

44
45 MS. POBECK: Greetings. My name is
46 Erin Pobeck and this is actually my high school Spanish
47 class. But I agree with my students, I let them make
48 the decision and they thought subsistence issues in our
49 State was a great opportunity to come down and listen
50

1 and learn and we'll practice our languages later.

2

3 JAMES: Hi. I'm James.

4

5 MS. MADDEN: Hi. I'm Balensia Madden.

6

7 MS. GOMEZ: I'm Kate Gomez.

8

9 MS. SHEARS: I'm Katie Shears.

10

11 MR. WHETTIG: Hi. I'm David Whettig.

12

13 MR. SUSAW: Bradon Susaw.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
16 thank you all for coming. We welcome you, it's nice to
17 have you here. And if you do have any issues you want
18 to bring forward we would welcome you to do so. We're
19 here to listen and we're here to assist where we can.
20 So again thanks for attending and we hope that we give
21 you some valuable information here.

22

23 Dan, I believe you were next.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 A couple more items here just for background. In our
27 Advisory Committee for the Nushagak we also voted to
28 reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the 17A
29 Togiak area where they have a real abundance of moose.
30 And we also supported the -- reauthorizing the
31 exemption for the nonres or the resident brown bear tag
32 fee. We like to be able to shoot a bear without having
33 to do all the paperwork ahead of time so we supported
34 that.

35

36 And then Dennis reminded me that -- I'm
37 getting -- I'm reading off a letter partly that came
38 from our -- the local wildlife biologist, Neil Barten.
39 But there were 80 wolves taken up along the Nushagak
40 last year between the local hunters and 30 of those 80
41 were taken by aerial hunting in the wintertime. But it
42 makes -- impresses me then that Dennis still is
43 concerned on wolves with that big a removal. That
44 makes me -- that's kind -- that's really impressive.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

49

50

1 Dennis.

2
3 MR. ANDREW: Thanks, Madame Chair.
4 Just to follow-up. Even witnessing the last few
5 winters how the movement of the moose from upriver and
6 stuff and there hardly used to be any on the Wood River
7 side, on this side. We watched them move, get over
8 here and there was hardly anything over on the west
9 side, Togiak side. Now they're moving over. And then
10 in between these valleys there's abundance of wolves I
11 tell you that are having a grand time with our -- with
12 our moose. They're moving west from way up. I've been
13 watching these even -- you know, if you could see
14 reports from -- all the way from McGrath of wolf take
15 being caught down here, hey, they're doing something,
16 they're moving down with the game. It ain't just the
17 bears itself.

18
19 So I thought I'd throw that out, Madame
20 Chair.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
25 Dennis. Appreciate the sharing.

26
27 I -- yeah, and I -- for my Council
28 report Richard actually summed it up quite well. I
29 would add that was when -- well, you know one of the
30 positive notes that I saw this year too was better bird
31 populations for ptarmigan and definitely the spruce
32 hens in the area seem to be increasing which I know we
33 had concerns bout ptarmigan not long ago and I still
34 have them, but I do see them coming back. And I'm sure
35 the Park -- that's a function of the weather, but
36 again, you know, it'll all depend on when nesting takes
37 place on what our -- our rate will be for making it
38 through the season.

39
40 And the bears, yeah, they're down by
41 us, guys, if you're missing them. We had a sow with
42 five cubs on the river this year. So they are
43 multiplying very rapidly in our areas and I can foresee
44 in the future that they will be even probably a bigger
45 issue for us than they have been the last few years.
46 So.....

47
48 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dennis.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Thanks again, Madame
4 Chair. Sorry. Just one last group of people or some
5 guys have been calling me about that winter hunt that
6 was closed, moose hunt. They told me to make sure I
7 raise it. Last winter we had a winter hunt and it was
8 shut down due to lack of moose. So I thought I'd -- I
9 just remembered.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thank
14 you. We'll have to watch those seasons. I'm anxious
15 to hear our biology reports as well. And I
16 unfortunately don't have -- I'm hoping that Donald will
17 have though thorough reports for our -- the Federal
18 subsistence meeting since Molly attended that and I did
19 not so I don't have that to share.

20

21 And the only other thing I -- just
22 seeing the young folks in the classes, also we did on a
23 side note complete our 10th year of the Guide Academy
24 this year and it was very successful. And we're seeing
25 more and more of our young people from the local region
26 participating in the lodges and sport fisheries in the
27 area. And so it's something I'm pretty happy and proud
28 of and I hope that it has another 10 years in it if not
29 forever. That would be just fine by me too.

30

31 So with that being said, Donald, would
32 you mind sharing your report with us, please.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Yes. Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. This is Donald Mike, Council coordinator.

36

37 And I believe at our last spring
38 meeting which was held in Anchorage addressed the
39 wildlife proposals. Molly Chythlook was present at the
40 meeting and she -- I believe recommendations that the
41 Council develop for the Federal Subsistence Board's
42 consideration were mostly adopted except for one
43 proposal that did not pass which was the positioning of
44 caribou in this region. So that may be an issue
45 that'll be coming up soon.

46

47 So that's the summary of the Chair's
48 report.

49

50

1 And as for me I just want to remind the
2 public to please sign in at the table. And if you want
3 to testify on the proposals or tribal or public
4 comments on nonagenda items please fill out a blue card
5 so we can have it on record and for my files.
6

7 So for your information the Bristol Bay
8 Council, I also coordinate the Southcentral Regional
9 Advisory Council which is the Anchorage and the Kenai
10 Peninsula area and Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.
11 So we're in the process of transitioning me out of the
12 Southcentral regional. We have a coordinator from
13 Southeast that will take over the Southcentral region.
14 So we're still in transition mode. But I will be
15 picking up another subregion which is the Ahtna
16 Intertribal Resource Commission and we're still waiting
17 for the charter to be passed so it's still in the works
18 so it won't be happening anytime soon. But once the
19 transition is complete with the Southcentral I'll be
20 the coordinator for Bristol Bay and awaiting further
21 guidance on our subregion for Southcentral.
22

23 That's it.
24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
28 I hope those are changes you're going to be happy with,
29 Donald, but I'm glad you're sticking with us.
30

31 And I'm going to -- Donald reminded
32 everybody who had an issue they wanted to bring forth
33 to fill out the blue card. I would also remind
34 everybody in the audience to make sure when you come up
35 to address us that you introduce yourself for the
36 record so our recorder will have your name for the
37 record and we'll have it as well on record. So I
38 appreciate that very much.
39

40 And I have not received any blue cards
41 at this point, but please feel free to fill out one at
42 anytime. We will take them as time allows. So we'll
43 fit them in between our subjects as we go through our
44 agenda here today.
45

46 New business. Let's start with
47 fisheries proposals or did you want to -- okay. I'm
48 going to go ahead and have Gayla come up. She had
49 brought some issues up to me that I suggested that she
50

1 bring to everybody. So I'm going to go ahead and we'll
2 do that right now for input.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair
7 and members of the Council. For the record, Gayla
8 Hoseth.

9
10 I guess I had some -- I have like three
11 issues that I wanted to bring up. During the Naknek
12 spring meeting regarding Kenneth Nukluk's (ph) proposal
13 for the RAC. Since that didn't pass at the Federal
14 Subsistence Board it was in your guys' transcripts that
15 you guys would be working on a proposal if that didn't
16 pass to have a good written proposal to address this
17 issue of positioning caribou. And I don't want to have
18 that forgotten about and maybe that's something that we
19 could work on and we would be able to assist with that,
20 you know, rewrite and looking at that proposal because
21 that was a very contentious topic at the Federal
22 Subsistence Board meeting.

23
24 And I just wanted to put on the record
25 that we did not have a Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
26 Council person at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
27 which was very, very hard and difficult when we had a
28 bunch of people that weren't there. I know that Dan
29 was able to call in on the telephone, but the issues
30 that we were talking about and the topics that we were
31 talking to have our position from the RAC empty seated
32 is not good. And I just want to rec -- you know,
33 highly encourage that if our Chair can't make it that
34 somebody is there in person because we were dealing
35 with some really heated topics at the meeting. And,
36 you know, we had -- we had resources amongst ourselves,
37 but we need to have that RAC person in person to bring
38 issues forward to the Federal Subsistence Board.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Let me --
41 yeah, let me hang -- give me just one moment, Gayla. I
42 was not aware of that either and I am very sorry. I'm
43 sure it probably just was a matter of -- that's got to
44 be one of the first ones we've missed, Donald, because
45 I know that we've been very good about getting
46 representation there in the past.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I think my
49 recollection was wrong. So I was sure that Molly
50

1 Chythlook was present, but I may be wrong. So but I
2 make some efforts to try to get a representative for
3 the Federal Subsistence Board, but I believe everybody
4 else was busy with other commitments they had.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
9 then I'd also like to address would BBNA be willing to
10 help with this proposal if we can get a couple Board
11 members that are willing to give input and put one
12 together, we need somebody that we can.....

13

14 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, we can look and
15 there's some procedures that we'll have to go through
16 at BBNA and we could look into that. And we have the
17 information available in the office as well. But
18 that's something that we really need to bring back to
19 the table.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Donald.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 Before we go further with another issue, the Eastern
29 Interior Region has a hunter ethics program that
30 they're working on currently and I asked the
31 coordinator from the Eastern Interior to see if they
32 can share that document. And then for the proposal
33 that wasn't passed by Mr. Nukluk, positioning of
34 caribou. I was going to get a hold of the document and
35 see if we can fit it with these reasons on positioning
36 of animals, but it would require a working group from
37 this Council to look at the document and fit the whole
38 document -- how it would fit with the Bristol Bay for
39 the positioning of caribou.

40

41 So that's -- I just want to bring it up
42 to your attention. So that might be one avenue to
43 start before we develop a proposal to go through that
44 process.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
49 perfect, Donald. That's just what I was looking for.

50

1 When do you expect that document is going to be ready
2 for us to look at?
3

4 MR. MIKE: The document is currently in
5 the final draft stages and once it's complete I'll
6 share it with the Council. And then we probably can
7 put this on our winter meeting agenda and work --
8 identify a working group and look at the document and
9 go from there and work on some proposals.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does
12 everybody else find that to be a very, very suitable
13 means to move forward?
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let
18 -- please, let's add that to our agenda then and make
19 sure that we've got it ready to go and that we have a
20 chance to preview it before our meeting.
21

22 Thank you, Gayla. Please continue.
23

24 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you. And
25 then that will just get us right into 50 CFR 36. So 50
26 CFR 36 was talked in length at the Federal Subsistence
27 Board meeting about -- I have a copy of it here,
28 basically for the -- for racing or to herd, harass,
29 haze, pursue and drive wildlife. And I also have the
30 transcripts of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting if
31 any of the Board members -- Council members want to
32 look at that on a break or something or I could provide
33 copies to you.
34

35 So 50 CFR 36. After discussion all the
36 RACs that were sitting around the table thought that
37 this really needs to be looked at for 50 CFR 36. There
38 was no formal motion on the issue, but the Chairman,
39 Mr. Christianson, stated that this is something that
40 needs to come back to the Federal Subsistence Board.
41 And I think, you know, with that we can work on this or
42 the RAC could work on this and look at 50 CFR 36 with
43 any comments or revisions, but this is something that
44 needs to be done throughout the State of Alaska and all
45 the RACs sitting around the table were in support of
46 this.
47

48 So definitely to bring back to the
49 table if this needs to be changed. So I don't want us
50

1 to forget about that either. And I don't know and
2 maybe for clarification the Federal Subsistence Board
3 meeting is meeting January 28th and that's before your
4 guys' spring meeting. And I know that we're in a
5 fisheries cycle, but I'm not sure and maybe OSM or --
6 could -- have an answer for us if this is something
7 that needs to be worked on before the January meeting
8 or if all the RACs were able to have this on their
9 agendas because this is supposed to be on all of the
10 agendas for all the RAC meetings. And if we have to
11 wait for a wildlife cycle again next year that just
12 puts us into a longer process to have this CFR modified
13 or revised.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: My initial
16 -- yeah, go ahead and come on up. I just had a comment
17 to make.

18
19 My initial reaction to this is that
20 it's definitely not going to be something that I can
21 take a look at on a break and make some really
22 relevant, you know, comments about or formulate ideas
23 for. It's something that I think is going to take time
24 no matter what, but I think the sooner we start the
25 better off we are.

26
27 So did you have something you'd like to
28 add?

29
30 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. This -- my --
31 for the record my name is Jennifer Hardin, I'm the
32 subsistence policy coordinator for the Office of
33 Subsistence Management. And as was noted the January
34 29th is the first day of the Federal Subsistence Board
35 meeting in Anchorage where the topics of discussion
36 will primarily be fisheries regulations and fish and
37 shellfish regulations as well as some other items that
38 we have on the agenda.

39
40 In January also we anticipate the call
41 for wildlife -- proposals to change the wildlife
42 regulations. So the next cycle that will begin. And
43 which you all will be discussing at your winter
44 meeting, your proposals. So it's -- that is probably
45 -- I think you're well in advance of that now so you
46 can began to plan for how you're going to address that
47 issue in your next -- in the next wildlife cycle. And
48 then you'll have until April of 2020 when the Board
49 will meet on those wildlife regulations. So of course
50

1 you'll have to -- the closing date for the new wildlife
2 proposals will be probably -- and I say probably
3 because in the past we've had some delays in getting
4 those calls out in Washington. So but we like to -- we
5 will give at least 30 days, but preferably 90 days to
6 develop those proposals. So you'll definitely have an
7 opportunity at your next meeting to formulate a
8 proposal.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
11 questions anybody.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
16 Richard.

17
18 MR. WILSON: Just a thought. You know,
19 when we had brought this issue up here in this building
20 here last year, you know, there was -- there was quite
21 a bit. It was -- you know, some wordage in there that
22 was very crucial to how this thing would move forward.
23 And I just -- and I realize, you know, that that's
24 probably where this thing stumbled, you know. And so
25 getting our hands on the actual language, what was
26 talked about and how it -- how it failed and how we can
27 go forward is going to be critical on how we address
28 this next proposal. So we definitely need this
29 information in front of us and be able to get in a
30 working group and discuss the verbiage on that.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
33 Richard. I agree.

34
35 Lary.

36
37 MR. HILL: Yeah. Thanks, Gayla, that
38 was -- we need to keep on this changing. I -- part of
39 it I think is we have to -- people that make the rules
40 that cause us to become offenders, have a different
41 reference than we do. And we have to get around that
42 to realize that it's not -- it's something that -- we
43 don't want to all become law breakers, but, you know,
44 we have to protect ourself, but still we need to be
45 able to use the current technology, our subsistence
46 ways of life was always about using the most efficient
47 ways of harvesting our animals. And I think -- this is
48 a personal opinion I guess is that people that make
49 these laws that are -- have a different point of
50

1 reference and how to get around that is going to be
2 difficult unless we have someone I think who is in the
3 position to make these laws who come from our same way
4 of life so that they can understand it or they're not
5 how we do that unless we get more of our local
6 subsistence users into government that makes these
7 rules.

8

9

Thank you.

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ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I think both of you have, you know, really hit the nail on the head because I think it's all in the language and it's got to be -- it has to be worded in such a way to protect subsistence and at the same time protecting resources. So I do think it's going to be time consuming, but I think it's going to be worth our time as well and I think that, you know, we'll start that process as Donald had suggested and continue moving forward. And I say hopefully even though it seems like a long time away, hopefully by -- we'll have something in time to put forward to everybody that is more palatable than what we had last time because it's obviously an issue that needs to be addressed and we should continue to pursue it I think on behalf of the subsistence users of the area.

So thank you, everybody. Gayla.

MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair. That's all I had and I just had -- for the nonagenda items. Do you know if there's an all RAC Council meeting scheduled in the near future?

MR. MIKE: The short answer is no. We're still in discussion of the all RAC meeting so it depends on budget. And it was a success the last time we had it and we're discussing future all RAC meetings.

MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

MR. MIKE: We haven't had -- identified a date yet, so but it's still in discussion, that status.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you, Madame Chair. And just for a follow-up on that it would be

1 good if it does happen before 2020, that if we -- this
2 would be a really good topic to talk about at a all RAC
3 meeting with everybody in the same room because I think
4 that everybody speaks the same language that is not
5 recognized in our regulations.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
10 you, Gayla. And I was just going to suggest that that
11 would be if -- with the Board's approval that it would
12 be probably a good idea to put that in our annual
13 letter as well with the justification that this is a
14 statewide issue that should be addressed sooner rather
15 than later. And it would hopefully maybe justify the
16 wheels of government moving a bit faster to see to it
17 that we could get that meeting put together so that we
18 can all have one voice in it, be very efficient.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 And I would also ask if anybody in the
23 audience has nonagenda items that they would like to
24 bring forward since I offered Gayla the same
25 opportunity I'd be happy to open it up to you as well.
26 Please come up now and if not we will continue to move
27 forward.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dennis.

32
33 MR. ANDREW: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
34 think it would be really great, even better than great,
35 to have an all RAC Board meeting with different --
36 others since you just mentioned, you know, the State.
37 I mean, then -- then it would really understand the
38 other -- other places in the whole State of Alaska. I
39 mean, some -- some proposal might be overlapping, some
40 might be -- I mean, you know, could be a massive change
41 of fine-tuning our paperworks here, I mean, you know.
42 So I thought I'd throw that -- yeah, we definitely need
43 that, big time.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame

50

1 Chair. I was able to attend that last RAC, but I got
2 -- there was one thing. It seemed like towards the end
3 of that meeting there was -- a lot of the RACs were
4 converging on some, I'm seeing if the right word is
5 consensus, among RACs, but I felt that the meeting was
6 somewhat structured to make it difficult for us RACs to
7 get together to send a message to the government of
8 what we wanted. It was like a little -- towards the
9 end got a little confusing. And I know quite a few of
10 us came away a little disappointed that we couldn't
11 have a end of the meeting get together with maybe some
12 resolutions or consensus comments. And it was -- maybe
13 that's just my impression, but it was like -- I almost
14 felt like maybe they didn't really want to hear from us
15 after all. And that was -- that was not good.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair, thank
24 you. The other reasons particularly Southcentral were
25 impressed with the all RAC meeting and the -- during
26 the RAC discussions, you know, they wanted to make
27 clear to OSM that they'd be -- would like to
28 participate in a planning committee to help develop the
29 all RAC meeting. So but we're still in discussion
30 status, but once we go further with this I'll keep the
31 Council updated on it.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
36 That would be perfect. And I agree and I don't know, I
37 would be open to maybe a brief discussion if we
38 shouldn't include basically words to that affect too as
39 well into our letter to the RAC to let them know our
40 feelings, that we've heard it here from a couple
41 different Council members. Would I have any objection
42 from anybody to include that in our annual report as
43 well, that, you know, it's a thought that perhaps at
44 the end of the meetings that groups could come together
45 and have some consensus or resolutions to subjects once
46 they talk together.

47

48 Richard.

49

50

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, that
2 was a great thought, Dan. And that's exactly what I
3 walked away from realizing, you know, that it was a bit
4 of a stumbling, you know, here we sat and listened to
5 other RACs and the issues and things and in the end
6 there was no end to it. It was -- I mean, there was no
7 getting together to try to create anything at all. So
8 the end was kind of like open ended, like you couldn't
9 really do anything with what you just found out. So
10 the end result is going to be important, the end of the
11 meeting.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

16
17 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, I remember I
18 had to leave early on that one, but I talked to others
19 later and it was the same. And even during the whole
20 meeting it was -- I don't know, but it seemed like
21 there was not a -- I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but
22 it's almost like a deliberate effort to have us all
23 united under one idea. Having us all united under one
24 idea is a very powerful thing to watch and to -- I
25 think maybe there's some fear to having that.

26
27 So I'd like to suggest and if it's --
28 where is the -- who determines the agenda for these all
29 RAC meetings. And at some point that -- it doesn't
30 have to be at the end, it could be at the middle, after
31 everybody makes their reports that we have an all group
32 meeting, not just representatives, but everyone with of
33 course some time constraints because we do tend to be a
34 little bit long-winded. But still just like the others
35 talk about, I felt just totally frustrated because --
36 and there were a lot of attention paid to people who
37 were I say acting like children, throwing fits and
38 there's no way to shut them down in a nice way. So a
39 lot of time was spent on those things.

40
41 So just some other observations. And
42 the other thing was I had to leave because of some
43 medical issues, but at the same time there were a lot
44 of people just being frustrated and leaving because of
45 not feeling like there was anything that they came for
46 and the attention was being paid to those issues. So
47 that's just my feelings on my recollections of it.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1
2 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Go
3 ahead -- anybody else.
4

5 (No comments)
6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. Then
8 let's go ahead and add a paragraph in there on our
9 annual report if you would, Donald, kind of summing up
10 our feelings and advice I guess on where to move
11 forward with that.
12

13 And with that let's go ahead and move
14 on to new business, fisheries proposals. FP 19-11.
15

16 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair and for those
17 listening online, Scott Ayers is just passing out a
18 package on all of the fisheries items for your
19 consideration. And there will be extra copies
20 available for those in attendance over on that side of
21 the room.
22

23 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair and members of
24 the Council, again my name is Scott Ayers and I'm the
25 fisheries biologist newly assigned to the Bristol Bay
26 Council. It's my pleasure to work for all of you and I
27 look forward to getting up to speed on all the
28 fisheries issues in this area. I'm also assigned to
29 the Kodiak Aleutians Council and the Southcentral
30 Council.
31

32 MS. LaVINE: And I'm Robbin LaVine
33 again for the record, an anthropologist for the Bristol
34 Bay Regional Advisory Council, the Kodiak Aleutians
35 Regional Advisory Council and Southcentral Regional
36 Advisory Council so I actually get to work with this
37 fellow quite a bit.
38

39 MR. AYERS: So we're going to be
40 providing an update on three program areas including
41 the Partners for Fisheries Monitory, the Fisheries
42 Regulatory Cycle and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
43 Program. The first item is -- will be a brief update
44 about the regulatory cycle and priority information
45 needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program are
46 action items. Please ask questions along the way and
47 we'll do our best to answer them for you.
48

49 MS. LaVINE: So our first update is a
50

1 notice of funding opportunity. We have just provided
2 you -- I think I -- if you look on page 2 of your
3 package we are seeking proposals for the Partners
4 Program to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
5 involvement in Federal subsistence management. The
6 Partners Program is a competitive grant that is
7 directed at providing funding for biologists and social
8 scientists or educator positions in Alaska Native and
9 rural nonprofit organizations with the intent of
10 increasing ability to participate in Federal
11 subsistence management. In addition the program
12 supports a variety of opportunities for local rural
13 students to connect with subsistence resource
14 monitoring and management through science camps and
15 paid internships.

16
17 The notice of funding opportunity has
18 just opened and will accept applications through
19 January 31st. So the news release is on page 2.
20

21 Additional information is available on
22 our website, Federal Subsistence Management Program
23 website. And Karen Hyer and Jared Stone are the points
24 of contact in our office for this program. And their
25 information is listed on the news release.
26

27 There were six partner positions funded
28 through the last call. The Bristol Bay Native
29 Association, the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission,
30 the Native Village and Eyak, the Native Village of
31 Napaimute, ONC and Tanana Chief Conference. And this
32 is an opportunity for you all to consider the Partners
33 Program, potential -- any part -- any other potential
34 partners that you think might be interested in your
35 region. It is not necessarily an action item and as
36 you know you -- Bristol Bay Native Association here in
37 Dillingham has had a very strong Partners Program and
38 it's where I got my start.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Is that
43 information you'd like us to take home with us and just
44 find out if we have anybody else in the area that --
45 and let them know they have until the end of January?
46

47 MS. LaVINE: Correct. Yes.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
50

1 MS. LaVINE. Madame Chair.

2
3 MR. AYERS: Okay. So on to the
4 Fisheries regulatory cycle. This meeting during the
5 fall of even numbered years is when the Regional
6 Advisory Councils review analyses of Fisheries
7 regulatory proposals. The Federal Subsistence Board
8 will take action on these Fisheries proposals during
9 their January, 2019 public regulatory meeting. There
10 are 19 Fisheries proposals this round. There was one
11 Fisheries proposal submitted for the Bristol Bay region
12 for this regulatory cycle. The analysis for this
13 proposal starts on page 12 of your Council books.

14
15 Proposal FP 19-11 was submitted by the
16 Bristol Bay Native Association on behalf of the
17 Nondalton Tribal Council and requests two separate
18 changes to the current regulations for the take of
19 salmon without a permit in Lake Clark and its
20 tributaries. These regulations currently allow
21 snagging by handline or rod and reel, spear, bow and
22 arrow or capture by bare hand. The requested changes
23 are to add the area of Sixmile Lake and its tributaries
24 to the regulation and to add the gear type rod and reel
25 to the list of approved methods.

26
27 The proponent notes that the waters of
28 Sixmile Lake are within and adjacent to the exterior
29 boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and
30 the regulation should extend to them. They also
31 identify that rod and reel is currently only allowed
32 for snagging which is defined as hooking or attempting
33 to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth.

34
35 The proponent further clarified that
36 past interactions between State law enforcement and
37 subsistence fishers on Sixmile Lake led local -- led to
38 local concerns regarding legal harvest methods and was
39 the impetus behind submission of this proposal.

40
41 The fishery for salmon without a permit
42 in the Lake Clark area was established by Board action
43 on Proposal FP 07-06 during the 2007 regulatory cycle
44 at the January, 2007 meeting. At the same meeting the
45 Board took action on Proposal FP 07-07 which requested
46 that beach seines be added as a legal gear type for
47 Lake Clark and its tributaries. Their discussion on
48 this proposal moved towards whether or not Sixmile Lake
49 and all of its tributaries could also be included.

50

1 However concerns were raised about whether all of the
2 waters were considered Federal public waters for
3 subsistence purposes as some were not within the
4 boundary of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The
5 Board moved forward on the proposal without including
6 Sixmile Lake with the intent of bringing up the topic
7 again at a future meeting following clarification of
8 the jurisdiction issue.
9

10 During its May, 2007 meeting the Board
11 was notified that the Solicitor's Office did find
12 Federal jurisdiction for Sixmile Lake as it is adjacent
13 to the Park boundary. However the Board took no
14 further action on adding these waters to the beach
15 seine regulation.
16

17 For the 2008 regulatory cycle the Board
18 adopted Proposal FP 08-12 to add fyke net and lead as
19 gear types that could be used to target fish other than
20 rainbow trout with a limited scope of the tributaries
21 of Lake Clark and the tributaries of Sixmile Lake
22 within an adjacent to Lake Clark National Park and
23 Preserve.
24

25 Gillnets have become the dominant gear
26 type for catching salmon in this area. In 2008 -- in a
27 2008 study gillnets were used by 69 percent of
28 households in Nondalton for subsistence. The rod and
29 reel has been and continues to be highly utilized in
30 the Kvichak watershed. In the same 2008 study your rod
31 and reel was used by 28 percent of households when
32 harvesting salmon in the area.
33

34 If adopted Proposal FP 19-11 would
35 extend the additional capture methods and means to
36 Sixmile Lake and its tributaries which would benefit
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users that harvest
38 salmon in this area.
39

40 The OSM preliminary conclusion for this
41 proposal was to adopt FP -- was to support FP 19-11
42 with a recommendation to limit those tributaries for
43 Sixmile Lake to within and adjacent to the exterior
44 Park boundaries.
45

46 Thank you.
47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
49 you, Scott. Questions, comments.
50

1 Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: This is Billy's country
4 so I'd be really eager to hear from him before we move
5 anywhere.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So I was
10 looking at you, Billy, got the hairy eyeball.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Oh, yeah. This proposal
13 was put together by the Nondalton Tribal Council and we
14 -- and this is our concerns which had been going on for
15 quite a long time. And I did hear him mention
16 snagging. Snagging we've been using that for a long
17 time, it just needs to be put on the books as
18 recognized as a way of taking fish.

19

20 And the other thing was I heard him say
21 seining, I thought I heard you say seine or something.
22 But that's another way we take fish too. I mean, it's
23 illegal in State waters and we take salmon, we -- a lot
24 of people also use seines for -- it's a very good
25 management way of fishing because the gillnet, if you
26 want to take 50 fish and you catch 300 fish you're
27 stuck with 300 fish. With a seine you take 50 fish,
28 you lift up the net, you release the others without
29 even harming them in any kind of way. The State's
30 biggest concern about that is we were going to start
31 harvesting the roe and leaving the males, that's why
32 the State never supported that.

33

34 But we do seine up there. And
35 snagging, we snag. We -- anyway to catch a fish and
36 survive, it's all mean of survival. And we do support
37 this very much, we stand behind it.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
42 questions for.....

43

44 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Lary.

48

49 MR. HILL: Through the Chair I guess.

50

1 Let's see using snagging the issue was when you snag a
2 salmon sometimes you catch them in the mouth. And that
3 was a issue with some of the enforcement people that
4 that's not really snagging and that's sport fishing,
5 for sport fishing you need a license. And I don't see
6 that in here unless I'm just -- read it too fast. That
7 -- I think that language might need to be in there.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Scott.

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MR. HILL: I -- as long as all the
enforcement people understand that, but it's -- we
can't always assume, you know, what those words mean.
I almost think it needs to be stated that you can --
you may also by accident catch them in the mouth which
does happen. So if you have an enforcement person
there it's just a lot of -- I feel like there are a lot
of things that we can't -- it has to be stated exactly.
And that's one of the problems I had with the way --

1 yes, rod and reel is -- you catch them in the mouth,
2 yes, but salmon don't always bite the lure and
3 sometimes when you're dragging your hook along the
4 bottom, the salmon are laying there with their mouths
5 open like this and you just drag it right through their
6 mouth and you catch them. And that's sport fishing,
7 but it's -- I think it needs to be stated that you can
8 catch them in the mouth.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Jason, would
11 you care to share how enforcement is involved and what
12 wording will make it solid?

13
14 MR. DYE: Yeah, Madame Chair, members
15 of the Council. Again my name is Jason Dye and I'm the
16 Bristol Bay area management biologist with Fish and
17 Game, Sport Fish here in Dillingham.

18
19 I don't know if I can clarify all of
20 that, but I -- there's a little bit of background
21 information that I think I'd like to provide to the
22 Council regarding the State proposal that is similar to
23 this that's before the Board of Fish, before the State
24 Board of Fish at the upcoming meeting here in November
25 and December. The State is going to recommend on that
26 proposal which was proposed by the Nondalton Tribal
27 Council and is for rod and reel subsistence in Sixmile
28 Lake, the State is going to recommend to -- that the
29 Board take no action and that a committee be formed to
30 kind of discuss rod and reel subsistence as a whole
31 because it's been coming up a lot more often. And the
32 Department feels that there needs to be kind of a
33 meeting of user groups and kind of discussion on what
34 direction we want to head with that down the road. So
35 that's just a little bit of background information.

36
37 At the current time for this particular
38 proposal the State is in opposition to this proposal
39 basically based on enforcement issues and the fact that
40 it would -- State and Federal regulations would not --
41 no longer align. However that position could change
42 pending the outcome of the Board of Fish meeting and
43 the potential for the working group or committee.

44
45 Madame Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
48 Jason. And is that -- I haven't called departments up
49 yet, but I won't call you up again if that is your
50

1 comments?

2

3

MR. DYE: That is.

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So we'll -- we'll have those on the record then.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

11

12

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

13

14

15

16

17

18

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I was helped to understand last night, I was visiting with Cody from BBNA and I had kind of been distracted on just what this proposal really does and I'm still working on getting it clear in my head.

19

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30

But so I have a couple questions and maybe some of the Federal folks or I guess -- or Jason can. So to now has this been -- who -- which enforcement agency has been having a heartburn with somebody catching a fish. I mean, a lot of -- I joke about sockeye salmon with sport fishing is almost precision snagging anyway and now -- and somebody's that good they're snagging them in the mouth like they do at Igiugig and how little red salmon sport fishing I do. I was like who has been finding the need to enforce this -- man, a tiny technicality?

31

32

33

I have a few other questions too, but first that one.

34

35

36

37

38

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I -- Billy or Lary, can you tell us, I mean, that's -- I agree with Dan, what a waste of time for our law enforcement people to be arguing over.

39

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MR. TREFON: Well, part of the snagging, I mean, that -- by State law that's illegal and we used to fish in State water. But as far as snagging in the mouth, I mean, I never really had to worry about it because I never had a salmon really bite my hook in my life, I mean -- I mean, I never had a salmon really just come out and bite the hook, you either have to snag them or like Dan's saying, precision fishing. I mean, I don't think salmon -- I've been told salmon don't start biting hooks after

50

1 they get in freshwater. I don't know how true that is.

2

3 But we do stand by, I mean, whatever
4 means we can to take fish to survive. We don't misuse
5 our food up there in Nondalton, it's 100 percent
6 dependent on subsistence. And we feel like we ain't
7 breaking any laws and precision -- if it's a State law
8 between sport fishing versus subsistence, maybe that's
9 where it needs to be changed.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you, Billy.
16 But I guess still is it -- are there Park Service
17 enforcement folks that are doing this or is it State
18 enforcement folks because it gets back to which group's
19 laws do we need to look at.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy, go
24 ahead.

25

26 MR. TREFON: Okay. For us in Nondalton
27 it's going to be the Park Service because it's in
28 Federal waters until you get down past the boundaries
29 where State lands are then in the State waters. But
30 it's all in Federal waters, Sixmile Lake included.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

33

34 MR. TREFON: So it would be the Park
35 Service.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, Billy.
38 Somebody's way too bored. I think we had some State
39 enforcement guys harassing kids up in that area for
40 supposedly chumming. And I think that came out a
41 pretty hot issue on the State side. And I think once
42 the enforcement upper level guys learned about it I
43 think they talked to their field guys and, you know,
44 quit picking on the little kids or whatever. So but
45 again this gets back to which -- you know, we have the
46 State proposal, we got a Federal proposal, which one
47 will do -- do we have to do them both or which one will
48 be the most effective?

49

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I
4 think -- I think I can answer that one. In the Federal
5 waters we -- we're going to need to address them both
6 and right now we're talking about the Federal waters
7 one. And I think -- it sounds to me from what Billy
8 just said that's where they spend most of their time up
9 there is in the Federal waters. So I do think it will
10 be important for us to address this now.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. And
13 then if we adopt this will this strictly apply to those
14 because there's a lot stuff happens like this up in the
15 Park, would this be strictly those Federally-qualified
16 folks within the Park? I need help with that.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Scott.

19
20 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. Yes, it
21 would apply specifically to those Federally-qualified
22 individuals with customary and traditional use of
23 salmon in that particular region. The regulations
24 currently apply to the Lake Clark and its tributaries
25 area. This would extend them down into Sixmile Lake
26 and its tributaries. And then -- so that's the first
27 action. And the second action is to add to that list
28 of capture methods and means rod and reel to address
29 the snagging issue so that it's not simply using a rod
30 and reel for snagging alone. So it's also for capture
31 by hook in the mouth.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

34
35 Dan.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. That
38 really helps. I personally right now I don't think I
39 have any objection to extending the area and the
40 methods and means especially when you see the
41 boundary's just on one side of the lake and the other.
42 And I have a little familiarity with that country. But
43 if we start looking at the statewide thing I really
44 worry that it could open a can of worms with all State
45 residents qualifying for subsistence. And I'm not sure
46 Billy wants Otter loads of folks on the beach right in
47 front of Nondalton merrily snagging large numbers of
48 fish.

49
50

1 But so I guess the only other thing is
2 somehow I'd like to officially ask the Park Service to
3 really review how important or -- I mean, somebody was
4 bored to find this technicality. It took Cody an hour
5 to help me understand. I was like so there's a problem
6 with catching a fish in the mouth. I -- you know, my
7 enforcement experience was you damn well better catch
8 it in the mouth or then I have a problem. So I just --
9 it took a long time to get my head turned around on
10 this.

11
12 So thank you very much.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
15 you, Dan. And I agree. I'm with you, it's ridiculous.

16
17 Any other questions for Scott.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
22 Seeing none, we'll go on to -- we had Jason, thank you
23 for yours. Agency comments, Federal.

24
25 Donald, are those yours?

26
27 MR. MIKE: Agency comments. We have
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game if they wish to
29 provide comments and Federal and Tribal comments also.
30 And we have Federal folks online that wish to provide
31 comments on this. So when you get a chance you can
32 recognize them.

33
34 Thank you. That would be George Pappas
35 from OSM.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
40 Yeah, I already accepted Jason's comments from when he
41 was here previously. He said that was what he had for
42 summation.

43
44 And then, George, if you'd like to
45 provide Federal comments we'd be very much
46 appreciative.

47
48 MR. PAPPAS: And good morning, Madame
49 Chair, members of the Regional Advisory Council.

50

1 So what I'm doing right now is trying
2 to collect comments from the different Regional
3 Advisory Councils for proposals that impact their area.
4 And there's been a thorough discussion of -- at this
5 point regarding FP 19-11 regarding this issue in the
6 area. And we don't have a formalized, approved
7 position yet, but the -- it appears that the adoption
8 of this proposal may increase a subsistence user's
9 opportunity through authorizing the use of a rod and
10 reel in the identified portions of Sixmile Lake and its
11 outlet. Adoption of this proposal will result in an
12 unknown amount, but likely small increase of
13 subsistence harvest in the area identified. Adoption
14 of this proposal may result in reduced enforcement
15 concerns and user confusion if the Federal Subsistence
16 Board approves the parallel proposal, FP 19-11 at its
17 meeting in January, 2019.

18
19 At this time the OSM could support both
20 proposals, but I don't have approval through the
21 leadership team and ISC review process so I'm looking
22 for comments from the Regional Advisory Council if
23 you're interested in seeing this go through on the
24 State side. If it does go through on the State side
25 that would open it up to all subsistence users in
26 Alaska and in theory it should be parallel to the
27 Federal side if the Federal side does adopt.

28
29 Now what I just heard from the
30 Department of Fish and Game is they're going to
31 recommend a working group on this issue. Specifically
32 since we know this and we have a record built, I would
33 be interested in hearing from the Regional Advisory
34 Council if the Board of Fisheries determines they're
35 looking for a working group to determine an outlook on
36 this, if the Regional Advisory Council wants to defer
37 the proposal until this working group concludes or if
38 the Bristol Bay Advisory Council's interested in seeing
39 this go through and potentially take the vote on the
40 Federal subsistence side and if it's approved then we'd
41 have a Federal subsistence rod and reel fishery there
42 and not a State one as the State works out their
43 details.

44
45 So this is a different twist. I'm
46 asking if you're interested in deferring until a
47 working group comes to an agreement on the -- on this
48 issue or you continue forward with the position of
49 support or oppose this proposal to the Board of Fish.
50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
4 George. And I'm going to make a quick comment here too
5 that I can see us jumping into this debate quite
6 quickly. And I'm going to have us hold off on it until
7 we're done with all comments and then let's talk about
8 it in a discussion where we can continue with it
9 without having other people wait.

10

11 Richard, did you have something else.

12

13 MR. WILSON: Thank you. That's better
14 than what I was going to say.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. All
17 right. I kind of -- I kind of thought so. We'll --
18 yeah, let's finish our.....

19

20 Go ahead, Dennis, if you need to go.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: (Indiscernible - away from
23 microphone).....

24

25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.
26 Then let's move on to Tribal.

27

28 Please, Orville, come on up.

29

30 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
31 members. On the consultation we held on June 12th,
32 there was no additional comments on the proposal.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
35 From there Advisory Group comments, other Regional
36 Councils?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: None. Fish
41 and Game Advisory Committees?

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Nushagak AC. It was out
44 of our area so we didn't consider it.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Larry or --
49 do you guys sit on your Advisory Councils and was there

50

1 any comments?

2

3

MR. HILL: No.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy, did
6 you have any?

7

8

MR. TREFON: No.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
11 Subsistence Resource, SRCs.

12

13

Please, come on up, Liz.

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ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
And I apologize for mispronouncing your name.

MS. RUPP: Oh, that's okay.

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So that's a
2 clarification. So we haven't actually had an
3 enforcement issue yet, this is more of a preventative?
4

5 MS. RUPP: Yes. I think it's to -- so
6 that no one gets caught offguard and the Park Service
7 has not -- it's been more of a State enforcement issue
8 than the Park Service. We have not actually given
9 legal things that are going on. We haven't been doing
10 a whole lot of active enforcement.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, that's
13 good. I -- weird as that sounds I'm very relieved to
14 hear this was not an actual issue.....
15

16 MS. RUPP: No, that.....
17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON:that we
19 are.....
20

21 MS. RUPP: No. I think -- so my
22 understanding from how the SRC discussed it it was just
23 an attempt to stave off or, you know, head off any
24 potential inadvertent actions by people that were just
25 trying to do the snagging and by accident caught a fish
26 in the mouth.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
29 other questions, Board members.
30

31 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.
32

33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
34

35 Go ahead, Billy.
36

37 MR. TREFON: Talking about the
38 snagging, you're right, fish don't bite the hook. I've
39 never seen that in my life where a fish actually bit
40 the hook even though my grandpa had an idea, I got a
41 video of him showing how fish will bite the hook. In
42 the spawning creeks he showed the sport fishermen that
43 if you drag the hook across their -- where their eggs
44 are they're going to bite the hook, like protecting it.
45 But and as far as -- far as where this all came from,
46 you're right, it did come from a State trooper landing
47 on our fish camp dock and citing two kids for fishing
48 with rod and reel. That's where this all began.
49 That's what I wanted to say.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

4

5 MR. HILL: That's what -- I was going
6 to refer to that too. This happened -- I don't want to
7 name names, but some overzealous person was, I don't
8 know, bored like Dan said, looking for something to do.
9 Mainly we're trying to be forward-looking and prevent
10 it from happening again so that we shouldn't be afraid
11 to utilize our own resources as we have traditionally.
12 And of course using more efficient methods, it's easier
13 to throw a hook way out with a rod and reel than it was
14 a willow stick, you know. And so that was part of it.
15 And so we don't want our people to be -- feel like
16 they've got to hide their activities and I resent
17 having to do that. And so addition of the rod and reel
18 I think may well take care of that.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
21 you.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dennis.

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 I guess I need better clarification. I mean, you take
29 silvers and you take kings down here watching these
30 guys and everyone of them, you know, they get caught in
31 their mouth. What do you mean they don't eat. If they
32 don't open their mouth to go after something in the
33 first place how the hooks going to get to that fish.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I've been interpreting
38 that -- in that country where Lary and Billy are, it's
39 almost all red salmon which aren't so eager to bite
40 compared to the silvers and kings. So I'm thinking
41 they're mostly -- and they can correct me, but I'm
42 thinking they're mostly talking about sockeyes.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

45

46 MR. HILL: Yeah, this idea with
47 snagging, I've observed that sport fishers people when
48 they're out getting salmon, they'll have two hooks,
49 single hooks, about this far apart. Both the -- the

50

1 weight is on the -- on the one at the head and they'll
2 cast out into the stream like this, that's where the --
3 in the spawning area and they'll drag the hook across
4 and especially during, you know, the stream it'll come
5 down and the salmon is there moving their mouth and
6 breathing. So the first hook comes by, the salmon
7 avoided that and go back to their position and the
8 second hook comes by and catches them with their mouth
9 open. So they get caught like that and that's not
10 technically snagging. But in my -- but it is, so
11 that's some of the techniques on how it's used. And
12 having that -- that's been done where I've seen. So
13 this official snagging we're thinking about is like a
14 single hook or even a -- I don't want to say the word
15 kind of hook. But, yeah, it needs to be defined. It's
16 rod and reel and it's -- we're trying to be -- trying
17 to be legal, but we've got to get our fish.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I'm just
20 going to throw out there for my sport fishing end of
21 it, I -- you're absolutely right, but the way I always
22 theorize it is that actually when you are out there the
23 line actually ends up in their mouth which they can't
24 see and then the hook ends up -- if you look at those
25 fish that are caught, 90 percent of the ones we caught
26 -- we catch our -- the hook enters from the outside
27 instead of the inside. Which totally is 100 percent of
28 your theory, but my theory on how it actually happens
29 is that the line ends up in their mouth and then the
30 hook ends up in the side of their head.

31
32 So let's -- we'll continue on here with
33 -- thank you very much, Liza, summary of written public
34 comments.

35
36 Donald.

37
38 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we did not
39 receive any written comments on this proposal.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
44 And public testimony, is there any public testimony
45 that anybody would like to give.

46
47 Gayla.

48
49 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. Gayla Hoseth.

50

1 I just wanted to say that I'm -- for me pers -- I'm
2 speaking on my own behalf to support this proposal. So
3 many times all these regulations are written without
4 our input of Alaska Natives who've been here for, you
5 know, since time immemorial. And our traditional ways
6 of doing things should not be something that we have to
7 practice hiding or thinking that we're going to be
8 criminalized. So I am happy that this proposal is
9 moving forward and that -- that it was written and
10 hopefully that it will pass so that our ways of life
11 can be recognized into regulations.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any
16 questions.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
21 Billy.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'd like to thank
24 Gayla for that. Yeah, because the intent was here to
25 at least get -- at least get the discussion started.
26 And looking at what's happening here the discussion is
27 starting. We are actually accomplishing what we wanted
28 to do. It's gaining momentum, it's getting involved
29 with the State and Feds.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
34 you.

35
36 Any other public testimony.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
41 Seeing none, would somebody like to put the motion on
42 the table so we can have discussion.

43
44 Richard.

45
46 MR. WILSON: I'll so move to put the
47 proposal 19-11, adopt.

48
49 MR. HILL: Second.

50

1
2 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
3 have a motion and a second. Who'd like to.....
4

5 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
8 Donald.
9

10 MR. MIKE: Just for the record for
11 clarification. Mr. Richard Wilson moved to adopt
12 proposal FP 19-11 as proposed or as written by or
13 recommended by OSM recommendation.
14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.
18

19 MR. WILSON: Yes, thank you. Yes, as
20 modified.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does the
23 second agree?
24

25 MR. HILL: Yes.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
28 you for that clarification and thanks for catching
29 that, Donald, before we get too far down the road.
30

31 So, Richard, would you like to speak to
32 your motion.
33

34 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Yeah, I think -- you know, we get this thing rolling,
36 you know, and get it -- you know, get the Federal
37 Council to take a look at it and -- on the Federal
38 side. State has its own issues and they can just deal
39 with that another time. We'll get this thing rolling
40 and get it -- get it in the books.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, would
43 you like to speak to your second.
44

45 MR. HILL: No, just -- I'm fully in
46 agreement of what -- I agree with what Richard says.
47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm inclined to
4 support this. I'm generally a proponent for keeping
5 State and Federal laws really closely aligned, but this
6 is -- that area -- the main part of the area has been
7 parted from State regs for a while. It seems to really
8 only affect a limited group of people and it's kind of
9 like an awful fine-tuning. And so I'm inclined to
10 support it.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

15
16 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm inclined to
17 support it too. And it is actually going -- with the
18 State actually showing concerns about it, it's moving
19 forward. So I think it's going to work.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: Also I'm in support of it.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Are we ready for call for
28 question.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I was
31 waiting to hear that. Okay. Question's been called.
32 All in favor of supporting FP 19-11 as modified please
33 signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
38 sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Our
43 motion carries.

44
45 Okay.

46
47 Let's go ahead and take a five minute
48 break before we move on to our next position. So 10:25
49 I'll see you back here.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're
6 back on record again.

7

8 Justification, we didn't -- we missed
9 our justification for accepting that proposal. And,
10 Richard, I was going to ask if you wanted to give your
11 justification for adopting the proposal for the record
12 for Donald.

13

14 MR. WILSON: It's the right thing to
15 do.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I really
18 like that. Thank you very much. I think that the
19 Council members all agree as I see nods around the
20 Board.

21

22 Okay. With that let's go ahead and
23 move on to our FRMP priority information needs.

24

25 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program we'd like
27 to start with an update on the 2018 FRMP cycle.

28

29 The 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
30 plan was finalized on May 25th of 2018. The following
31 four projects were funded in the Southwest FRMP region
32 which is composed of both the Bristol Bay and Kodiak
33 Aleutians RAC regions.

34

35 Project 18-400, Buskin River weir with
36 the primary on that is the Alaska Department of Fish
37 and Game, Sport Fish Division.

38

39 Project 18-450, which is Unalaska Fish
40 Harvest Practices and that's being conducted by the
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence
42 Division.

43

44 Project 18-451, Subsistence Harvest
45 Trends of Salmon and Nonsalmon in Four Southern Kodiak
46 Island Communities with a Focus on Olga and Akaler
47 Lakes which is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
48 Subsistence Division.

49

50

1 Project 18-751, Subsistence Harvest
2 Assessment and Stock Composition of Dolly Varden and
3 Nonsalmon Fish Stocks in the Togiak National Wildlife
4 Refuge which is being conducted by the Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division,
6 Bristol Bay Native Association and the U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service, Conservation Genetics Lab.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Do we have
10 that list in our report anywhere, is that on a page
11 that you can tell me about?

12
13 MS. LaVINE: This is Robbin for the
14 record, Robbin LaVine. It is on page 6 of the packet.
15 And I'll be walking you through these materials, the
16 working group materials, in just a moment.

17
18 So the Office of Subsistence.....

19
20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, I didn't
21 see anything on there about the ones that were accepted
22 though.

23
24 MS. LaVINE: Halfway down the page.....

25
26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, it's in
27 a handout. Okay. Thank you. Just give me -- just
28 point me in the right direction.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 Go ahead.

33
34 MS. LaVINE: So the Office of
35 Subsistence Management will announce the 2020 notice of
36 funding opportunity for the Monitoring Program later
37 this fall. We will be seeking proposals for projects
38 that gather information to manage and conserve
39 subsistence fisheries resources in Federal waters in
40 Alaska. The Monitoring Program is also directed at
41 supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries
42 management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and
43 promoting collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska
44 Native and local organizations.

45
46 So the first step in this process is
47 for the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the
48 priority research needs or information gaps for each
49 region. These priority information needs or PINS for
50

1 short, provide the framework for soliciting, evaluating
2 and selecting projects for funding through the
3 Monitoring Program. The development of the priority
4 information needs is an important process for the
5 Council. Your decisions determine the types and
6 subjects of project proposals that are sought for your
7 region. These PINS will drive the remainder of this
8 FRMP cycle and are the primary point where the Councils
9 influence the direction of the Monitoring Program.

10

11 Page 3 of the Fisheries handout
12 provides the timeline for the funding cycle and
13 identifies that this step is the action item for the
14 Councils as part of the FRMP process. Council input is
15 also requested on the project proposal summaries that
16 are submitted. While that feedback helps to inform
17 final project selection by the assistant regional
18 director of OSM, it is not an action item.

19

20 So a working group composed of members
21 of this Council and Kodiak Aleutians Council members
22 met last month to initiate the discussion of the
23 priority information needs for the southwest FRMP
24 region. And this is what Dan participated in and Molly
25 Chythlook. The working group consisted of Dan Dunaway
26 and Molly Chythlook from this Council, Della Tremble,
27 Rebecca Skinner and Patrick Holmes from the Kodiak
28 Aleutians Council. Also present at the meeting from
29 OSM were myself, Donald, Zach Stevenson who is the
30 Council coordinator for Kodiak Aleutians, Christine
31 Brummer, our Pathway student, and Scott.

32

33 The working group examined the priority
34 information needs for the last two cycles. Those are
35 found on pages 4 and 5 of your packets. So the last
36 two calls for proposals. And the priority information
37 needs that were forwarded with the notice of funding
38 opportunity at that time are included there. And
39 projects that have been funded by those priority
40 information needs can be found on page 6. The projects
41 through -- funded through the Monitoring Program from
42 2000 to present are on pages 7 and 8. Activities not
43 eligible for funding through the Monitoring Program are
44 found on page 9. Those are the things we don't cover
45 in our NOFO. And information on subsistence data gaps
46 provided by resource managers and researchers in this
47 region can be found on page 10.

48

49 So from all of these materials our --

50

1 the working group, the combined working group, for the
2 southwest region composed a list of potential priority
3 information needs for consideration by the Council. So
4 what you see on page 11 and 12 is the draft from the
5 working group with edits from the Kodiak Aleutians
6 Council. So they edited both what our -- you know,
7 some of their -- this list demonstrates their input on
8 the region wide priority information needs and their --
9 their interests specifically in their region. Items
10 with strikethrough were selected by the working group
11 or the Council for removal while items in bold were
12 added.

13
14 Similar to the last call for proposals
15 the working group discussed priority information needs
16 in three categories, those that are southwest region
17 wide, those specific to the Kodiak Aleutians and those
18 specific to the Bristol Bay region. For the 2018 call
19 for proposals the two Councils agreed to have two
20 region wide priority information needs, three priority
21 information needs specific to Bristol Bay and three
22 priority information needs specific to the Kodiak
23 Aleutians. The results of today's discussion will be
24 the -- be combined with the results of the Kodiak
25 Aleutians Council's discussion to make up the final
26 list of 2020 priority information needs for the
27 southwest region.

28
29 At this point it is up to you as a
30 Council to talk through these and determine what you
31 would like to put forth as your southwest region
32 priority information needs for 2020. I would suggest
33 starting with the region wide PINS and moving on to
34 your Bristol Bay specific PINS. The Kodiak Aleutian
35 PINS are already set and I would also just like to
36 comment that when you're looking at your Bristol Bay
37 specific PINS, they don't have to be set in stone in
38 regards to what the Council discussed in the working
39 group. So, Dan, you can bring forward for
40 consideration anything new at this time for discussion.

41
42
43 And at this point I'm ready to take
44 questions. Both Scott and I are here for you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm -- yeah,
47 I just would want clear clarification and direction for
48 the Board because this is where we always seem to get
49 sidetracked on this issue too. You need for us to let
50

1 you know how -- what priorities and what order you
2 would like our priorities to be both for the Bristol
3 Bay region or for the whole thing, give us some further
4 clarification?

5
6 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 When we talk about priorities we don't prioritize the
8 list specifically so all of these are considered really
9 important. You prioritize issues in your region by
10 leaving those PINS on the list. At that point anyone
11 can forward a proposal and then they will be evaluated
12 based on the strength of the proposal and how they
13 address those priority information needs. But once you
14 get those priority information needs on your list we
15 don't say this one is weighted more strongly than
16 another. In some ways you can kind of do that through
17 the region wide and you can also do it by making sure
18 that you don't have a large number of priority
19 information needs, but a few very important ones.

20
21 Additionally we'll be taking notes and
22 anything that's discussed here but that you decide may
23 not necessarily be as important for this call can be
24 reviewed again next time we're here to discuss the 2022
25 cycle.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And -- okay.
30 And for -- just for our newer Board members so that
31 they understand. So what we do is we tell them areas
32 that we have concerns about that we'd like further
33 biological or sociological information about and then
34 basically when that's on the list somebody such as BBNA
35 will put a group together and make a bid on doing
36 something to fill in that information. So what we're
37 saying to them here is these are areas of concern that
38 we'd like more information about. So that's what we're
39 trying to pick out for them. Okay. Does that.....

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
44 Because I know that this was tough for me to grasp when
45 I first started participating in this.

46
47 So with that I would open -- Dan, did
48 you want to start off with what your discussions may
49 have been.

50

1 Robbin.

2

3 MS. LaVINE: I'm sorry. Yes, thank
4 you, Madame Chair.

5

6 I just realized that actually the last
7 Council meeting I actually read these aloud. And it's
8 helpful for those that are listening on the line and
9 everybody in the audience because they may not all have
10 this in their hands. So I'm happy to read through it,
11 kind of read through the strikethroughs as well as the
12 bold so I'll let you know what the working group
13 recommended for removal, I'll let you know what the
14 working group recommended for -- to add and the
15 preliminary priority information needs for Bristol Bay
16 specific.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I do think
19 that would be a good idea especially for those
20 listening online and those in our audience who don't
21 have the paperwork in front of them.

22

23 Richard.

24

25 MR. WILSON: Just a quick, who's on the
26 working group?

27

28 MS. LaVINE: Thank you. Through the
29 Chair, Richard. For your Council, the Bristol Bay
30 Council, you elected for the last two cycles Dan
31 Dunaway and Molly Chythlook to participate and
32 represent the Bristol Bay region and for the Kodiak
33 Aleutians it was Della, Rebecca Skinner and Pat Holmes
34 to represent Kodiak Aleutians. And again so you've got
35 expertise for people that are region specific and then
36 also you've got expertise that are combined for
37 interests that may reflect a region wide concern. And
38 that would be the -- both Bristol Bay and Kodiak
39 Aleutians, they make up the southwest region. And so
40 some of the things you're looking at are for issues
41 that you share.

42

43 And with that I will start. So the
44 region wide priority information needs, last time it
45 was two. The first priority information need has a
46 strikethrough so this was recommended for removal. And
47 that priority information was reliable estimates of
48 abundance of salmon populations in the southwest Alaska
49 region, an assessment of region wide declines in

50

1 populations. And I do believe that the reason why that
2 was struck for removal was because it was important for
3 each region to define some of those most critical
4 watersheds that would be addressed by this PIN. So it
5 became -- it was moved to a region specific priority
6 information need.

7
8 So region wide PIN number 2, reliable
9 estimates of the harvest and use of salmon and other
10 nonsalmon fish species for subsistence. Of particular
11 interest are harvest trends at -- and some of these
12 communities are struckthrough because they have already
13 been addressed, Unalaska Bay was struckthrough, Togiak
14 remains, Southwest, Kodiak Island communities was
15 struckthrough as was Old Harbor. Added to this list is
16 Port Lyons, Ouzinkie and Kodiak.

17
18 Region wide priority information need
19 number 3 is new for this round. And it reads, local
20 observations of change in salmon and nonsalmon fish
21 populations says as quality, run timing, sex ratios,
22 age composition, et cetera. So observations of these
23 things in the southwest alaska region and impacts on
24 subsistence uses. And that was determined to be of
25 region wide interest.

26
27 For the Kodiak Aleutians you can see
28 these priority information needs are listed as four,
29 five. You see priority information need six is a
30 strikethrough. As this is not as relevant to this
31 meeting I won't take up the time reading through that,
32 but it's there for your reference. And if you turn on
33 page 12 we have priority information needs seven, eight
34 and nine.

35
36 Priority information need seven is
37 reliable estimates of sockeye salmon escapement in the
38 Lake Clark watershed.

39
40 Priority information need eight, the
41 first sentence is -- half sentence is struckthrough.
42 This is struckthrough, reliable estimates of salmon
43 escapement and. And so again the recommended priority
44 information need would begin evaluation of quality of
45 escapement measures, for example potential egg
46 deposition, sex and size composition of spawners,
47 spawning habitat utility and utilization for
48 determining the reproductive potential of spawning
49 stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River,
50

1 Nushagak River, Chignik River, Meshik River and Togiak
2 River.
3

4 Priority information need nine was
5 recommended for removal and it's struck through, but it
6 reads, reliable estimates of harvest of dolly varden in
7 the Togiak River drainage by residents of Togiak and
8 Twin Hills as I believe as a recent project has
9 addressed that priority information need.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
12 Robbin, I think that was helpful. Questions, anybody.
13

14 Richard.
15

16 MR. WILSON: If I remember right some
17 of these proposals that we're asking for further
18 studies on, some of the language to me isn't really --
19 doesn't really dictate what I was after like for
20 example eight in Bristol Bay. You know, you're looking
21 at -- we were looking at the chinook salmon as --
22 wanted to keep monitoring chinook salmon in our areas
23 and the reason why they weren't showing back up in big
24 numbers in some areas. Some areas very fortunate, very
25 few areas are fortunate to have chinook nowadays. And
26 so the other areas were definitely in concern. The
27 State of Alaska's got to -- you know, this is all
28 statewide. So, you know, some of the examples you give
29 here, quality of escapement to me doesn't spell out
30 enough. I would think that -- I know as we go through
31 -- you know, once they're into, you know, the spawning
32 ground areas, looking at what happens in the spawning
33 ground areas. Well, here it's talking about, you know,
34 potential egg deposition and things, but to spell out
35 the reason why, you know, the usage or the traffic, you
36 know, in some of these areas that are upsetting some of
37 these spawning grounds or maybe the abuse of some of
38 these spawning areas. I want to make sure that that's
39 noted and that that is our concerns over there in our
40 systems is that it doesn't get over utilized once
41 they're in the spawning grounds. I mean, that's a
42 potential disaster there.
43

44 And that's kind of what I wanted to
45 clarify here.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
48 Richard. And, Robbin, this would be our opportunity to
49 reword or emphasize, correct?
50

1 MS. LaVINE: Uh-huh.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
4 let's keep that in mind.

5

6 Daniel.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. And thank you,
9 Nanci. I have to apologize and admit I ended up in
10 that working group and -- this fall maybe not as
11 prepared as I wished I could be. I probably should
12 have made more effort to contact everybody to see
13 what's new. I felt a little behind the curve when I
14 was on the phone on this. But I was also -- I'm kind
15 of just hammered by the -- what the Gulf of Alaska
16 fisheries is suffering. Chignik, Kodiak, Alaska
17 Peninsula, all over, it's just mind-boggling. The
18 folks in Chignik willingly giving up the few
19 subsistence fish they normally take and just the news
20 coming out of that is just -- it's hard to conceive of
21 that situation. So and then also I did kind of try to
22 get hold of Fish and Game if they had any really
23 burning issues or if they knew other burning issues
24 were out there and I didn't get a whole lot from them.

25

26 And so this number 3 in my mind under
27 the region wide, the new one, as I was saying like
28 well, these massive failures Gulf wide is -- is it a
29 climate thing or whatever it is and how do we even look
30 at it. So I kind of view number 3 as an effort to peck
31 away at that part of that that we have the capacity and
32 authority to do. And it adds to like people are saying
33 the fish are really small and that gets back to quality
34 of escapement. A two pound female sockeye won't
35 produce the eggs that a seven pound female sockeye. Or
36 in the Nushagak area there's lots of concern about the
37 small kings. We had kings come back, but people say
38 they're really small. The winning derby fish was 25
39 pounds or something. So just I'm kind of trying to
40 explain what I tried to do and I'm feeling I might have
41 done a better job as part of the working group for our
42 group.

43

44 So I tended to want to concede to the
45 Gulf folks projects that might help them because
46 they're in a terrible state. But I do want to see
47 projects in Bristol Bay to continue, we don't want to
48 lose track of that. And the sockeye salmon escapement
49 in Lake Clark, I don't know if that's really an issue

50

1 or not, but I certainly wasn't going to just cross it
2 off without a lot more guidance from the whole area.

3
4 Number 8, and this is a new concern for
5 me. Since that teleconference, through our discussions
6 in Advisory Committee and talking to local biologists,
7 apparently there's a lot more of a problem than I
8 realized on enumerating escaping fish, particularly
9 kings, in the Alagnak and Naknek than I realized. The
10 Department of Fish and Game is backing away from their
11 escapement estimates, they're backing away from any
12 sort of forecast type effort and so that does concern
13 me because kings are so highly prized. So I'm inclined
14 to ask that we reinstate under number 8 the reliable
15 estimates of salmon escapement. And if we have to
16 narrow it down I would specifically say king salmon.
17 And I've already just spoken that there's -- I heard a
18 lot of concerns about small kings in the Nushagak and
19 I'd be curious if Togiak or on the east side if they
20 saw the same thing.

21
22 And that's essentially what I wanted to
23 bring out.

24
25 So I'm eager to hear from everybody
26 else.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
31 Dan.

32
33 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

36
37 MR. HILL: I guess we're commenting on
38 all these recommendations. Region wide number 3 is
39 local observation (indiscernible) reliable. What's the
40 difference, I mean, local estimates are more -- perhaps
41 more reliable than someone who's not local.

42
43 And you go down to the second -- last
44 page of Bristol Bay, number 7, reliable estimates. I
45 would like to see yearly estimates of escapement.
46 We've had problems with having the weirs or the
47 observation towers having enough funding on a yearly
48 basis to get that done. I think it's important for
49 that area. I go up in there every year to get some of
50

1 the late salmon if we don't have enough and up in the
2 Iliamna Lake area, Ekok area. So I'd like to see maybe
3 take out reliable and just put yearly estimates.

4
5 And number 8, like Richard was talking
6 about, specific species. You know, and may need to go
7 with that because we've got millions of words about the
8 sockeye salmon already. The other species are
9 important, you know, the kings and the silver and
10 pinks. The ones that are subsistence important, others
11 are for commercial harvest.

12
13 There was something else. Oh, just a
14 little bit of history. No offense intended, but some
15 history. Back in the early '60s former Governor Jay
16 Hammond had a printing press in Naknek. And his -- one
17 of his -- we had a disastrous year and at that time the
18 Fish and Game predicted a banner year, you know,
19 millions and -- 37 some millions of salmon, nine showed
20 up. So his headline was, fiddle-de-dee, how many fish
21 are we. And it's the nature of the business, it's so
22 difficult to provide any kind of an estimate. I really
23 have a lot of respect for the courage of some of the
24 Fish and Game people that are making these estimates
25 because sometimes they're really -- you know, people
26 fall flat on their face, but it's the nature of that
27 kind of prediction.

28
29 But back again to number 8, Richard
30 talked about -- I think it needs to be right now a
31 specific species. And we've had lots of stuff on
32 sockeye. So we can continue that with something else.

33
34 That was all.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
39 Lary.

40
41 Dan, will you turn your mic off,
42 please.

43
44 Go ahead, Dennis.

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
47 Just a comment on Alagnak and the Nushagak River on the
48 spawning and stuff.

1 You know, we have a big massive run for
2 a few years now and stuff, but please remember this.
3 Mother nature itself takes care of the fish. Example,
4 water is real high, went down in the spawning, it came
5 back up and cleared all the dead fish away and stuff.
6 I think -- I think these guys are looking pretty darn
7 good on returning from easing -- instead of a drought
8 year or high water and stuff, I think is really helping
9 our salmon.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
14 Dennis.

15

16 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

19

20 MR. TREFON: I'd like to make a comment
21 on number 7 about reliable estimates of sockeyes. I
22 think we have a pretty reliable counting tower in the
23 Newhalen River. That thing's been there for -- since
24 Carol Ann Woody was a teenager. So I think I'll --
25 Newhalen River got a really good counting tower there
26 and it's been there for every year, it has never missed
27 a year. The fish were really slow this year, super
28 slow, but I think we have a great counting estimation
29 in the Newhalen River below Nondalton. It's called
30 river mile 22.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
33 very much, Billy.

34

35 Okay. Thank you.

36

37 And we -- I'm just going to add a
38 couple quick comments of needs that are of concern to
39 me and most of them are echoing what I've already heard
40 here. But I definitely think that we need to
41 specifically state that king salmon are what we're
42 after for number 8. Because I see too many bad things
43 happening across the state with our chinook populations
44 and I think that we need to protect ours out here in
45 every feasible manner before the same thing happens to
46 us. Because nobody has a real good reason as to why
47 it's happened in the other areas, in many of the other
48 areas. And I don't think we should find ourselves or
49 consider ourselves above that potential problem in the
50

1 future. So I think I would definitely like number 8 to
2 be as well targeted for king salmon.

3
4 The other thing is I have had and spoke
5 to the Chignik concerns for literally years on this
6 Board. I don't even -- wouldn't even want to hazard a
7 guess, but I know it's been probably six or eight
8 years. And now they're in really, really tough times
9 and I would definitely like to see number 9 filled in
10 with a Chignik specific proposal. I think those folks
11 really need some relief down there. Like Dan said they
12 even had to give up what little there was this year
13 just in the hopes of having more in future years. So
14 as Chair I know that I'm -- maybe can't be as vocal as
15 I usually am so I'll leave it up to the Board for the
16 rest of the discussion to come up with proposals and/or
17 language.

18
19 Robbin.

20
21 MS. LaVINE: I'm sorry, maybe I -- my
22 associate clarified for me. So you would like to add
23 nine, not bring back the old struckthrough nine, but a
24 new nine specific to the Chigniks?

25
26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that is
27 correct.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 Welcome as well to the -- our class
32 that has recently joined us. We're happy to have you
33 here and if any of you have anything to add to us we
34 would encourage you to do so.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Okay. Anybody want to jump in on
39 potential language that we'd want to see for these so
40 that we can hand them off to Scott and Robbin?

41
42 Dan.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'll start. Thank
45 you, Madame Chair. I'll kind of look to the folks in
46 attendance here if we've got some folks that are closer
47 to Chignik who could maybe advise us some ideas for
48 Chignik. I would be supportive of your idea on number
49 9. And I think, yeah, if we restore -- maybe in number
50

1 8 say reliable estimates of king salmon escapement
2 would suit me. But I -- we do need some guidance on
3 this from say more of the professionals or even --
4 especially like BBNA or folks tribally connected into
5 Chignik because what do they see on the ground. I just
6 -- it's still just mind-boggling.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Totally
11 agree. Cody, I'm kind of giving you an eyeball to see
12 if you have any information you could share with us.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 So I -- this is Cody Larson with the Bristol Bay Native
18 Association and we were on the agenda to present some
19 information. I knew this was going to be a
20 conversation, it's on everyone's mind and, yeah, it's a
21 great question, what to do.

22

23 The two items that I wanted to discuss
24 was -- this morning was during a trip to the Chignik
25 area last week I held community review meetings from
26 the FRMP project regarding the distribution and network
27 of salmon in the region that we've been working on
28 since 2016. So that's a project in collaboration with
29 Lisa Scarborough, the Division of Subsistence and Staff
30 from Oregon State University.

31

32 During those meetings, informal
33 interviews and questionnaires regarding access to,
34 effort and sharing of subsistence caught salmon for the
35 2018 season were conducted. So the community meetings
36 were to review the 2016 data and while I was there
37 submit -- you know, have folks fill out a questionnaire
38 and compile some comments and that's the handout that
39 you're looking at there is comments from the 27 surveys
40 in those four communities. So it's not representative
41 of the entire population, but it is some examples of
42 what it felt like on the ground to subsistence users
43 there.

44

45 In some of the interviews respondents
46 explained the relationship and the dependence that
47 subsistence users have on the seine fleet to harvest
48 and share salmon before and after the commercial
49 season. So salmon use by the households declined in

50

1 part because of the less harvest and less sharing of
2 salmon from the seine fleet if that makes sense.
3 Additional effort with personal skiffs and small
4 vessels and gear shift to gillnets was observed, but
5 the catch rates were reportedly lower than in past year
6 with that gear type attributed to low abundance in the
7 observations by the local users.

8
9 Some interviewees reported feeling
10 conflicted in determining whether or not to attempt to
11 meet their immediate -- whether or not to attempt to
12 harvest for subsistence. So having -- struggling in
13 determining to make that decision themselves and others
14 reported intimidation from members of the commercial
15 fishing industry in their efforts in subsistence
16 fishing.

17
18 Some households that had the means and
19 resources to increase their harvest effort, to get out
20 more often, were able to meet their immediate household
21 needs, but not to the extent where they -- it enabled
22 them to share with others. And so preliminary data
23 review from the 2016 harvest data shows that the year
24 round residents of those communities share about 25
25 percent of their subsistence salmon harvest. And so
26 this year the reports of decreased sharing were
27 reported as shown on the last page of -- which is the
28 graph there.

29
30 And so that's a synopsis of the
31 questions on that questionnaire. I'll give you a
32 little time to review that.

33
34 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

37
38 MR. HILL: Cody, is it? Through the
39 Chair. I -- on the second page, fourth paragraph down,
40 starts out I need more. The statement I wanted to ask
41 about, it says darn sport fisherman were fishing when
42 we were closed, is -- was that true?

43
44 MR. LARSON: It was a little tough to
45 follow all of the adjustments throughout the Chignik
46 area this season, but I believe that the -- there was
47 -- the Federal closure of salmon fishing had some
48 overlap with an open area for chinook salmon within the
49 Chignik River. And anyone who can add to that or
50

1 correct me with that regard is welcome to.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Everybody's
4 looking at you. Do you have any information on it,
5 Jason?

6

7 MR. DYE: I don't, no.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

10

11 MS. WILBURN: This is Dawn Wilburn with
12 the Chignik management area. I can answer that too.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
15 Thank you. Please do.

16

17 MS. WILBURN: So the subsistence
18 fishery was closed in Federal waters to sockeye salmon
19 and it was also closed by Sport Fish for chinook
20 salmon, but it did not close -- it didn't close State
21 waters sport fishing to sockeye salmon. However
22 because of the Federal closure they still couldn't
23 sport fish, people there in the area could not sport
24 fish for sockeye salmon in the Chignik River while the
25 Federal closure was going.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So it sounds
28 like maybe we just had an enforcement issue down there
29 with nobody to enforce.

30

31 MS. WILBURN: No. No. So there's a
32 little confusion over this. So the State subsistence
33 fishery for sockeye salmon was not closed this season,
34 it was just the Federal waters were closed. And I
35 don't think anyone was targeting sockeye salmon, rather
36 they were probably targeting dolly varden, chinook
37 before it closed. I mean, I can't speak to everybody,
38 but I -- that's probably where they were seeing sport
39 fishermen in the river, targeting other species.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. That
42 helps then for clarification.

43

44 Questions.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

49

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Not so much a question,
2 but just a comment that, you know, my experience that
3 does create an awful lot of bad feeling and confusion
4 that sport fishermen can still be putting their line in
5 the water. And they very well may be legally targeting
6 other fish and there might not be any really good
7 reason to stop them from doing it, but for those that
8 aren't familiar with it, it causes a lot of heartburn.
9 And it's kind of an unfortunate deal.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Other
14 questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So I'm going
19 to ask of you, Cody, was the question asked or do you
20 -- what direction was your impression that the
21 residents down in the Chigs would like us to take, I
22 mean, I -- I think that that's where we're trying to
23 get to for this PIN issue.

24

25 MR. LARSON: Again thank you, Madame
26 Chair, that is a great question. I think the general
27 response that I got was that a lot of folks are still
28 in shock with, you know, this not having occurred
29 before in any type of, you know, memory or history of
30 the fish not showing up in abundance to meet needs.

31

32 And there were quite a few ecological
33 observations in the 2016 and again that data's
34 preliminary, but a lot of folks have reported
35 observations of shifting eco systems. Some comments
36 of, you know, volcanos becoming active and increased
37 sediment and things in the lake and river itself. So
38 there was a lot of comments about ecological shift and
39 concerns in what that might, you know, entail in terms
40 of the sockeye salmon. So I think eco shift is
41 certainly one of them.

42

43 And then another concern that was
44 echoed was the precision in which the escapement and
45 the quality of the escapement being measured on those
46 stocks.

47

48 So those were some of the thoughts that
49 came out of the community generally, but it was a wide
50

1 range and I think most folks, you know, are searching
2 for that, the smoking gun or the answer here.

3
4 As far as the priority information
5 needs, possibly just a general -- you know, some
6 general language of a cover in that area, saying that
7 we need more information in a lot of different -- in a
8 variety of ways. With that, you know, possibly
9 researchers can, you know, study what information is
10 out there, what information is missing and then the
11 proposals themselves with prioritize that. So if that
12 makes sense it's using -- using some language that's
13 general enough to be -- to be broad and I think there's
14 a lot of information gaps in that -- in that area.

15
16 Another concern or concept that was
17 brought up throughout the summer in some of these
18 meetings was the -- and it's also in the comments here
19 in the handout, was the linkage between the management
20 plans of the commercial fisheries in that area. And so
21 that concern was brought up I think in most -- you
22 know, most conversations that -- where the topic ranged
23 over to commercial fishing was that there's a
24 disconnect between the management plans themselves in
25 some of those areas where those -- that stop -- those
26 fish bound for that lake are being caught. And so that
27 was another concern was that the management plans and
28 the managers were not working collaboratively to ensure
29 quality escapement.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would just
32 comment on that though. That's probably a State issue
33 and we're probably not going to be able address it on
34 this Board, but the other issue, it sounds like we
35 could possibly keep in mind.

36
37 Orville, please.

38
39 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair,
40 Council members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for the
41 Office of Subsistence Management.

42
43 I would like to share with you an
44 update of consultations that we had with Chignik
45 Tribes, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, the
46 Village of Ivanof Bay and the Village of Perryville.
47 And George Pappas is still on the line.

48
49 George, if I miss anything please speak
50

1 up.

2
3 We had informal consultations because
4 of phone calls from the Tribes and asking -- first of
5 all there was some confusion on Federal jurisdiction
6 versus State jurisdiction. Chignik is very unique in
7 the way that the commercial fisheries go up into the
8 mouth of the river and then which Federal waters kick
9 in there. Rules and regulations as we're always
10 confused by, we're given a lot of clarification from
11 our State liaison and also ADF&G, Mr. Jon Gerken, who
12 is here.

13
14 And, Jon, please step up and chime in
15 if I miss something.

16
17 But the very big concern was what can
18 we do, what can the Federal Subsistence office do, to
19 assist in this chaos. I've spent believe me hours on
20 the phone with Tribal members wanting to know exactly
21 what -- how can we fix this. And all agreement when
22 you're dealing with resources it's not an easy fix
23 especially with salmon. You go in cycles. However
24 there's a lot of factors that as Mr. Cody mentioned,
25 the climate changes which causes all kinds of things.
26 Not too long ago there was -- there was wind gusting up
27 to 130 miles an hour in the Chignik which we hadn't had
28 in probably 15 years. High levels of water, murky, sed
29 -- full of sediments which also raised some concerns
30 about the fisheries habitat, what is it going to do, is
31 it going to wipe everything out, are fish ever going to
32 return. Those are types of questions they were asking.
33 And with no answers really to give them any peace or
34 comfort. We can only do what we're capable of doing
35 which was to provide opportunity for them to harvest
36 salmon for their subsistence. And again as Mr. Dunaway
37 mentioned earlier that they chose not to do that
38 because of the concern of their -- wanting their salmon
39 to return which was huge heartfelt action by the
40 Tribes.

41
42 I think that we did as -- the most we
43 could do at the situation at the time with the State
44 coming together with Fish and Wildlife Service or the
45 Office of Subsistence Management into consulting with
46 these Tribes. Again BBNA did their part in it. And I
47 think in -- there's a handful of people who believe
48 that they were happy of -- what happened, how we
49 clarified a lot of policies and rules for them. And
50

1 it's just kind of a waiting period now to see what
2 comes up this next spring. And my village of Chignik
3 has lost probably half their population right now
4 because they have no jobs, they have to go where jobs
5 are. Actually Chignik Bay and Lagoon are feeling the
6 same pressures.
7

8 But I think to your answer, Madame
9 Chair, of what direction the Tribes are wanting and,
10 Cody, if you agree with me, that they're looking for
11 possibly some new studies that help them with their
12 future goals of returning salmon, how is that going to
13 happen, what can we do, are we going to up the
14 escapement goal numbers and so forth.
15

16 Anyway, George, are you still on there,
17 George Pappas?
18

19 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Yes,
20 Orville.
21

22 MR. LIND: Was that covered pretty well
23 or can you chime into anything I missed?
24

25 MR. PAPPAS: Well, Mr. Lind, I didn't
26 get all that you said, but I -- everything you said
27 seems to be factual to me, sir.
28

29 MR. LIND: Okay. All right. And
30 that's what I have.
31

32 Madame Chair.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
35 you, Orville, George.
36

37 Questions.
38

39 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.
42

43 MR. WILSON: I guess I wonder what the
44 relationship is, you have Federal subsistence
45 management pot of money, you got State subsistence
46 management pot of money, we have communities, you know,
47 that are in Federal waters, State waters, some -- you
48 know, the fish are, you know, in our State waters and
49 they -- you know, and they enter the Federal waters.
50

1 So is there a decent relationship there, are we
2 collaborating with both entities the best we can to try
3 to help some of these situations, I mean, we have -- it
4 seem like this is really where the State and the
5 Federal should be in the same category, putting the
6 same amount of energy out there to help subsistence if
7 you want to quote, you know, just the people in
8 subsistence, but it's wider than that. It's -- you
9 know, you have -- you know you got issues of non-
10 returning stocks and we're trying to find answers. So
11 is that funding -- are we collaborating to the best of
12 our ability with State and Federal?

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's
15 really, really a good point, Richard.

16
17 Jon.

18
19 MR. GERKEN: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
20 Chair, Council. My name's Jon Gerken, I'm the
21 fisheries or Federal in-season manager for Bristol Bay,
22 the Aleutian Islands, the Peninsula and then -- and
23 Chignik and most of my attention does go to Chignik.

24
25 I guess on the level of relationships I
26 think we -- the Fed -- Federal side at least specific
27 to management and the State side get along well. This
28 is the second year the chinook stocks have been poor
29 and we've had to action, special actions and close both
30 sport fishery and restrict commercial and also State
31 subsistence and Federal subsistence for chinook. I
32 don't think the sockeye numbers were expected this year
33 and so there were I guess some different ideas on
34 restrictions for subsistence between Federal and State.
35 So certainly we are talking and we're in consultation
36 with all these decisions. Federal subsistence for
37 sockeye in the early run was closed to all users, that
38 was a request for -- primarily made by the users within
39 those five villages. Orville alluded to a number of
40 conversations that we had, teleconference wise, with
41 those users down there and they did support closing
42 down Federal subsistence fishing for early run sockeye.

43
44 Specific to if we are putting our money
45 together to support specific issues, certainly this is
46 an opportunity with the FRMP on the Federal side, the
47 State does have a weir out there that is certainly well
48 funded and is -- you know, has a long sort of history
49 of enumerating fish. So I guess I can speak to that
50

1 just with regard to relationships. I think we do have
2 a very good relationship in Chignik, but how we go
3 about, you know, moving money around, that's maybe a
4 different conversation.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I'm
9 going to take the liberty of asking you the same
10 question that I had asked before. How can we best help
11 them, I mean, how are we going to be the best
12 assistance, you know, what focus does this PIN need to
13 take to reap results that everybody's going to want to
14 see and use in here?

15
16 MR. GERKEN: Yes. I'm relatively new
17 at this position, but in my time being out there there
18 seems to be a couple of issues that have come up
19 somewhat consistently.

20
21 You know, Dawn, if you're on the line
22 you can chime in at anytime too.

23
24 So initially with chinook it was a
25 little -- when there was a sockeye fishery there were
26 some bycatch conversations being had. So if you threw --
27 if a chinook salmon is caught in a -- as bycatch in a
28 sockeye fishery and it's released back in is there any
29 sort of mortality or what is that mortality. That was
30 a question that was brought about a couple years ago.

31
32 Specific to sockeye I think Cody did a
33 good job talking about it. There were numerous
34 conversations with users at the start of the year that
35 the fish were of smaller size, mostly male and so I
36 think you alluded to that question, number 8, on this
37 handout with regards to the quality of escapement.

38
39 Dawn, did you have anything else that
40 you wanted to add from a Chignik management perspective
41 on priorities?

42
43 MS. WILBURN: This is Dawn Wilburn,
44 Chignik area manager. No, I think you've covered two
45 of the big ones right there, Jon.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I sure miss
48 our representation from down there.

49
50

1 Orville, did you have something else.

2

3 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
4 members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for the Office
5 of Subsistence Management.

6

7 Good point, good comment. Donald and I
8 have been twisting some arms down in the Chignik
9 region. I know that we've had three applications that
10 are if not already filled out from the -- one from
11 Chignik Bay and possibly two from Chignik Lagoon. And
12 I'm going to continue to twist their arm. Again as you
13 say we haven't had representation from that region,
14 lower part of the region in a couple years now. And so
15 we're trying to encourage and get folks to sign up.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
20 Orville. I do appreciate those efforts.

21

22 Jon.

23

24 MR. GERKEN: Yeah, just looking at the --
25 Madame Chair, Council. My apologies.

26

27 I mean, you could emphasize Chignik as
28 a specific line item in here and not group it in with
29 number 8 if you wanted to talk about, you know, quality
30 of escapement, what Cody alluded to, and then what we
31 have been hearing from users in, you know, early
32 conversations with regards to sockeye. I know in
33 number 8 you were talking specifically about chinook,
34 but in the Chignik realm it's also starting to become a
35 sockeye issue too.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
40 you, Jon. That was actually my intent when I brought
41 up the subject. So just thank you for bringing it up
42 because perhaps the Board wasn't clear on that either.

43

44 Gayla, did you have something you'd
45 like to add.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Gayla Hoseth for the record.

49

50

1 You know, the issues that we were on
2 the phone with, Chignik -- the Chignik coalition that
3 was formed over the summer and a lot of the comments
4 that were made were how the escapement is being
5 counted. I don't know exactly how it was, but I think
6 that they just count for two minutes and a lot of the
7 locals there were complaining that that's a problem of
8 how the fish are being counted for escapement. But
9 when that river isn't getting escapement, you have Area
10 M out there fishing with -- that fish is bound for
11 Chignik. So that was also another big concern that the
12 Chignikers weren't able to fish and have -- and not
13 subsistence fish, but they weren't getting their
14 escapement and Area M is still out there fishing. The
15 Board of Fish held a special meeting over the summer
16 and they'll be taking this up at the Board of Fish
17 meeting for the Area M Chignik fin fish meeting. But
18 we're dealing with an intercept fishery where our
19 Chignik people aren't getting their escapement, I mean,
20 that's a huge problem, but also how escapement is being
21 counted.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

26
27 Dan.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm kind of reading
30 between the lines here on a few things that -- several
31 things. Number 1, I would like to support something
32 like what I think Cody brought up and we're all kind of
33 flirting with is make -- create a new number 9 that is
34 -- you know, Chignik is a high level concern for us and
35 seeking input. I think come this Board of Fish there's
36 going to be some raging battles over Cape Igvac (ph) or
37 at least Cape Kupreanof on interception between Area M
38 and Chignik. And yet I understand even Area M was
39 suffering poor runs.

40
41 So I would support some sort of
42 language for number 9 that is kind of looking for some
43 ideas.

44
45 I'm surprised to hear the -- I have
46 this -- I never have worked at the Chignik weir, I
47 always thought they had the weir and they would stop
48 the fish and then they'd open it up and let them pass
49 and count them as they pass and stop them. That's how
50

1 some really small weirs work, maybe it doesn't work
2 that way in Chignik. So I'd be curious on that issue.

3
4 I'm also wondering on Cape Igvac and
5 Kupreanof were we having active fisheries in the Kodiak
6 and Area M fishery while Chignik's totally shut down.
7 If we start looking at an extended jurisdiction issue
8 just like when Area M was fishing and we were really
9 worried up here in the Bay. That's a monster step to
10 take, but I've been in some Board of Fish meeting
11 where, you know, Chignik at times feels like they're
12 getting whacked on both sides. And that's one thing at
13 a commercial fish level, if people are giving up their
14 fish for subsistence, if there's any to give up, that's
15 a whole other thing. I mean, they didn't even have
16 humpies down there which is just -- it's just -- or
17 they had very few, let's put it that way.

18
19 So I kind of shotgunned a few ideas
20 here, but if somebody wants to respond on how the weir
21 works or what was going on with the intercept fisheries
22 I'd be eager to hear it.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Jon, do you
27 have any information you can share.

28
29 MR. GERKEN: I.....

30
31 MS. WILBURN: Yes. This is Dawn
32 Wilburn again. So the weir -- the way we enumerate
33 fish at the weir is we have a underwater video system
34 that allows fish to pass through unrestricted 24 hours
35 a day, seven days a week. We count the first 10
36 minutes of each hour and then we extrapolate that count
37 by six and then add up each hourly count. So it's
38 really similar to the way tower counts are done. And
39 this has been done for quite a while in Chignik. So
40 that using the underwater video system really enables
41 us to get a really good, clear identification on the
42 species of each fish going through. So that's the
43 counting method.

44
45 And then regarding fishing in Area M
46 and Kodiak this season, the areas that are linked
47 allocatively to Chignik (indiscernible) and sockeye
48 salmon are keeping (indiscernible) and then the
49 southeast (indiscernible) mainland of Area M, also
50

1 called (indiscernible). Those areas were both closed
2 during the allocation periods this year mainly because
3 Chignik wasn't reaching their forecasted triggers for
4 harvesting salmon obviously.

5
6 Other areas of Area M and Kodiak did
7 fish, but they're not allocatively linked to Chignik
8 salmon fisheries and by the management plan other than
9 the Dolgoys (ph). And there were restrictions on what
10 the -- on the area that they call the Dolgoys in Area M
11 and I can't speak super specifically to it because it's
12 not my area, but a few years back for Board of Fish
13 that area had a trigger I think to close the area after
14 so many fish were harvested during the allocation time
15 period which is around June 1st to July 25th. This
16 year the Department for the first time did take action
17 to restrict that further based on the run strength of
18 Chignik which has never been done before. I believe
19 there were a few actions taken in June and then one in
20 early July and then the emergency Board of Fish meeting
21 occurred. And they -- at the Board of Fish they
22 declared the Chignik run an emergency and they
23 essentially adopted emergency regulation that kept the --
24 that continued on the Department's actions thus far
25 through early August.

26
27 Does that clarify things?

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, it
30 certainly helped me. I'm seeing other nods around the
31 Board here.

32
33 Thank you, Dawn.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thank you, Dawn.
40 While we have you on there it just occurred to me we
41 saw some extremely late run timing here in Bristol Bay
42 and you kind of -- you talked about during a management
43 period or a allocation period if we had a really late
44 run and your allocation period is pretty much nailed
45 down to a calendar you could start having your run get
46 maybe intercepted late. Was there a potential for that
47 to happen or did that Board of Fish action address
48 that?

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MS. WILBURN: There wasn't really a
4 specific -- let me see. I don't believe they really
5 specifically addressed the potential of a late run
6 timing. They did at the meeting -- a lot of the
7 petitions originally just were for the early -- for
8 consideration of the conservation of the early run
9 sockeye salmon in Chignik. And by the time they got to
10 the meeting mid July it was recognized that the late
11 run was probably going to be just about as weak. And
12 so they did extend -- the normal allocation period
13 usually ends July 25th and they did extend the -- the
14 time period for special actions into early August. But
15 I don't think it was specifically with the idea that
16 maybe these were late. And I don't know of a time
17 where those allocation periods would have changed on
18 other years when the runs appeared late. They're Board
19 set management plans and I don't believe that they've
20 ever adjusted them for run timing.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
23 Dawn.

24
25 Questions.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, go
30 ahead, Dennis.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Just a comment on -- especially on counting, counting
34 towers mainly on the Nushagak. Last few years ever
35 since the water pattern changed with this warm weather,
36 I think it's El Nino. There's no more such thing as
37 4th of July bigger on fishing, it's way earlier when
38 that salmon comes in. I think the State needs to wake
39 up and open their counting towers a lot earlier. And
40 we've tried that before, but through their data -- they
41 were telling us through the (indiscernible) it'll mess
42 up their data down at -- where they go round. I think
43 that's not true. I mean, I think -- seem like they --
44 they should come out a lot earlier from the last few
45 years and start counting these fish. And, you know,
46 the earliest I ever got them was a jack on May 7th --
47 May 17th. And I used to go out on May 26 to the 1st of
48 June getting 50 kings out of that. That's when our
49 free weeks were. But nowadays you got to wait, I mean,
50

1 there's no such thing as free week. The counting
2 towers are very crucial important. If they wait the --
3 take two, three days, one week late, they don't even
4 know how much fish went up the river. They don't.
5 They don't have data for it. So that needs to be
6 fixed.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
11 Dennis.

12

13 Scott, did you have something you'd
14 like to add.

15

16 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, thank you.
17 This is Scott Ayers again for the record. I did want
18 as part of this Chignik discussion and trying to
19 develop a priority information need for this area, I
20 wanted to bring us back a little bit to -- on page 11
21 on the region wide. There was the first priority
22 information need that was struck through was reliable
23 estimates of abundance of salmon populations in the
24 southwest Alaska region, an assessment of region wide
25 declines in populations. And at the Kodiak Aleutians
26 meeting that Council decided that they wanted for their
27 region specific to really hone in on that question as
28 opposed to having it a region wide so they could
29 dictate some specific areas that they thought were
30 crucial for those types of evaluations. And they made
31 this new number 5 which was reliable estimates of
32 abundance of salmon populations on the Kodiak
33 archipelago and Aleutians important for subsistence use
34 and assessment of changes in these populations. And
35 then they listed specific areas.

36

37 And one option for the Council should
38 you choose to move in that direction is to take similar
39 language and just direct it at sockeye salmon in the
40 Chignik area. It gets a broad -- you know, something
41 to the extent of reliable estimates of abundance of
42 sockeye salmon populations in the Chignik River
43 important for subsistence use and assessment of changes
44 in these populations. And I'm just throwing language
45 out there for your consideration. But it might be a
46 way to kind of wrap up some of -- it's broad enough to
47 say there's a lot of different aspects the research
48 could go, but that's the important area and the
49 important stocks that the Council would like to see

50

1 research directed at.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. Thank
6 you, Scott. That -- I think that gives us some better
7 direction. And I -- although I would argue that I
8 would like to see it for both chinook and salmon or
9 sockeye stocks down there, it's very fresh in my mind
10 the chinook problems they've had as well.

11

12 So with that being said does anybody
13 want to take a jab at putting some language together to
14 replace the struck out number 9 with something Chignik
15 specific? And I guess let's back up a little bit. So
16 it's -- what I have on my notes for what we've talked
17 about so far and we haven't voted on it yet, but the
18 changes that I've heard was that we want to make number
19 7 read yearly estimates of sockeye salmon escapement in
20 the Lake Clark watershed. In number 8 I would suggest --
21 what I wrote down is that we would suggest to have
22 this specific to king salmon. And I would also suggest
23 that we would strike Chignik River from this if we're
24 going to do a Chignik specific PIN which I do think if
25 we do that it will give more importance to -- it'll --
26 I would like to turn number 9 into a Chignik specific
27 request because I feel it bears enough specific focus
28 in light of what's happened this past year and really
29 what's led up to it in the years prior to it.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: I was going to say I so
36 move and what she said. And thanks for the suggestion,
37 Scott, and I'll borrow language from number 5 and apply
38 it to Chignik king and sockeye. I agree that kings
39 have been kind of a touchy subject there for a long
40 time also, and apply that as number 9. And I think
41 that maybe Donald and Scott and all of us could kind of
42 wordsmith it, but the intent is to address concerns in
43 Chignik in a -- with emphasis.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Does that need a second?

48

49 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It will.

50

1 Hang on.

2

3

Jon, go ahead.

4

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MR. GERKEN: Madame Chair, Council.

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Thanks.

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ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

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MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, with that suggestion I could read into it maybe leave the Chignik into number 8, but then also have as far as quality escapement address Chignik under that one. Or what's the pleasure of the Council here or would they rather shift that portion also into the number 9.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

MR. WILSON: I think I would -- myself I'd keep them separate just so that as funding is allowed, you know, you're not -- you're not blanketed into other areas with specifics and just keep Chignik as a -- as a -- it's own bullet point I think at this point is probably -- in my mind that's probably the better route.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I tend to agree with that as well.

Okay. So wording, can you take care of wording for us, Donald, to make those inclusions if we use Dan's language as a motion and Richard's second as a second?

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, yes. I'll

1 defer that to Scott and Robbin. And I'll assist them
2 with the language.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
7 Scott.

8
9 MR. AYERS: Yeah, thank you. I just
10 wanted to clarify for my own purposes. We were going
11 to strike Chignik from number 8 and we were going for
12 number 9 to include both reliable estimates and
13 evaluation of quality of escapement specific to the
14 Chignik River. So that we had one PIN that is just
15 Chignik specific to highlight the importance of that
16 situation for both sockeye and king salmon.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm getting
19 a nod from my motion maker. My second, do you agree?

20
21 MR. WILSON: (Indiscernible - away from
22 microphone).....

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Yes,
25 that is correct.

26
27 MR. AYERS: Okay. Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

30
31 Any further discussion.

32
33 Dan.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Kind of a process
36 question. Do we wait to have language before us or can
37 we take action now and assume we'll get the language we
38 need later?

39
40 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

41
42 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. This
43 targeting Chignik specific, I think that could be a
44 real reliable tool should we have a big problem with
45 say Big Creek where you could just take out Chignik
46 specific and plug in that name for that kind of an
47 effort. So we could -- we've got that tool now, we can
48 pull it out and target it specifically.

49
50

1 That was -- that was all.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
4 that's a very good point, Lary.

5

6 Any other discussion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And let me
11 just throw a suggestion out there looking at the clock.
12 Is it -- would it be too onerous on you, Scott, if we
13 held off on our vote for this, could you come up with
14 language for us if we chose to break for lunch and come
15 back and hear your language before we voted?

16

17 MR. AYERS: I would be happy to do
18 that, Madame Chair. And looking at the clock real
19 quickly I was also curious whether or not for the --
20 beyond that number 9 whether or not for the region wide
21 this Council had any additional communities that they
22 would like to add on to what would be listed as number
23 2 on the region wide list at this time?

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
28 Scott, for bringing that up. We're so focused on
29 Chignik we probably did forget to think about the big
30 picture.

31

32 So take another quick look at number 2,
33 does anybody have any additions we'd like to make with
34 that? My intention here is to basically have
35 everything framed before we break for lunch and if we
36 have additions to that let's talk about those now, then
37 we'll break for lunch, we'll come back and listen to
38 the language and have a vote if that's okay with
39 everybody.

40

41 Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Couple things, yeah,
44 specific to what you just brought up. I was looking at
45 Robbin and Gayla and Cody and kind of like I'm
46 wondering about throwing Dillingham in here, but we
47 might already have that one in the pipeline.

48

49 And then there's one other topic I'd

50

1 like to bring up just before we break for lunch. So
2 but staying on track with -- I got a nod from Robbin
3 that I think there's a subsistence community use survey
4 or something like that in process for Dillingham. I
5 don't know if there's any other communities that are in
6 the pipe or -- you know, Bristol Bay communities or
7 needs so I'm kind of looking at the agency people.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
12 Robbin.

13

14 MS. LaVINE: Through the Chair. And I
15 was only half -- I was only half listening, but I
16 thought that in regards to the region wide priority
17 information need on reliable estimates of the harvest
18 and use of salmon, et cetera, I do know that Dillingham
19 was recent -- recently had a comprehensive subsistence
20 survey conducted here in the community, that that
21 report is still in the process of being written up.
22 And we'll consult with the folks that actually do a lot
23 of the comprehensive subsistence surveys in this region
24 and see if there are any that they're -- that are being
25 left behind in this push to update subsistence harvest
26 data.

27

28 And that's something that we can also
29 bring back to you after lunch.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Very
32 good. Anything else, did anybody think of anything
33 that they'd like to add from their area that's not
34 already on number 2?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I guess
39 I'm looking again at Lary and Billy because I'd like to
40 know -- I mean, would you like anything up in Lake
41 Clark that isn't already on here? That would be the
42 area that I would see, I feel like we are -- down below
43 have things kind of under control.

44

45 MR. TREFON: Yeah, looks pretty good to
46 me. I mean, seemed like we got a pretty good handle on
47 a lot of our fishing and hunting up in our lake area
48 with the help of the Park Service and the Tribe. And I
49 don't see anything to add to this. I don't know if

50

1 Lary got anything.

2

3 MR. HILL: Not really, just a concern
4 about certain sport fishing practices, the catch and
5 release. In our area we call it catch and kill unless
6 somebody's -- like the rainbow. They're tough, but
7 they're pretty sensitive and some of course are caught
8 too many times, there's -- they have no nose left in
9 the mouth. But a lot of time we see along these areas
10 where they are saying oh, we're catch and release, we
11 see a lot of dead rainbow trout. And it's a concern of
12 ours. And I guess it's up to each outfit that -- how
13 well their guides practice, you know, release.

14

15 And I think -- well, up at Chulitna I
16 was talking to some of the local people and they're --
17 their concerns are they're getting a lot of blind pike.
18 Because the practice of when you get a pike and you
19 want to release it and you don't want to stick your
20 hand anywhere close to their mouth obviously then you
21 get it clamped on. So the idea is you pick up the pike
22 by the eyes, the eyeholes are a good grab. That's --
23 really what that does is that blinds that fish. And so
24 that's a particular practice, I don't know how you'd
25 get around that. There's some other ways of holding
26 that fish, keep it in a net or something. I've seen
27 that and I've never done that myself, but I usually
28 keep what I kill or catch.

29

30 So that was something that was asked
31 for me to bring up coming here and I just remembered
32 it. And so I don't know how you'd address that and the
33 way of holding a fish, I know certain places where
34 people just have these hooks that will degrade in the
35 water itself. I don't know if that works in that, but
36 that might be an option. But there were enough pike
37 that were blinded like that that I was asked if I could
38 bring that up, that concern up to this event here.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can
43 definitely add that one to the list as well I would
44 think, you know, something along the lines of catch and
45 release practices and the affects on fish, you know,
46 and see if anybody wants to pick it up and get us
47 information on it.

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49 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

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ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, Lary's right about handling of fish because the pike is -- you just can't pull the hook out. Even with them rainbows and dolly vardens, I see people grab them by the gills to get them out of the water. And as soon as you do that you know that fish is going to die. And how do we handle fish so we won't be killing them off like that especially with a catch and release program.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I would perhaps task one of you guys with coming up with some language to add that as a PIN as well then before we have our vote. We could do that over lunch.

Anything else.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's -- I think that's very relevant though for the discussion.

Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: The thing I wanted to bring up was once we're done with the priority discussion so are we done with that or.....

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No. I -- yeah, I mean -- excuse me. Yeah, I think so. It sounds -- it looks like it. Yeah, it looks like it. So if you wanted to bring something up before lunch go ahead.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. I wish I could have brought it up when we had some of the classes in here. Orville's been working to -- with the schools to try to get more understanding, more education and more interest among the schools. And I've worked with Orville a little bit this fall in getting the Dillingham school onboard with this. I'm happy to say that moment I called the principal and the superintendent here they were very, very eager to work with Orville and subsistence on coming into the classroom. And I'm not sure all of what he did, I just got him connected. But then yesterday myself, Orville,

1 Donald Mike and Cody went to -- well, we ended up I
2 think actually talking to five classes, but in two
3 periods. They brought the classes together. And each
4 of us talked about our roles with this whole
5 subsistence program and how it works. A lot of
6 emphasis on they can make a difference, they can get
7 involved. We're a bunch of old farts and that we're
8 going to die one of these days and they need to be
9 ready to step in. And it was fun. And I think Orville
10 wants to expand this statewide quite a bit.

11
12 But I really wish I could have done it
13 while the kids were here. We have -- there's one
14 student I saw here who's come before us a few times in
15 the past, Kate Gomez. But anyway -- and even yesterday
16 the school superintendent showed up to watch how it's
17 all going. And it's pretty exciting to get some
18 interest. Some of them still got their ears full of
19 their damn electronic gizmos, but anyway it's a program
20 that is going on and that's what I told them there, we
21 specifically have our meetings here so we're available
22 to the students. And I think that's a good practice.

23
24 So I just wanted to do a little rah
25 rah. Maybe Orville can get a raise now.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We all know
30 you deserve one, Orville. Tell us a little bit about
31 it though.

32
33 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
34 members. Thank you, Mr. Dunaway. So it's always kind
35 of been the direction since I've been in the Office of
36 Subsistence Management which really opened my eyes four
37 years ago come December 18th, who's counting, of what
38 our office really does. It's amazing to me what really
39 comes out of our office.

40
41 You know, it wasn't long ago, six years
42 ago, I was out hunting in Naknek, up the river chasing
43 after Mr. Wilson, we had a little boat, but the thing
44 was is that I realized when I got to this offices, wait
45 a minute. So I was sitting with the Bristol Bay
46 Regional Advisory Council just not too long ago and now
47 I'm on this side of the fence where I can really see
48 what happens to proposals that come from the Regional
49 Advisory Council actually come from the people

50

1 themselves who are hunters and fishermen. And the big
2 eye-opener was, I mean, I've been doing this for a long
3 time and it just now hit me to see what the Office of
4 Subsistence Management does. And if we're going to
5 continue to manage a resource and people, you know, to
6 keep an eye on our resources here in Alaska which is
7 really critical because it is a way of life out here,
8 people depend on the resources.

9
10 And we need to be heard and again it --
11 I fell right into that being heard as a Native liaison
12 through Tribal consultations and step it up and say you
13 know what, well, when Richard retires who's going to
14 take his place, you know, when Billy retires and so
15 forth. So it was totally -- it wasn't totally my idea,
16 but I just felt that from elders that I talked to, you
17 know, I said we need to get some young people involved.
18 And so we're lucky to have Mr. Tom Doolittle who
19 actually had the experience first time with Kenai
20 students here last year. And I thought well, if he can
21 do it with Kenai students I can do it with Bristol Bay.
22 And so we had our test run on October 31st where we
23 were actually seeing Mr. Wilson's classroom from our
24 office conference room and we actually had a
25 teleconference here not too long ago coming -- before
26 we can out here to this Advisory Council meeting and
27 really encourage students to get involved if they love
28 their foods and if they want to continue to feed their
29 children when they become leaders in their village.

30
31 And so my goal is to hit all 10
32 regions, this is the first region. And I'll continue
33 to do that from this day on.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's
38 awesome, Orville, and I totally encourage you to do so
39 because I think it's a very valuable thing to bring to
40 the students and it's great for them to be able to
41 learn about it at an earlier age than we had the
42 opportunity to learn about it. It'll bring us far
43 further in the future and probably much better
44 protection for our resources as well.

45
46 Lary.

47
48 MR. HILL: Speaking to education, not
49 just to our young students, I'm still a student and I'm
50

1 past 70. I won't say by how many years. But the last
2 two years we've had a resurgence of an old practice
3 that people have kind of forgotten how to use and that
4 was spearfishing through ice for specifically targeting
5 pike and lake trout. And it's worked out really great
6 on -- you cut a hole through the ice, you put your tent
7 over it and you put down some jiggers to lure the
8 salmon -- lure the pike in and you just speak the pike.
9 And they've been getting very successful with that.
10 And I see some of the old timers, I'm not old enough
11 yet to be an old timer, but you see some oh, yeah,
12 that's how we use to do that. And it was really
13 remarkable to see that happening again. I really
14 appreciated that -- coming back and seeing some of our
15 young folks and my grandsons going up there and helping
16 with that. They were just amazed. It -- it's kind of
17 exciting to look through that hole and see that big
18 pike come by and you drop a spear on it and pull it out
19 and they taste pretty good.

20
21 But I just wanted to remember that kind
22 of education, the resurgence of those older practices,
23 the more efficient way of -- you know, of hooking it
24 through the ice, you know, just with a hook and line.
25 So I just wanted to mention that.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I love it,
28 Lary. That's a great mention. And I would say too
29 that I was up in Igiugig earlier this year too and just
30 to see the revitalization of the Native language use up
31 there throughout that village is just totally amazing,
32 another something that's being brought back by somebody
33 who was inspired to do so and I just commend all of
34 those practices.

35
36 MR. LIND: Just real quick just to add
37 onto that. Education is very important. We're also
38 including educating our students with different
39 agencies that are involved in the Regional Advisory
40 Council process like State, you know, Park Service,
41 Forest Service, all those. Again we need to educate
42 our youth, saturate them with the process and we will
43 get better.

44
45 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

48
49 MR. TREFON: Just going back onto
50

1 Lary's story about the spearfishing. We had a couple
2 of kids back home that actually went up to Picker Lake
3 and they did some video of their spearfishing
4 experience. And one of the guys showed themselves
5 catching a four foot pike. And this is on video, it's
6 on Facebook, spearfishing.

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How'd they get it
9 through the hole?

10
11 MR. TREFON: They managed. And the
12 other thing that's old practices that nobody knows how
13 to do anymore is how to fish with -- using roots. I'm
14 one of the few.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Bring it
17 alive.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
22 Dennis.

23
24 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Just want to share of what my father did. He was a
26 reindeer herder and bring the reindeer all the way down
27 here, right across Wood River here. And they'd spear
28 king salmon while they were waiting to get
29 (indiscernible) reindeer. So that's very -- it's way
30 back. It -- you know, they'd spear their fishing stuff
31 for -- while they're watching their reindeer, pulling
32 up their fish.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great
37 stories.

38
39 You got any, Richard.

40
41 MR. WILSON: I'll wait.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.
46 I'll tell you what, let's take -- we're just going to
47 take an hour and 15 minutes for lunch because I know it
48 takes a while for everybody to get served, but
49 hopefully that'll do it for everybody. And the -- in
50

1 the best use of our time we'll cut it down 15 minutes
2 to what we normally do and we'll be back here at 1:15
3 and hopefully be able to call the meeting back order
4 and we'll take up where we left off with the priority
5 information needs.

6
7 (Off record)

8
9 (On record)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're going
12 to say at 1:47 we're calling the meeting back to order
13 and we'll be back on record now.

14
15 And just for the benefit of those
16 online we have moved forward due to time constraints
17 that we have today in discussing the wording that we're
18 coming up with for our information -- priority
19 information needs and we will be repeating what our
20 proposal will be. So we have taken no action, we've
21 only had some discussion offline here and we're going
22 to move forward with that.

23
24 Billy.

25
26 MR. TREFON: Yeah, my question would
27 then be for all species salmons or just specific
28 species?

29
30 MR. AYERS: For the sake of the record
31 now that we're back online again, I'll read back
32 through the priority information need that we were just
33 discussing and then I can answer the question if that
34 pleases the Chair.

35
36 Okay. So the proposed priority
37 information need which would be number 9 on our list
38 would be evaluation of chinook and sockeye populations
39 in the Chignik River area to understand the decline in
40 salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest
41 opportunities such as reliable estimates of escapement,
42 quality of escapement and environmental impacts.

43
44 And to speak to the question that was
45 just put forward, it would be specific to chinook and
46 sockeye populations.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm getting
49 a nod of affirmation. Thank you for that.

50

1 Any other questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

6 Seeing none let's go ahead and we've also had a request
7 to revisit number 2 and we have some updated
8 information on -- and then hang on to that.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 Bronwyn, would you like to update us on
13 our informational?

14

15 MS. JONES: Yes. Thank you, Madame
16 Chair. Again for the record I'm Bronwyn Jones with the
17 Division of Subsistence.

18

19 So I had Scott hand out an overview of
20 all the subsistence harvest surveys that the Division
21 of Subsistence has conducted since the 1970s for
22 Bristol Bay communities. The handout is organized by
23 community and then by type of survey, year and then we
24 listed the technical paper that was published as a
25 result and the title of the project.

26

27 Just quickly the various surveys that
28 are on here, all is what we call the comprehensive
29 subsistence survey which we ask about all wild resource
30 harvest such as small land mammals, large land mammals,
31 salmon, nonsalmon fish, marine mammals, marine
32 invertebrates, various plants, everything. And then we
33 specifically do some surveys on just large game, marine
34 mammals, salmon, nonsalmon fish and sometimes a
35 combination of several. The reasons we don't always do
36 comprehensive surveys is lack of funding or there's a
37 specific need for, you know, looking at chinook stocks
38 in a certain system or these types of things.

39

40 So I went through during lunch and just
41 looked quickly at the communities that have the most
42 outdated information as far as salmon and nonsalmon to
43 address the regional -- the region wide number 2. And
44 so what I came up with is Aleknagik had a comprehensive
45 survey done in 2008, that's most recent, and then the
46 Iliamna and Lake Clark region is probably the next
47 outdated. So Igiugig had a 2012 and '13 nonsalmon
48 study done and a 2005 comprehensive. Iliamna's very
49 similar, a 2013 nonsalmon and then a 2008 salmon and a

50

1 2004 comprehensive. Ivanof Bay was one, I'm not sure
2 how many people actually live in Ivanof Bay now, but
3 the last study that was done there was in 1989 and it
4 was a comprehensive. (Indiscernible) had a 2011 salmon
5 survey done and Levelock had a 2005 comprehensive.
6 Manokotak had a 2008 comprehensive and then Newhalen,
7 Nondalton and Port Alsworth had a 2012 and 2013
8 nonsalmon and a 2008 salmon. And lastly Pedro Bay, it
9 was similar to those, but it had a -- the 2012 and 2013
10 nonsalmon and then a 2004 comprehensive. So overall
11 Iliamna area and then Aleknagik and Manokotak were the
12 most outdated communities.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I also see
15 on this list that the Chignik City, Chignik Lagoon,
16 Chignik Lake are all 2003 too?

17
18 MS. JONES: There were salmon surveys
19 done in those communities. But I saw those on the list
20 for salmon and large game in 2016.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm just
23 looking at your front page here and it says date of
24 last comprehensive survey.

25
26 MS. JONES: Gotcha. Yeah, that's
27 comprehensive, but then the following pages break down
28 by types of surveys.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: You know, one of my
37 favorite places, Port Heiden, again is it the same
38 deal, we have like -- what is it, '87 and is --
39 hopefully there's something a lot newer than that?

40
41 MS. JONES: We did do salmon surveys
42 the last two years in Port Heiden, but we also have an
43 upcoming 2018 comprehensive survey we're doing this
44 year in Port Heiden.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Through the Chair. Thank
47 you very much because when I was in there in 2009 or
48 whatever there were a lot of complaints going on,
49 that's how it became important to me and so I'm glad to
50

1 see you're paying attention there.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, in the
6 interests of time do we feel like that we should
7 consider placing these Iliamna area and the -- was it
8 one or two, Manokotak and what was -- anyway the ones
9 in the -- this side of the Bay too that have -- it's
10 been a while since we've had a survey done in, would
11 you guys -- I'm looking mostly at my two Iliamners and
12 my Dillinghamer, would you guys like to add those --
13 the names that she had? I mean, that's -- to me that's
14 a more efficient way to do it. Thank you for going to
15 the trouble of getting some dates like that for us
16 because now we know, you know, what is becoming
17 outdated and what probably could use an update.

18

19

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

20

21

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

22

23

24

MR. TREFON: Yeah, that would be a good
idea to get a update for my area. I would appreciate
that.

25

26

27

MR. HILL: Yes.

28

29

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, especially
Manokotak, it's a heavily, heavily subsistence oriented
community. You know, I run into people out there that
are catching porcupines and other stuff and it -- so,
yes, Manokotak. And it's within Federal lands area,
they're kind of surrounded. So, yeah, we should
include them.

38

39

Thank you.

40

41

42

43

44

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very good.
So with that being said can we have you put that list,
insert it into number 2 for us, please.

45

46

47

48

49

50

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

Thanks. and then moving forward does anybody feel
brave enough to formulate a motion for these PINS?

1 Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: No, point of order. I
4 thought we kind of have a motion, we're just finalizing
5 language here. And from what I heard I'm happy with
6 the language offered. And I'm almost on the verge of
7 calling the question, but some other folks might want
8 to speak.

9

10 Thanks.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, and
13 great, great, bringing us back to where we are. Point
14 of order. I think we need an amendment as well to add
15 those villages.

16

17 Is that not correct, Donald?

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, according to
20 my notes I didn't hear anyone making a motion during
21 our previous discussion this morning on the priority
22 information needs. So we're still -- we're still in
23 the discussion stages prior to Council action.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good. Then
28 we're probably in better shape that way anyway. So
29 again would anybody care to formulate the motion with --
30 I've got the changes that we had previously and then
31 we can have the additions and make it.....

32

33 Go ahead, Dan.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'll move that we
36 adopt the language developed by Scott regarding the
37 Chignik salmon issue and villages of the Iliamna area
38 -- that's for the -- for number -- replacing number 9.
39 And then for number 2 region wide, adding Manokotak and
40 Iliamna area communities under reliable estimates of
41 harvest and use of salmon.

42

43 Does that catch it all?

44

45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And then we
46 also had the change in number 7 to make them yearly
47 estimates of sockeye salmon. And in number 8 to add
48 king salmon specific for the number 8 and striking out
49 Chignik River on that because we're addressing it

50

1 below.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, thank you for
4 reminding me. Yeah, it's a good thing we revisited
5 all.....

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
8 (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I have it penciled
11 in here, but I'm starting to lose track of my
12 scribbles. So, yeah, I would add that to my motion is
13 that's acceptable to the second.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. WILSON: That's one large motion,
18 but I'll second it.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
21 I do think it captured everything.

22

23 Anymore discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. TREFON: Question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. The
30 question's been called. All in favor of presenting
31 this as our priority information needs for the coming
32 year please signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
37 sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
42 Motion carries. Thank you. All of you, that's very
43 helpful.

44

45 As far as identifying issues for an
46 annual report, we can just take a second. Does anybody
47 have anything other than what we've already requested
48 be put on our annual report, is there anything else
49 that anybody has that they would like to identify at

50

1 this time that they'd like to have addressed for the
2 annual report?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I -- and
7 if not that's fine. I think we would continue to add
8 things. I'll just say that in the past I think, you
9 know, we go through our meeting and as things come up
10 like they did earlier today we ask Donald to add them.
11 Think of things like -- I know in the past we've also
12 had things like our concern for the ptarmigan and the
13 rabbits in the area. We had that one year. We've had
14 predator control on there a number of times.

15

16 Yes, Lary.

17

18 MR. HILL: Yeah, I mentioned earlier on
19 my report from my area, Iliamna Lake, that we're seeing
20 a real diminishing numbers of gulls, seagulls and
21 terns. And that last year it was not as bad, but this
22 year there were very few gulls and I wondered if that
23 should be an area of concern or is it something that's
24 happening all over the state or just our land.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
27 you. That's perfect.

28

29 Does anybody else have anything they
30 would like to have brought to the attention of the full
31 Board?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
36 again let's -- we'll leave that open with hopefully
37 Donald's blessing in doing that. I think we've done
38 that most years in the past have we not?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Thank
41 you.

42

43 And as far as the diminishing number of
44 seagulls in the Iliamna area, just need to get more
45 information on that, how the seagull population is
46 declining and how it affects subsistence or vice versa,
47 if -- what they feed on or lack of feeding for the
48 seagulls.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good
4 point. So that -- and I'd also like to make with the
5 Board's permission a short departure as well from our
6 agenda and go on to our final action item which is the
7 future meeting dates just so we can get those set and
8 then I want to jump right into agency reports. But
9 that way we'll have all of our action items covered.

10

11 Dennis.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thanks, Madame
14 Chair. Just on the seagulls again, I'm real interested
15 in the -- where they lay and stuff in the islands, has
16 that been -- like before when the guys go subsistence
17 for seagull eggs and stuff and how many on that island
18 are -- you know, I mean, it's just -- you made a good
19 point. There was hardly any in our side too, not that
20 many, but there were some.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well noted.
25 Okay. Okay.

26

27 So we have in front of us the fall
28 meeting calendar for next year as well as the winter
29 meeting which is next. And let's start on the winter
30 side, winter 2019 side just because I know I will not
31 be able to be there for the dates that we currently had
32 picked due to some travel plans that were already in
33 place and I was unaware of at the time. Donald had
34 suggested we take a look at possibly -- well, I guess,
35 Donald, now according to this calendar we could do it
36 the next -- that February -- that week too. So they
37 don't like having more than two Council meetings in any
38 one week so that kind of narrows us down unless it --
39 this week works for everybody, if I'm not there that --
40 that's fine or if it works for everybody to change to
41 either the February 10th or the March 10th date, I can
42 make either one of those work.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I can make a
45 suggestion for the Council.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please.

48

49 MR. MIKE: The Bristol Bay tentative

50

1 schedule was February 5 and 6 and due to conflicting
2 schedules the Council can meet during that week of
3 February 11th as a primary and then a secondary option
4 would be the week of March 11th.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: I guess that would be
11 shooting for February 11th.

12

13 MR. MIKE: So February -- during the
14 week of February 11th, that would be February 12 and 13
15 in Naknek.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does
18 everybody believe they've got a clear sailing for that?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
23 go ahead and put that down then.

24

25 Yeah, we'd invite everybody to slip
26 over and stay for the weekend. I would have to double
27 check, but I think it's that weekend, it'll be the
28 weekend of February 15th and 16th, I think it's usually
29 the second weekend in -- oh, but that will actually be
30 the third weekend. So maybe you should come early then
31 for our winterfest and you'd be welcome to join us. I
32 think that must be the 8th, 9th and 10th.

33

34 MR. MIKE: February 11 and 12?

35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, the
37 11th and 12th or excuse me, the 12th and 13th of
38 February. 12th and 13th.

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
41 away from microphone).....

42

43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No,
44 it would be fine. I mean, it's the weekend before
45 winterfest will be there, yeah.

46

47 Okay. Then let's take a look at the
48 fall meeting calendar. And I know -- you know, I know
49 that everybody usually has issues with those earlier

50

1 dates, I know I do. And I know I probably won't be
2 available until after the 20th of October so I'm open
3 to anytime after that. So it looks like October 27th
4 or November 3rd, either one of those weeks. Does
5 anybody have a preference or do they have problems with
6 those?

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: I like either week. I --
9 it's a lot nicer to do it about this time of year than
10 trying to squish it in with earlier.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I'm
15 going to go ahead and just propose then the 5th and 6th
16 of November even though that overlaps.

17
18 Are we going to be okay there, Donald?

19
20 MR. MIKE: Yes.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
23 go ahead and try for that then. And that should work.

24
25 MR. MIKE: Dillingham or Naknek or King
26 Salmon?

27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Would
29 -- well, definitely our fall meeting should be over
30 here so Dillingham and then spring will be Naknek/King
31 Salmon.

32
33 MR. MIKE: Okay.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very good.
36 And with that I also know -- let's see, we'll go
37 through our list. I know we do have some people with
38 some time constraints as well that need to get home,
39 but let's go ahead and start at the top of our list and
40 if we start getting squished on time we will make sure
41 that those folks who are needing to be out of her get
42 to come up next, okay. So we'll start with Tribal
43 government.

44
45 Do you know if we have any that would
46 like to present?

47
48 (No comments)

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No. Okay.
2 And Native organizations.

3
4 BBNA, please.

5
6 MR. MAINES: Good afternoon. Chris
7 Maines with the Bristol Bay Native Association.

8
9 I'm just going to quickly touch base on
10 several subsistence based projects we've been doing
11 through this year. One such was -- one I like to
12 highlight is our subsistence mini grant program. We
13 open it up to all 31 communities within the Bristol Bay
14 area that feel under BBNA's scope. And of those
15 communities we awarded 17 mini grants to 13 different
16 communities.

17
18 Some of the interesting projects that
19 were achieved through this mini grant were the
20 construction of several smokehouses, we helped
21 facilitate three different culture camps, the purchase
22 of new nets for families, a community based vacuum
23 sealer as well as just providing new equipment to
24 enhance entire families' subsistence practices. We're
25 going to be having a full presentation on that later at
26 the BI providers conference. So hopefully you guys can
27 make it there to see the video.

28
29 On top of that this year we offered a
30 scholarship for postsecondary education in natural
31 resources, wildlife biology and it was basically trying
32 to get kids in our region to think about getting into a
33 career in natural resource management, fisheries
34 management and just wildlife biology. At this time we
35 haven't awarded any, but we're going to be opening up a
36 second round this winter to catch some of those kids
37 coming home for the -- you know, because when you first
38 enter college you typically don't know what you want to
39 do so hopefully the kids that went this fall will have
40 a better idea of what they want to do and maybe they'll
41 apply this time.

42
43 One project that Cody's working on
44 through the same funding is the clean up the mesh
45 program. Right now we have 18 communities ready to go
46 to partake in this. We have the materials -- it's an
47 ongoing project, but we have 18 communities committed
48 to participating in this program.

1 We've also had several members from
2 other communities, we paid their way to Dillingham to
3 take part in some Tribal management training to give
4 effective Board testimonies to the Board of Game as
5 well as flew them into Anchorage to participate in the
6 same type of Tribal management training to give
7 effective testimony to the Federal Subsistence Board.
8 I think it went over well. One such proposal that we
9 worked heavily on was wildlife proposal 18-24, As we
10 all know it failed four/four, but, you know, it's
11 progress and we'll just continue to work on that.

12
13 We're also starting to work on a
14 talking circles program, trying to bring back the
15 original practice of sharing with males and females,
16 breaking them up into separate groups and talking about
17 issues that we face. Because well, at times we just
18 keep it all inside. Sometimes we don't have the
19 environment or the right group of individuals to talk
20 about the issues we face out here, the social and
21 economic issues that we face, even the subsistence
22 issues that we face. And with this we are hoping to
23 bring back the practice so that we all get on the same
24 page and maybe something can come out of that, maybe
25 proposals can come out of that with talking with, you
26 know, other individuals in other communities we can
27 share our issues and hope we can use the information
28 gained in a constructive way.

29
30 Lastly we began shooting footage and
31 taking interviews for a subsistence storytelling
32 project that we're going to be working on heavily for
33 the next year. And so hopefully by next winter we'll
34 have a feature length project involving elders and
35 individuals throughout our area talking about the
36 subsistence practices, how they used to be, how things
37 have changed over time, how regulations have affected
38 them, whether positive or negative as well as
39 environmental changes affecting their ability to
40 participate in the practices that they've done for most
41 of their lives.

42
43 On top of that we're also going to be
44 doing a different type of storytelling project
45 involving elders talking about traditional Yup'ik
46 stories and hopefully involving children from various
47 communities to act them out on film. So trying to
48 bridge the gap between old and young.

1 But that's all I have.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let
4 me ask for questions.

5

6 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
9 ahead, Lary.

10

11 I -- and I want to say too we -- the
12 Subsistence Board wants to be first on the list to view
13 that feature film. I -- that's an exciting project and
14 I wish you the very best of luck on that. That's
15 awesome.

16

17 Lary, go ahead.

18

19 MR. HILL: What was your name again?

20

21 MR. MAINES: Christopher Maines.

22

23 MR. HILL: Oh, Christopher. Okay.
24 This idea of talking circles, that idea has been around
25 for quite a while. And it seems to go in cycles. We
26 -- people are really concerned about bringing that
27 practice back and it goes for a while and then it kind
28 of goes away. I'd like to see that reinstated again.
29 It's just -- especially now with the use of the texting
30 and social media stuff, people don't really have
31 ownership on anything they're saying. They can just
32 text something and go away. Talking circles really
33 brings out the actual what happening there, the actual
34 feelings, the actual base knowledge especially have the
35 elders there that can answer those questions. You
36 don't get that on social media because some of us
37 elders don't use Facebook that much or any of the
38 social media. So having the talking circles really
39 requires a lot of commitment on the people who are
40 participating in that. So now I think that's what
41 we're lacking, the commitment that someone has through
42 the idea of what change or otherwise they're bringing
43 about. So talking circles is the one way to assure
44 that commitment.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. MAINES: Thank you.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good point.

2

3 Dan.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm trying to remember in
6 the Board of Game and there was some talk about a
7 public education effort for this positioning the
8 caribou and all. Has BBNA been able to look into that
9 at all or has there been -- it was a separate form, but
10 I think it still would be useful with a lot of our
11 hunters and I'm just wondering if anything like that is
12 happening?

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MR. MAINES: At this time we haven't
17 tried to develop anything specifically because we're
18 still in the process of trying to get the regulations
19 changed. And so it's an ongoing process, but nothing
20 formal has been put together at this time.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
23 you, Christopher.

24

25 Anybody else.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Billy.

31

32 MR. TREFON: That talking circle is
33 actually a really good thing because in Nondalton we
34 used to do it a lot. I mean, it's -- it's like Lary
35 said, it takes a lot of commitment of the individual
36 because you are pouring your heart out, you're saying
37 things that are deep inside that you've been holding
38 down and now be able to express it. And it comes with
39 a lot of responsibility of each one of us in the
40 talking circle because when we go into those, when we
41 leave it, what we say in there stays in there, it's not
42 to be brought up and be gossiped about and spread
43 around. That was our experience with talking circles
44 for healing.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. MAINES: And I'm glad you brought
49 that up. It is a very emotional thing and recently

50

1 when I first started my new position up at BBNA back in
2 February of this year one of the first things I read
3 was a short book called the Way of the Human Being.
4 And it touched on the topic of this term, and I don't
5 know how to pronounce it in Yup'ik fully, but pretend
6 it didn't happen. Generationally we've buried a lot of
7 things down, deep down inside, we see it in our elders,
8 I saw it my elders, I saw it in my parents, they just
9 pretend it didn't happen whether it was generational
10 trauma or the things that happened to them throughout
11 their life. And bringing back this practice I think
12 would help us out tremendously. And I think there's --
13 this is the right time. There seems to be a spiritual
14 awakening within the State of Alaska especially amongst
15 our people from every region. So it's a start.
16

17 MR. TREFON: It is. It's a powerful
18 start. And I'm glad you guys are getting it together
19 because we got to get back to it in our own community
20 because it -- the reason why it went away, it's was the
21 gossip thing. That's a hard thing to control is the
22 gossip. I mean, you got to make everybody that's in
23 this room understand don't spread it around. That's
24 how you create the hurt and the hate and all that
25 animosity that we have in this world today.
26

27 Good job.
28

29 MR. MAINES: Thank you.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
32

33 MR. HILL: Through the Chair. I -- the
34 term that I would hear is pretending you weren't there.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
37

38 Go ahead, Gayla.
39

40 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you, Madame
41 Chair.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, wait a
44 second. We'll welcome our new group of students. And
45 I would welcome anybody who'd want to step forward to
46 if you have any concerns about what's going on in your
47 area or region or with any of the resources that you
48 use, please don't be afraid to step up and let us know
49 them about them. This is a good place for you to be
50

1 heard and for us to see if we can take action for you
2 if you have any of those.
3

4 So, thank you, Gayla. Sorry for the
5 interruption.
6

7 MS. HOSETH: Oh, that's okay. Thank
8 you, Madame Chair. For the record Gayla Hoseth.
9

10 We have been really busy at BBNA
11 working on all these issues that we're working on and
12 really to enhance our subsistence way of life and most
13 of all to protect our subsistence way of life. And
14 like was stated on the record earlier is to get our
15 traditional recognized into this regulatory process
16 that we're in.
17

18 I also serve on the Alaska Migratory
19 Bird Co-Management Council. And some of you have --
20 may have read in the news that the United States, the
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska
22 gave a formal apology to indigenous people of Alaska
23 for the treatment for hunting migratory birds. And if
24 I can just read this into the record, I think that it's
25 really important because of all of the hurt and the
26 hiding of plucking birds and shooting birds for
27 survival and what people throughout the State of Alaska
28 have endured. If I could just read this apology into
29 the record and I think it would be really good for the
30 students to hear and learn a little bit about the
31 history of what happened here in Alaska.
32

33 It says to indigenous peoples of
34 Alaska. In recognition that the indigenous peoples of
35 Alaska have traditionally harvested fish, wildlife and
36 plants and that they have been stewards of these lands
37 and resources for millennia, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are
39 joining together to reconcile the unhappy period of
40 history related to unintended impacts of past harvest
41 regulations of migratory birds and their eggs. We are
42 jointly acting on this topic because both agencies had
43 a role in implementing Migratory Bird Treaty Act
44 regulations in the 1960s and '70s.
45

46 So just so -- I mean, just so the
47 students know, this isn't very long ago that this
48 happened, that -- of this history that we're talking
49 about.
50

1 For millennia northern indigenous
2 peoples have lived following seasonal cycles of
3 harvesting animals and plants. Migratory birds have a
4 special place in indigenous cultures in Alaska.
5 Traditionally when bird arrived in the spring people's
6 food caches were often empty and the people were
7 hungry. Today modern social economic conditions
8 prevent famine, but food security remains a major
9 concern. The spring harvest of birds and eggs was and
10 is nutritionally, culturally and spiritually important to
11 Alaska Native peoples.

12
13 In the early 1900s bird populations in
14 North America were severely depleted because of
15 commercial hunting. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was
16 signed into law in 1918 to stop commercial hunting and
17 to protect and restore bird populations. To allow
18 birds to breed and rebound the Migratory Bird Treaty
19 Act set a harvest closure for birds and their eggs
20 between March 11th and September 1st across North
21 America. However these regulations failed to recognize
22 the importance of migratory birds for indigenous
23 peoples.

24
25 In Alaska the spring harvest of birds
26 and eggs is a crucial part of the seasonal cycle of the
27 subsistence activities in other -- in some areas. The
28 harvest closure period was the only time that the birds
29 were present. After the treaty was enacted Alaska
30 Native peoples were forced to unlawfully hunt birds to
31 feed their families and carry on a traditional way of
32 life, causing extreme hardship for many.

33
34 With a better understanding of the
35 Alaska Native relationship to the land governmental
36 officials eventually recognized the need for change and
37 Congress amended the Migratory Bird Act in 1997 to
38 allow for the spring and summer harvest by rural Alaska
39 residents. The amendment also included provisions to
40 formally include subsistence users in bird harvest
41 management and conservation leading to the creation of
42 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council in
43 2000. Today the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
44 Council includes representatives of U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game and Alaska Native leaders from all Alaska's
47 regions for the co-management of a spring migratory
48 bird harvest program. Despite these actions hunters
49 and their families still resent the past regulations.
50

1 At meetings across Alaska we still hear reports from
2 subsistence users about the negative impact past bird
3 harvest regulations had on their livelihood.

4
5 So this is the formal apology. The
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service together want to reconcile the past
8 and acknowledge that those regulations harmed hunters
9 and their families. We seek to continue rebuilding
10 relationships with Alaska's indigenous peoples who were
11 affected by the unintended consequences of past harvest
12 regulations. Over the years thanks to Alaska Native
13 leaders and hunters we learned of the spiritual
14 connection, the intricate and vast knowledge and the
15 profound stewardship that indigenous people have with
16 migratory birds. We have been humbled by your generous
17 volunteerism and years of dedication to the Alaska
18 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council so that together
19 we can support healthy bird populations, traditional
20 ways of life, sustainable harvest opportunities for
21 generations to come. We are sincerely grateful for
22 your patients and your willingness to work together.
23 We recognize your tenacity, your brave vision, your
24 resilience in the face of insensitivity of the past
25 harvest regulations.

26
27 On behalf of the United States Fish and
28 Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game please accept our sincere apology from any harm
30 that past harvest regulations have caused you and your
31 families. Our predecessor's regulations were
32 shortsighted and that they caused long term and
33 unnecessary pain. We ask for your forgiveness as we
34 continue our journey for healing together. Learning
35 from past mistakes, we look forward to continuing to
36 work together with Alaska Native peoples for the
37 conservation of bird resources and -- that are dear to
38 all of us to support traditional subsistence cultures
39 and way of life.

40
41 And this was signed by Gregory
42 Siekaniec for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Sam
43 Cotten, the Commissioner for Alaska Department of Fish
44 and Game.

45
46 And thank you for letting me have this
47 opportunity to read into the record because I think a
48 lot of people don't know about the history of what
49 really happened with us not being able to hunt
50

1 migratory birds. And for this apology to come when it
2 did will hopefully bring healing to kind of what we
3 were talking about with the talking circles and the
4 generational trauma that people have faced throughout
5 the State of Alaska, that this could bring healing to
6 people and that we can move together. But that's why
7 it's so important of us having the RAC here for our
8 Federal regulations and bringing these issues forward.
9

10 And so for the students who are here if
11 there's a practice that you guys practice that has been
12 passed on to you that is not in regulation, there's a
13 process that we should get this into regulation. And a
14 great example was for us being able to legally hunt
15 migratory birds.
16

17 So I just wanted to thank you for you
18 guys' -- all the work that you guys do serving on this
19 Council, I know it's a lot of work, it's a lot of
20 information to absorb and then to pass on to the
21 Federal Subsistence Board and together as a team with
22 all the agencies that are here we work together to
23 bring these messages forward.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
28 Gayla.
29

30 Any questions.
31

32 Lary.
33

34 MR. HILL: Thank you, Gayla, for
35 reading that. I'm old enough to remember some of the
36 past and the creative ways we used to hide what we did
37 with the -- the birds and the eggs. Some of that old
38 anger came bubbling up when you read that. So but at
39 least it's a change and it's an acknowledgement of the
40 past. So we -- and we can't let that stop us from
41 continuing on with making more of these changes
42 available and through input from all these -- like this
43 Council.
44

45 So I just wanted to thank you for that --
46 reading that.
47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.
49
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I -- took me back
2 to being in some of the management classes in the
3 college in the '70s where they talked about really
4 nasty meetings in Bethel and stuff. It was the talk of
5 some of the classes. You know, the previous classes
6 that were here, they had history, this is historic,
7 this is really huge. And I -- and I think I -- was
8 this read at the AFN, there was some apology at AFN and
9 I was listening in at the time and that's big too. But
10 this is kind of -- in my mind kind of monumental in
11 wildlife and fish management in Alaska and pretty
12 amazing.

13
14 So I think I'm glad you read it in.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, Dan, I
19 totally 100 percent agree with you, especially for the
20 folks that signed it, it made it true and real and very
21 solid.

22
23 Richard.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Just curious if this is
26 also an apology for those that are in the -- in the
27 Katmai National Monument area or is this strictly just
28 the Refuges and State waters?

29
30 MR. MIKE: I believe it is a apology
31 for statewide, that regulations affect all rural
32 residents in Alaska if I'm correct. Not only Refuges,
33 but it includes State managed lands.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this has been an
36 issue of course in Katmai National Monument area and,
37 you know, we're fortunate enough to have staff and
38 people there that kind of recognize some of these
39 issues and try to do what they can. But this is, you
40 know, a ongoing problem with pre ANILCA lands, you
41 know. And so the gathering of eggs and stuff was not
42 recognized, you know, as a cultural thing. So it's
43 something that we struggle with still. So but hats off
44 to the ones that get it.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Dennis.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 No, Gayla, I just want to thank you big time on this
2 one here and keeping us on -- heads up and even last
3 year and doing a good job.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. Through the
8 Chair. Thank you for that.
9

10 I serve as the Native Caucus Co-Chair
11 for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and
12 this issue was brought to the table kind of like how
13 you guys about your regional or your -- how you guys
14 talk about your -- when you give your Council report.
15 And so on the AMBCC we have regional representatives
16 and this came out of Kotzebue that this elder would
17 talk about it time and time again of the hardship and
18 the heartache that he experienced when his -- when his
19 shotguns were taken away and confiscated. Rifles were
20 confiscated, birds were taken out of people's freezers,
21 you had elders to this day that prefer to pluck birds
22 in a hiding environment. And that's what really got me
23 is that to this day we have elders that they don't feel
24 comfortable to clean birds in the open because of the
25 heartache that was brought to them and the devastation
26 that they had to try to feed their families.
27

28 So I'm bringing this to you as, you
29 know, our Bristol Bay regional representative and also
30 as the Native Caucus which the apol -- this is apol --
31 and this letter is supposed to be coming to every
32 Tribal Council in the State of Alaska. So I'm working
33 with Crystal Leonetti at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
34 to make sure that everybody gets a formal letter, every
35 Tribe, for this apology. And there wasn't enough time
36 to get it on the AFN agenda, but they had it during an
37 AFN noon broadcast I believe.
38

39 But this is a really important issue
40 and this is just, you know, one apol -- there's more
41 apologies that need to come our way on a lot of things
42 that happened to Alaska Natives throughout the whole
43 State of Alaska. So this will bring us towards -- a
44 step towards healing.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
47 Lary.
48

49 MR. HILL: I -- sorry I almost feel
50

1 like it's too little too late, but it's a start. And I
2 can remember hiding in a tent plucking birds and I
3 hated that because it was -- the little critters want
4 to run up my sleeves, you know, and get that out in the
5 open. But I just wanted to mention that.

6
7 I wonder if there'd be anything coming
8 from the Federal side since this is done.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

11
12 Go ahead.

13
14 MS. HOSETH: It was signed by the U.S.
15 Fish and Wildlife Service. And, you know, this apology
16 maybe should be brought to the Federal Subsistence
17 Board as well. And that we could, you know, target it
18 through the Federal Subsistence Board. But it was a --
19 it was an emotion, a very emotional meeting that we had
20 this fall in Anchorage.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, that's
23 awesome. Can we add it to our annual letter, please,
24 Donald.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

29
30 Anybody else.

31
32 Go ahead, Billy.

33
34 MR. TREFON: No, I was just looking at
35 the apology. This came from -- like you said from the
36 Fish and Wildlife and the State, it doesn't have the
37 Park Service or anybody else on there. So getting the
38 word out is another good step in the right direction.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Donald.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. On
47 behalf of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council I'd
48 like to acknowledge Gayla Hoseth for working with the
49 AMBCC. Although we don't have jurisdiction on

50

1 migratory birds and Gayla provides that protection for
2 subsistence users for the Bristol Bay residents.

3
4 Thank you, Gayla.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would
7 definitely echo that, Gayla. I -- you know, and I
8 forget, I'm always very grateful for the work and the
9 time that you've put in on that because having sat on
10 this Board for a number of years I know the amount of
11 commitment and time that it takes. And sometimes we do
12 forget to verbalize that.

13
14 So thank you for reminding all of us of
15 that, Donald.

16
17 And it's really heartfelt and thanks
18 very much, Gayla.

19
20 MS. HOSETH: Thank you guys very much.

21
22 (Applause)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

25
26 Anything else?

27
28 Cody, you're done? Yes. No, I would
29 understand it. I think I beat you to your
30 presentation. So thank you for being flexible for me.

31
32 With that being said then can we go
33 ahead and move on to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: Again if Park Service or
36 somebody needs to.....

37
38 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We do.

39
40 We have one person I know and that's
41 Chris and I figured we keep going down the line here
42 though in order and then if we need to start bumping
43 people we will. So I've got Chris, anybody else under
44 time constraints?

45
46 MS. PETERSON: I'm fine.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
49 then let's -- we'll go ahead and keep moving forward

50

1 like this.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
6 Council members. My name's Andy Aderman, I work for
7 the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

8

9 MS. HENRY: And I'm Susanna Henry and
10 I'm the Refuge manager at Togiak Refuge.

11

12 MR. ADERMAN: So in your meeting
13 materials there's a Togiak Refuge report, it starts on
14 page 39. Just wanted to provide a couple updates and
15 starting at the bottom of page 39 is a -- the last
16 paragraph talks about the local Nushagak Peninsula
17 caribou herd. We did a photo census count this past
18 July, come up with a minimum of 709 caribou. The
19 estimate is 787 to 901. This is down 77 caribou on the
20 minimum count from the year before, a bit more on the
21 estimate.

22

23 Not in your report, but related to
24 Nushagak Peninsula caribou is we did a composition
25 count here about a month ago and come up with a
26 estimate of 25 bulls per 100 cows and 34 calves per 100
27 cows. Both of those are declines from the previous
28 year. And that is the lowest bull to cow ratio that
29 we've seen in this herd to date.

30

31 Continuing over onto the top of page 40
32 we had a Planning Committee that met towards the end of
33 July.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You know
36 what, Andy, hang on just a second. Let's take them one
37 at a time because caribou -- does anybody have
38 questions about those caribou or the declines he saw?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can
43 address them one at a time if you don't mind, that'll
44 might help everybody to target their questions.

45

46 MR. ADERMAN: That's fine.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
49 go ahead with your -- did you have one, Dennis?

50

1 MR. ANDREW: No.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

4

5 Go ahead.

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Still on Nushagak
8 Peninsula caribou, but kind of going over to the
9 management side. The Planning Committee met, we talked
10 about what we saw in the photo census. We also talked
11 about another long term study in which we've seen a
12 steady decline in the amount of or the percent cover of
13 lichen on the Peninsula. So we started this project
14 back in 2002 where we estimated 48 percent lichen
15 cover. The most recent survey was in 2017 and that
16 lichen cover had dropped down to 30 percent. So
17 continual decline.

18

19 Out of that meeting came the
20 recommendation to have a harvest objective of 150
21 caribou for this season that we're currently in, an
22 initial harvest limit of two caribou per hunter and,
23 let's see, a total of 550 caribou permits available of
24 which 500 of those are for the local seven communities
25 and I'll explain a little bit more about the other 50.

26

27 And so do you remember back last year
28 you dealt with a proposal that involved C&T or
29 customary and traditional use for caribou on the
30 Nushagak Peninsula and the Board passed that and
31 basically the outcome of that -- of their action was
32 right now all residents of unit 17, 9B, 9C, 9E and
33 residents of Lime Village and Stony River have
34 customary and traditional use for the Nushagak
35 Peninsula herd. That actually didn't take effect until
36 about a month ago because of the code of Federal
37 regulations didn't get approved. Usually they have it
38 done in June in time for the beginning of the new
39 regulatory year on July 1, well, didn't get done until
40 like October 8th I believe. To that end we sent -- the
41 Togiak Refuge sent a letter to all the Tribal Councils
42 in the affected communities just notifying them that
43 hey, you now have C&T for this herd. If you want to be
44 part of the Planning Committee contact us. If you have
45 people that are interested in hunting Nushagak
46 Peninsula caribou talk to me. I don't think there's
47 going to be a big interest because of the distance that
48 most people have, but that's where those other 50
49 permits I'm kind of holding onto just to see what the

50

1 interest is this winter.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So just for
4 information for us to take back to our villages, who do
5 they contact if they want a permit.....

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: They would.....

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON:Togiak
10 Refuge?

11

12 MR. ADERMAN:call me here at
13 Togiak Refuge.....

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

16

17 MR. ADERMAN:yeah.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

20

21 MR. ADERMAN: And we'll work out how
22 they get the permit, you know, whether they stop here
23 or I -- the way we do it here is through the
24 Traditional Councils in each participating village and
25 they have somebody on staff that issues the permits in
26 their community.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

29

30 MR. HILL: Yeah, I have two questions
31 or maybe one. What are the -- what's the reason for
32 the decline in the lichen coverage?

33

34 MR. ADERMAN: I believe it's primarily
35 due to the caribou. They were put down there, the
36 caribou were, it's a reintroduced herd, in 1988. The
37 population has peaked twice now at close to 1,400
38 caribou. We're right now kind of in a -- in a decline,
39 but I think it's just the continual use of lichen. And
40 that's pretty normal in most caribou herds that -- and
41 even in some of the migratory herds like the Mulchatna,
42 there are certain areas that they use for wintering and
43 they'll use them for years and years and then the
44 lichen kind of get depleted and they will seek out and
45 use other areas. This herd is a resident herd, they're
46 -- they stay on the Peninsula basically year round.

47

48 MR. HILL: So are there any optimal
49 conditions for lichen growth without the caribou

50

1 affecting it at all, does it depend on the weather or
2 the winters or the climate or how much depends on that?

3
4 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, so it seems like
5 lichens prefer wetter or they grow better in wetter
6 environments. And so our recovery time for lichens is
7 shorter than say Interior where they -- they have a lot
8 less annual precipitation than what we do. So their
9 turnover or recovery rate can be twice as long as ours
10 or even longer.

11
12 Other things that affect it, obviously
13 if you put a bunch of snow on top of it it's harder for
14 caribou to get at. And especially in an icing event
15 where it rains on top of snow and then it gets real
16 cold and that's -- that's a tough deal for any caribou
17 to try and paw down through that ice. But it's a
18 matter of time it takes to recover it.

19
20 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. We've got
21 an extraordinary amount of lichen growth in our area
22 last five years and so send some of them our way.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Directional
25 arrows on the food.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Dennis.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thanks, Madame
33 Chair. Yeah, I'm interested in -- remember that big
34 herd we had out of Nushagak, the Mulchatna herd and it
35 had that problem with that hoof disease, that issue
36 there. On this herd down there on the Nushagak
37 Peninsula, do you guys do any testing, any sign of hoof
38 disease and, you know, I'm curious why our caribou
39 ain't coming back and stuff. I mean, (indiscernible)
40 said going over, I've heard them all the way down to
41 Goodnews and Togiak.

42
43 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. Through the Chair,
44 Mr. Andrew. We capture caribou almost every year, not
45 every, to collar. So we get a -- kind of an idea of
46 the condition that they're in. We have drawn blood and
47 from blood you can test for certain things that caribou
48 have been exposed to in the past. We have found a few
49 things that caribou have been exposed to, but it's not

50

1 something that kills the caribou, it may -- it's like
2 maybe a cold in people that, you know, they're feeling
3 a little bit down and they're -- it -- you know, maybe
4 they're not quite as quick or fast as a normal one, but
5 nothing -- nothing scary that I'm aware of.
6

7 The hoof rot, I think that was back in
8 '98 if I recall in the Mulchatna herd. Occasionally
9 we'll see a limping caribou, but I haven't seen like
10 numbers of them. And usually when I see it it's around
11 when we do the composition which is near the rut. And
12 I suspect that it's fighting with bulls and that in the
13 few that I've seen over the years.
14

15 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. One last one.
16 Thanks, Madame Chair.
17

18 What about any sighting on the big
19 dogs, wolves chasing them down there?
20

21 MR. ADERMAN: There are wolves that use
22 the Peninsula and have for quite some time. We had a
23 study back oh, 10 years ago, 11 years ago, that
24 occurred actually when the herd was on the increase.
25 And it didn't seem that the wolves were controlling the
26 caribou, they were obviously getting some of them, but
27 the caribou kept climbing right up until they got to
28 about 1,400 and then they started going the other way.
29 But, yeah, they're down there and they do get caribou.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
32

33 Billy.
34

35 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I see your study
36 here is talking a lot about the Nushagak, the herd,
37 what's going on with the Mulchatna herd because that's
38 the herd that we hunt and I never seen caribou in
39 years.
40

41 MR. ADERMAN: Well, I promised
42 Christine Peterson in the back with Fish and Game that
43 I wouldn't really talk much about Mulchatna caribou. I
44 know she's going to provide an update on that so I will
45 let her do that if that's all right.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
48

49 Anymore questions on this portion of
50

1 the presentation.

2

3 MR. TREFON: I got one more.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. TREFON: Talking about the lichen
8 it's got -- how long does it take for lichen to grow?

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: Again that I think
11 depends on the environment that it's in. Here it --
12 you know, it could take probably 40 years to get a --
13 you know, a peak growth of lichen. Each year it just
14 grows just a little, little tiny bit. But again if you
15 go to more arid or dryer places like in Interior, it --
16 that growth is even smaller. So and I'm sure it varies
17 between different lichen species, but, you know,
18 probably about 40, 50 years here to -- and that's left
19 untouched where it would reach its peak height and.....

20

21 MR. TREFON: So once they destroy their
22 food source they're -- and once they eat up all their
23 food sources there got to wait another 40 years?

24

25 MR. ADERMAN: Well, lichen is just one
26 part of the caribou's diet. They tend to eat it a
27 little bit more in wintertime it's believed, but they
28 can eat it throughout the year. But, you know,
29 summertime or springtime, summertime, they're hitting
30 the new green stuff. That's the most protein, it's the
31 most digestible. So they're still eating some of the
32 plant stuff that's kind of dried out and brown this
33 time of year.....

34

35 MR. TREFON: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. ADERMAN:and they'll actually
38 do some browsing on blueberry plants and other dwarf
39 shrubs. But so lichen is just part of it.

40

41 MR. TREFON: Because I know they eat
42 reindeer moss predominantly.

43

44 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. That's same thing,
45 it's lichen. People call it moss, it's the same --
46 same.....

47

48 MR. TREFON: Okay. Because I was
49 looking at lichen as the stuff that's on the rocks,

50

1 that's what I was told lichen was.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. ADERMAN: One last thing on
6 Nushagak Peninsula caribou. The current harvest is
7 only 10 in the Federal hunt and one in the State hunt
8 that's just north of the Federal hunt. So had a pretty
9 wet August, I think that deterred a lot of people from
10 going.

11

12 One thing on mid page 40 on moose.
13 Even though it's outside your area this last March we
14 counted 173 caribou in the Kanektok and Ayerolic (ph)
15 drainages. That's the northern part of our Refuge in
16 the -- or northwestern part. And we're working with
17 Fish and Game out of Bethel and the community of
18 Quinhagak to get the Federal lands opened up for moose
19 hunting in their area.

20

21 I just mention this because I think
22 this Council and the Nushagak Advisory Committee had a
23 hand in this a while back, 20 years ago, in decisions
24 that were made in 17A that allowed moose to go into the
25 Goodnews drainage, allowed moose to go into the
26 drainages that I just talked about and there's probably
27 some that are coming down the Kuskokwim, but pat
28 yourselves on the back.

29

30 Two more quick things. On the bottom
31 of page 41 I just wanted to mention an update to the
32 invasive aquatic plant surveys. What we were looking
33 for specifically was a plant called elodea. It does
34 occur in a couple different places in Alaska, I think
35 Lake Hook and Chena Slough up in Fairbanks. We don't
36 want it here. It'll destroy spawning habitat and other
37 fish habitat. We looked at 30 different waterbodies
38 primarily on the Refuge and we did not detect it in any
39 of those.

40

41 And I guess the last thing that I had
42 is on the bottom of page 44 and it's just a staff
43 update. We have a new Refuge information technician in
44 Togiak, his name is Thomas Dock and we're really happy
45 to have him onboard. And then the last thing is our
46 deputy Refuge manager, Alan Miller, retired here the
47 end of September.

48

49 I don't know if you had anymore to add

50

1 to that, Susanna.

2
3 MS. HENRY: Just to add that our Refuge
4 information technician up in Quinhagak, John Mark, has
5 retired and we'll be filling behind him with a new
6 Refuge information technician. And sounds like we'll
7 have the authority to hire behind Alan Miller as well.
8 My supervisor, Ronny Sanchez, has said let's open it to
9 laterals within Alaska first and if no one's a taker
10 then we'll be able to advertise more widely. But
11 beyond that we're not probably filling any of the other
12 positions until we see what our budget is and as we go
13 forward. So for example Amanda Cochran's vacancy is
14 mentioned here at the bottom of page 44, and then you
15 all remember Mark Leesak, our fish biologist that
16 retired at the end of 2016, his position remains
17 vacant.

18
19 So we do the best with who we have and
20 they are the best. So.....

21
22 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: They are.

23
24 Questions.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
29 you. Appreciate it, guys.

30
31 Okay. It appears we're still doing
32 good on time.

33
34 Next on my list is Alaska Peninsula,
35 Becharof.

36
37 Susan.

38
39 MS. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon. Susan
40 Alexander, Refuge manager at Alaska Peninsula and
41 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. Glad to be here
42 with you all.

43
44 Our agency report begins on page 45.
45 And I have one question that I wanted to bring to the
46 Council for your input. But to highlight a couple
47 things out of the report first.

48
49 The subsistence caribou, Federal

50

1 subsistence caribou hunt on GMU 9C and remainder and 9E
2 continues as it has the last couple of years. The
3 harvest for State and Federal animals is averaging --
4 excuse me, State and Federal hunts is averaging about
5 80 animals, most of which is under State permits
6 because they're much more numerous than the Federal.
7 And this year we did have applicants for both the 9C
8 remainder and the 9E hunts. You may remember last year
9 when we didn't get anybody for 9E and we were a little
10 bothered by that. So we did some additional outreach
11 this year and we did get some applicants.

12
13 We did not get any requests for
14 cultural education permits this year. We have from
15 Port Heiden like last couple of years, but they did not
16 ask for any this year.

17
18 We have what to me is kind of a sad
19 roll call of vacant positions at the moment that I want
20 to just give you all the brief update on where we are
21 in relation to that. You may recall I've told you
22 before that our subsistence biologist position is
23 currently filled half-time by someone living in
24 Colorado because he was here and his wife moved to
25 Colorado and rather than have a vacant position we
26 could not fill due to multiple levels of hiring freezes
27 nationally and regionally we let him work half-time
28 from Colorado. He's still doing that two years on.
29 Our mammal biologist position is still vacant two years
30 on. Our deputy is also leaving and his wife is our
31 bird biologist so she is going to telecommute from
32 Hawaii six months out of the year and be here for the
33 summer field season for the same reason because if she
34 leaves we can't fill behind her. And our law
35 enforcement officer is going to Kenai.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are you
38 shuttering up the windows?

39
40 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm going to be found
41 hiding under my desk.

42
43 It's -- you know, and the deputy
44 position like Susanna's I'm optimistic we will be able
45 to fill because they're looking at doing kind of a
46 batch hiring. Same thing with the law enforcement
47 officer. This is sort of the latest thing in Fish and
48 Wildlife at the moment that they want to hire in big
49 groups to try to cut down on the work on human
50

1 resources. But that sometimes kind of skews in my
2 opinion which positions get filled and which don't.

3
4 I would really love to see our mammal
5 biologist position get filled. That's just about my
6 highest priority at the moment. And I'm having
7 repeated conversation with my supervisor about it. But
8 that's why some of our mammal projects are not going
9 forward in the way they had when Don Watts was here as
10 our mammal biologist.

11
12 So to try and deal with that and, I
13 mean, if you kind of put all those pieces together we
14 have a supervisory wildlife biologist that I think you
15 all met a couple of RAC meetings ago, Bill Smith. And
16 so he is still with us, but his staff is pretty
17 skeletal at the moment and with this change with the
18 avian biologist he does not have a single whole year
19 round in King Salmon dedicated to biology biologist.

20
21 Dan Peppia, our pilot is also a
22 biologist, but he's our only pilot now because our
23 former law enforcement officer was our second pilot and
24 he left and I wasn't able to find another pilot.

25
26 So things are just kind of in a bit of
27 a reduced capacity at the moment.

28
29 So on the mammal front we're focusing
30 on and I think I mentioned to you all that we -- and
31 this is ongoing, are working on some priority setting.
32 And that's still go forward. In the mean while we have
33 rached back and are trying to focus more on working
34 with others and supporting others' efforts both because
35 that's something I think we should have been doing more
36 of all along and because without as much capacity
37 ourselves we can leverage our efforts better that way.
38 And we've been reaching out to Katmai National Park and
39 to Fish and Game and working some with them,
40 particularly like where our pilot can fly and help out
41 with those sorts of things.

42
43 So we were able to fly some trending
44 surveys for moose in 2017 working with both of those
45 other two agencies. We got three trend areas covered
46 in 2017 and we're working on that again. Actually our
47 pilot was flying yesterday. So that is moving forward.

48
49 And the moose reproduction and survival
50

1 study that I've mentioned to you all a few times where
2 we had some collared cows and were flying daily during
3 calving season to track the number of calves they
4 dropped and then the survival of those calves. We have
5 brought that study to an end. It was never intended to
6 be a real long term study anyway because it's very
7 expensive as you can imagine, that daily flying adds up
8 fast. But we terminated it when we did because
9 obviously our mammal biologist was running that study
10 and he left. So we kind of did one more year with the
11 pilot handling it and now we've brought it to an end.
12 We did still have seven radio collared cows and we've
13 kind of turned them over to Fish and Game because they
14 thought they could utilize those animals and that data
15 going into the future for a study that they're
16 planning.

17
18 And we have all the data from that work
19 and it has been partially analyzed and compiled, but
20 again we don't have a mammal biologist. So we're
21 trying to push ahead with getting that, we're not just
22 going to give up on the data, it's good data. And so
23 but it means I can't bring you anything definitive on
24 that because it's going forward very slowly without
25 that mammal position to work on it.

26
27 So I'll stop there.

28
29 Those were the things I was going to
30 highlight out of the agency report that you all have
31 and see if you have any questions.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
34 Thank you.

35
36 Questions.

37
38 Lary.

39
40 MR. HILL: Yeah, I don't know if
41 there's an answer for this on your monitoring lake
42 temperatures. Is this -- anything going to be done to
43 Lake Iliamna at all do you know or.....

44
45 MS. ALEXANDER: I don't know because
46 it's not within.....

47
48 MR. HILL: Okay.

1 MS. ALEXANDER:the Refuge.

2
3 MR. HILL: Okay.

4
5 MS. ALEXANDER: But someone who's here
6 from that area may have an idea.

7
8 MR. HILL: So what does the lake
9 monitoring station look like?

10
11 MS. ALEXANDER: It's -- I wish I could
12 sketch it for you. It's vertical lines with
13 temperature monitors at specified intervals. And in
14 the winter it's -- I'm trying to remember how they
15 secure it so that it goes under the ice. In the summer
16 we have to go troll for it and bring it up and attach
17 one more sensor at the surface. And so there's kind of
18 a spring visit and a fall visit and then -- and what
19 I'm forgetting is how we keep it close enough to the
20 surface so that we can snag it without -- and we did
21 lose one in Becharof which -- yeah, we tried every way
22 we can think of to try to find it and so we're going to
23 have to replace that one. But essentially it's just
24 lines with these data loggers and when you bring it up
25 in the spring I think it's -- it can go multiple years,
26 but we try to go ahead and log them whenever we get
27 hold of it. You just plug the data logger into a unit,
28 it downloads all the data and then you can put it back
29 in the lake.

30
31 MR. HILL: Does it rest on the bottom
32 then?

33
34 MS. ALEXANDER: No, it's suspended in
35 the water column. And there are I believe four or five
36 monitors at specified.....

37
38 MR. HILL: From a buoy?

39
40 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm sorry.

41
42 MR. HILL: From a buoy?

43
44 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. And in the summer
45 it's hung from a buoy, and I apologize, what I can't
46 remember at the moment is what we do with it in the
47 winter so that it's below the surface so it doesn't get
48 caught up in the ice, but we can still retrieve it.

49
50

1 And if you'd like I can.....

2

3 MR. HILL: Okay.

4

5 MS. ALEXANDER:especially when
6 we're in King Sal -- in Naknek next time.....

7

8 MR. HILL: I'm leading up to something.

9

10 MS. ALEXANDER:get someone to
11 give you a little bit better description. I apologize,
12 I'm a little fuzzy on the.....

13

14 MR. HILL: I'm leading up to something.

15

16 MS. ALEXANDER:the technical
17 details.

18

19 MR. HILL: Up in Lake Clark the folks
20 up there were wanting to do that kind of
21 monitoring.....

22

23 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, right.

24

25 MR. HILL:and they sent down --
26 started to send the stuff down, it got down about 200
27 feet and all of a sudden it disappeared and the buoy
28 got pulled underwater. So I was wondering if it was
29 the same kind of thing happened with your monitoring
30 station?

31

32 MS. ALEXANDER: Maybe that's what
33 happened to Becharof, we don't really know.

34

35 MR. HILL: Okay. That was.....

36

37 MS. ALEXANDER: All right. Thank you.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Thank you,
44 Susan.

45

46 I'm -- you know, Peninsula caribou
47 herd, are we going to get more from Chris or.....

48

49 MS. ALEXANDER: I think so.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, maybe I'll
2 wait because I don't see a whole lot that -- except
3 that it's good to know that people local are actually
4 being able to hunt.

5
6 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. And we are trying
7 where we can to help out Fish and Game with our pilot
8 and flying, but we're not very active in that ourselves
9 so I didn't include it in our agency report.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm glad it's working
12 cooperatively, that's always good. Just like over here
13 in Dillingham the State and the Refuge -- it --
14 combining their forces is a multiplying.....

15
16 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, yeah.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY:effect in this. I'm
19 concerned, I guess I want to express concern that she's
20 so short staffed that there's a lot of sounds like data
21 sitting in a drawer that could be really important to
22 have impacts on all users. So I guess we don't get to
23 talk about hiring, but I sure hope that you get some
24 more support and actually get some people that can work
25 through this.

26
27 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: And then the last thing I
30 wondered, do you have a similar invasive plant program
31 over there like what Togiak did?

32
33 MS. ALEXANDER: We don't right now, but
34 it's one of the things that's, let's not say floating
35 to the top, as something we very much need to start
36 doing, both some monitoring along the lines of what
37 Togiak was doing on our high risk lakes and also
38 additional work with our guides and outfitters. And
39 ourselves, we need a protocol in place for when -- I
40 mean, we try to be careful and we try to do -- we
41 actually have some invasive terrestrial plants on our
42 compound that we have been working to eradicate so we
43 don't spread them to the Refuge. And, you know, we
44 have folks coming from a lot of different places with
45 floatplanes and elodea is our biggest concern for that
46 reason. And we would like in the future to have a good
47 protocol that we can share with our commercial guides
48 and ask them to follow to try to prevent introduction.
49 But then, yes, we also need to be monitoring to keep an
50

1 eye out and make sure if there is an introduction that
2 we caught it early.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
7 This is -- I guess I missed the main reason why so much
8 of staff is going, is it the positions is no longer
9 funded or they just decided to move on and you haven't
10 -- you haven't refilled the position. Are we still --
11 you still got the funding and able to reposition the
12 biologist?

13

14 MS. ALEXANDER: Thanks. That's a good
15 question, thank you, and I don't think I did a very
16 good job of explaining and gave you the ugly list. But
17 some of these positions I will be able to refill,
18 they're not necessarily -- I mean, they are high
19 priority positions for me that I'll be able to refill.
20 It looks like the deputy and the law enforcement
21 officer at this time I believe I'll be able to refill
22 soonest.

23

24 The big picture of what's happening is
25 that nationally we had some hiring freezes. Now it's
26 operating more at a regional level because there have
27 been some reductions in the budget and so regionally
28 they are holding positions vacant all over the State to
29 some extent. And I had enough folks leave for one
30 reason or another that some of those vacancies I just
31 haven't been given permission to fill yet. And so the
32 region is pulling those salary savings back as a
33 temporary way of getting enough money for all of the
34 Refuges in the State to operate. And it's not just us,
35 I think every -- almost -- I don't know if Togiak does,
36 but I know lots of Refuges have vacant positions that
37 are being held right now. And they're pulling the
38 salary back at a regional level to keep everybody going
39 and allowing some positions to be filled. But it's up
40 to the folks in Anchorage which positions get filled
41 first.

42

43 And I just had a rash of people leaving
44 so I now have a bunch of vacancies. And so a couple of
45 those will be able to be filled. The mammal biologist
46 is the one I've been beating the drum for the loudest
47 with Anchorage that hasn't been approved. Though I
48 understand they're working on a national kind of batch
49 hiring for biological positions out of headquarters,

50

1 but I haven't been able to get a lot of definitive
2 information about the -- that's I think supposed to
3 come early in 2019. So maybe we'll be able to get in
4 on that and hire a biologist through that. That's
5 right now actually our -- the next step is our
6 supervisory biologist, Bill Smith, that I was talking
7 about is going to contact the head of Natural Resources
8 for the region and ask him like, okay, with all the
9 biologists positions how are you guys -- are you
10 prioritizing amongst biologists, how are you doing
11 this. So we're just trying to talk to everybody we can
12 think of to try to get a feel for the -- when might you
13 be given permission to fill this.

14
15 So it's not a permanent elimination of
16 the position, but it's just sort of in suspended
17 animation.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Thank you. And, you know,
20 I realize you're going to other entities to try to help
21 with these surveys and things and I think that's
22 crucial here, you know, the seat I sit here is, you
23 know, how do we make decisions if we don't have the --
24 if we don't have the information. And at some point,
25 you know, we -- you know, enough is enough and we need
26 to -- you know, once you start getting short on data
27 and then your data cycle starves and you really don't
28 have the great picture. So really hope that that's,
29 you know, some sort of a priority there.

30
31 Thanks.

32
33 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, those
36 gaps can be killers, it's -- they can just basically
37 make everything obsolete.

38
39 So thanks for saying thank and thanks
40 for your efforts too, Susan.

41
42 MS. ALEXANDER: Do you have time for me
43 to ask the Council for your input on a question?

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
46 Go ahead.

47
48 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Thanks. I
49 wanted to talk briefly about ptarmigan and Alaska hare
50

1 because as I imagine you all are aware the State
2 regulations changed as of July 1st to tighten down on
3 both of those hunts because of the concerns about the
4 numbers of those species. And I can give you the
5 specifics of those changes if you'd like, but as I
6 think you know, you know, there's -- there have been a
7 lot of local concerns and, I mean, a couple of you
8 spoke about it. I was very glad to hear Richard and
9 Nanci both say that you felt like you were seeing a
10 little bit more in the way of ptarmigan.

11
12 We at the Refuge and it's only two
13 years worth of data, but in 2013 and 2015 did ptarmigan
14 surveys and what we saw, we saw 90 percent fewer
15 ptarmigan in 2015 than we did in 2013. So that was
16 obviously very dramatic. Now it's only two years so
17 that's obviously a very limited data set, but enough to
18 create some concern obviously. So we are starting to
19 explore the idea of submitting a proposal to -- in the
20 next wildlife cycle to match the Federal subsistence
21 seasons and bag limits with what the State has done.
22 And I wanted to know what -- how you all feel about
23 that. Do you think that's a good idea, do you -- you
24 know, are you concerned, are you -- just any input you
25 have for us. Like I said we're starting to discuss
26 this a little bit and I'd very much like to know what
27 the RAC thinks.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.

30
31 Go ahead, Richard.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I can see that
34 happening. I mean, the -- you know, the reason why the
35 -- you know, it got into State regs is, you know, they
36 also recognize that we have a problem. So it's --
37 whether it's on this side of the line or that side of
38 the line, ptarmigan don't care whose property they're
39 on, you know, we still have a problem. So it's -- you
40 know, it's -- I think it's prudent that, you know, we
41 -- we look at those bag limits, you know, overall, not
42 only on State lands, but on Federal lands. I mean,
43 because we're -- in a lot of ways we self police
44 ourselves, you know, we sent the word out last year
45 that, hey, if you don't need it let's not kill it.
46 Okay. So let's let the population grow. So that's --
47 you know, I think it's -- it's probably warranted.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1
2 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I
3 would kind of echo Richard's comments. I -- plus the
4 fact that it's -- I think it's nice for everybody
5 because we don't have that GPS app yet that tells us
6 exactly where we're at to align the State and Federal
7 regulations as much as anything. And I'm always
8 wanting to err on the side of caution especially when
9 it comes to our resources. And just because we are
10 encouraged by seeing more birds and more bunnies, that
11 doesn't necessarily mean that they're back to where
12 they need to be. So that would definitely help that
13 out as well. So I would say the same.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, thanks,
18 Billy.

19
20 Go ahead.

21
22 MR. TREFON: I got a question about the
23 climate change because I'm starting to see birds I've
24 never saw before and I'm starting to see more
25 hummingbirds. Would that have an impact on ptarmigan?
26 And I'm seeing less winter birds.

27
28 MS. ALEXANDER: I wish I could give you
29 a good answer to that question. I -- I wish I were one
30 of my biologists, I wish I had my bird biologist here
31 and maybe some of the other folks in the room that have
32 a more robust biological background than I do can
33 answer that for you. But I know that all over northern
34 lands around, you know, circumpolar, all around the
35 North Pole, that there are species showing up earlier,
36 species showing up that haven't been seen before. You
37 know, I'm probably not telling you all anything you
38 don't already know, but I -- I mean, personally I don't
39 -- I can't state this as a solid scientifically fact,
40 but personally, I mean, I don't think any of us are
41 surprised that the critters that -- two of the critters
42 that we're having trouble with right now are the ones
43 that turn white in the winter.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, okay.
46 That's -- very good. Thank you very much for your
47 presentation.

48
49 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.
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ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

Next up, Jon Gerken.

MR. GERKEN: Madame Chair, Council. So I did have a summary that I was going to read to you, but I think we've covered a lot of it with our other conversations earlier today.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, yeah, for the record. Thank you.

MR. GERKEN: Oh, like.....

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, just state your name.

MR. GERKEN: My name's Jon Gerken, I'm a fisheries biologist in the Anchorage field office. I'm also the Federal in-season manager for Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands and Chignik.

ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

MR. GERKEN: And so I guess instead of reading my summary I just would like to introduce myself again. So I'm relatively new to the position, my background at least in the management world was a few years on the Yukon doing in-season management. And since getting to Anchorage in 2010 I sort of have two different roles, I have an in-season management role and then a research role out of the Anchorage field office. So one thing you may be wondering is why is a guy from Anchorage in charge of in-season management for this area. And so the fisheries office used to be located in King Salmon, not to segue specifically into the Refuge loss of people, but we moved out of there in 2006. And so -- and we took the delegated authority for the in-season management with us to Anchorage. So I am a staff of one when it comes to in-season management. So I rely upon you guys to contact and give me input and hopefully that door swings both ways. So I'd encourage you if you have questions or if you have thoughts or you have problems in your area that, you know, specific to Federal in-season management then please give me a call. I'll give you Orville's cell phone number. So -- no.

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. GERKEN: So thanks for the levity
4 there. So that's all I wanted to do was just
5 reintroduce myself again and, you know, if you have
6 questions feel free. And I definitely value your
7 input, I think it was a pretty successful way to do
8 management this year in Chignik. We had a number of
9 different teleconferences and 50 to 60 people were
10 participating. And I think we took a lot of input and
11 I think we chose a good route with regards to
12 restrictions and -- on sockeye, I think that was pretty
13 well universally accepted with those different
14 communities. So I'm here to learn from you guys so
15 keep an eye on me and let me know how I'm doing.

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I
24 welcome you onboard and.....

25

26 Oh, go ahead, Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: When are you moving back
29 into King Salmon?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. GERKEN: Yeah, it seems like I'm
34 all over the place. But, yeah, it would be nice to get
35 back there. So.....

36

37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Can you give
38 us an idea of what a couple of your short term goals
39 and/or areas of concern that you're going to be
40 addressing here this upcoming season?

41

42 MR. GERKEN: Certainly in the -- most
43 recently everything's been kind of focused on Chignik,
44 most of our preseason or my preseason stuff is --
45 involves meetings with Fish and Game. They are the
46 ones that do all the assessment and sort of monitoring
47 for project wise on all of these different fisheries,
48 establishing relationships with them has been a pretty
49 big priority. Establishing relationships with the

50

1 Regional Advisory Councils is a priority and getting a
2 face to some random guy who's calling you out of the
3 blue over the phone. So that's also a priority. So I
4 would stress again, you know, Richard talked about the
5 relationship that the Federal folks have with the State
6 folks and I think it's a pretty good relationship in
7 Chignik and I think we cooperate and consult regularly.
8 And so it's a little bit tougher in Bristol Bay I
9 think, there's just a lot more managers than there are
10 Federal managers so I know -- certainly know a lot of
11 them from the past, but I certainly talked to the
12 Chignik folks a lot more than anybody else.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

15

16 Anybody have anything else.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well,
21 welcome onboard and we'll look forward to working with
22 you in the future. Good luck.

23

24 Okay.

25

26 I believe Park Service is next on my
27 list.

28

29 MS. CHISHOLM: Good afternoon, Madame
30 Chair and Board members. My name is Linda Chisholm and
31 I am the cultural resource program manager and
32 subsistence coordinator at Katmai and for Aniakchak. I
33 just wanted to thank Board member Wilson for his
34 observations on the relationship with the local
35 community and positive steps forward with the Park. We
36 are definitely and fully committed to increasing and
37 improving that relationship as we go forward and to
38 collaborate more with our local partners and neighbors.

39

40 I heard your comments about the
41 migratory bird treaty apology and the Park Service was
42 not part of that official formal apology, but I will
43 bring back comments about pre ANILCA practices to the
44 superintendent and we are always open and welcome to
45 talking about any issues that still need to be
46 discussed on our level.

47

48 So thank you.

49

50

1 Just briefly to mention that the
2 Aniakchak SRC met on October 31st in Port Heiden and
3 this marked our first meeting under the new travel
4 agreements that we've established with Bristol Bay
5 Native Association to help our travelers successfully
6 get where we need them to go for our meetings. And so
7 anyone who's familiar with invitational travel through
8 the government knows that it can be a very invasive and
9 onerous process. And so I'd like to thank Gayla Hoseth
10 and Heidi Crest for all of her -- all of their hard
11 work in making that agreement happen. And from this
12 point on we should be able to have SRC members who are
13 able to join our meetings in person instead of
14 telephonically and will continue to increase our
15 participation here at RAC meetings as well.
16

17 Unfortunately for the first time in the
18 last couple of meetings we were not able to achieve a
19 quorum because many of our SRC members are coping with
20 and recovering from serious illnesses. So that's why
21 we don't have our chair or vice chair here today. So
22 our meeting continued as an informational meeting and
23 we co-hosted it with Bristol Bay Native Association as
24 they presented their 2016 salmon sharing network data
25 with Port Heiden.
26

27 We generally discuss trends in moose,
28 caribou, bear and wolf numbers with our SRC members and
29 I have a couple of points that may be of interest to
30 the RAC. This last winter folks in Port Heiden noticed
31 a marked increase in nonhibernating bears, boars,
32 entering Port Heiden and causing significant property
33 damage. And from what they could tell these bears were
34 not trying to get food, they were just stressed and
35 acting out some aggression. So that's interesting for
36 us to note because we've also heard from members and
37 from other agencies that numbers dipped a bit in 9E for
38 bears. So I don't know if there's any correlation
39 there, but it's interesting that they're noticing
40 coming them -- they're coming into the village.
41

42 The SRC members who were able to attend
43 the informational meeting were also inclined to prepare
44 a statement at our next meeting on their observations
45 of a marked decline in the abundance of Arctic hare and
46 ptarmigan. And so folks from Port
47 Heiden have said that for the last five or six years
48 they've had snow-free winters and they feel that, you
49 know, that lack of camouflage for those animals may be
50

1 contributing to their decline. So at the next meeting
2 we'll see if they agree to put together some
3 observations for any proposals that should be -- that
4 may be introduced on Federal lands.

5

6 And at this point I thank you for your
7 time and I'm open to any questions.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

10

11 Questions.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I was
18 talking to Jacqueline from down in Port Heiden and I
19 guess somebody decided to let a lot of their reindeer
20 go and I was wondering if that's causing any concerns
21 down in that area.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. CHISHOLM: Thank you, Mr. Dunaway.
26 That may be a question for some of the other agencies.
27 We did notice two groups of what we thought were
28 caribou, but possibly reindeer when we flew into Port
29 Heiden just north of the village, about a group of 12
30 and another group of eight to 10. And we mentioned
31 that to folks in Port Heiden and they said it might be
32 the reindeer from their corral.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
35 you.

36

37 Anybody else.

38

39 Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: I don't know if this is
42 the place, but is there any updates on the trail or the
43 (indiscernible) and things that were spoke of earlier
44 and some of that, is there any updates that you can
45 give us on that cultural side of things?

46

47 MS. CHISHOLM: Yes, Mr. Wilson. I
48 think we've met several times this summer with folks
49 from Paug-Vik, with the heirs of (indiscernible) and

50

1 with the Council of Katmai Decedents and it seems like
2 we're all sort of in agreement on next steps. We are
3 planning to have more conversations this winter to
4 formulate what those are, but the Park itself is still
5 following its mandate to move all of our facilities
6 south of the Brooks River and while doing so transfer
7 what's known as BL-3 which is the cabin right on Brooks
8 Lake that was the historic fisheries lab into a contact
9 station and perhaps using that as a place for
10 interpretive displays and exhibits that are tied
11 directly to archeological sites that were impacted by
12 the road.

13
14 We've also heard from everyone that
15 they would like to have the road removed and still
16 figuring out exactly how we would go about that,
17 whether it's a combination of mechanized and hand
18 tools. So but it sounds like we're getting there. So
19 hopefully next spring we'll start pulling it back.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anyone else.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any updates
30 on the four-wheeler?

31
32 MS. CHISHOLM: Yes, Madame Chair. The
33 Pike Ridge project is still going forward. The DOI is
34 changing or reviewing the way that it's managing or
35 perhaps looking at wilderness areas right now. So
36 we're awaiting guidance. But we haven't, you know,
37 changed anything in terms of our alternatives or what
38 we're thinking about. So we're just kind of on hold at
39 the moment.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Yeah, thanks. And we did
46 get an opportunity to run up into the lake into Naknek
47 and harvest some spawned out salmon. But, you know,
48 pretty typical by then most everything was gone, you
49 know, into Johnny's and others. And I know some of the
50

1 other residents were looking at Brooks, but I don't
2 know if they ever -- has anybody ever contacted you
3 guys to try to get -- to see if Brooks had anything
4 left? Just curious.

5
6 MS. CHISHOLM: I believe there was a
7 family or two that were planning to go to Brooks in
8 early October. And I was actually out there in mid to
9 late October myself monitoring the bridge project and I
10 could see there was still fish in the river there up
11 until about October 23rd or so. I didn't see too many
12 at that point.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

15
16 MS. CHISHOLM: Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
19 else.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
24 you very much. Appreciate it, Linda.

25
26 Okay.

27
28 I was just going to ask has Lake Clark
29 got anything for us? Come on up, Liza.

30
31 MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair and
32 the Commission. For the record, Liza Rupp, Lake Clark
33 cultural resources program manager and subsistence
34 coordinator.

35
36 I do have one action item on -- that I
37 would like the RAC to take on for our SRC. We are now
38 short a RAC appointed member and I have someone that I
39 would like to submit for your consideration to
40 recommend. That would be Charles Warren Hill. He --
41 it's a little convoluted right now. Our -- the member
42 who is no longer a RAC appointee is Senafont Shugak,
43 Jr. who was on the RAC and has decided that he would
44 like to retire from the SRC. So Warren -- Charles Hill
45 goes by Warren. So anyway and Lary knows him. Anyway
46 so because RAC appointees are sometimes difficult to
47 acquire because of the requirements that they
48 participate in State advisory or Federal advisory
49 commissions, Warren is on the Iliamna Lake Commission
50

1 AC and so he has agreed that he would be -- he has
2 worked for the past year as a State -- a Governor's
3 appointee, so he said he would switch if you are
4 willing to a RAC appointee so that we have an empty
5 seat as a Governor's appointee which is a lot easier to
6 fill, there are fewer requirements, it's just they need
7 to be a qualified Federal subsistence user.

8
9 So that's a little convoluted, but I
10 would ask for your consideration or recommendation of
11 Warren as a -- now a RAC appointee.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I
14 understand. What are the wishes of the Board?

15
16 Lary.

17
18 MR. HILL: Full disclosure may be
19 necessary. That's Richard's and I's nephew and Billy's
20 cousin. So.....

21
22 MS. RUPP: Yeah. All right.

23
24 MR. HILL:yeah, let him come.

25
26 MS. RUPP: So -- yeah.

27
28 MR. TREFON: First cousin.

29
30 MS. RUPP: First cousin, yeah.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: What are the
33 wishes of the Board? The disclosure is accepted so,
34 yeah, is he qualified as everybody -- would they enjoy
35 seeing him join us?

36
37 MR. WILSON: No, he's sharp.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
40 agree.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: So is this an action item
43 and you need somebody to make a motion?

44
45 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I believe so
46 and that's what I'm kind of waiting for.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, since I'm not
49 related to him.....
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY:I'll move that we
4 invite Charles Warren Hill to be on the SRC.

5

6 I have a question, but we'll get.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, fill the
9 -- fill the seat for the SRC.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: From our
14 Board, yes.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Right. Fill the seat.
17 Okay.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Second.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Do I have a
24 second?

25

26 MR. WILSON: Second.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I've
29 got a motion and a second.

30

31 Any discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. TREFON: Question.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The
38 question's been called. All in favor please signify by
39 saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
44 sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
49 Motion carries. We'd like to welcome him onboard.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. RUPP: Thank you very much.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. And then I
6 had a question. You said something about a Lake
7 Iliamna Commission or what's that, I don't know if I've
8 heard of it before?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. RUPP: Oh, sorry. Through the
13 Chair. It's the Advisory -- sorry, it's the Advisory
14 Council. I misspoke. It's the Iliamna Lake Advisory
15 Coun -- I'm not -- I have to admit I don't actually
16 know.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
21 Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: I think she's referring to
24 Iliamna Lake Advisory Committee through the State and
25 Mr. Charles Warren is a member of the AC and this
26 Council has the ability to appoint SRC members that
27 serves on the AC or is a member of this Council. So
28 you're doing your due diligence.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, Madame
39 Chair. I just want to also say I really enjoyed
40 working with Senafont when he was on here, kind of miss
41 him. It's fun having Billy onboard, but Senafont
42 seemed like a really nice guy. I really like --
43 enjoyed him. So I appreciate all he's done.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I think Warren's
48 going to be a pretty good choice because he's really
49 active in the subsistence activities and he's very

50

1 concerned about the subsistence and fisheries in the
2 Lake Iliamna area because he's a very active
3 subsistence hunter in Lake Clark.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I like the
6 young blood.

7
8 Okay.

9
10 Anything else.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
19 else, Liza?

20
21 MS. RUPP: Yeah, I just wanted to then
22 follow-up with a brief overview of our most recent SRC
23 meeting which was in -- as I mentioned earlier I think
24 in Nondalton on October 4th. The major topics of
25 conversation for the SRC were discussion about the Park
26 Service environmental assessment on the proposed
27 changes to the 2015 wildlife rule for sport hunting in
28 the Preserves. So that's a mouthful, but the SRC
29 discussed that and sent a letter to the regional
30 director supporting alternative two which was the no
31 action alternative meaning they would -- the SRC would
32 prefer that the Park Service does not change the rule.
33 The proposed changes would be removing the prohibitions
34 on bear baiting in certain areas as well as taking
35 wolves and -- with pups and bears with cubs so during
36 the summer season. And I have to admit I can't
37 remember what -- I think those were the main provisions
38 that -- yeah, I think those were the main provisions
39 that they were going to step back from. Anyway so the
40 Lake Clark SRC supported keeping those prohibitions in
41 place.

42
43 The also discussed obviously the fish
44 proposal that we talked about earlier and as well as
45 Mr. Trefon mentioned the concerns about low -- and Mr.
46 Hill as well, the low flying aircraft over the -- and
47 the user conflicts with -- in the Chulitna River basin.
48 And then obviously Glen on behalf of the SRC wrote the
49 letter that we have -- we sent out to all of our CUAs
50

1 as well as all of our emails lists and Facebook posts
2 and all that sort of thing for all of our residents and
3 I think it went all to our Tribal contacts as well to
4 disseminate. So hopefully that will help, at least
5 alert people that might not have realized, the
6 operators who might not have realized what they were
7 doing. I have heard of at least one who was very
8 apologetic and has said that they will try and fly
9 higher.

10
11 So those were -- those were what the
12 SRC discussed. And then just from a Park perspective
13 I'll just do really briefly the -- some results from
14 our summer fish counting since we're on a fish season.

15
16 So the Newhalen River counting tower
17 which has been going since 2000 -- Carol Ann's gone,
18 but and -- she's right behind me where I couldn't see
19 her.

20
21 MS. WOODY: (Indiscernible - away from
22 microphone).....

23
24 MS. RUPP: Anyway so thanks, Carol Ann.
25 So the total we -- there was 300,000 -- 369,642 sockeye
26 salmon were estimated past the Newhalen River counting
27 towers. That was 3 percent lower than the 10 year
28 average and about 8 percent of the total Kvichak River
29 escapement of 4.4 million fish. So that was the
30 Kvichak.

31
32 And then up on the Telequana River (ph)
33 which is part of the Kuskokwim River drainage, we had
34 actually an amazingly record year. There was 196,078
35 sockeye salmon counted at the weir. That was 200
36 percent over the 2010 to 2017 average of 61,681. So it
37 was a massive, massive run up there. I'm not sure why.
38 But anyway so that -- that's a project we've been
39 working on for -- yeah, since 2010 with ADF&G. And
40 anyway it was an interesting -- interesting. They had
41 no fish and then all of a sudden one day they just had
42 about 30,000 fish. It just was like this massive burst
43 of activity. So I'm not sure where they -- anyway.

44
45 So then also as others have mentioned
46 we have been doing elodea surveys in our waters as well
47 because of the concerns from Lake Hood and elsewhere.
48 And we have I think since 2015 and we still have not
49 detected any elodea which is good.

50

1 And otherwise I think that's about it.
2 Oh, just one other thing. We did have our -- I think
3 it's the fourth year of our culture camp that we have
4 at Kvichak National Historic Landmark so that is
5 ongoing. And we were able to enter into an agreement
6 -- a cooperative agreement with Nondalton Tribal
7 Council this year to fund multiple years of this
8 project. It's always been sort of a year by year. And
9 so with this agreement when the Park has fund -- so
10 with the Federal government you often end up with end
11 of year funding and so we have this in place now that
12 we can just give money to the agreement for Nondalton
13 Tribal Council to manage this culture camp which is a --
14 I think a very positive step.

15
16 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary,
19 please.

20
21 MR. HILL: With respect to the hunting
22 practices in the Preserve, we're talking about sport
23 hunting, not subsistence hunting. And the culture
24 camp, I've been involved with that I think three out of
25 the last four years and it's really great. These young
26 men and women up there and we -- they come in and learn
27 more of the language and we try to show them how things
28 were done the old way, the efficient way.

29
30 And so it's -- I'm really glad that
31 they've got more funding for it and I wanted to thank
32 you for that.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that
35 was great news. I was pleased to hear that too.

36
37 Anybody else.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: What's the deal with our
44 caribou, the Mulchatna?

45
46 MS. RUPP: Unfortunately I'm not the
47 one to answer that. Sorry.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I'm really worried
50

1 about them. I haven't seen them in so long, I'm
2 wondering what they look like.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Trust me, we
7 know what that's like.

8
9 Anybody else.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
14 you very much, Liza.

15
16 Chris, ADF&G.

17
18 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair and members
19 of the Council. My name is Chris Peterson, I'm a
20 wildlife biologist with Alaska Fish and Game in King
21 Salmon. I'm also or concurrently the assistant area
22 biologist for units 9, 10 and 17. So I do work with
23 the Mulchatna caribou as well as the northern Pacific
24 -- Northern Peninsula caribou herd and the Southern
25 Peninsula caribou herd and the Unimak caribou herd. So
26 if you have any questions I'd be -- I'll try to answer
27 them.

28
29 I was not -- I supposed I wasn't
30 thinking quite clearly, I did not prepare to discuss
31 the Peninsula caribou herds here, but if you have
32 questions on those I'd be glad to address them. Just
33 make sure that you ask them because I might not
34 remember.

35
36 Also I wanted to start with just a note
37 for Sus -- Susan from Becharof Refuge. They did run
38 into some difficulties with some vacancies, but it
39 ended up being a really good thing for Alaska Fish and
40 Game in that they could turn over 16 of their moose
41 cows that had been collared and we have incorporated
42 those into a study that we had ongoing. So it is still
43 a live study, it did not get abandoned. So the data is
44 still coming in and we're still working with them. So
45 it was a really good thing for us.

46
47 Okay.

48
49 To start with what I did prepare, I do
50

1 work really closely with Neil over here in unit 17.
2 And between him and myself we have quite a few projects
3 going on. Some of them are definitely his and he would
4 be better equipped to talk about them, but I think I
5 can bungle through it fairly well on some of his.
6

7 One of the programs that I'm very
8 involved in is the Intensive Management of the
9 Mulchatna caribou herd over here in 17. This past
10 winter we were able to expand the control area from
11 about 2,700 square miles to just barely under 10,000
12 square miles. So it was quite a large expansion. We
13 also changed the season dates so that -- I've lost
14 track of my dates right now, when was November 1st,
15 Friday. Anyway it opened on November 1st this year for
16 the SDA Intensive Management or Wolf Control for the
17 newly expanded area. The original area which
18 encompasses Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Ekwok remains
19 at a February 1st opening. But it's a significant
20 expansion.
21

22 This past winter several things changed
23 and we have no way of knowing which of those resulted
24 in the significant increase in harvest of wolves. We
25 did have snow last winter if everybody remembers right,
26 it took a while to get here, but once it got here it
27 was pretty decent. And that definitely is beneficial
28 to wolf hunters in airplanes because then they can see
29 the wolves, they can track the wolves, they can land
30 and they can shoot. Works very well. And we did har --
31 they did harvest 32 wolves from the air.
32

33 And then we had also somewhere, depends
34 on the boundaries that you're looking at, but somewhere
35 around 35 additional wolves were on the ground from --
36 by people from Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Ekwok as
37 well as a few from here in Dillingham that got out
38 there and really got active on it.
39

40 So it was a really beneficial year on
41 our Wolf Control Program. We are continuing that this
42 year, as I said it just opened a few days ago. We have
43 15 pilots permitted currently and we are a little short
44 on gunners. So I'm encouraging if anyone you know is
45 interested in participating, if they would contact Fish
46 and Game and maybe find one of our pilots that is
47 permitted. They do need to work with them to get their
48 permit. But we do have some room for that.
49
50

1 Additionally -- I guess that pretty
2 much covers the SDA program unless -- and the Intensive
3 Management. As part of that we do continue to put
4 collars on wolves and monitor them. We're trying to
5 determine where territories are, packs sizes, things
6 like that. I have a lot of information that's being
7 analyzed this coming week. The main biologist who is
8 working on that particular project will be in the field
9 and our SDA program will close for that week while he
10 is in -- working on getting more wolves collared,
11 figuring out where they are and things.

12
13 It's an active time of year for Fish
14 and Game. And if there's any questions on the IM or
15 the SDA I guess now would be a good moment for that.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.
18 Thanks. It works easier for us when it's fresh in our
19 minds.

20
21 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Yeah, just a quick one.
26 What's the dates, are you open November for the aerial,
27 but what's the closing date, is that.....

28
29 MS. PETERSON: Oh.

30
31 MR. WILSON:what time of year?

32
33 Thanks.

34
35 MS. PETERSON: Thank you, members of
36 the Board and Madame Chair. It opened November 1st for
37 the newly expanded area and it closes April 30th.
38 There will be occasional, maybe up to a week closures,
39 for ongoing work by Fish and Game employees. It's
40 really not good if we're in there chasing animals to
41 put collars on them and there's pilots in there
42 watching where we chase the animals to put the collars
43 on so that they can shoot the animals. So we kind of
44 try to keep that separate and it works best for
45 everybody.

46
47 So the newly expanded area would go
48 from November 1st to April 30th. The old area goes
49 from February 1st to April 30th. And we need snow. So
50

1 do your snow dances.

2

3 MR. WILSON: My reason for asking that
4 question was just the calving timing, you know, and the
5 predation.

6

7 MS. PETERSON: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. WILSON: And so that was my reason
10 for asking.

11

12 MS. PETERSON: Oh, no, problem.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Thanks.

15

16 MS. PETERSON: The original area that
17 was set up for the Wolf Control was based on where at
18 that time and for some time prior to that, where the
19 Mulchatna caribou had been calving. And it was set up
20 to encompass those calving grounds within its
21 boundaries. But the year that we did that the
22 Mulchatna decided to move their calving grounds. And
23 some of them still calve in there, you know, there's
24 good numbers that still do it there, but they
25 essentially moved to two different areas. And the
26 newly expanded area we hope will encompass not only
27 those, but any other possibilities that they might get
28 in their minds to utilize. So it's a good area.

29

30 MR. TREFON: Yeah, back on the
31 Mulchatna caribou herd. The migration route, because I
32 know the calving grounds used to be up around Twin
33 Lakes.....

34

35 MS. PETERSON: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. TREFON:predominantly, I
38 mean, there used to be thousands of them, thousands.
39 And I don't know where their spawn -- their calving
40 grounds are now or what their migration routes are.
41 Are they migrating into the Taylors or where?

42

43 MS. PETERSON: The Mulchatna caribou
44 herd, we are categorizing them kind of in two sections
45 that once a year change to two different sections. We
46 have an eastern and a western portion of the herd. And
47 then for calving some of those western move to these
48 two sides to calve and some of them move to these two
49 sides to calve and become northern or southern. And

50

1 the same way with the western or the eastern, they --
2 they mix when they go to calve. So we have several
3 different major areas where they're calving. The
4 migration routes or routes, I'm not from Alaska, sorry,
5 I lose my accent once in a while. The migration routes
6 also vary. I believe at one time when you had in
7 excess of 50,000 or more caribou, up to a hundred and
8 some thousand to 200,000, you had very well defined
9 migration routes. Currently the herd is down around,
10 we estimate somewhere between 25, 27,000. So obviously
11 there's going to be far less obvious visualization of a
12 migration route.

13
14 But there's a fairly good route that
15 does go up across the Titchik Lakes and over into the
16 western zone. And in the wintertime we have a good
17 number of the Mulchatna that are over there that are
18 harvested mainly by people from Bethel and the villages
19 over there.

20
21 The caribou that remain on the eastern
22 side of the range, there's a lot of them that remain up
23 around the Koliganek area into Mosquito Creek, not as
24 many that are over towards Nondalton as there used to
25 be. And then there's a portion of them that do head
26 south and they kind of cycle around down in the
27 Levelock, Igiugig area and back and around in through
28 there.

29
30 Numbers are obviously a lot less than
31 when you're remembering. And so the portion of the
32 herd that may travel through an area, it's not as
33 obvious as it used to be. So the migration routes are
34 not as well defined. And the animals, you know, their
35 behavior has changed as the numbers dropped and so
36 they're not using all the traditional areas, they're
37 creating new traditional areas.

38
39 So if that answer your question.

40
41 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because I've been
42 wondering where they were at, where they're calving and
43 you did a very good job of explaining it to me.

44
45 My next question is what's happening in
46 9B, all the agencies here have not mentioned 9B once?

47
48 MS. PETERSON: In terms of what?

1 MR. TREFON: Hunting and fishing.
2 That's where Nondalton people do most of their
3 hunting.....
4

5 MS. PETERSON: Oh.
6

7 MR. TREFON:in 9B.
8

9 MS. PETERSON: Yeah. Well, I don't
10 have anything to say about fishing, but hunting -- I --
11 if you had some specific questions it might help, but
12 obviously the Mulchatna, we've addressed that.
13

14 Moose hunting. Moose numbers, we do
15 have some ongoing projects over in 9 that pretty much
16 mirror a lot of what we do here in 17. We have a moose
17 calf survival project going on right now and -- as well
18 as last year. And with the addition of Becharof's
19 moose to that, we've expanded our coverage of the area.
20 We have collared cows anywhere from up by Iliamna Lake,
21 down through King Salmon and south down -- along --
22 down past Igiugig and to the Ugash Lakes. So we are
23 monitoring those for parturition and twining rates and
24 then calf survival mainly because there is a lot of
25 concern and interest in predation.
26

27 Peninsula had much higher numbers back
28 in the '80s, into the '90s and are no longer at those
29 high levels. But we have noticed in the last two to
30 three years at least from King Salmon we've notified an
31 increase in numbers. And at the same time we had a
32 decrease in numbers of bears. So we have this project
33 going on to try and determine what's going on there.
34

35 Last year we didn't lose -- we did not
36 lose any adult moose. Our calves, we had superb
37 productivity. Cows are in fabulous condition. We have
38 yet to find a cow that was anything less than -- I
39 think the worst we had would be moderately good,
40 definitely not bad shape. Most of them are just
41 overwhelmingly fat. And the calves, frequently when we
42 come across those by the end of summer we're having a
43 hard time telling if that's this year's calf or a short
44 yearling from last year. They're huge. And the same
45 is true up here in 17 in many cases, they're just huge
46 calves, very healthy, very fat, nutrition is not a
47 problem.
48

49 Last year as well as this year in both
50

1 17 and in 9 most calves do not make it. We have
2 extremely high productivity, extremely high twinning
3 rates and then by the end of summer very -- usually 16
4 or less, up to 20 percent, survival of our calves. By
5 spring when I go in and pick them up or visually find
6 each cow again, we also identify which ones still have
7 a calf with them. And most of those that had a calf at
8 the end of fall still have a calf in the spring.
9

10 So in short we believe we have pretty
11 high predation by bears, but there's also some wolf
12 predation going on at the same time. The bear
13 predation usually dwindles out by late fall, but I
14 don't think it's completely gone because we have had
15 mild winters and bears do not always sleep through the
16 winter if they have no need to. A lot of them will,
17 but a lot of them won't so they remain up.
18

19 So we're still watching them and
20 monitoring them and this project will continue to go
21 for at least another year, probably more. So keep an
22 eye of them.
23

24 MR. TREFON: Getting back to watching
25 the moose and the recovery. It would be nice to see
26 the number next fall because of the lack brown bears
27 we're seeing up there this year. Maybe there might be
28 an increase in recovery on moose because.....
29

30 MS. PETERSON: Well, that.....
31

32 MR. TREFON:usually we can see
33 anywhere from 12 to two dozen brown bears walk across
34 the village in front of us. This year I haven't seen
35 one.
36

37 MS. PETERSON: That's interesting.
38

39 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.
42

43 MR. HILL: Yeah, last year it was
44 mentioned that unit 9B and where it crosses over to 17,
45 kind of in the area of the high mortality rate for
46 calves and some I think were said were just -- just
47 fine and laying around dead. Is there any reason for
48 that, anything -- any cause that you know of or what
49 was happening with that?
50

1 MS. PETERSON: Members of the Council
2 and Madame Chair. I'm not sure what it is that you
3 heard. We -- we had some calves we simply cannot find,
4 we monitor them daily and we little -- tiny little
5 collars on them and those have a built-in mortality
6 sensor if the calf dies or something and so we know to
7 go check on it. But regardless of that we do check
8 them daily if at all possible. Some calves just out
9 and disappear. There's several things that we can look
10 for to help us determine what the cause of that might
11 be. One is if the cow moved overnight and some of them
12 move eight miles, some of them move 20. And like as
13 not they'll have some injury when you find them and
14 they won't have a calf with them. And that usually
15 indicates some sort of predation. Frequently when we
16 come in on a site that the day before had twins,
17 there'll be a big old bear sitting right there and he's
18 not happy that we found him. We seldom see sign of
19 wolves on them that time of year, but later in the year
20 we will.

21
22 So I don't know -- I don't recall ever
23 saying that they -- we just found any just laying there
24 dead. I believe we did find one that looked like it
25 had been rolled on. That was just a educated guess
26 from what we saw. We did have some this year where the
27 cow was very calm and quiet and in the same place that
28 she was in the day before, but one of her calves or if
29 she only had one, her calf, was missing, but she was on
30 the other side of the river and we never saw the calf
31 again. So there's multiple causes of the mortality and
32 we do what we can to determine what that is.

33
34 Have not seen any indications of
35 disease or malnourishment at all. So which is very
36 positive really because if we can get a grasp on the
37 predation then the numbers are going to go up. And I
38 believe they are going up even with what we have, we're
39 seeing that.

40
41 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. That's
42 what I wanted to be reassured of is just predation's
43 bad enough -- predations bad enough without any unknown
44 diseases popping up.....

45
46 MS. PETERSON: Yeah.

47
48 MR. HILL:in that stuff.

49
50

1 MS. PETERSON: No.

2
3 MR. HILL: Thank you.

4
5 MS. PETERSON: They look very, very
6 healthy. Yeah.

7
8 And when we -- when we do capture our
9 cows we do blood sampling and have those examined for
10 all sorts of different things and we've not had
11 anything show up that indicates anything but a very
12 healthy moose. So very good.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
19 Dennis.

20
21 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thanks, Madame
22 Chair. No, just another species of caribou called
23 woodland caribou, you guys ever hear of that?

24
25 MS. PETERSON: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: They're bigger. What
28 become of those, I mean, we used to get them and stuff
29 sometimes amongst the Mulchatna herd and stuff or up in
30 the lake area and I haven't seen one of those for quite
31 a while?

32
33 MS. PETERSON: Members of the Board, I
34 have never seen one down here. So maybe I'm not the
35 one to ask. I do have a relative that works with those
36 up in Interior and the same thing -- I do know that the
37 same thing goes on with those as with our Mulchatna
38 caribou in that you do have cycling that goes on. And
39 over the last -- I believe it was about 15 to 20 years
40 back he did mention that there was a significant change
41 in ranges that was going on and they were there. And I
42 can't say that it had anything to do with numbers, I'm
43 just trying to remember what it was, but they were
44 shifting ranges somewhat and herds were changing where
45 their territory -- their areas were and kind of milling
46 around. So there was a lot of motion and activity
47 going on at that time. Perhaps the forest caribou just
48 pulled their ranges back for a while, I really don't
49 know on that. The Mulchatna at the same time was
50

1 growing phenomenally and so if you have the -- that
2 pressure pushing on it it could very easily have caused
3 some shifting there. Yeah, and that was a phenomenal
4 growth with the Mulchatna.

5
6 MR. HILL: Just to make a comment, I
7 don't know how else to put it, just was the herd
8 management any kind kill off the biggest breeding
9 bulls, the only ones that are left are the smaller ones
10 so you get smaller animals. And I feel -- and that
11 seemed like a terrible way to manage the herd is kill
12 off all the bigger animals just because of the sport
13 hunting you want the bigger animals. And that's the
14 kind of herd management I -- it's just a personal
15 opinion on, I can't really decide if that's -- how true
16 that is or whatever, but just seemed we're always
17 killing off the biggest animals so what's left, you
18 know.

19
20 MS. PETERSON: Members of the Board, I
21 really like big bulls. So I kind of -- every time
22 we're out monitoring our herds we do keep track of how --
23 and on the composition survey which we just completed
24 we also classify according to the size of the bulls.
25 And we keep track of what we're seeing just because --
26 not only because it's part of what we're supposed to
27 do, but because we're really interested in that as
28 well. And under certain circumstances, yes, sport
29 hunting could remove your large bulls from the
30 population. However by the time they become large
31 bulls they've already bred significantly and passed on
32 their genetics. So you're not necessarily removing
33 their genetics from the system, you're removing a large
34 bull.

35
36 Also what -- granted we don't have the
37 levels of sport hunting I think that used to be here, I
38 think it used to be significantly higher, more risk of
39 that now. I'm afraid to say anything because we have
40 people here who know of the places that I would be
41 referring to, we have large bulls that nobody's seen
42 except us and we like to keep it that way. But we do
43 keep track of what we see and if we run out of -- if we
44 think we're running out of large bulls we can change
45 the requirements on the hunt and we would because
46 that's something that we are committed to preserving,
47 not losing.

48
49 So, yeah, if that answers your
50

1 question, I.....

2

3 MR. HILL: Thank you.

4

5 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Okay. So I kind
6 of think we almost covered the Mulchatna. I'll just
7 finish that off a little bit.

8

9 The summer of 2018, our photo census
10 was not successful. We got out there and we completed
11 it and when we got all the data in and assessed all the
12 photos and ran through all of our numbers with our
13 biometrician there was not randomization between the
14 collars and the groups that we assessed. And it's just
15 something that happened and so our data is still being
16 assessed, but we can't use the numbers that we came up
17 with because of the loss of randomness. It's not
18 anything that anyone did, it's just -- it's probably
19 just a random act of nature and there's nothing we
20 could do about it. So we're sticking with -- the last
21 census was in the summer of 2016 and for that we
22 estimated 27,000 and a couple hundred caribou in the
23 Mulchatna.

24

25 Our composition survey this fall, I
26 don't have the latest output of the analysis with me,
27 but the calf per 100 cow ratio for the upper Mulchatna
28 was 39 calves per 100 cows which is the highest we've
29 seen since the 1990s. So really good productivity. We
30 also had a very good bull cow ratio which for some
31 reason I did not write down, but I believe it -- I'm
32 not even going to say, it was very good. I was
33 thinking around 40. And over the entire Mulchatna the
34 calf per 100 cow ratios were at 34 per 100 which is the
35 highest for the entire Mulchatna since 1998. So
36 they're very productive, doing well.

37

38 And we believe that with the success
39 that was experienced in the SDA Program, the IM Program
40 this year, that will have results with the caribou
41 survival. And we'll just keep monitoring and see what
42 happens on there.

43

44 The only other thing I would add on
45 moose since we already kind of talked about them was
46 harvest which for this fall I think you folks over here
47 in 17 experienced the same as we did in unit 9 which
48 was a fairly low harvest, not terribly low, but low
49 because of the warm weather. You know, bulls get hot

50

1 pretty quick so in warm weather they go get in the
2 shade and they bed down and it's hard for people to
3 find them. So I think our success was lower than
4 anyone probably wanted, but we do still have the winter
5 hunt coming up so hopefully people will be able to
6 utilize that.

7

8 I guess that about does it for moose.

9

10 Are there any other questions on those.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

13

14 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
17 Dan.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks. This is
20 probably not exactly the right place, but since you're
21 here. I know one concern that we heard at our Advisory
22 Committee meeting was -- and I'm just trying to
23 separate rumor from fact, but the rumors are we had a
24 early and sudden closure of the winter moose over here
25 because of the concerns. We did have good hunting
26 conditions. There were rumors that a couple of them
27 guys set themselves up as proxy hunters and may have
28 proxy hunted as much as seven or 10 hunts for other
29 people which I -- number 1, I don't know if that's a
30 fact. Second though is that the sense is among other
31 people that maybe didn't have quite as much freedom to
32 go out and hunt, they were pretty unhappy if this is a
33 fact that a couple of guys were kind of able to
34 monopolize the hunt too much. And there was a lot of
35 concerns expressed that maybe people can only take and
36 be limited by how many proxies they could participate
37 in. I don't know quite the right term, but if there's
38 some facts there that I could get corrected on what you
39 know about that issue I'd appreciate hearing.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Members of the
44 Board and Madame Chair. I can't correct your numbers,
45 what I can do is -- I do know that, yes, we -- we did
46 have a couple at least people who were really thrilled
47 with the proxy option. And they -- and they did exceed
48 probably what that's intended for. I don't know about
49 any seven or eight of them, I do know there was

50

1 multiple. And it is -- it is of concern to Neil and
2 myself and it's also a great place for members of the
3 public to write a proposal and get it before the ACs
4 and the RACs and get something done about that.

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: So to follow-up, but an
7 individual that chooses to be a proxy, he's not limited
8 by how many he or she -- not limited by how many of
9 those kinds of hunts they could conduct, there's
10 no.....

11
12 MS. PETERSON: One at a time.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: But they do have to --
15 well, and that is something.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. PETERSON: But if you have someone
20 who really loves to go hunt they don't mind going out
21 there week after week doing it. So.....

22
23 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let
24 me just say too that we're under time constraints here,
25 I guess the wrestlers are waiting on us as well.

26
27 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So I don't
30 know how much is left on your report or.....

31
32 MS. PETERSON: I'm just about done.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON:how
35 many more questions the Board has, but I would like a
36 quick report on the Alaska Peninsula herd however. Are
37 numbers still going in the right direction and what do
38 you see in the near future?

39
40 MS. PETERSON: I hate to end with that.
41 We do have good news on so many other things and it's
42 not bad on the Northern Peninsula except that I just
43 finished working on those for the last two weeks and we
44 have 26 collared Northern Peninsula caribou cows. We
45 found 13 of them and we cannot find 13 of them. And I
46 just stay up all night all the time trying to figure
47 out where they went, which planet did they go to or
48 which herd have they migrated to or where the heck are
49 they because I have covered the Peninsula. We don't
50

1 know where they are, they'll show up. We have really
2 pretty good numbers with the ones we did find and we
3 had really good calf cow ratios and really good bull
4 cow ratios.

5 We need -- and we have a very low
6 harvest. We have the tier two hunt going on down
7 there. We've had participation by people from most of
8 the communities. The Chigniks area called us this
9 summer when their -- as you've been talking about their
10 salmon failed. And they had not put in for any tier
11 two or very little, I don't recall for sure, but we
12 made some permits available to them so that they could
13 get out and get some caribou. And they've been
14 utilizing that, taking advantage of that.

15
16 The tier two sounds really good, but it
17 is difficult for people to get across the river and
18 hunt if there's no snow and the river doesn't freeze.
19 I left here last -- late January or early February and
20 we finally -- the river had finally frozen and I got my
21 rifle out and got my permit out and first thing in the
22 morning I'm heading across the river. And I took off
23 for the river first thing in the morning and got to the
24 river and it was under six feet of water and I turned
25 around and went home. I mean, if you can't cross the
26 river you can't cross the river. So a lot of people
27 have not been able to get out and have a successful
28 hunt. But it's an option, it is available to them. We
29 did increase the number of permits that we made
30 available last year and the same is still true this
31 year. So the tier two is open for application
32 currently through December 15th I believe. Don't
33 depend on that without looking it up, but I think it's
34 December 15th so get your applications in.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
37 for that.

38
39 MS. PETERSON: Yeah.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
42 else.

43
44 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

47
48 MR. TREFON: Getting back to the proxy,
49 is that the same thing as an elder's license where
50

1 anybody can go out and hunt for an elder that has a
2 permanent hunting license. Because my dad used to have
3 one of those permanent hunting license, he couldn't
4 hunt no more. So we, eligible hunters, can go take
5 their license and get a moose for them using their
6 license? I remember you used to be able to do that, I
7 don't know if you do that any more.

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Members of the
10 Committee. We do have an elder's license and anyone
11 that's over 60 can get that and it's a permanent ID and
12 license. I've never heard of it being utilized quite
13 that way. We do have the proxy hunt which if somebody
14 with any license that can show disability with a
15 doctor's letter by age or I believe blindness or
16 something, can come in and apply for a proxy for -- on --
17 and have somebody else that agrees with them that they
18 will proxy for them. We set that up constantly. So I
19 don't -- I don't know how to answer that. I'm saying
20 don't tell me this if.....

21
22 MR. TREFON: No, I thought the State
23 did that. I thought this was a State law.

24
25 MS. PETERSON: Don't tell me this. It
26 sounds like something that I don't want to know.

27
28 MR. TREFON: We've been doing it for
29 years.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm kind of looking at
36 some of the Federal guys, I think they call it
37 something slightly different and there's a different
38 parameters, designated hunter type situation, which may
39 be what you're able to do up there in Lake Clark. But
40 we got a bunch of Lake Clark folks here and I'm seeing
41 kind of mostly blank looks. So but I think the State's
42 slightly more restrictive on what you can do as a proxy
43 versus the designated hunter that's allowed within the
44 Federal laws. And I'm getting a little.....

45
46 MS. PETERSON: Oh. Okay.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY:mini nod from Andy back
49 there.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Because.....

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dennis.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Thanks, Madame Chair. Just
10 this fall I had my son hunt for me with my license.
11 And we asked the same question with Fish and Game that
12 came over -- came out and issue our permits. Then I
13 came down there and said can my young son hunt for me
14 with this license. They said, yes, you can go out, but
15 he could hunt for you.

16

17 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Was he successful?

18

19 MR. ANDREW: (Indiscernible - away from
20 microphone).....

21

22 MS. PETERSON: Oh, darn.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25 Anything else for Chris.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
30 you, Chris.

31

32 And I'm going to go ahead and take this
33 opportunity to bow out. We do have one blue card and,
34 Richard, I'm going to hand the gavel over to you.

35

36 I thank you for all your patience with
37 this, but I do have to head to the airport. So I
38 appreciate that.

39

40 MS. PETERSON: (Indiscernible - away
41 from microphone).....

42

43 ACTING CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, did you.
44 Okay.

45

46 Donald.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you.
49 We're -- I'm just trying to accommodate the wrestlers.

50

1 So we have it until about 4:30 and Madame Chair has to
2 check in at 4:30. So we have one more agency report
3 and one more public testimony just to remind the
4 Council. But if you want to continue we can recess for
5 dinner and we can try to meet at the Refuge office or
6 somewhere else so that's an option.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Well, I guess
11 we'll continue on then and get OSM. Oh, if you hold
12 off a bit we do have one blue card and we'll give him
13 five minutes.

14

15 Frank Woods.

16

17 MR. WOODS: Five minutes. Okay. I'll
18 give you three and a half, I've got to be somewhere
19 here shortly. My name is -- for the record my name is
20 Frank Woods. I reside and live in Dillingham. I think
21 I've known everybody for a long time. I'd like to
22 appreciate -- welcome Billy, good to see you onboard.
23 Looks like you're well covered in the staff department.

24

25 What I'm here to talk about today is --
26 I think it's pretty important. You guys all know how
27 we want to -- at least Bristol Bay has really worked
28 hard at aligning all the proposals and all the
29 regulations and not confusing anymore. When the RAC
30 met last spring and they didn't approve the herding and
31 positioning with snowmachines I think it was a big
32 misunderstanding what the proposal was. That the State
33 passed a modified version of that proposal for pursuit
34 and the fair chase rule under 50 CFR 135.25 says that
35 it cannot manage or regulate common sense. I'll quote
36 that every time I see a proposal that I think I'm in
37 conflict with because the best thing we could do is be
38 on the same page.

39

40 I was just talking to a fellow
41 subsistence user and we have the burden of proof to not
42 only I think a single hook or a snagging proposal
43 before you is when we're feeding our families and
44 subsisting off the land that we live in and when
45 management isn't clear to like this rule under dual
46 management, the State legalized it, and the Fed kind of
47 shot it down. It's kind of disheartening as a user
48 that we're in a day and age where it becomes a
49 conflict. And that's -- you know, it's something that
50

1 needs to be worked on.

2
3 But one of the main reasons this
4 proposal came before the State -- I'm the Chairman of
5 the Nushagak Advisory, is a user here got cited for
6 pursuing and he heard the whole public testimony I
7 think from Mr. Nukluk and I'm almost up to my time, Mr.
8 Chair, but the main reason just want to make it legal
9 is the pursuit and the positioning of wolf and
10 wolverine. Because in the springtime when we're able
11 to travel in a snowmachine that wolf is preying upon
12 caribou and we need to knock down the wolf population
13 in this region. And when we're making it illegal on
14 the Federal side in my mind I think we're doing a
15 disservice.

16
17 But I commend you all, I'm glad -- I
18 wouldn't have known you met here except for less than
19 an hour ago. I got so busy with the elections and
20 that's not an excuse, but you guys picked a fine day to
21 meet. I'll shut it up there, but welcome to Dillingham
22 and I'm sorry I missed your meeting, it was good --
23 it's good to see everybody. It's a wonderful program
24 to be a part of.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Thank you, Frank.
29 We did have a bit of discussion earlier on that
30 proposal and there is a working group that they're
31 working on. They're working on it from what I
32 understand. So that was discussed earlier.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 MR. WOODS: 50 CFR 135.25. Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: All right.

39
40 I guess we're on to our last agency
41 report. OSM.

42
43 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
44 members of the Council. My name is Jennifer Hardin,
45 I'm the policy coordinator for the Office of
46 Subsistence Management.

47
48 And you have an OSM report in your book
49 and it's on page 49. But since we published these
50

1 books for you there have been a number of changes to
2 this report so I'm just going to quickly go through and
3 -- each of the items and let you know what the current
4 standing is.

5
6 Beginning with staff updates. Both my
7 colleagues that have come before, we -- you know, we've
8 seen a lot of vacancies at the office. First and
9 foremost are assistant regional director, Gene Peltola,
10 Jr. left as I think you all know to become the new
11 regional director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in
12 Alaska. So while we lost him at OSM we're still going
13 have the benefit of his guidance and wisdom as a
14 Federal Subsistence Board member representing the
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

16
17 That -- I had to step out of your
18 meeting earlier to call into a Federal Subsistence
19 Board teleconference and when I did that I learned an
20 update about that vacancy. So Gene left the assistant
21 regional director position and I learned today that we
22 hope to advertise that position sometime after November
23 19th. So it'll come open to the -- to hopefully fill
24 it soon. Beginning -- until that time the deputy
25 assistant regional director, Tom Doolittle, is serving
26 as the acting assistant regional director.

27
28 We did get -- we did fill the Fisheries
29 Division supervisor position so that's a real plus.
30 Greg Risdahl started as the new supervisor of the
31 Fisheries Division at OSM. He has throughout his
32 career worked as -- worked in both wildlife and
33 fisheries management. He's a wildlife biologist by
34 training, but he's also had a lot of experience with
35 fisheries management. Most recently -- in fact many
36 years ago he worked for OSM as a biologist. But most
37 recently he was the Refuge manager at Izembek National
38 Wildlife Refuge. And before that he served as deputy
39 refuge manager at Tetlin. So he has a lot of Alaska
40 experience.

41
42 Unfortunately we do have a number of
43 vacancies. Our Anthropology Division supervisor
44 position has been vacant for over a year. We are still
45 waiting for approval to recruit that position. We've
46 made it through one stage of approval and now we're
47 waiting to hear from DC on the final approval to
48 recruit for that.

1 We also have a vacant staff
2 anthropologist position, but we were able to recruit
3 for that and we hope to finish the application process
4 and make an offer by mid December. So they'll
5 hopefully be some good news at your next meeting.
6

7 We also had a fisheries biologist
8 position that was vacant and we actually were able to
9 fill that position, Scott Ayers, who's with us today
10 accepted that position. But because Scott was already
11 working with OSM that created another vacancy. So no
12 word on what the status of recruitment for that vacancy
13 is at this point.
14

15 We are also short an administrative
16 assistant and we have not been authorized to fill that
17 vacancy.
18

19 So that's our staffing update.
20

21 And on the next page you'll see we had
22 a long section about the 2018 and 2020 -- 2018 to 2020
23 Federal wildlife regulations. As you know those were
24 set to go into affect in July. We had a long delay in
25 Washington in getting those regulations published in
26 the Federal Register and this sort of explains that
27 delay. But I'm happy to report that those 2018 to 2020
28 wildlife regulations were published on October 9th so
29 they are now in effect and we have a new summary book
30 out and hopefully you all have copies.
31

32 We are also on schedule at this point
33 to publish the next call for changes to the wildlife
34 regulations in early January. So fingers crossed we
35 won't get behind schedule again.
36

37 And then finally I just wanted to
38 mention that you heard today from a couple of folks
39 about the issue of positioning animals with
40 snowmachines. And I wanted to let you know that after
41 speaking with Ms. Hoseth and listening to I believe Mr.
42 Woods?
43

44 MR. WOODS: Yes.
45

46 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Woods. We are going
47 to add that issue to the Federal Subsistence Board
48 agenda for January as part of our old business. It
49 should prob -- it should work really nicely because the
50

1 Board will also be receiving its -- a status update on
2 the hunter ethics efforts in Eastern Interior which
3 Donald talked to you about -- earlier about having
4 applications for this issue in the region. So I don't
5 know if you all spoke while I was out of the room about
6 your working group that you're potentially going to put
7 together, but I just wanted to let you know that that
8 conversation will be ongoing with the Board. It will
9 be an opportunity for Gayla and others -- we're going
10 to work on that agenda item, but for the Board to hear
11 more about that topic and continue that discussion.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 I'm happy to answer any question.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Thank you,
18 Jennifer.

19
20 Council members, anybody got any
21 questions for her.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a quick comment
28 then. I think that's really good news on this --
29 putting that on the agenda because it's a pretty hot
30 issue here around Dillingham. And we came from our
31 neighbor village, Manokotak, but we probably got some
32 of the best attendance in a Board meeting and game
33 meeting ever all over that. So I'm really glad to hear
34 that.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Anything else for
39 Jennifer.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Well, thank you.

44
45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Donald.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
50

1 quickly. We discussed earlier about the working group
2 and I just need some action from this Council. So if
3 we can get this working group on record stating that
4 we'll have members from this Council participating in a
5 working group and probably BBNA and Federal and State
6 involved. So if we can get on record I can get the
7 process started and I'll start formulating an agenda
8 and a statement of mission to be accomplished by this
9 working group.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Are you looking
14 for names at this point, Donald?

15

16 MR. MIKE: Well, if the Council wishes
17 to do so, it's just discuss on the record that this
18 Council is going to be formulating a working group to
19 address the positioning animals for harvest for --
20 under subsistence regulations. And this Council can go
21 ahead and authorize that for a working group to be
22 developed and be prepared for the Federal Subsistence
23 Board meeting. And let them know -- and we can get
24 this working group fully started by our next winter
25 meet -- our next meeting in Naknek.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Okay. I'm not
30 quite sure what that process is, but what do you expect
31 of us right now, Donald?

32

33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we -- the Council
34 can state on record to, you know, identify members from
35 this Council to sit on a working group to address this
36 issue of positioning of animals for potential proposal
37 coming up in the next meeting cycle. So this working
38 group will be responsible for developing a proposal for
39 the next wildlife cycle and to address hunter education
40 on positioning of animals for subsistence harvest.

41

42 So in general you can just state on
43 record that you wish to form a working group to address
44 those issues.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Okay. Formally
49 we will -- we'll do that. We'll try to organize

50

1 something for a working group whether it be any
2 volunteers now or perhaps some of this -- we can have
3 some discussion later and is it possible to get on that
4 working group after this is recessed, Donald?

5
6 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I can
7 identify working group members to serve on this issue.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Thank you.

12
13 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Mr. Hill.

16
17 MR. HILL: Do you need a motion from us
18 or just a consensus that, yes, let's set up a working
19 group?

20
21 MR. MIKE: That can be consensus or if
22 the Council wishes to you can have a motion. Consensus
23 will work just as well.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Okay. I think
28 we're all kind of in agreement with that. That's
29 something that needs to be finalized and definitely got
30 to get a working group going to help in the end result
31 and hope it's a good one.

32
33 Okay. What else I got here.

34
35 Okay.

36
37 Closing comments. Council members.

38
39 Mr. Dunaway.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: It seems like I always
42 got to yak a lot. I just want to thank everybody and
43 welcome to Dillingham. And thanks for all the input
44 from all of the agency folks. I especially want to
45 thank Cody for -- he got a hold of me last night and
46 got my head turned around on Billy's proposal. I was
47 feeling pretty dumb at the end, but I was totally
48 missing the point. I also want to kind of extend
49 condolences to Nanci. Her mom passed away and she
50

1 soldiered on here even though she's got, you know,
2 pretty big things happening in the background.

3
4 But thanks to everybody, Donald
5 especially and our valiant recorder, record keeper over
6 there. In spite of numerous aggravations to -- like
7 you're almost looking like Mount Veniaminof over there
8 at one point. But thanks.

9
10 And also I guess I could be available
11 to deal on that working group just because our Advisory
12 Committee's been pretty embroiled in it. But I look,
13 we got lots of experience around here that we need help
14 from everybody.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Mr. Hill.

19
20 MR. HILL: Yes, I appreciate the honor
21 to serve on this Commission. I have not been here as
22 long as some. Again I'm just saying that it really
23 hasn't been that long that we really had any kind of in
24 significant input into managing our own -- our own.
25 And I'd like to encourage any elders here kind of take
26 our communities back and start getting involved. Our
27 youth -- even if you had to learn how to use a cell
28 phone and texting and stuff, but, you know, get
29 involved, get them back into your -- to where you
30 really do know a lot, you're elders, you know a lot.
31 And it is -- can apply to today's society but -- all
32 right. Enough.

33
34 Bye.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Billy.

37
38 MR. TREFON: I really appreciate this
39 meeting, you know, just going on. A lot was covered
40 today and we covered a lot of ground, we passed a lot
41 of proposals. And I think when I -- what I want to
42 bring back to my community will be very, very thankful
43 for what we've accomplished here tonight.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Dennis.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 I just want to thank mainly the staff big time and
2 Donald, the hard work he did. I'm still learning, this
3 is my second year. I'll keep plugging away.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Thank you,
8 Council members.
9

10 And, Donald, did we get everybody to
11 sign that -- your card for Nanci, did you get.....
12

13 MR. MIKE: I got everybody except Mr.
14 Andrew and Trefon. So I'll pass on to Nanci that we're
15 in her thoughts.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR WILSON: Thank you. Okay.
18 Well, with that, thank you, Council members, and we
19 have a motion to adjourn. And I guess the wrestlers
20 are anxious to get in here.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 See you in the winter, next meeting.
25

26 Thank you. Meeting adjourned.
27

28 (Off record)
29

30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

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

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered _____ through
12 _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 6th day of
15 November at Dillingham, Alaska;
16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;
22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.
25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th
27 day of November 2018.
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22
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